

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:38 p.m. Present were Mayor Richard Wolfe, Deputy Mayor Tim Mathews, and Committee members Kevin Ostrander, Peter Miller, and Chris Sobieski. Attorney Carl Taylor was also in attendance.

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Municipal Clerk Teresa R. Stahl announced that this is a regularly scheduled meeting, pursuant to the resolution adopted on January 2, 2019, with a meeting notice published in the Hunterdon County Democrat issue of January 10, 2019. A copy of the agenda for this meeting was forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Times of Trenton, Star Ledger, Courier News, posted on the bulletin board, and filed in the Clerk's Office on January 8, 2019.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mayor Wolfe apologized for opening the meeting late, saying that there was a budget meeting at 6 p.m. and the Township Committee was trying to keep the tax rate flat with no increase, and they were dealing with expenses going up. He appreciated the public's indulgence. Mayor Wolfe said that this was his first meeting as Mayor and thanked his colleagues for appointing him, saying it feels good to have good people around him, some of whom he has known for a while. He said that they were smart, hard-working, and making great efforts to do what they can to make East Amwell an even better place to live, and he looked forward to working with his colleagues this year.

AGENDA REVIEW

Under Standing Committee Reports, add an update from Mr. Sobieski regarding the Ringoes Village Advisory Committee.

Also under Standing Committee Reports, add the resignation of Pauline Serafin from the Historic Preservation Committee and a Citizen's Leadership Form for membership on the same committee.

Under New Business, add the 2019 Liaisons.

Under Correspondence, add the 1/9 Email from David Wiedaseck regarding the December 27 Township Committee and Bicycles in East Amwell.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Reorganization Dates for all Township Committees and Boards are posted on the bulletin and are on the Township website. Note – the Webpage and Communications meeting is cancelled.

B. Christmas trees can be brought to the grityard on John Ringo Road during the month of January during regular hours from 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. Make sure all trim is removed.

C. The Township will hold a rabies clinic on Saturday, January 19, 2019, from 1 – 4 p.m. in the municipal garage. You may pay for licenses that day. The cost for licenses has increased to \$17.00 for a neutered/altered dog and \$20.00 for an unneutered/unaltered dog. Call 908-782-8536 x 10 for further details.

D. Clawson House, operating as the East Amwell Museum, is now open for the general public with hours on Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. The Mayor said that attendance has far exceeded what they had thought, and there is a great art show on wildlife going on right now; he and his wife bought four pieces of art. He encouraged everyone to visit the museum.

E. Free Radon Kits are available to residents at the Hunterdon County Health Department, at the County Complex Bldg 1 office location from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. daily. Call 908-788-1351 for details.

F. The new East Amwell website is up and running. Mayor Wolfe said that they are trying to get the word out to all of the residents to strongly encourage them to sign up as soon as possible for

updates, adding that if you wanted to know anything about East Amwell, that is where the information will be found. If anyone has comments or suggestions, please direct them to Alison Castellano at Alison_wright@hotmail.com

UPDATE FROM THE CFO

Mayor Wolfe said that CFO Pasqua covered everything in the earlier budget meeting tonight, talking about budget numbers and the ratable figure on having an accurate figure for the tax rate. He would like to schedule another budget meeting prior to the next regular meeting. The budget meeting will be held on Thursday, February 14, 2019, at 6 p.m.

CFO Resolutions – There were none.

Mayor Wolfe thanked Ms. Pasqua for all of her hard work, saying that she had five “nudges” on the budget, and they appreciated her patience.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION

EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL UPDATE ON THEIR BLUE RIBBON STATUS
Present at this time were Superintendent Ed Stoloski and Principal John Capuano.

Mayor Wolfe said that there were 349 schools in the country awarded the blue ribbon designation last year with 18 of them in New Jersey. Of the 18, 8 of the schools were public schools, so East Amwell was 1 of 8 public schools in New Jersey that achieved the blue ribbon status.

Mr. Stoloski provided a booklet prepared by the team, which was a synopsis of the application for the federal program, identifying and highlighting school information. Mr. Capuano said that there was a process for filling out the application and qualifying. Deputy Mayor Mathews asked about metrics, i.e., were they all elementary schools; Mr. Capuano said that schools were at all levels. The process is rigorous, and the NJ Department of Education contacted them in October 2017 and suggested East Amwell apply based on test scores. The process took months, and a team, Janet Higgins, Lauren Falivene, and Michael Casella, compiled the information using input from staff. The work took about 40-60 hours for the compilation and submission. The application was sent to the federal government and to the NJ Department of Education, and eventually the school received the national accreditation.

