

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – SEPTEMBER 17, 2007**

Mayor Shamey *called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.* announcing that all laws governing Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

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

ABSENT: Administrator Mekovetz

ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Clerk McConnell, Attorney Dragan and Engineer McEldowney

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 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 Anticipated When Discussion Will Be Disclosed to Public</u>
Strobel & Luckstone vs. Readington Twp. <i>et al.</i>	Litigation	Certain information at the discretion of the Township Committee tonight... other information will remain confidential
Police Department.....	Personnel.....	" " "
Three Bridges Fire Truck.....	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Block 48, Lot 23; Block 55, Lot 33; Block 56, Lots 1, 3, 6, & 8, Block 39, Lot 24 & Block 67, Lot 2 (Solberg Aviation - Hromoho).....		" " "

2. 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."
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Gatti to adopt this Resolution, seconded by Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

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

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

Litigation - Strobel & Luckstone vs. Readington Twp. et al.

Mayor Shamey said that this matter will remain in Executive Session.

Personnel - Police Department

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Gatti to hire Brandon Griffiths as a Probationary Patrolman, contingent on successful completion of the Somerset Police Academy, at the annual starting salary for a Probationary Patrolman is \$48,828.00 and the starting date would be January 1, 2008. This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Gatti to hire Joseph Reilly as a Probationary Patrolman, contingent on successful completion of the Somerset Police Academy, at the annual starting salary for a Probationary Patrolman is \$48,828.00 and the starting date would be January 1, 2008. This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations - Three Bridges Fire Truck

Mayor Shamey said that this matter will remain in Executive Session.

***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)***

Mayor Shamey said that this matter will remain in Executive Session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. ***Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Report*** - acknowledgment of receipt & acceptance by Township Committee - Block 20, Lot 11 (Csepi).
2. ***Cooperative Purchase*** - Snow & Ice Control Materials/2007-2008 Winter Season.
3. ***Lien Redemption*** – resolutions.

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP
HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, an interested party has paid to the Tax Collector the amount necessary to redeem the lien on Block 72, Lot 6 known as Tax Sale Certificate #554; 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 \$26,730.01 plus a premium paid in the amount of \$55,000.00 to the lien holder, U.S. Bank-Cust/SASS Muni V dtr.

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP
HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, an interested party has paid to the Tax Collector the amount necessary to redeem the lien on Block 46, Lot 19 Q0245; and

CONSENT AGENDA – continued:

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 \$92.81, known as Tax Sale Certificate #544, to the lien holder, Tad Dabrowski.

4. **Tax Refund** – resolution.

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP
 HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
 RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended the following adjustment to the 2007 tax duplicate:

BLOCK/LOT	REASON	PROPERTY OWNER	AMOUNT
39/49	Assessor Correction	Peters, Theodore & Grace	\$22.41

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee that the Tax Collector be authorized to cancel the amount recommended.

5. **Payment of the Bills.**

<u>Fund Description</u>	<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>Received Total</u>
CURRENT FUND APPROPRIATION	001	\$ 350,735.50
TRUST APPROPRIATION	003	\$ 21,562.50
CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS	004	\$ 85,879.72
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	005	\$ 240,238.40
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	006	\$ 198,779.22
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS:		\$ 897,195.34

6. **Municipal Court & Violations Bureau Report** for August, 2007.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to approve the items as listed on the consent agenda. This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Continuation of Public Hearing:

As it was after 8:00 p.m., A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Deputy Clerk read by Title:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON,
 STATE OF NEW JERSEY PROHIBITING PARKING ALONG CODDINGTON
 AND RIDGE ROADS IN THE TOWNSHIP AND ESTABLISHING PENALTIES
 FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF**

Continuation of Public Hearing – continued:

Mayor Shamey said this ordinance prohibits parking on Coddington and Ridge Roads. He said this Public Hearing was carried from the last meeting. The Committee has now received comments and recommendations from Engineer McEldowney, the Police Department as well as comments from the Department of Public Works.

Engineer McEldowney's recommendation is to include a section of School Road as well as County Line Road and Kosciuszko Road.

Mayor Shamey said the Committee could adopt the ordinance as it is written and amend it to include additional roads in the future, or discuss it further, defeat it and introduce a new ordinance with additional roads.

Mayor Shamey asked if there were any comments from the Governing Body.

Mrs. Allen said she would suggest adopting this ordinance tonight and then amending it to include additional roads in the future.

Mrs. Muir said the Police Chief is also recommending no parking on Hillcrest Road and Pulaski Road.

Mayor Shamey said Hillcrest and Pulaski Roads should be looked into more closely.

Mrs. Muir said she thinks the ordinance should be adopted and then the Committee should give serious consideration to amending it in the near future.

Mr. Auriemma and Mr. Gatti agreed.

Mayor Shamey asked if there were any comments from the public.

Mr. David Simpson said he is glad the Committee got additional input from the police, engineer and DPW. He suggested they also consider a similar ordinance for north bound Main Street in Whitehouse Station.

