

April 1, 2015
Municipal Building
121 Evergreen Road
New Egypt, NJ 08533

The Workshop Session of the meeting of the Plumsted Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Trotta.

STATEMENT: "This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. It was advertised for publication in the Asbury Park Press and posted on the bulletin board."

THOSE OFFICIALS PRESENT WERE:

COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO	COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG	COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI
DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK	MAYOR TROTTA	ADMINISTRATOR DANCER
CLERK HENDRICKSON	ATTORNEY KELLY	DAVID LEUTWYLER, CDC

Mayor Trotta reviewed the agenda. Resolution No. 2015-141 was added to the agenda which amends Resolution No. 2014-301 for Schedule C Road Maintenance with Ocean County. Raffles Applications 2015-16 and 2015-17 were also added to the agenda. He said CFO Madden asked to have Resolution No. 2015-142 for School Busing.

Mayor Trotta said Committeeman Lotito wanted to talk about the resolution regarding proposed prayer. Committeeman Lotito asked Attorney Kelly explain the letter he sent regarding an opening invocation during public meetings. Attorney Kelly said the law, as it relates to the resolution, there was a new case from the US Supreme Court which was a case derived out of New York relating to prayer in public forums and it is permissible. There are certain safeguards and structure put in place there, which was proposed in the resolution.

It captured the essence of what Committeeman Lotito was proposing. It was deemed that the government body not get too involved. The law in New Jersey is the US Supreme Court, then each State Court has its individual State Constitutions. The one distinction is New Jersey Law was prayer by the public officials as opposed to the case in New York by an invited clergy. There was an appointed clergy on a rotating basis from a local congregation in the Township with multiple denominations. The clergy would come into the township committee meeting and lead in a moment of silence or prayer. This was what was proposed in the original resolution for Plumsted as well. What the Supreme Court did say in the New York case was that it need not make any reference to a religion or religious functions. The Court said that would be getting too involved. As long as somebody was invited in and they wanted to lead this township or any township in prayer, that was fine. The town is not getting involved in that any more so if it were a moment of silence or prayer and invited clergy was going to do that, it is fine. He asked for any questions.

Committeeman Lotito said the two points were consistent. Attorney Kelly had some concern about potential litigation as he was doing risk assessment for the Township. Lotito said this was something that we need to be on board with. Attorney Kelly said regarding the case in New York, the practice was adopted and the American Civil Liberties Union brought suit indicating that they thought the township was getting overly involved in religion. Any township involved in that is certainly subject to litigation if the American Civil Liberties Union wants to bring suit and thinks that the township is getting overly involved in religion or is leading or favoring one religion over another.

Lotito thought that would be problematic and it would be subject to attack, however, if the township or any township was going to follow the structure that was upheld by the US Supreme Court then he did not think there would be much cause to attack the practice. That suit went all the way through the Appellate Division up to the US Supreme Court which was a ten-year process, a lot of litigation, a lot of opinions that were involved so there is a lot of law on the issue. He said that case in 2014 really memorializes the current state of the law as it relates to governing bodies such as Plumsted. If the governing body is going to adopt a practice like this, it is substantially similar to what the US Supreme Court said was suitable in New York then it would be suitable here and not likely subject to attack. He also said there were no guarantees because if someone wanted to bring a suit, they can do that. The courtroom is open for anyone to file a case but if we were clearly within the parameters of what was already recognized as permissible in New York, then it would be permissible here in Plumsted as well.

Committeeman Lotito said the Township didn't need a resolution for the Committee to engage in this, but one of the thought processes that he had was that we, the governing body, would preface or create a public policy that would be consistent with the Supreme Court so that we could just have a policy. This way if someone wanted to come in, there would be a public record document that would be able to articulate our position. He said our Township has limited

means, so the attorneys who litigated New York's case said they would come along side Plumsted in the event that there was litigation or some kind of question as to what we were doing and how it complies with the Supreme Court's decision. He said they were willing to come and meet with the Committee.

Mayor Trotta asked for any comments, which Committeeman Wysong said he questioned the section of the policy that the Township would put in place to select a chaplain. He said the Township has four appointed chaplains and that portion should read a chaplain or clergy from the local area as we move forward with this.

Committee Lotito said if the Governing Body moves forward, we have to make sure we are neutral. The spirit of the Supreme Court opinion was that there will be a prayer giver and that person can pray to what their faith is and then it is for the blessing of the proceeding here. He said we need to be careful in the selection process so if we select someone to be the chaplain, it would be done by resolution but go with a rotation schedule. If we select a chaplain or someone who has certain qualifications who serves the community that would work better than not. Attorney Kelly said this is a voluntary act for a willing individual and he felt the language in the resolution talked about a process. If there was disagreement, someone else would be picked and then it would be revote on the process, so that language could be tweaked to be more straight forward in utilizing the ones that are already in place.