Mr. Stoloski said that East Amwell representatives went to Washington to receive the award, and New Jersey had their own ceremony. He said that it didn't hit him until they were in Washington and said how exciting it was to be singled out and meet other teachers and superintendents. He said that the school's parents and teachers are thrilled.

Mr. Stoloski said that East Amwell is a choice school with 23 kids opting in; they also have a waiting list of children who want to come. The school gets reimbursed for these students, and it is significant to the school and the taxpayers. He said it is a good thing because people want to come to East Amwell Township School. He said that he was grateful for the support from the PTO, the Township, and the parents. There are balloons and the sign about the national blue ribbon school designation on location at the school as recognition of their excellence. He said that they were not stopping and will keep being better, saying that they could be nominated for the award again in seven years.

Mr. Stoloski asked if the governing body had any questions. He also said that the School is working on their budget and trying to keep it low.

Mayor Wolfe spoke about property values going up and people wanting to live in East Amwell, not just because of the blue ribbon award, but the environmental awards consistently earned by the school. He told the school representatives that on committees allowed by law to be open to youth members, slots have been assigned on these committees to give young people the opportunity to learn how government works. He said that to this extent, if there were students who were interested in municipal government, they may apply to participate, commenting on

enhancing their resumes for the future. The Mayor added that there were a number of committees that students could participate on and contribute to and they would make it work. He also suggested that as an award for exemplary students, an award could be to have a student join the governing body on the dais on a rotating basis, i.e., one or two students to sit, if the school was interested. Mr. Capuano said that he would see if the student council was interested.

Deputy Mayor Mathews thanked Mr. Stoloski and Mr. Capuano as a Township Committee member and as a father with a child going through the school. He said from his own observation in his son's life it was a terrific outcome of what he learned at East Amwell Township School. He thanked them for what they do for the kids, saying he has seen it in all of the kids who go on and succeed through high school and college.

Mr. Ostrander spoke about his daughter who would like to go to school seven days a week if she could. He said that it is a phenomenal experience for the children and thanked the leadership, staff, and teachers, including Bonnie. Mr. Ostrander said that when he and his wife moved to East Amwell, they were not planning a family at that point and moved here because they just liked the environment. He said that the school is very unique, he has lived many places, he has never seen a school like this, and he is glad to be a part of it. He commented on it being an important pillar, and the good stewardship at the school was attributable to the award, and it was well deserved. He said "kudos" to all involved. He commented on the new addition, the new blue ribbon sign, and wanted to see more of the same, adding, "Don't rest on your laurels."

Mr. Miller said that having two kids going through East Amwell Township School, he could attest to what was said tonight. He said that having spent time on the Board of Education, he could also attest to what Mr. Stoloski said about the fiscal responsibility at the school and the benefits that everyone in East Amwell Township receives because of it. Mr. Miller thanked the School representatives and added his congratulations.

Mr. Stoloski added that past attendance has been low, but thirty kids were enrolled last year. There was a lull in attendance, which caused concern, but the figures are moving and they have room for a few more, i.e., capacity is still good, and they can accommodate more families moving into the township.

Mr. Sobieski said thank you to the school representatives and congratulated them on the long-overdue award. He said that he was living proof of the school's success, saying that he would not be going to law school or sitting on this dais if not for the school's administration, staff, and teachers.

There was a round of applause from the audience.

REQUEST FOR BICYCLE EVENTS IN EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP – SOURLAND SEMI-CLASSIC ON FEBRUARY 24 (SEVERE WEATHER DATE OF MARCH 3) AND HELL OF HUNTERDON ON MARCH 24, 2019

Event Organizer Brian Ignatin, 2216 Windy Bush Road, Newton PA 18940, was present.

Mr. Ignatin said that he was here to request permission for the two annual events. This is the third year for the semi-classic and the eleventh year for Hell of Hunterdon. There are about 200 riders for the semi-classic and about 700 for Hell of Hunterdon.

Mayor Wolfe commented on cycling events in the Township and as far as the Township knew, there have been no complaints about their event. It was well organized, doesn't disrupt residents or traffic, and they would absolutely give approval for these two events.