Engineer McEldowney said that would have to be done by the County because it is a County road.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Muir to close the Public Hearing. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Deputy Clerk read by Title:

***AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY PROHIBITING PARKING ALONG CODDINGTON
AND RIDGE ROADS IN THE TOWNSHIP AND ESTABLISHING PENALTIES
FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF***

Ordinance #33-2007

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Allen to adopt this Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Mayor Shamey asked Attorney Dragan to draft a no parking ordinance for a portion of School Road, County Line Road and Kosciuszko Road for consideration at a future meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Memorandum dated August 30, 2007 from Denise B. Doolan, Clerk, Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders, regarding *adoption of a Resolution supporting the creation of a new school funding formula that preserves per pupil county vocational aid to support the additional cost of hands-on technical programs*, noted for information. No action taken.
2. Letter dated August 29, 2007 from Jennifer L. Wolaver, Conservation Project Coordinator, New Jersey Audubon Society, regarding *resolution in support of the Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres, Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007*.

Mrs. Allen suggested that the Committee adopt a similar resolution.

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RENEWAL OF THE
GARDEN STATE PRESERVATION TRUST
R-2007-110**

WHEREAS, continued investment in open space and farmland preservation is vitally important to the state, as it enhances New Jersey's economy, safeguards its remaining natural, agricultural, recreational and cultural resources and preserves its character; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey continues to face incredible pressure from development, losing nearly 50 acres of open space daily to new development projects; and

WHEREAS, the Garden State Preservation Trust provides a match for open space taxes collected by all 21 counties and more than 225 municipalities; and

WHEREAS, protecting open spaces and improving urban natural areas stabilizes local property taxes and revitalizes communities; and

WHEREAS, since its creation in 1998, the Garden State Preservation Trust has enabled the State of New Jersey, its local governments, and nonprofits to acquire over 432,000 acres of parks, open space and farmland; and

WHEREAS, the Garden State Preservation Trust is essential not only to the State's conservation programs, but also to the work of counties, municipalities and nonprofit organizations by providing grants and low interest loans to help preserve land while protecting natural resources and farmland for future generations; and

WHEREAS, even many of the places already protected – our state and local parks – are threatened by inadequate levels of funding for operation, maintenance, and stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the Garden State Preservation Trust is virtually depleted, with funds to be completely exhausted in 2007 despite the continued need for the programs it makes possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the municipality of (insert name of town), in the county of (insert name of county) and State of New Jersey as follows:

- The municipality supports the renewal and strengthening of the Garden State Preservation Trust, to provide \$325 million annually for New Jersey to continue its programs to acquire open space and farmland and improve historic sites and preserved lands. This amount includes \$225 million a year for acquisition and \$100 million a year for capital projects, which could be provided by bonding an annual dedicated stream of approximately \$150 million.
- The municipality supports the dedication of \$56 million annually to establish a stable source of funding for operation, maintenance, and stewardship for parks, recreation and natural areas.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RENEWAL OF THE GARDEN STATE PRESERVATION TRUST – continued:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to provide a copy of this Resolution to the following:

- The Honorable Jon Corzine, Governor
- State Senator Leonard Lance
- State Assemblyman Michael Doherty
- State Assemblywoman Marcia Karrow
- Morris Land Conservancy
- New Jersey Conservation Foundation,
- The Outdoor Recreation Alliance c/o N.J. Audubon Society
- *The Hunterdon Democrat*
- *The Courier News*

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to adopt this Resolution, seconded by Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

3. Notice of Public Hearing for ***the proposed FFY2008 Priority System, Intended Use Plan & Project Priority List Document for Clean Water Financing***, noted for information. No action taken.
4. Letter dated September 7, 2007 from Judith Sullivan, Municipal Clerk, Twp. of Bedminster, regarding ***adoption of Ordinance #2007-16, an ordinance to authorize the adoption of flood damage prevention regulations designed to promote public health, safety and general welfare for the residents of Bedminster Township***, noted for information. No action taken.
5. Resolution from the Township of East Amwell Township ***supporting continued funding of the PARIS Grants Program in accordance with P.L. 2003, Chapter 117, Sections 38 & 39***, noted for information. No action taken.
6. Resolution from the Township of East Amwell Township ***in support of legislation to amend Abbott-Burke funding to streamline administration of a more thorough & efficient education throughout New Jersey***, noted for information. No action taken.
7. Resolution from the Township of West Amwell Township ***in opposition to Assembly Bill A-4393 which would require contracting units requesting bids for construction projects to advertise their projected cost estimate range & to publicly state reasons for rejecting all correctly submitted bids in cases where law provides criteria for rejection of all bids***, noted for information. No action taken.
8. Letter dated August 31, 2007 from Eugene Back, P.E., Gladstone Design, regarding ***Application NJDEP Freshwater Wetland Statewide General Permit No. 11 – Fox Hollow II, Block 5.11, Lot 2.01, Branchburg Township***, noted for information. No action taken.
9. Notices from Pivotal Utility Holdings, Inc., d/b/a Elizabethtown Gas Company, regarding ***petition to revise its Basic Gas Supply Service – Periodic (“BGSS-P”) rate***, noted for information. No action taken.
10. Letter dated August 30, 2007 from Michael J. Filippone, Director, Rates & Regulatory Affairs-NJ, regarding ***JCP&L’s annual proposal for Basic General Service***, noted for information. No action taken.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ***Solberg Airport*** - update by Mayor Shamey.