Committeeman Marinari asked what the next step was. Attorney Kelly said the resolution is not necessary, but Committeeman Marinari agreed with Committeeman Lotito that the Township needed something in place. Attorney Kelly said he would make the changes to the proposed resolution and circulate it to the Committee. He will take any comments and include them in the actual resolution to make it clear in what the intent and purpose is and then adopt the resolution at the next meeting.

Committeeman Wysong wasn't clear on what the changes were and how would they read since we already have four appointed chaplains and local clergy that are not appointed as Township Chaplains. Attorney Kelly said since there are four who would already be invited to the process but then felt the language could say one or more in the event someone was not available on a particular day.

Deputy Mayor Sorchik felt a resolution was not needed. He said Attorney Kelly's comments regarding the proposed resolution was researched and the Township Committee does not need a resolution to do this. His opinion was that this gives the right under the authority of the first amendment and did not need some sort of ratification from the governing body to do something that is already our right. He felt we legislate a lot of stuff in this country that does not need to be legislated and if we want to open our meetings or before we start out meetings and offer a moment of prayer we can do so and we are well within our right to do so. A resolution is not needed to confirm that.

Mayor Trotta said he did not know where he stood on this but felt we should start with a prayer. He was just not sure whether a resolution was needed at this point and time. He felt it wouldn't hurt if Attorney Kelly made some changes that he felt were needed so it could be reviewed and decide further at another meeting how to go forward with it.

Committeeman Wysong said that with Congress, where they have one chaplain in the Senate and one in the House of Representatives they open prayer every day. That is not saying they are favoring a particular religion the chaplain represents, whether it is Protestant, Catholic, Muslim, Jewish, etc. What we were saying is we would appoint one and that would not be saying that we were biased to a particular chaplain's religion. Attorney Kelly said in the Supreme Court Case, the town agrees that was their practice and Mr. Dancer even pointed out that it was the practice of the Assembly as well. He said this was nothing new. Mr. Dancer took some language out of the resolution because it indicated that the Township Committee was going to follow the laws already in place. To that end, he did not know a resolution was required because we follow the laws and that is what we practice. He said if we follow the practice appointing clergy once a year, we only follow that structure because that was the structure before the Supreme Court. Committeeman Wysong thought we couldn't invite anyone else to open the session in prayer. Kelly thought that based on one of the changes in the resolution rather than one, you could appoint one, two or even three and they would work it out themselves.

Mayor Trotta asked if there was anything before going into Executive Session.

Committeeman Lotito said just to follow up on the Fire Budget, it came to his attention that they have a place holder for the Chief of EMS and they are going to refill that position. He was of the position that the Fire Chief should also oversee the whole operation when EMS is part of that. He enlightened the fact that there were some citizens here last week and they were upset that

the budget is kind of running away and that would be a great line item to do away with. This was something he wanted to bring before the Committee during workshop session.

Mayor Trotta said the Township Committee cannot tell where to cut in their budget, only the amount to cut. Mayor Trotta said he hoped there would be quarterly meetings and suggest to go down that road to make certain cuts or not fill certain positions in the future for cost savings here or there. The Committee can suggest but not force them to do any of that; they are a separate entity and all the Committee does is review the budget and decide on the dollar amount.

Committeeman Lotito said the Fire Company serves a very important purpose in our town and he is the son of New York City Detective. He knows what it is like for people of public service to be on the front lines as a first responder. A lot of his friends were firemen in New York City and have a high respect and regard for what those guys do. At the same time, he sensed there a big PR issue with how they are operating, he just thought they could be a little more organized. He said he would like someone from this Committee to be a more integral part of that. One thing that is a hindrance to us is both meetings are the same night and maybe it would be a good idea to have a liaison at their meeting like we have with other organizations in town. He thought the fire budget was a large part of our taxes and is a very important organization and felt the Committee should be a part of that. He would like to see what kind of things we could do to try and mitigate the issue we have within our communication and relationship to make it better in a first step in that direction.

Mayor Trotta said he remembered when Mrs. Carr suggested that we move our meetings two or three years ago and we looked into it and based on schedules of different meetings and personal schedules, we were left with the first Wednesday of each month. He said he was not opposed to looking at that again to see if there is something that can be done. Mayor Trotta said that he would forward the information from last time to Committeeman Lotito so he can revisit it.

Committeeman Marinari feels the Committee needed to relight the All Boards Council Meetings and have it at least once a year. As Board President he thought they were very important to have and the people that were there got a little bit of snapshot of what was taking place at other organizations. He said he knew it was hard to get people together but he thought this should be looked into again. Mayor Trotta said he had a conversation with Mr. Leutwyler about this and he was going to work on it.

Business Administrator Dancer said as a follow up regarding the meetings there was communication regarding the Fire District moving their meeting dates as well.

Mayor Trotta asked if there were anything else from the Committee.

Committeeman Wysong said regarding Resolution No. 2015-137, he asked about the Schedule A attachment. It was explained that it was on the resolution itself.

Attorney Kelly read Resolution No. 2015-120 for Executive Session.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG, RESOLUTION NO. 2015-120, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE CONVENING OF AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Mayor Trotta called the Regular Session of the meeting to order with the Flag Salute and introduced the professionals at the dais.

MINUTES:

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG, THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 2014 WAS APPROVED AS SUBMITTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG, THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 29, 2014 WAS APPROVED AS SUBMITTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Trotta said the first presentation was for a Proclamation for "National Prayer Day" which was scheduled for May 7, 2015. Committeeman Lotito read the proclamation and asked Clerk

Hendrickson to forward it to Barbara Diblin.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG, THE PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING MAY 7, 2015 AS NATIONAL PRAYER DAY WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

Mayor Trotta said the next presentation was for a proclamation for National Library Week – April 12-18, 2015 and asked Rachel Dohn to come to the dais to accept the proclamation. Committeeman Wysong read the proclamation.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO, THE PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF APRIL 12-18, 2105 AS NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

Committeeman Wysong said he enjoyed the library and was taught how to download eBooks and said they had wonderful programs for the community. He said it was sometimes disheartening that not many people come out for some of these programs. The Committee thanked her for what she and the library did for the community. She thanked them for their support. Ms. Dohn said that the Friends of the Library will start collecting book for their annual used book sale.

Mayor Trotta said the next presentation was for a proclamation for National Alcohol Awareness Month and asked Linda Leutwyler, Chairman of the Municipal Drug and Alcohol Alliance to come forward to accept the proclamation. Committeeman Lotito read the proclamation.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG THE PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY AS NATIONAL ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

Mrs. Leutwyler thanked the Township Committee for their continued support over the years because without their support we wouldn't be able to have programs throughout the Township and the District. Committeeman Wysong said with respect to a part of the proclamation where those that drink at 15 years of age, he saw a report on the news that even giving the child a sip gives them more intensity of becoming an alcoholic earlier in life. The Township Committeeman thanked her and the Alliance for the work they do.

Mayor Trotta said the next presentation was for a proclamation for National Volunteer Week and asked Mrs. Leutwyler if she would accept the proclamation. Mayor Trotta read the proclamation.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, THE PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF APRIL 12-18, 2015 AS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

Mayor Trotta thanked Mrs. Leutwyler and all volunteers for the work they do. Mrs. Leutwyler thanked the Township Committee.

William Lewis of Brindletown Road was in attendance and wanted to bring to the Committee's attention that his dog was attacked by a neighbor's dog and he wanted to get back what was proposed.

Marc Copitz of 117 Burlington Path Road, Upper Freehold who was in attendance with Mr. Lewis on behalf of the Crosswicks/Doctors Creek Watershed Association. They have been supporters of the Plumsted extension of the Union Transportation Trail and the NJDEP recently announced that they were accepting applications for the National Recreational Trails Grant Program. They thought this was an excellent opportunity for them to gather some funding for the extension trail in Plumsted Township. Nonprofits and municipalities are allowed to apply. The Watershed Association applied for the grant on behalf of the trail for the Township. There is a maximum award of \$31,250.00 and if we were to get the \$25,000.00 which would be provided by the State and the municipality would supply \$6,250.00 as a match, 80%/20%. He noted that Upper Freehold had been successful in obtaining a grant. They provided a natural trail for the municipal building to the Union Transportation Trail. They also enlisted the NJ Conservation Foundation to help with the grant application and they applied for a separate grant to assist. He said he thought this would be a good way to get the trail started and then work a section of the trail that would not require the bridges or crossings. The only thing is that the application is due by the 30th of April and the Committee's commitment to proceed and the municipality's approval for the match.

Mayor Trotta said the Ocean County Freeholders were working with Monmouth and Burlington Counties to try and get the trail extended. Business Administrator Dancer said there was a

meeting with representatives from Engineering and Parks Department with Burlington, Ocean and Monmouth Counties. Monmouth County has agreed to pay for the design and potentially any application for the tunnel under High Bridge Road where the railroad used to be, which was very encouraging. There is also going to be, as a result of that meeting, a shared service agreement sent to each County that outlines their conceptual support for the extension and connection of the UTT Trail. All three counties were represented and all three were in agreement, which looked very encouraging. Dancer said another factor to be considered is that New Jersey Natural Gas Line has a tentative route to go down Route 537 and there has been discussion with them in the event that the transmission line were to be there, we would need some communication and coordination with the County of Ocean.

Dancer said Peter Ylvisaker was also in attendance to try to make sure that if that is going to be a route and the transmission line is there that would be part of the planning process. Also, Peter Ylvisaker has been in touch with Green Acres with respect to the Trails Grant and were aware of the window. He said the Township presently does not have in the Township's introduced budget any line item for that type of commitment. He said in the past, they do a letter of intent and the one area the Committee could look at if it was awarded is possibly the Open Space Trust, which is how the Township paid the 25% out of the previous Green Acres Grant. He said there were possibilities for the Township, but could not do a letter of commitment without a Certification of Availability of Funds. He could do a letter of intent as in the past which would be for the Committee's consideration.

Committeeman Wysong asked Mr. Copitz if his proposal was to apply for the grant which he said yes on behalf Crosswicks Creek Watershed Association, as a nonprofit who would be making the application and Plumsted Township would be the municipality receiving it. He said this would be with the letter of intent, just in case somewhere down the road the Township couldn't do it but at least we would be one step ahead if we could. Dancer also mentioned they usually require a resolution of support. This would not be a resolution of commitment but it would be a resolution of support for the project probably working in conjunction with the nonprofit. He said if it was going to be done, it would help the likelihood of being seriously considered and since there was not another scheduled meeting before the 30th, the Committee may want to consider adding to the agenda a resolution of support for the application for the NJDEP National Recreational Acres Trails Grant in conjunction with Crosswicks/Doctors Creek Watershed Association.

Mr. Lewis and Mr. Copitz thanked the Committee.

Committeeman Trotta continued with Resolution No. 2015-137 which is to adjust the 2014 Year-End Balance of Deferred School Tax and Current Fund Balance. Committeeman Lotito asked him to explain the School Deferred Tax. Mayor Trotta explained that the Tax Collector collects the taxes for all taxing entities and because the school is on a fiscal year and the Township is on a Calendar Year, there is a portion that is called deferred taxes which does not have to be handed over, due to the difference of being on a fiscal year.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG, RESOLUTION NO. 2015-137, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO ADJUST THE 2014 YEAR-END BALANCE OF DEFERRED SCHOOL TAX AND CURRENT FUND BALANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 13, PL 1991, c. 63 AMENDED IN 1994 WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

Mayor Trotta said Ordinance 2015-04 is to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and establish a Cap Bank. This ordinance is to allow the Township extra spending that is needed for the budget.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG, ORDINANCE NO. 2015-04, AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A.40A:4-45.14) WAS INTRODUCED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

Mayor Trotta said the second reading and public hearing will be held at the May 6, 2015 Township Committee Meeting.

Mayor Trotta said the next resolution, Resolution 2015-140 was to introduce the 2015 Municipal Budget of Plumsted Township, which a majority of full membership is needed to approve the introduction. He read the following into the record: Be it resolved that the following statements of Revenue and Appropriations shall constitute the municipal budget for the 2015 year; Total General Appropriations \$3,578,586.69 less Anticipated Revenues other than Current Property Tax \$1,687,716.40, Local Tax for municipal purposes including Reserved for Uncollected Taxes

\$1,890,870.29. Be it further resolved that said budget will be published in the Asbury Park Press in the issue of April 25, 2015.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY, COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, RESOLUTION NO. 2015-140, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO INTRODUCE THE 2015 MUNICIPAL BUDGET WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

Mayor Trotta further stated for the record that notice is hereby given that budget and tax resolution was approved by the Township Committee of the Township of Plumsted, County of Ocean on April 1, 2015. A hearing on the budget and tax resolution will be held at the Municipal Building on May 6, 2015 at 8PM at which time and place objections to said budget and tax resolution for the Year 2015 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

ORDINANCE: Introduction

Mayor Trotta said due to a typographical error, Ordinance 2015-02 was being tabled.

He said Ordinance No. 2015-03 which vacates a portion of Success Road, Block 43, Lots 46, 60 and 66 was being introduced.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG, ORDINANCE NO. 2015-03, AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, VACATING ANY AND ALL OF THE RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED IN A PORTION OF SUCCESS ROAD, (BLOCK 43, LOT 46, 60 AND 66) WAS INTRODUCED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

Mayor Trotta said the second reading and public hearing will be held at the May 6, 2015 Township Committee Meeting.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS ON A CONSENT AGENDA ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE AND SHALL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. SHOULD ANY MEMBER OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SEEK SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF ANY ITEM, THAT ITEM SHALL BE REMOVED AND DISCUSSED SEPARATELY. THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WILL BE VOTED ON IN ONE VOTE:

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO, THE AFOREMENTIONED RESOLUTIONS READ BY TITLE ON THE CONSENT AGENDA WERE ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE VOTED ON SEPARATELY BY ONE MOTION.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-138 – AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE OCEAN COUNTY CDBG GRANT PROJECT FY2014-CT-1524-14 PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT – OAKFORD LAKE PARK

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-139 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP CLERK TO EXECUTE THE JCP&L INDEMNITY LETTER FOR THE MERIDIAN HEALTH PAINT THE TOWN PINK BANNER

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-141 - AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2014-301 AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AMENDATORY INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF OCEAN FOR ROAD OVERLAY SERVICES AND SCHEDULE “C” ROAD MAINTENANCE AND RELATED SERVICES IN 2013 AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 2015-124

The following resolutions were added to the agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-142 – AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP AND THE PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE COURTESY BUSING FOR HAZARDOUS ROUTES FOR THE YEAR 2014/2015

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-143 – SUPPORTING THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S GREEN ACRES PROGRAM NEW JERSEY RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO, THE AFOREMENTIONED RESOLUTIONS READ BY TITLE ON THE CONSENT AGENDA WERE ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

MOTION TO CONSIDER:

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG THE FOLLOWING BINGO AND RAFFLES WERE APPROVED: BINGO LICENSE NO. 2015-14 FOR MC KAIG-TEST-MULLEN AMERICAN LEGION POST 455; RAFFLES LICENSE NO. 2015-15 FOR AN ON PREMISE GIFT AUCTION FOR GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE; RAFFLES LICENSE NO. 2015-16 FOR AN ON PREMISE 50/50 FOR THE LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY; AND RAFFLES LICENSE NO. 2015-17 FOR AN ON PREMISE MERCHANDISE FOR THE LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS AND PROFESSIONALS:

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO, THE APRIL 1, 2015 BILL LIST WAS APPROVED AS SUBMITTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR COMMITTEE REVIEW:

CONSTRUCTION REPORT – FEBRUARY, 2015; AND TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT – FEBRUARY, 2015. Mayor Trotta noted that the Construction revenues were up and hoped that it was an ongoing trend.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Trotta asked for old or new business from the Committee. There was none.

Mayor Trotta opened the meeting to the public.

Luisa Erich-Carr of Holmes Road said with respect to a meeting regarding a sexual harassment suit that took place with Sergeant Titko, which was settled between the insurance company and that particular person. She said she went through the Star Ledger and TriTown News and printed the article because she felt the Committee should know that since Chief Petrecca has taken over as Chief of Police, there have been no issues or suits regarding that. She felt that the Committee did not give credit where credit was due. She also had an issue with Deputy Mayor Sorchik not being in attendance. She said she went back for three years of Township Committee Meetings and the percentage of time he was in attendance and it was like a ghost sitting in that chair. She asked that the Committee review the paperwork. She felt Sorchik should resign or be in attendance because before when Steven Reed was not in attendance he was asked to resign.

Mayor Trotta said he wanted to clarify that the reason Mr. Reed was removed from office at that time was because there was no communication from him, it was not because he did not call in as Mr. Sorchik is doing to be part of the meeting which is legally permissible by the State. Mr. Reed did not contact us and we did not where he was. Ms. Erich-Carr said she did not see his face and said that half of the time you can’t understand what he was saying through the microphone.

Business Administrator Dancer wanted to bring to the Committee’s and public’s attention there are two State laws. The first one applicable to this is the fact that any elected member of a local body who misses seven meetings, they are automatically vacated from office. The Open Public Meetings Act provides that in order for a quorum in a public meeting to take place that it can be done telephonically and that does count as being present. These two laws address the issue and the Township is in compliance with both laws. There may be opinions on that but that is the law.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy J. Hendrickson, RMC
Municipal Clerk