Deputy Mayor Mathews asked about checklists and requirements elsewhere for his events. Mr. Ignatin said East Amwell Township is the only municipality who makes him come to a meeting every year. He said that all municipalities are different; working with townships and police is different. He sends notification letters, and the process is usually less formal in smaller towns. He mentioned the use of public roads, and unless there are safety issues or other disruptions, the process works. There is only one permit he has to obtain, i.e., from Delaware Township at a cost of \$50.00 and issued by the police chief.

Mayor Wolfe stated that unless there were any complaints, it will not be necessary for Mr. Ignatin to come back again for permission for the events. A request for a map of the event and notification of the residents was mentioned. Mr. Ignatin commented on notifications they make. He mentioned that there may be events that the Township is not aware of with other groups, adding that his group want to do the right thing. He spoke about insurance certificates with the Township being an added insured. Other comments were exchanged about not having any complaints about these events, the fact that they have a follow up vehicle for clean up, and they participated in the Township roadside clean up in the past. Mr. Ignatin said that they wanted to be good guests in the Township.

Mayor Wolfe confirmed that there was a consensus that the Township was supportive of these events.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

1) 12/17 Email from Jim Davidson re: Hunterdon County Grant for \$47,200: Mayor Wolfe said that he went to the Freeholders meeting and thanked them for this award for Clawson House. Of the funds, \$30,000 will go back into the Open Space Trust Account to restore money that was previously spent from this account. He commented on starting to put money back; and he said that the rest of the funds will be for additional things to finish work. Mayor Wolfe commended Jim Davidson, the Historical Society, and the Historic Preservation Committee for the efforts made in getting the grant.

RINGOES VILLAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor Wolfe said that he asked Mr. Sobieski to be responsible for getting this committee up and running. It was formed in 2018 to look at improving the village area, but because of other things, getting the committee up and running was slow.

Mr. Sobieski said that he is in the very early stages, but it was most important to get a committee in place. He prepared a flyer, which was provided to the governing body, and he will be circulating it to the qualified business owners and residents in the village to get the most qualified people. He spoke about many residents wanting to improve the village, speaking with them during the campaign. Mr. Sobieski was looking forward to this and hoped that it would be a productive committee.

Mayor Wolfe thanked Mr. Sobieski, saying this would be significant over the next five years, and it was important to find the five people. He spoke about not launching it if it will fail, saying that he didn't want to get the residents' hopes up and mentioning past attempts to look at the area.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION Continued

2) Resignation of Member Pauline Serafin: Ms. Serafin provided an email to the Chair of the Historic Preservation Committee on 1/7/19 saying that she would be resigning for family reasons. She agreed to stay involved with historic matters as she could. Motion by Deputy Mayor Mathews, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously to accept the resignation with regret, adding they hoped that Ms. Serafin could be reappointed at a future time.

3) Appointment of New Member: Mayor Wolfe said that he was recommending Eda Schmalz be appointed to Ms. Serafin's position. He spoke with Jim Davidson about this candidate, and he was told that she was hard-working now and not officially on the committee; Mr. Davidson felt that she would be a terrific addition on the committee and did not feel the need for an interview. Mayor Wolfe said that the Committee could appoint tonight and interview at the next meeting, if they wished. Mr. Ostrander commented on being okay with Mr. Davidson's endorsement.

Motion by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried unanimously to appoint Eda Schmalz to the term previously held by Ms. Serafin. The Clerk will let her know.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 8, 2018 Executive Minutes (Contracts) were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Mathews, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried with Mr. Ostrander and Mr. Sobieski abstaining with a correction that Mr. Ostrander was not present for this meeting.

November 8, 2018 Regular Minutes were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Mathews, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried with Mr. Ostrander and Mr. Sobieski abstaining with a correction that Mr. Ostrander was not present for this meeting and two typing corrections from Deputy Mayor Mathews.

December 13, 2018 Budget Meeting Minutes were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Mathews, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried with one abstention from Mr. Sobieski with one typing correction from Deputy Mayor Mathews.

December 13, 2018 (Litigation, Tax Appeal) were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Mathews, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried with one abstention from Mr. Sobieski.

December 27, 2018 Regular Minutes and December 27, 2018 Executive Minutes (Personal, Contracts, Tax Appeal Litigation, Attorney Advice) will be held for the next meeting to allow time for the Mayor to review.