Mayor Shamey said that a status conference was held with the Judge. Also, dates were scheduled for the submission of briefs and motions.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:

2. ***Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*** – request for release of Maintenance Bond.

Action on this item was deferred until the next meeting as there are outstanding items that need to be addressed before the bond can be released.

3. ***Spring Meadows Major Subdivision/Block 64, Lot 8*** - outstanding issues residents would like addressed by developer.

Engineer McEldowney distributed a letter to the Committee from Ryan Homes regarding this subdivision. The letter states that Mr. D'Iorio is responsible for the remaining general site improvements. Engineer McEldowney said he discussed this letter with Mr. D'Iorio.

Mr. Joe Scotto appeared before the Committee. He thanked the Committee for their continued efforts to get the outstanding issues addressed.

Engineer McEldowney suggested that the Committee send a letter to Mr. D'Iorio stating that although there has been some work done, there are still major issues that need to be addressed.

Mayor Shamey said that Mr. D'Iorio should be given a date by which the issues need to be addressed.

Engineer McEldowney suggested October 15th.

After a short discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to send a letter to Mr. D'Iorio giving him a deadline of October 15th to address all of the outstanding issues or the Township will

Mr. Paul Sentimore appeared before the Committee. He thanked them for listening to the residents and for addressing their concerns.

Mr. Joe Morris appeared before the Committee. He submitted an OPRA request for copies of the plans for this subdivision along with the resolutions for preliminary and final approval.

He said he would like the following on the record:

- That a letter will be sent to Mr. D'Iorio giving him a deadline to address the resident's and the Committee concerns.
- That he, at his own cost, would re-grade the mound located on the vacant property.
- That the grading work has not been completed to an acceptable level or up to standards.
- He offered his services to help maintain the property.
- That there is no record of this subdivision at the County Clerk's Office.

Mr. Morris thanked the Committee for their time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. ***Resurfacing of Main Street/Route 523.***

Engineer McEldowney said that the County is going to be doing work on the Main Street/Whitehouse Station section of Route 523. They have asked that the Committee provide them with any questions or concerns.

Engineer McEldowney distributed a memorandum which summarized a meeting that was held at the Municipal Building and attended by Scott Jesseman from the DPW and Lieutenant Donaruma from the Police Department.

Resurfacing of Main Street/Route 523 – continued:

After reviewing the County's proposal, Lieutenant Donaruma made three (3) recommendations regarding the hours during which the work should be done:

- 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- At night

After a short discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that the work should be done from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

2. ***Amendment to §148-65-10 (False alarms; investigations) of Land Development Ordinance*** – consideration.

Action on this item was deferred.

3. ***Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Report*** - acknowledgment of receipt & acceptance by Township Committee - Block 20, Lot 11 (Csepi).

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

4. ***Cooperative Purchase*** - Snow & Ice Control Materials/2007-2008 Winter Season.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

As Administrator Mekovetz was not in attendance, no report was given.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Written report submitted.

Attorney Dragan said she had nothing further to report at this time.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Written report submitted.

Engineer McEldowney said he had nothing further to report at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Gerard Shamey:**

Mayor Shamey said he had nothing to report at this time.

2. **Julia Allen:**

Mrs. Allen said she had nothing to report at this time.

3. **Thomas Auriemma:**

Mr. Auriemma said he had nothing to report at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – continued:

4. Frank Gatti:

a. Finance Department

1. *Lien Redemption* – resolution.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

2. *Tax Refund* – resolution.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

3. *Payment of the Bills.*

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Gatti said he had nothing further to report at this time.

5. Beatrice Muir:

a. Public Assistance

Mrs. Muir said she received a memo from Diane Clapp, Social Services Director, regarding the annual distribution of school supplies. It was very successful.

b. Municipal Court

1. *Municipal Court & Violations Bureau Report* for August, 2007.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

Mrs. Muir said she had nothing further to report at this time.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Shamey asked for comments from the public.

Mr. Jim Traynor from the Three Bridges Fire Company appeared before the Committee. Mr. Traynor said that the Fire Company would like to give a presentation at the October 1, 2007 Committee meeting regarding the new fire truck that was put out for bid but has not been awarded yet.

All agreed that the Fire Company could make this presentation at the next meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY:

Mayor Shamey asked for comments from the Governing Body. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Muir at 10:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Gatti with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patti Jo McConnell, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk