

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – May 4, 2009**

Mayor Allen *calls the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.* announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

PRESENT: Mayor J. Allen, B. Muir, Mr. T. Auriemma, Mr. F. Gatti,
Mr. G. Shamey

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Mekovetz, Attorney S. Dragan, Engineer McEldowney

ABSENT: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Clerk read the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION
EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 *et seq.*, the Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist and desires to authorize the exclusion of the public from the portion of the meeting in accordance with the act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the specified subject matter as set forth in the following Exhibit "A."

EXHIBIT A

<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Basis Of Public Exclusion</u>	<u>Date Anticipate When Disclosed to Public</u>
Personnel.....	Police Department.....	Certain information at the discretion of the Township Committee tonight...other information will remain confidential
Personnel.....	Library.....	“ “ “
Contract Negotiations.....	172 Aster Court.....	“ “ “
Contract Negotiations.....	Block 22, Lot 6 (Jensen).....	“ “ “
Contract Negotiations.....	Block 94, Lot 6.02, 8 and 11..... (Readington Properties, LLC)	“ “ “
Contract Negotiations.....	Block 94, Lots 15.01, 17 and 19..... (Toll NJ, VI, LLP)	“ “ “
Attorney-Client Privilege.....	Executive Session Minutes..... (April 15 and April 22, 2009)	“ “ “
Litigation.....	Block 48, Lot 23; Block 55, Lot 33; Block 56, Lots 1, 3, 6 & 8; Block 39, Lot 24 and Block 67, Lot 2 (Solberg Aviation/Hromoho)	“ “

It is anticipated at this time that the stated subject matter will be made public on or about the time set forth in Exhibit “A.”

2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Shamey to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened 7:45 p.m.

Mayor Allen led those present in the *Salute to the Flag*.

Mayor Allen announced that the following business was completed during Executive Session:

Personnel/Police Department

Mayor Allen stated this matter remains in Executive Session.

Personnel/ Library

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Shamey to authorize Administrator Mekovetz to advertise for the vacancy of the part time position at Three Bridges Library for a maximum of 17 hours per week, seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Auriemma	- Aye
Mr. Gatti	- Aye
Mrs. Muir	- Aye
Mr. Shamey	- Aye
Mayor Allen	- Aye

Contract Negotiations/Police PBA

Mayor Allen stated this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations/Block 93, Lot 1 (Amawalk)

Mayor Allen stated this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations/Block 64, Lot 26 and 40 (Lackland)

Mayor Allen stated this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations/172 Aster Court

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Shamey to approve the deed for this property which extends the affordability controls for an additional 30 years, seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Auriemma	- Aye
Mr. Gatti	- Aye
Mrs. Muir	- Aye
Mr. Shamey	- Aye
Mayor Allen	- Aye

Contract Negotiations/Block 22, Lot 6 (Jensen)

Mayor Allen stated this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations/Block 94, Lots 6.02, 8 and 11 (Readington Properties, LLC)

Mayor Allen stated this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations/Block 94, Lots 15.01, 17 and 19 (Toll NJ, VI, LLP)

Mayor Allen stated this matter remains in Executive Session.

Attorney-Client Privilege/Executive Session Minutes (April 15 and April 22, 2009)

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Shamey to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 15 and April 22, 2009 for content only, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Litigation/Block 48, Lot 23; Block 55, Lot 33; Block 56, Lot 1, 3, 6 & 8; Block 39, Lot 24 and Block 67, Lot 2 (Solberg Aviation/Hromoho)

Mayor Allen stated this matter was not discussed in Executive Session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Allen read the following statement:

All items listed with an asterisk “p” are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a committee member or citizen requests, in which event the item will be removed from the General Order of Business and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

- p1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of meeting of April 15 and April 22, 2009
- p2. ***Resolution of Support from Local Governing Body Authorizing the Sustainable JerseyTM Grant funded by Wal-Mart***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2009-53

TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON

Resolution of Support from Local Governing Body Authorizing the Sustainable JerseyTM Grant funded by Wal-Mart

WHEREAS, a sustainable community seeks to optimize quality of life for its residents by ensuring that its environmental, economic and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air and water, improve working and living environments; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington is participating in the Sustainable Jersey Program; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of the Sustainable Jersey Program is to provide resources to municipalities to make progress on sustainability issues, and they have created a grant program called Sustainable Jersey Small Grants funded by Wal-Mart;

THEREFORE, the Township Committee of the Township of Readington has determined that Readington Township should apply for the aforementioned Grant.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The Township Committee of the Township of Readington, State of New Jersey, authorize the submission of the aforementioned Sustainable Jersey Grant funded by Wal-Mart.