January 2, 2019 Reorganization Minutes were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Mathews, seconded by Mr. Sobieski, and carried unanimously.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (for Comments from the Public for Items Not on the Agenda)

Motion by Deputy Mayor Mathews, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously to open to the public.

Patrick Eckard, Chief of the Amwell Valley Ringoes Rescue Squad, approached the dais, saying he was just elected Chief and wanted to get out to more meetings and make the squad's presence known in the township. He had a plaque for former long time member Margaret Case that was on display at the squad building and asked if it could be on display at the municipal building. The Mayor said that they would be honored to do so.

Chief Eckard encouraged the residents to come out to more events at the squad and added that they needed more volunteers who were over the age of 14.

Deputy Mayor Mathews spoke about an event held last year that was funded by an anonymous donor and involved the train and ice cream for participants. He would love to have it again this year if an anonymous donor or some volunteers came forward to fund an event to recognize first responders in the township. He thanked the volunteers for their service, and there was a round of applause.

Brian Price and Gina Bullock, members of the Major Taylor Cycling Club of New Jersey, were present to discuss comments at the December 27 Township Committee regarding rudeness and complaints about bicycles blocking the road. They wanted to be proactive and wanted to have further discussion on what the Township was looking for.

Mr. Price said that this is the fourth year that their club will do the ride from Newark to New Hope and travel along Route 514 and sometimes on Wertsville Road. There are about 200 cyclists, and they have a police escort through Hillsborough. They lose the escort after that until they reach Lambertville to cross the bridge. He wanted to know what the Township wanted to discuss, mentioning problems with drivers trying to pass the cyclists and other complaints. Mr. Price talked with Cyndi Steiner of the NJ Bike and Walk Coalition about the town's issues, and she advised that there is legislation in place for littering and rudeness. Mr. Price spoke about the need for education and about classes he has attended. The need to educate both motorists and cyclists that the roads are shared is important, and Mr. Price noted that legislation next year will

provide for a four foot passing rule for joggers and cyclists. He noted the need to educate motorists about the passing regulation and on better communication on the road.

Mr. Price said that they have never notified the municipality in the past, although they have communicated to the NJ State Police about the events. He added that the group does have a vehicle that looks after the participants and to put out signs. He said that he has never heard a complaint about their ride.

Deputy Mayor Mathews spoke about the importance of notification so that they can let the residents know about the events, commenting on resident frustration on sharing the road with 50-200 riders that they didn't know about. Deputy Mayor Mathews spoke about small license plates that were available when he was a kid; he asked why bicycles couldn't be licensed, adding that then they would not be anonymous riders anymore, and it might help with conflicts. Mr. Price said that he would bring this up with Ms. Steiner when he meets her. Mr. Price added that in Bergen County, a patrol accompanies the riders and as an example, monitor them to make sure that they are riding single file. Deputy Mayor Mathews asked them again to consider licensing bicycles, even if there is an extra fee, saying that if the cyclist could be identified, it might go a long way to relieve tension.

Ms. Bullock said that their event is the second Sunday in August and wanted to know what the Township was looking for. Deputy Mayor Mathews said that notification and maps were important, and they should not mark the roads with paint. Mr. Price questioned why the road markers couldn't be used; he was told that permanent marking was not permissible but if it was temporary marking, it could be used. Ms. Bullock also commented on putting up road or lawn signs.

Mr. Ignatin, from the audience, said that in most states, it is illegal to mark roads, saying that writing on the roads was reserved for utility companies and emergency responders. He said that technically, marking the roads was considered graffiti; chalk or wash away material could be used.

Attorney Taylor served as Deputy Counsel for Somerset County in the past and mentioned his experience with bicycle events. There were charity events throughout the county and not everyone was informed. Municipalities or whoever owns/maintain the roads may be responsible in a lawsuit. He mentioned a case where the municipality wasn't notified and someone fell and broke a collarbone and sued the county and vendor with incurred legal fees. Mr. Taylor said that it was good to know about events and plans and to have the municipalities as added insured to protect the citizens and avoid lawsuits. Mayor Wolfe said the procedure wasn't difficult and it was important to have the added insurance for the municipality.

