

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

Mayor Shamey *called the meeting to order at 6:30 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

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Mekovetz and Attorney Dragan

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</u> <u>When Discussion Will</u> <u>Be Disclosed to Public</u>
Block 56, Lot 5 (James).....	Contract Negotiations.....	Certain information at the discretion of the Township Committee tonight... other information will remain confidential
Amendment to Wastewater Mgt. Plan	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Awarding of Stainless Steel CAFS Pumper – Three Bridges Vol. Fire Co.....	Contract Negotiations.....	" " "
Executive Session Minutes (Dec. 3, 2007).....	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	" " "
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).....	Litigation.....	" " "
Municipal Court.....	Personnel.....	" " "

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 6:30 p.m. by Mrs. Muir to adopt this Resolution, seconded by Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

Mr. Gatti left the meeting at this time.

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

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

Contract Negotiations - Block 56, Lot 5 (James)

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to approve the contract, as amended, for Block 56, Lot 5 (James). This motion was seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations - Amendment to Wastewater Management Plan

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to authorize James Coe of Hatch, Mott, MacDonald to work on the amendment to the Wastewater Management Plan with respect to the Board of Education sewer connection for the Holland Brook and Readington Middle Schools, with his fees to be reimbursed to the Township by the Board of Education. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations - Awarding of Stainless Steel CAFS Pumper – Three Bridges Vol. Fire Co.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to award the contract for one (1) Stainless Steel CAFS Pumper for the Three Bridges Volunteer Fire Company to Four Guys in the amount of \$609,921, \$525,000 to be paid by the Township. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Allen and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Attorney-Client Privilege - Executive Session Minutes (December 3, 2007)

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to approve the Executive Session Minutes from the meeting of December 3, 2007 for content. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

***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.

Personnel - Municipal Court

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** of meeting December 3, 2007.
2. **2007 Budget Appropriation Transfer** - resolution.

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
R-2007-127**

PURSUANT TO NJSA 40A:4-58, a municipality may make budget appropriation transfers during the last two months of the fiscal year; and

CONSENT AGENDA – continued:

WHEREAS, there appears to be insufficient funds in the following 2007 appropriation accounts to meet the demands thereon for the balance of the year, viz:

Current Fund:	Sewer Utility:
Other Expenses:	Other Expenses
Legal Services	
Engineering Services	

WHEREAS, there appears to be a surplus in the following accounts, over and above the demand deemed to be necessary for the balance of the current year, viz:

Current Fund:	Sewer Utility:
Other Expenses:	Service Fees - RTMUA
Roads	
Group Health Insurance	

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with the provision of NJS 40A:4-58 part of the surplus in the accounts heretofore mentioned be and same hereby transferred to the accounts mentioned as being insufficient, to meet the current demands; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized and directed to make the following 2007 appropriation transfers:

<u>NO.</u>	<u>CURRENT FUND:</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
	Inside Caps:		
	Other Expenses:		
7-01-117-700	Group Health Insurance	\$115,000.00	
7-01-301-200	Roads	80,000.00	
7-01-106-200	Legal Services		\$ 185,000.00
7-01-109-200	Engineering Services		10,000.00
	Total Current Fund	<u>\$195,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 195,000.00</u>
	SEWER UTILITY FUND:		
7-02-851-002	Service Fees RTMUA	\$ 81,000.00	
7-02-850-200	Operating - Other Expenses		\$ 81,000.00
	Total Sewer Utility	<u>\$ 81,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 81,000.00</u>

3. **Application for Social Affairs Permit** – Knights of Columbus (January 18, 2007).
4. **Application for Membership in NJ Firemen’s Association** – Brett R. Colavito.
5. **Application for Membership in NJ Firemen’s Association** – Jeff R. Dewer.
6. **Application for Membership in NJ Firemen’s Association** – Matthew R. Williams.
7. **Application for Blue Light Permit** – Donald Cunningham.
8. **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 70.01, Lot 12 known as Tax Sale Certificate #553; and

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

CONSENT AGENDA – continued:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee that the Treasurer be authorized to refund the redemption amount of \$16,383.78 plus a premium paid in the amount of \$20,000.00 to the lien holder, Crusader Servicing Corp.

**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 38 Lot 85 known as Tax Sale Certificate #543; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Tax Collector to refund 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 \$4,507.92 plus a premium paid in the amount of \$9,100.00 to the lien holder, Fernwood Funding LLC.

9. **Tax Refund** – resolutions.

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

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended the following refunds:

<u>BLOCK/LOT</u>	<u>REFUND TO</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2007			
76/3.08	Countrywide	duplicate payt	\$ 20,753.33
28/36	Yildiz, Mustafa & Michelle	duplicate payt	\$ 1,580.80

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee that the Township Treasurer be authorized to refund the amounts recommended.