- p3. ***Tonnage Grant Application*** – resolution

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2009-54

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
2008 RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT APPLICATION RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, P.L. 1987, c.102, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grants may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent and the spirit of the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act to use the tonnage grants to develop new municipal recycling programs, and to continue and expand existing programs; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated recycling regulations to Implement the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act; and

WHEREAS, the recycling regulations impose on municipalities certain requirements as a condition for applying for tonnage grants, including but not limited to, making and keeping accurate, verifiable records of materials collected and claimed by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, a resolution authorizing this municipality to apply for the 2008 Recycling Tonnage Grant will memorialize the commitment of this municipality to recycling and indicate the assent of the Township Committee of the Township of Readington to the efforts undertaken by the municipality and the requirements contained in the Recycling Act and recycling regulations; and

WHEREAS, such a resolution should designate the individual authorized to ensure the application is properly completed and timely filed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey hereby endorses the submission of the recycling tonnage grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and designates Director of Public Works/Municipal Recycling Coordinator Scott Jesseman to ensure that the application is properly filed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the monies received from the recycling tonnage grant be deposited in a dedicated recycling trust fund to be used solely for the purposes of recycling.

ρ4. **Lien Redemption** – Block 31, Lot 45

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

RESOLUTION

READINGTON TOWNSHIP, HUNTERDON COUNTY

WHEREAS, the property has paid to the Tax Collector the amount necessary to redeem the lien on Block 31, Lot 45 known as Tax Sale Certificate #538 and,

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Tax Collector to refund to the lien holder the redemption amount,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee that the Treasurer be authorized to refund the redemption amount of \$1,472.42 plus a premium paid in the amount of \$700.00 to the lien holder, CCTS Tax Liens I, LLC.

ρ5. **Payment of Bills**

<u>Fund Description</u>	<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>Received Total</u>
CURRENT FUND	9-01	\$1,060,870.62
SEWER APPROPRIATIONS	9-02	\$ 100,150.78
TRUST FUNDS	X-03	\$ 36,021.32
2004 CAPITAL APPROP.	X-04	\$ 3,885.00
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	X-05	\$ 13,685.42
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 143,191.63
REGIONAL & SCHOOL TAX	X-07	\$2,485,176.00
2008 CAPITAL	X-88	\$ <u>123,152.95</u>
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$3,966,133.72

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Auriemma -Aye
 Mr. Gatti -Aye
 Mrs. Muir -Aye
 Mr. Shamey -Aye
 Mayor Allen -Aye

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER INFORMATION

1. Letter dated April 8, 2009 from Michael J. Filippone, Director of Rates and Regulatory Affairs-NJ, Jersey Central Power & Light regarding ***Proposed Economic Stimulus Demand Response and Energy Efficiency Programs.*** No action taken.
2. Letter dated April 13, 2009 from Stires Associates, PA regarding ***NJDEP Flood Area Application, Block 9, Lot 28.01, Township of Branchburg.*** (Entire File Available in Clerk’s Office for Review) No action taken.
3. Letter dated April 22, 2009 from Pilar Patterson, Chief, Bureau of Surface Water Permitting, Department of Environmental Protection regarding ***Final Surface Water Renewal Permit Action and Final Surface Water Revocation Permit Action, Readington- Lebanon Sewerage Authority.*** (Entire File Available in Clerk’s Office for Review) No action taken.
4. Memorandum dated April 23, 2009 from Tricia Houck, Deputy Clerk regarding the following ordinances:
 - ***AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING CHAPTER 165 ENTITLED “LAND USE REGULATIONS” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON, 2003, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOLS WITHIN THE AH-3 AFFORDABLE HOUSING DISTRICT SUBJECT TO REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS CONCERNS RELATED TO THE CRITICAL GEOLOGICAL FORMATION AREA (LIMESTONE) WITHIN WHICH THE AH-3 DISTRICT IS LOCATED***
 - ***AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING CHAPTER 165 ENTITLED “LAND USE REGULATIONS” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON, 2003 TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MULTIPLE PRINCIPAL USES AND APARTMENT DWELLINGS SUBJECT TO CERTAIN***

**REQUIREMENTS WITHIN THE OFFICE BUILDING OB-2
DISTRICT**

No action taken.

5. Public Notice from Jersey Central Power & Light Company regarding *Notice of Proposed Rate Increase in Connection with Proposed Economic Stimulus Demand Response and Energy Efficiency Programs and Notice of Public Hearings thereon*. No action taken.
6. Public Note from Gregory Eisenstark, Esq., Assistant General Corporate Rate Counsel regarding *the Matter of Petition of Public Service Electric and Gas Company to Modify its Manufactured Gas Plant Remediation Component within its electric Societal Benefits Charge and its Gas*. No action taken.

OLD BUSINESS

1. ***AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “THE LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY” PROVIDING FOR A TEMPORARY FARMER’S MARKET TO BE HELD IN THE AR ZONE UP TO FOUR (4) HOURS ON ONE DAY DURING THE WEEK EXCLUDING SUNDAYS BETWEEN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER 30 OF ANY YEAR AFTER APPROVAL OF SAME BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE, THE CHIEF OF POLICE AND THE BOARD OF HEALTH, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES OF THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE***

- ***ORDINANCE #18 -2009*** - Roll Call Vote

Mayor Allen stated this is a proposal by the Stanton Learning Center to host a Farmer’s Market one day a week. Mayor Allen stated the public hearing took place at the last meeting but we were awaiting determination from the Planning Board to ensure that the ordinance is in compliance with the Master Plan. Mayor Allen stated the Planning Board recommended adoption and suggested a diminimus change asking that “*only agricultural products be sold at the Farmer’s Market.*”

A MOTION was made by Mr. Shamey to adopt this ordinance with the amendment, seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Auriemma	- Aye
Mr. Gatti	- Aye
Mrs. Muir	- Aye
Mr. Shamey	- Aye
Mayor Allen	- Aye

2. ***Historic Registry/Ryland Inn***

Mayor Allen stated that she spoke with Pat Fisher-Olsen, of the Historic Preservation Committee, regarding her concerns on this matter and Mrs. Olsen will speak with the Township Planner on this proposal. Mayor Allen suggested that this item be carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ***Ordinance for Refuse Containers/Dumpsters*** – discussion

Engineer McEldowney stated that the following two ordinances, which have been

brought up for discussion, are requirements under the State Stormwater Permit which was issued to the Township. Engineer McEldowney stated that they are expected to be considered for passage during this calendar year. Engineer

McEldowney stated that this ordinance requires any person or party or commercial enterprise that has a dumpster, maintain it in a covered way.

2. ***Ordinance for Private Storm Drain Inlet Retrofitting*** - discussion

Engineer McEldowney stated that this ordinance requires that any time a driveway, other than a single family residence, is resurfaced or maintained that the existing grates must be replaced with environmental echo grates.

It was decided that more information is needed on both of these ordinances and they would need to be reviewed by Attorney Dragan.

ρ3. ***Resolution of Support from Local Governing Body Authorizing the Sustainable JerseyTM Grant funded by Wal-Mart***

This item was addressed under Consent Agenda.

ρ4. ***Tonnage Grant Application*** - resolution

This item was addressed under Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Mekovetz reported she had received a late request from the Readington Community Theater to hang a banner over Route 523 for their June production of "Oscar and Felix...A New Look at the Odd Couple."

A MOTION was made by Mr. Shamey to approve the request to hang a banner over Route 523, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Administrator Mekovetz also reported that Keith Nicholson made another donation of 225 burning bushes that were planted on Summer Road to the Township. Mrs. Muir and Mr. Auriemma expressed concern over the upkeep of the plants and asked that this be discussed with Scott Jesseman.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Dragan stated she had nothing to report at this time.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer McEldowney reported that they filed the Annual Stormwater Report and Certification and copies are available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Allen

Mayor Allen reported the next Open Space Walk is the third Sunday of the month at the Stickney Round Mountain Trail.

Thomas Auriemma

Mr. Auriemma stated he had nothing to report.

Frank Gatti

Beatrice Muir

Mrs. Muir reported that public assistance met last week and numbers are very similar to what they have been.

Mrs. Muir reported that there is a link on the Board of Health website that leads to the County Health Department, the State and also the Center for Disease Control regarding the swine flu.

Gerard Shamey

Mr. Shamey stated he had nothing to report.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jo Ann Sekella commented that the school budget is \$48,000 less than the school tax levy last year, which was supported by the community.

Bill Lewis commented on school board budget and asked the Committee to protect the taxpayers from what he considered an “out of control” school board.

Angie Gibble spoke in favor of the budget and asked that other factors should be addressed separately rather than just take a huge cut in the budget.

Steve Grumbach commented in regard to the kids vote and felt that school board did the best they could to present a responsible budget to the public.

Pat Hargrave commented in favor of the kid vote and teaching children their civic responsibility.

Kathy Doboshefski commented that she was very proud of the schools and would like to keep the standards up.

Antonia Helen commented she also was pleased with the standards of the school but expressed concern over the continuous need to ask taxpayers for money every year without making cuts. Mrs. Helen stated any cuts should be made at the administrative level rather than affect the children.

Cheryl Filler commented that she agreed with both Mrs. Helen and Mr. Lewis. Mrs. Filler stated the budget should be brought down to something reasonable.

William Keefe commented on the increase in taxes and spoke in support of reducing the budget.

Deb Labbadia commented on the importance of education and any large cut to the budget will be unrecoverable and changes will have a long term affect.

Barbara Nastro expressed her concern over cuts that may be made to the school budget.

David Livingston commented that this was a very tight budget and the administrative costs were the lowest in the County and expressed concern on how this will affect the value of homes in the township.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

Mr. Shamey stated he and Mayor Allen had already met once with the School Board members and will meet again on Thursday with Mr. Gatti. Mr. Shamey stated there will be special meeting on Monday, May 11th at 6:30 p.m. to vote on a resolution in terms of a reduction of the tax levy.

Mrs. Allen explained that this a very complicated and tedious process and since the voters defeated the school budget, we have to be listening to all sides of the issue. Mrs. Allen stated

Readington Township Committee

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they would like to make recommendations that are both in the school's and the town's best interest.

Mr. Auriemma stated the Committee will do what they think is the right thing for the children and the tax payer.

Mr. Gatti stated the Township Committee makes recommendations and passes a resolution as to the amount they would like to see cut; but the ultimate decision as to where those cuts are made is that of the Superintendent and the School Board.

As there was no further business, **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Shamey at 8:30 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gatti with a vote of all ayes, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vita Mekovetz, RMC/MMC/RPPO
Administrator/Municipal Clerk