Mayor Wolfe explained that he spends about 7 – 8 hours a week on the roads, running 5 days a week, doing a 3 hour run, a 2 hour run, and three 1 hour runs. He did not recall a driver incident he has had since moving to East Amwell although he said some drive too fast. He has been running 43 years since he was 15 years old, and he knew that if you get into a fight with a car, you won't win. He moves over as far as possible so as not to interfere with the cars going around him. He commented that the organized events are not the problem, and they understand the rules. He said that the ad hoc bike events never notify the Township and riders sometimes ride three abreast down the narrow roads. Some cyclists throw the middle finger, which doesn't help the cyclists. He said that he didn't want to paint all cyclists with the same brush, adding that it is the weekend riders that they had to deal with, i.e., the weekend and ad hoc cyclists who do what they want. The Mayor said that there is a procedure in place to follow

Deputy Mayor Mathews noted that the Township has not denied an event in the 8 years he has served on Township Committee. He saw a for-profit outfit come through the municipality riding all at the same time, 6- 8 wide, bringing lunches in a basket and a tourism event with riders stopping for pictures. He said someone was making money on this. He said if they let the Township know, the Township would be fine with this.

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, had a suggestion. She noted that in various places on Township roads there are signs regarding the legal status of horse crossings. She mentioned state laws about bicycles, saying signs with the relevant language for bicycles, their expected behavior, including yielding to traffic, should be posted on the Township and County roads. She

felt that it would go a long way to educating the bicyclists and drivers regarding what is appropriate usage of the roads. She added that it could be advertised on the Facebook page of the advertised group and remind people about the complaints. She mentioned having a trace car there with a designated adult and hoped a positive response would be had.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Mathews, seconded by Mr. Sobieski, and carried unanimously to close to the public.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

RAFFLE LICENSE APPLICATION – CEA FOR AN EVENT AT UNIONVILLE VINEYARDS ON FEBRUARY 8, 2019

+++++

RESOLUTION #27-19

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby support the fund-raising efforts of the Center for Educational Advancement, 11 Minneakoning Road, Flemington, NJ 08822;

WHEREAS, the organization has made application to hold a raffle for a 50-50 on premises drawing on February 8, 2019 at Old York Cellars Vineyard on 80 Old York Road;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, that raffle license number #RL19-01 be approved and processed.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Richard Wolfe, Mayor

+++++

Motion by Deputy Mayor Mathews, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES/PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RIDGE ROAD – SECTIONS 1 AND II – PREPARATIONS OF BID DOCUMENTS FOR WORK TO BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 2019

Mayor Wolfe said that the Ridge Road project will soon be bid with a tear out, rebase, and cover, and it was due for construction in the spring. The residents will be notified in advance about any interference, and the Township wanted to get the information out there about the proposed construction. The project is being paid largely from grant money from the state.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION – THE HELISTOP APPLICATION FOR THE RIDGE AT BACK BROOK

Mayor Wolfe said that at the Planning Board last night they discussed The Ridge at Back Brook, both the helistop application and what’s going on at The Ridge. He wanted to update the public.

The Ridge applied for a helistop application on the golf course, where helicopters can fly, land, drop off golfers, take off, and when done, will pick up and take home. The Ridge came three

times in the past for Planning Board approval, and each time it was rejected because the public and surrounding residents were overwhelming against it. Because of change of laws, The Ridge doesn't have to the Township for approval, and they just have to file an application with NJ Department of Transportation and file with the FAA. The Ridge already has FAA approval. The last step is the helistop application. The Mayor believes that it is highly likely that the State will approve the application. The Mayor spoke with representatives at the NJ DOT, and the Township can submit a letter by January 24, 2019, expressing the Township's views. He has spent a lot of time over the last few months educating himself and getting input, and he will draft a letter this weekend. He did not believe that the letter would have impact on the NJ DOT's approval, and he believed that it was a done deal. He has been in discussion with Assemblyman Verrelli and with Senator Turner, both of whom are sympathetic to the Township's concern. The Senator agreed to send a letter to the NJ DOT, and the Mayor suggested she wait until she reads his letter because she will be able to lift from his letter to provide input. The Mayor explained to the legislative assistants that the helistop would be useful in some instances, such as hospitals and for the state police, but East Amwell is not the right place, particularly near the golf course, because it is an environmental sensitive area with wildlife, protected species, and in the area miles of horse trails around the golf course used by riders of all ages and experience.

Mayor Wolfe said that he and his wife walked the trails in December, when there were no leaves on the trees. He said that if a pilot was paying attention, he would notice them only when he was flying overhead and not before. When leaves are on the trees, pilots would have no clue about people/horses on the trail because the area is heavily wooded. There are spots on the trail with steep drop offs, and if a horse spooks, it would be catastrophic for the rider and the horse.