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

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended the following refunds:

<u>BLOCK/LOT</u>	<u>REFUND TO</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2007			
13/67	Carman, Lucille	senior deduction	\$ 250.00
13/69	Devincent, Laura	senior deduction	250.00
36/41	Harris, Richard	vet deduction	125.00
36/123	Dragon, Sophia	senior deduction	250.00
36/36	Kipp, Robert	senior deduction	250.00
21.06/302.13	Snarke, Gregory	senior deduction	250.00
52/10	Hrubesh, John & Carol	senior deduction	250.00
35/18	West, James & Linda	vet deduction	250.00
36/75	Parker, Sheila	vet deduction	250.00
21.06/506.05	High, Rosemary	vet deduction	250.00
54/1. 07Q	Hofstetter, Thomas	overbill	12.10

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee that the Township Treasurer be authorized to refund the amounts recommended.

CONSENT AGENDA – continued:

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

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended the following refunds:

<u>BLOCK/LOT</u>	<u>REFUND TO</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2007			
9/24Q	Buttonwood Beef	overbill	\$ 46.15
14/29.03Q	Ryland Developers	overbill	62.66
20/1	Huska, Martin & Martinic, James	overbill	6,251.70
36/95	Country Classics Legacy, Readington	overbill	4,162.03
38/56Q	Natale, Joseph & Diane	overbill	25.30
42/9Q	Kiever, Robert & Grace	overbill	57.12
42/10Q	Kiever, Robert & Grace	overbill	11.90
43/13Q	Gilliam, David 7 Bianco, Aurora	overbill	12.41
53/5	Holland Brook Realty	overbill	8,018.74
63/12Q	Hendrics, Harold & Judith	overbill	16.90
76/2	Pontoriero, Guisepppe & Gomez, Maria	overbill	1,473.29

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee that the Township Treasurer be authorized to refund the amounts recommended.

10. **Payment of the Bills.**

<u>Fund Description</u>	<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>Received Total</u>
CURRENT FUND APPROPRIATION	001	\$ 508,643.59
SEWER APPROPRIATION	002	\$ 5,800.00
TRUST APPROPRIATION	003	\$ 26,776.12
CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS	004	\$ 22,742.61
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	005	\$ 64,695.92
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	006	\$ 172,815.21
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS:		\$ 801,473.45

11. **Municipal Court & Violations Bureau Report for November, 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
Mrs. Muir	-	Aye
Mayor Shamey	-	Aye

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.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE IV, CHAPTER 204 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CONCERNING EXCAVATION IN THE PUBLIC STREETS, ROADS, SIDEWALKS AND CURBING IN THE TOWNSHIP

Ordinance #41-2007

Ordinance #41-2007 – continued:

Mayor Shamey said this ordinance amends the section of the Readington Township Code regarding excavation of public streets, roads, sidewalks and curbing in the Township. It states that no excavating, drilling or any other similar disturbance can be made to any newly constructed, paved, repaved or improved public street, road surface, curbing or sidewalks for five (5) years from the date the improvements are completed.

It also requires the Township to notify utility companies prior to the beginning of a particular roadway construction or improvement project in the municipality that would limit a utility from excavating or otherwise opening the roadway for a utility line or service connection installation.

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

Mr. Auriemma asked if this ordinance would apply if someone who was building a new home wanted to install a gas line.

Engineer McEldowney said there are methods of installing gas lines that prevent the street from being dug up.

Mayor Shamey asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none.

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

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE IV, CHAPTER 204 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CONCERNING EXCAVATION IN THE PUBLIC STREETS, ROADS, SIDEWALKS AND CURBING IN THE TOWNSHIP

Ordinance #41-2007

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Notice dated December 4, 2007 from William G. Dressel, Jr., Executive Director, NJ State League of Municipalities regarding ***opposition to S-2955 (Public Contractor's Relief Bill) and S-2878 (Projected Contract Cost Estimates)***, noted for information. No action taken.
2. Letter dated November 29, 2007 from Donna J. Burham, Municipal Clerk, Twp. of Clinton, regarding ***adoption of a resolution requesting Scenic Byway Designation of Interstate 78 through the entirety of Clinton Township***, noted for information. No action taken.
3. Notice from James Humphries, Planner, Twp. of Raritan, regarding ***public hearing of complete Master Plan revision***, noted for information. No action taken.
4. Letter dated December 4, 2007 from Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk, Twp. of Union, regarding ***adoption of a resolution requesting Scenic Byway Designation of***

Interstate 78 through the entirety of Union Township.

The following Resolution was offered for consideration:

Resolution requesting Scenic Byway Designation of Interstate 78 through Readington Township – continued:

***RESOLUTION REQUESTING SCENIC BYWAY DESIGNATION
OF INTERSTATE 78 THROUGH THE ENTIRETY OF
READINGTON TOWNSHIP HUNTERDON COUNTY
R-2007-128***

WHEREAS, Hunterdon County has a rural character that is unique to the central part of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Hunterdon County has maintained large areas of undeveloped and agricultural land throughout the County that significantly contributes to its rural character and residential quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the open space in Hunterdon County is scenic and includes two (2) State reservoirs, Spruce Run and Round Valley, and consists largely of picturesque rolling hills spotted with, often times historic, farm buildings and hamlets; and

WHEREAS, Interstate 78 through Hunterdon County allows approximately 87,000 motorists daily to experience this rural character from the viewsheds along the corridor which provide visibility for miles; and

WHEREAS, the scenic qualities of Interstate 78 in Hunterdon County contribute toward a pleasant driving experience along Interstate 78; and

WHEREAS, Township of Readington is located in Hunterdon County and hosts approximately four miles of Interstate 78; and

WHEREAS, the viewsheds in Township of Readington along Interstate 78 greatly contribute to the overall scenic quality of Interstate 78 in Hunterdon County; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington along Interstate 78 consists of viewsheds of serene rolling hills of farmland and forest that exemplify the rural and traditional character of Readington Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington wishes to retain these scenic qualities in order to maintain the quality of life for the Township of Readington residents and maintain a pleasant driving experience for motorists along Interstate 78; and

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Committee finds that the designation of Interstate 78 as a Scenic Byway through the entirety of the municipality will help the Township of Readington achieve its goals of maintaining the quality of life for its residents and maintaining a pleasant driving experience for motorists along Interstate 78; and

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Committee wishes to proceed with a scenic byways designation that encompasses all Hunterdon County municipalities which host Interstate 78.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, hereby requests that the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation designate Interstate 78 through the Township of Readington as a scenic byway because of its scenic and natural characteristics; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Readington Township Committee requests that one (1) or more State Assemblymen and/or Senators representing Hunterdon County sponsor the nomination of the Township of Readington as well as the other Hunterdon County municipalities seeking the Scenic Byway Designation for Interstate 78; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township of Readington will work with all municipalities who also have a portion of Interstate 78 designated as a Scenic Byway to create a Corridor Management Plan in accordance with the specifications of the New Jersey Scenic Byway's Program within five (5) years.

Resolution requesting Scenic Byway Designation of Interstate 78 through Readington Twp. – continued:

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

5. Letter dated November 19, 2007 from Lou Cattuna, Section Chief, Bureau of Inland Regulation, NJDEP regarding **Authorization for Freshwater Wetlands Statewide General Permit No. 16, Water Quality Certification & Access Waiver for General Permits – Robert A. Jones, Block 22, Lot 4**, noted for information. No action taken.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Mayor Shamey said on Friday, December 14th Judge Ciccone heard oral arguments on the Summary Judgement Motions from the Township and Solberg Aviation. The Judge indicated that decision will be rendered after January 1, 2008.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. ***Municipal Planning Incentive Grant application.***

Mayor Shamey thanked Mrs. Allen for all of her efforts in completing this application.

Mrs. Allen said the application was delivered to the State on Friday. There was a meeting last week that was attended by municipalities from Hunterdon and Warren Counties that were applying for this grant.

Mrs. Allen said that the map of preserved farmland needed some revisions along with the map of targeted farms. She worked with Brent Krasner from Clarke, Caton, Hintz and the revised maps was also sent to the State. Mrs. Allen said the Township's goal is to preserve 200 acres per year over the next ten (10) years.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Allen to support the revised map of preserved farmland and the revised map of targeted farms that have been amended into the Township's Planning Incentive Grant application. This motion was seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

2. ***2007 Budget Appropriation Transfer*** - resolution.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

3. ***Application for Social Affairs Permit*** – Knights of Columbus (January 18, 2007).

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

4. ***Application for Membership in NJ Firemen's Association*** – Brett R. Colavito.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

5. ***Application for Membership in NJ Firemen's Association*** – Jeff R. Dewer.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

6. ***Application for Membership in NJ Firemen's Association*** – Matthew R. Williams.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

7. ***Application for Blue Light Permit*** – Donald Cunningham.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Written report submitted.

Administrator Mekovetz said she had nothing further to report at this time.

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 that a preliminary plan for Bank Street has been completed and submitted to the Water Authority for their review. We hope to get approval to pave the area.

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:**

a. **Recreation**

Mr. Auriemma said the first 2008 Memorial Day Parade Committee meeting was held this month.

Mayor Shamey asked if any additional feedback had been received from the residents of Hixson Road regarding the proposed additional field at Summer Road.

Administrator Mekovetz said she received one (1) phone call from a resident who said there would be more residents calling and that they may also submit a letter.

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

4. **Frank Gatti:**

a. **Finance Department**

1. ***Lien Redemption*** – resolutions.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

2. ***Tax Refund*** – resolutions.

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

3. *Payment of the Bills.*

This item was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

As Mr. Gatti was not in attendance, no additional report was given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – continued:

5. **Beatrice Muir:**

a. **Board of Health**

Mrs. Muir said County Health Department Director John Beckley attended the last Board of Health meeting and made a presentation regarding different types of emergency planning. She asked that Administrator Mekovetz contact Mr. Beckley and invite him to appear at the second Committee meeting in January

b. **Municipal Court**

1. *Municipal Court & Violations Bureau Report* for November, 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. There were none.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY:

Mayor Shamey asked for comments from the Governing Body.

Mayor Shamey said the last Committee meeting is scheduled for December 27th. He asked what time the meeting is scheduled for.

Administrator Mekovetz said it is 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Shamey said that the 2008 Reorganization Meeting will be held on Monday, January 7th at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by a regular Township Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Muir at 9:10 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Allen with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

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