Mayor Wolfe said that a key component in the deal with the previous landowner and the Township was the establishment of the trails, and without the trails, it would have been a non-starter. He said that now The Ridge wants to put in a helistop for no public use and just to bring golfers to the course. The Mayor said that this is not acceptable and is inconsistent with the original deal to allow the trails. The Mayor said that this information will be explained in his letter. He added that if the application is awarded, the Township would look at filing a lawsuit to stop it, adding that this is far from over.

Mayor Wolfe said that in terms of what happened at the Planning Board last night, in looking at the helistop, his focus turned to The Ridge in general and how did the Township get to this point, asking how 300 acres of land could be used for a golf course and how it is now migrating from a golf course to a commercial country club with a helistop. He prepared an 8 page memo, which is on the website, and he recommended that the public look at it. The document was a product of many hours looking back at files through 1998, adding again that over time The Ridge migrated from the pure golf course that they represented to a more commercial country club, in his view, saying that the Township allowed it to go in the wrong direction. The Mayor proposed to the Planning Board that they revisit the zoning at the golf course and decide if they should be allowed to build two 6,200 square foot cottages, an Olympic sized swimming pool that will use an enormous amount of water, tennis courts, and to have a special events ordinance to allow thousands of people to come to East Amwell and over a course of 5-6 days tens of thousands of people for golf course. He asked if this was where the township wanted to be or did they want to get back to what was originally represented, i.e., a pure golf course.

Mayor Wolfe is preparing a public notice that should be up in a few days inviting interested parties to a public hearing at the Planning Board on February 13. They would like to hear from the public, particularly those surrounding the golf course on Wertsville Road, Back Brook Road, and other roads near the golf course. The Mayor has a lot of information, including numerical information, which will be posted on the website, and they want to hear from the public, i.e., do they want the property to adhere to the regular planned golf course or are they interested in a partnership with the golf course as a commercial facility, how the public feels about special events, and comments about what has been approved for the property over the last 15 years. The Mayor encouraged the public to attend the Planning Board meeting. The Mayor said that the helistop will be dealt with by the Township Committee while The Ridge's zoning will be dealt on the Planning Board level.

Mayor Wolfe said that previously then Mayor Mathews and he were asked through a member to meet with Mr. Moore about the helistop. They advised Mr. Moore that this would not be a

private meeting and if not at a public meeting, they would at least be bringing a small group of residents who live around the golf course since they would have some skin in the game. Mayor Wolfe said that they did not want to have back room deals or meetings, wanting some open discussion or at least discussion with some public present. He added that this is not the way that he does business.

Deputy Mayor Mathews added that this is how they got there, i.e., backroom, private meetings occurred in the past, and this won't happen anymore.

Mayor Wolfe said that Deputy Mayor Mathews told him about private meetings taking place in the past, and not all of the Township Committee members knew about them, nor the public. The Mayor said that there are some issues that have to stay with the Township, such like litigation and attorney client information; with those exceptions, his belief is that East Amwell is a small town and there is no reason to work under the cover of darkness and the Committee should cast as much light as possible on matters. He said that is why there is a brand new webpage and cameras to broadcast the meetings. Their goal is to shed as much light as possible on the dealings of the town, and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor would not be meeting with Mr. Moore unless some impacted residents were present. The Mayor said that this would be the game plan for all issues of significance to residents going forward, i.e., more openness.

NEW BUSINESS

2019 PRIMEPOINT CONTRACT FOR PAYROLL

The Clerk mentioned that last year the auditor recommended an annual contract with the payroll company. Motion by Deputy Mayor Mathews, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously to approve the contract with Primepoint.

2019 LIAISONS

Mayor Wolfe prepared the list of liaisons for the Township Committee members, adding that the list is already on the website.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Motion by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mathews, and carried unanimously to open to the public. There being no comments, motion by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mathews, and carried unanimously to close to the public.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

TREASURER/CFO PASQUAL provided the bills of the evening. Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously to approve the bills of the evening.

Ms. Pasqua had no resolutions for approval.

TAX COLLECTOR HYLAND provided her December report but no resolutions.

All other administrative reports were noted. For the record, the West Amwell Construction Report was not provided.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no comments on correspondence.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mathews, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk