

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:40 p.m. Present were Mayor Tim Mathews, Deputy Mayor Richard Wolfe, and Committee members David Wang-Iverson, Kevin Ostrander, and Peter Miller. 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, 2018, with a meeting notice published in the Hunterdon County Democrat issue of January 11, 2018. 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 February 6, 2018.

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

AGENDA REVIEW

There will only be one interview this evening. One of the candidates had a personal matter and could not attend.

Under Special Discussion, table the presentation from Dennis Hajek re: Speeding on Rocktown Hill Road until the March meeting.

Under Correspondence, add the following: 2/7 Hunterdon County Announcement regarding Clean Communities Program at Hunterdon County Fairgrounds on May 23, 2018; 2/1 West Amwell Township Construction Office Year End Report 2018, sent directly to Township Committee members; acknowledgement from Senator Turner re: submission of East Amwell Township resolution to NJ DOT on traffic issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Municipal Clerk's Office Hours on Tuesday evenings are changed from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., effective January 30, 2018. The tax collector will have the same hours during collections only. The Tax Assessor will be in the office on Tuesday nights from 5:00-7:30 p.m., and the Zoning Officer's hours on Tuesday are 4:00 ~~—~~ 6:30 p.m.

Municipal Offices will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2018, in observance of Presidents' Day.

Dog Licenses are now due. Fees are \$12 for neutered animals and \$15, if not. On March 1, there is a late fee of \$25 per dog. Contact 908-782-8536 x10 for more information or see the website (www.eastamwelltownship.com)

A Comcast Representative will be attending the following 2018 Township Committee Meetings: March 8; June 14; September 13; December 13.

Mayor Mathews added that the Eagles Football Team won the Super Bowl this year and he was extremely happy, congratulating all Eagles fans.

There will be a Deer Management Symposium held on March 3, from 10 to 1:30 p.m. at the Princeton Elks Lodge in Skillman. Register at http://tiny.cc/Deer_Mgmt

NJ DOT will be holding a meeting at the East Amwell Municipal Building on March 6 to hold a public meeting on Peters' Brook Bridge plans.

Hunterdon County Utilities will hold two up-coming events: A household hazard waste clean up day on March 10 and a Computer-Television Collection Day on April 14, both events from 9 a.m. ~~—~~ 1 p.m. at the County Complex on Route 12 in Flemington.

Roadside cleanup is scheduled for April 21; and Annual Clean up 4/28 - Look for information in the spring newsletter sent out in March or April.

INTERVIEWS CANDIDATE(S) FOR 2018 COMMITTEES/BOARDS

Janis Grover, 101 Bowne Station Road, was interested in serving on the Board of Health. Mayor Mathews said that he has known Ms. Grover for a long time and finds her to be an outstanding citizen. On a question from Mr. Wang-Iverson regarding serving on the Board of Health, Ms. Grover said that she's lived in East Amwell 30 years and has worked in the food industry for 40 years with sales and distribution. She has an understanding of good procedures and thinks this is critical for the Board of Health. She believed that the Board of Health reviews construction; she equated this to conditions in her professional career where approvals were sought.

Mr. Ostrander said that he knew Ms. Grover also, and he asked if she had other volunteer experience. Ms. Grover has been on the rescue squad for 8 years or so as an EMT, she has also been a Rotary Member for 50 years, serving as President at one time. She spoke about international travel, including to Brazil and Nepal, and helped build infrastructure, i.e., helped build a sewer system. Ms. Grover also served on the East Amwell Education Committee in the past, and she is self-employed in the food business, has cut back her international travel because of extended family issues, and is able to serve.

Mr. Miller felt that she would be a perfect candidate. Ms. Grover said that she has wanted to serve for a long time, previously serving on the Recycling Committee and helping with OEM before she was involved with traveling. On a question from Mr. Wang-Iverson about listing Zoning and Planning Boards on her Citizen's Leadership Form, Ms. Grover said she understood that members on those boards were not needed, and her expertise and background would fit with the Board of Health.

The Committee thanked Ms. Grover for coming forth.

UPDATE FROM THE CFO

CFO Margaret Pasqua was present.

BOND COUNSEL AND PHOENIX ADVISORS - PRESENTATION ON UPCOMING BOND (See 1/19/18 Email from CFO) Sherry Tracey from Phoenix Advisors and John Cantalupo from Archer-Greiner were present.

Ms. Pasqua explained that she invited Ms. Tracey and Bond Counsel Cantalupo to discuss the bond sale. The total amount of the bond is \$1.3 Million. There is a ban due by May 1, with the older piece of \$500,000 due at that time. Ms. Pasqua said options were whether the Township wanted to permanently finance the whole amount, keep the ban separate, have a private sale with costs of \$40,000 to do so, or publicly bond the full amount. If the latter is done, higher sale costs may be out of pocket but interest rates for the private sale would be higher. Ms. Pasqua said that they were looking for direction tonight in order to have a resolution to approve the sale at the next meeting.

Ms. Tracey thanked the governing body for inviting them this evening, and she distributed a handout summary packet. The first sheet showed a comparison of market trends showing short term rates going higher and long term rates also rising, but not as quickly as the short term. She indicated that this is a good time for long term financing as the rates get closer together.

Ms. Tracey said that an analysis of two options was done, i.e., \$1.3 Million in a public sale with fixed costs almost the same as \$1 Million. They also looked at a private sale of under \$1 Million, as allowed under bond law. The issuance costs are lower but interest rates are higher. She added that the reason is that these types of sales are not profitable for banks and they have no incentive for the debt unless they have higher percentage rates. She mentioned rates of approximately 2.9 % for public sale and 3.7% for private sale. The cost of issuance would be \$45,000 for the public bond sale as opposed to \$20,000 for private. However, the net difference is \$22,007 over the course of the bond, and both Phoenix and Bond Counsel were recommending the public sale. Another benefit Ms. Tracey noticed was the ability to tie in the BAN to the bond sale to include the full amount of debt (\$1.3 Million) rather than doing the private sale under \$1 Million and still having the BAN costs. She mentioned higher rates for the bond sale but added that there was a

\$1,000,000 drop in debt service bonds being paid off. She again said that this was a good time to lock in the debt.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked about the term of the bond. Ms. Tracey said that it was 11 years, adding that there were some issues with a 40-year life, and the Township could actually go out 22 years. Because of the drop in debt service, she believed that the 11 year bond term would fit in and there was no reason to pay more than 11 years and pay more interest costs, but the Township could decide to go out 22 years.

Mr. Cantalupo added that the size of the bond was less attractive to buyers with investors looking for larger principal amounts, adding that was also the reason for a higher interest rate. With the proposal tonight, bonds would retire in 2029, with the current bond retirement year being 2023. Mr. Cantalupo mentioned future borrowing, adding that payments fall off in 2022 and the Township can make room for more improvements for capital or roads at that time, if they wished.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked if the firms were tracking percentage of the bonds for farmland, adding that the OSTF can only be used for land purchase. Mr. Cantalupo said that this could be done, with Mr. Wang-Iverson adding that two current bonds are 90% for land or about one-half of the \$1.3 Million is farmland debt.

Mayor Mathews asked about upfront costs; Mr. Cantalupo said that payoff can be charged over the life of the issuances. Ms. Tracey said that if this is in the ordinances as a line about cost of issuances, it could be used each time notes are rolled over. Ms. Pasqua said that this might have been in the last ordinance about the road projects. Mr. Cantalupo mentioned premiums being used for fees. Ms. Tracey said that in selling bonds this year, there would be no principal due on notes for outstanding debt, and there would be no more upfront costs thereafter. Ms. Pasqua said that the cost for the bond would be \$45,000, and the Township would not be paying for sale of BANS, adding that some of this was in cap and some outside of cap.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe asked that the handout provided by the bond counsel and financial advisor be put on the website for the public.

Mayor Mathews asked how Ms. Tracey and Mr. Cantalupo were compensated. He was told that it would one of the line items in the bond sale with both firms' fees paid at the end of the bond issuance. Mayor Mathews asked about market volatility. Ms. Tracey said that the sooner the Township bonds, the better, adding that they are seeing low rates now but going up. There may be a reduction in rates for short term, but the long term market is feeling pressure and moving upward. She would like to have the sale by the end of March to have bond proceeds in early April. On a suggestion of a special meeting, Mr. Cantalupo said that the Township Committee could do this and just provide a 48-hour notice in order to adopt the bond sale resolution. Deputy Mayor Wolfe was in favor of a special meeting, with Ms. Tracey and Mr. Cantalupo agreeing that would be advisable given the current market. A special meeting will be set up in the next two weeks, and the professionals will be advised.

The Clerk asked if an ordinance was necessary, and Mr. Cantalupo said no, only a resolution since the debt exists by previous ordinances. The Township has agreed to go long term with public bonds for the entire debt. A resolution will be prepared and adopted, bond counsel and the financial advisor will go to the markets with a prepared prospectus (with input from the auditor), a notice will appear in the Hunterdon County Democrat and given to local and trade newspapers (including Parady) announcing the sale, and there will be an electronic sale. A rating will also be obtained.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked about any rate change for the Township. Ms. Tracey spoke about East Amwell being a strong municipality with a rating for the 2015 refunding bond and did not foresee any issues. She mentioned that Moody's does surveillance each year and issues a comment report. She said that the Township would make an application to Moody's for a rating, and there is usually a quick turnaround. A phone call to Moody's will be made with the financial advisor, bond counsel, and the CFO.

Ms. Tracey and Mr. Cantalupo were thanked for their presentation.

CFO RESOLUTIONS - None

NJ DLGS FINANCE NOTICE 2018-04 REFUNDING 3RD AND 4TH QUARTER PROPERTY TAXES PAYMENTS MADE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2017

The Tax Collector and the CFO were looking for direction on any requests for refunds of pre-paid taxes. Deputy Mayor Wolfe explained the issue of prepayment taxes by residents because of tax law changes, some of whom paid the entire year of taxes for 2018, not just the first two quarters of the year. The IRS issued a pronouncement that the exemption applied to only the first two quarters of 2018, not all four, and some state residents may want refunds. The Deputy Mayor commented on the state and the municipality not being set up for a full year's prepayments.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe believed that if the Township Committee wanted to allow tax payment refunds, it would be best to do one resolution to refund the money to residents who request the refunds. It was noted that over \$1,000,000 in taxes was collected year end. Some discussion took place on how long to allow the requests to be made, and it was eventually agreed that residents would have to March 15 to make a request to the Tax Collector for refund of the last two quarters of 2018 prepayment refund. A recommendation was made to put this information on the website and office staff will let inquirers know.

Nancy Cunningham, in the audience, asked about sending letters to all the residents who prepaid, outlining this process. This will not be done.

Frances Gavigan, in the audience, spoke about a bill on Governor Murphy's desk regarding 3rd and 4th quarter tax payments being donated and deductible.

+++++

RESOLUTION #34-18

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby agree to refund the 3rd and 4th quarter taxes (accurately known as the 1st and 2nd quarter 2018-19 taxes) for anyone who prepaid these taxes at the end of 2017 upon a request in writing to the Tax Collector by March 15, 2018.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Tim Mathews, Mayor

+++++

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously.

NJ DLGS FINANCE NOTICE 2017-27 COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS REQUIREMENTS RESOLUTION AND AFFIDAVIT FOR THE GOVERNING BODY

The Clerk noted that this is a new state requirement to address with the submission of the 2018 budget. Mayor Mathews asked if the governing body members had time to familiarize themselves with the requirements, and he suggested tabling this until the next meeting when the budget is introduced.

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE 18-01 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

As proof of publication, the Clerk provided the January 18, 2018, legal notice from the Hunterdon County Democrat. The ordinance has been posted and available to the public since introduction on January 11, 2018.

Mayor Mathews explained that the ordinance allows the municipality to exceed appropriations by 3.5% for emergency reasons although there is no intention on behalf of the governing body to do so. The appropriations carry over to the next year, and the Township adopts the ordinance each year so money is there for that purpose.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously to open to the public.

There being no comments, motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried to close to the public.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously by roll call vote to adopt Ordinance 18-01: Mr. Wang-Iverson, yes; Mr. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Ostrander, yes; Mr. Miller, yes; Mr. Mathews, yes.

SPECIAL DISCUSSIONS

PRESENTATION FROM DENNIS HAJEK RE: SPEEDING ON ROCKTOWN HILL ROAD (See 1/24/18 Letter to Mayor)

Mayor Mathews said that this item will be tabled until the March meeting to discuss ideas on controlling speeding on that road. Mayor Mathews also spoke with Acting Officer in Charge Skillman at West Amwell Township Police Department, who also acknowledges the challenges.

PRESENTATION BY MIKE STRIZKI – GREEN ENERGY

This item too will be tabled until March.

PRESENTATION BY ALISON CASTELLANO REGARDING THE EAST AMWELL PTO

Alison Castellano, 9 Prall Court, is President of the East Amwell Township School PTO and thanked the Township Committee for asking her to speak on how the community can help the school. She mentioned being part of a few Township committees and having a perfect opportunity to further develop communications and involvement between the school and the community. She explained that fundraising is a big part of the PTO's work, and they cannot provide services and events without it. There are many opportunities for the community to help. She provided handouts to the governing body and left some on the back table.

Highlights of Ms. Castellano's presentation included the following:

Box Tops for Education –Clip the pink labels from many of your grocery items with each one being worth ten cents to the school. There are four drop off locations, Municipal Building, the school, Carousel Deli, and the Recycling Depot. Last year the school received \$4202, including a \$2500 sweepstake prize with a lifetime earning of \$29,000. This year's goal is \$1,600, and the PTO is half way there. There is also a box top app for your phone to automatically download to selected schools. If a resident registers a Shoprite price plus card on the box top website, the box tops are automatically credited to the school when purchased.

There is a Turnkey clothing donation shed located on school premises. Clothes are not shredded but resold by Turnkey Enterprises, with collections weekly and checks provided to the PTO monthly.

Amazon Smile – This is a new program; the East Amwell PTO is selected as the charitable organization, and the school gets .05% of eligible purchases.

Ms. Castellano said that 22% of the fundraising is done with the above three programs.

Additional fundraisers include the following:

Paint Party Farm Fundraiser on February 16 — Children pay \$20 for a canvas to paint, and \$5 of this is given to the PTO.

ZOUP! School Night Fundraiser on February 27 — the PTO will receive up to 25% of total sales that night.

Local Merchant Discount Cards — Cards are in production and will sell for \$10 each and will be valid for one year.

Annual Color Run — the first run raised over \$5,000, and the next one will be bigger and better, held in September/October 2018.

Five Below Easter Fundraiser — There are flyers to use, and the PTO will receive 10% of all sales during a chosen week (week not yet identified).

Hershey Park Discounted Tickets — There is a 41% reduction in cost, i.e., only \$39.95 for these tickets normally priced at \$67.80.

Scholastic Book Fairs — There are two book fairs a year, one in spring and one in fall. The PTO used to get cash back (an average of \$1,600). By taking scholastic dollars instead, there is a higher percentage of return. Teachers will be able to obtain scholastic books and learning materials for the classroom totaling around \$3,000 per fair instead.

Ms. Castellano referenced her handout page entitled “What does the PTO fund” showing showing the budget and breakdown of numerous activities. The final page of the handout showed the capital expenditures for 2017-18 with Ms. Castellano adding that the PTO tries to purchase large items every couple year, including in the past some playground equipment, gymnasium bleachers, auditorium curtains, AC/units for classrooms, foyer mosaic, and filmmaking equipment for the middle school. This year they are trying to provide funding to upgrade all the aging water fountains around the school to the new combination water fountain/bottle filling stations and to put a couple of new ones in the elementary corridor.

Mayor Mathews asked if some of these water fountain/filling stations were part of the renovations noted in literature when the bond question came up at school. Ms. Castellano said no, only bathroom plumbing was part of that expense, and the water fountains were not covered.

Terracycling — Ms. Castellano said that East Amwell Township School once won \$50,000 through this program because of their collection efforts. She said that Terracycling was a good initiative with the school receiving \$1,000 a year for their collections. Residents can review the Terracycle collection list and bring their contributions to the monthly municipal depot.

Ms. Castellano concluded by saying that if anyone had any questions or ideas, they should contact her through the PTO or her personal contact information on the PTO “About Us” Page. She thanked the community for continuing to support all that the PTO does for the students of

Deputy Mayor Wolfe spoke about putting youth slots on various committees, adding that currently the Recycling Committee has youth members. On the assumption that under relevant laws they are allowed, the intent is to get young people involved early on and it will be something good on their resumes. The Deputy Mayor will be following through on this, and assuming that they were not violating laws, two or three youth members will be appointed to boards/committees where they can be appointed.

UPDATE REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSIONALS

Mayor Mathews said that as many of the public knew, the Township Committee replaced the attorney, engineer, and bond counsel at the last meeting. He read the following statement into the minutes:

“As many of you now, at its last meeting, the Township Committee replaced several of the Township’s professionals, specifically, its attorney, its engineer, and its bond counsel. I thought I would take a few minutes to discuss this.

“Following last November’s election, a majority of the members of the Township Committee felt that it was in the best interest of East Amwell to undertake a top down review of our local government. That review included the Township’s professionals.

“Best we could tell, most, if not all, of the Township’s professionals have held their positions with the Township for many years — in some cases 30 years or more. In other words, our professionals were deeply entrenched in the Township’s affairs and, in some cases we believed, with the prior leadership.

“While this may have certain advantages, we felt it also had significant disadvantages.

“We decided to publicly advertise for proposals for a number of the services performed by the Township’s existing professionals. This process is called, in legal jargon, a “fair and open process” and was initiated in December. In layperson’s terms, it’s a process whereby any licensed professional could apply for the advertised positions, by submitting an application detailing their credentials, billing rate, and certain other information.

“With one exception, we received several detailed proposals for each advertised position.

“We carefully reviewed each of those proposals and, after careful thought, opted to make some changes. One of those changes, our Township Attorney, Carl Taylor, is with us this evening.

“For the sake of full disclosure, we’d like to let you know that some of the professionals who submitted a proposal are or have been in the past supporters of the Republican party, including in at least one instance of which we are aware, Pete’s and my campaign. Because we undertook a “fair and open process,” NJ law does not disqualify those professionals from being appointed by us and in certain instances we did so. In no instance, however, was our decision made on the basis of whether or not someone donated to any Republican cause, including our campaign.

“We look forward to working with both our new professionals and the existing professionals we retained. We also look forward to — and have discussed with our professionals — reducing the amount the East Amwell taxpayers pay for professional services.”

Mr. Wang-Iverson voted against these appointments, and he read a prepared statement, as follows:

“The following statement is to detail my objections to the professional appointments made at the January meeting.

“In 2014, an RFQ process was initiated by the township committee for the position of bond counsel. Two applications were received. The township administrator created a detailed spreadsheet that summarized the two proposals. This summary was the basis for a full discussion of the two firms in public session on June 12, 2014. After this discussion, the committee voted to change the township’s bond counsel based largely on the perception that there would be some cost savings to the town because of the different fee structures of the two firms.

“In contrast, three changes in township professionals were made at the January 11, 2018 meeting with no public explanations, no public input or discussion, no justifications, no criteria and no qualifications cited for the selections. Neither the decision process nor those participating in the process was elucidated.

“In particular, while Mr. Taylor is appointed municipal attorney, his application lists no municipal experience and no past or current municipal clients. He opened his solo practice in October 2017. Mr. Taylor’s application is in contrast to either Gebhardt & Keifer or Savo Schalk, both of whom list extensive municipal experience, multiple current municipal clients and several attorneys available to East Amwell. Further, Mr. Taylor’s fee schedule is the same as the much-more experienced G&K.

“And what are the reasons for the switch to Maser Engineering? Our current engineer has over 25 years of experience with East Amwell and has been very successful in obtaining DOT grants for road repair, most recently for Zion Road which required navigating the Trust Fund shutdown and Ridge Road for which we already have a grant for half of the road and expect to be notified shortly

about the other half; the whole project could be completed this year. Maser is qualified to do this work, but what is the benefit to making this change? Why switch engineers when we are close to bidding a new, large project especially since Maser's fee schedule is nearly identical to Ferriero? Actually, I think Ferriero may be less expensive in a number of instances.

"Certainly this administration has the right to make changes. What I question is the decision process and the lack of any proposed benefit accruing to the township from these changes. In the specific cases of legal counsel and engineering we are losing a great deal of experience and institutional knowledge without even a very obvious benefit such as reduction in fees.

"I heard promises on multiple occasions recently that the new administration would be open and transparent, that it would be a "conduit" to the residents. The manner in which these appointments were made on January 11th belies those promises."

Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that he did not want to criticize other professionals not here to defend themselves. Deputy Mayor Wolfe mentioned that he has been an attorney for 30 years at a large law firm with 500 lawyers, and he has dealt with other lawyers. He said that he felt a change of Township attorney was needed because, in his view, the previous attorney was working for three EADA members on the Committee, not the town. The Deputy Mayor said that he disagreed with some of the previous attorney's law work, including a memo on NJ laws on minutes, which was "flat out wrong." He believed that the previous attorney was charging more than what the Township was getting. He questioned Attorney Cushing's judgment on the OSTF and "blew him away as flat out wrong." Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that the Township needed to change attorneys, period. He said that the new attorney will bill the Township fairly, provide quality legal work, and work for the residents of East Amwell, not the EADA. He said that these were the reasons to replace Gebhardt and Kiefer.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe continued by saying that the change was made as a cost savings and we would let the results over the next year speak for themselves and it could be revisited next year. Carl Taylor, the current attorney, is charging the same amount as Gebhardt & Kiefer, \$165.00 an hour. With Gebhardt & Kiefer, the Township was paying \$165.00 an hour whether we were getting an associate or a partner, and with Mr. Taylor, the Township will be getting a partner which is a better deal. On a suggestion that having a firm with multiple attorneys was more advantageous, Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that with that there is a lack of continuity. On more than one occasion, Mr. Cushing was at a Township Committee meeting and was unable to speak about an issue that another attorney was working on. Mr. Taylor will be working on all matters and will be at all meetings. Deputy Mayor Wolfe concluded that the notion that something untoward was going on was ridiculous.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that in a broader statement, it was his own view that the government in East Amwell for the last 30 years was a dictatorship run by a small group of EADA insiders, who ignored the laws, made key decisions, fought openness, controlled the newspaper, and threatened residents who questioned their decisions.

A member of the audience asked that the Deputy Mayor not pontificate and get to the point. Mayor Mathews said that the Deputy Mayor would get to the point. More comments were exchanged from the audience and the dais.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe gave examples of the EADA-run Township Committee threatening to boycott local businesses, sending the zoning officer to find violations, the dismissal of appointed officials who disagreed with them, a bloated budget, wasted tax dollars. The current administration is cleaning house from the top down. There will be an open and efficient government, no wasteful spending, no threats, and a government for the people. He spoke about cleaning house top down, getting rid of the old regime and in some cases that may mean "throwing the baby out with the bathwater." He said that the Committee would err on the side of appointing professionals and positions on committees with people who share the idea of open, efficient, and no threats type of government for people. He explained that this was the reason for the change in the professionals. He added that they are dismantling what the EADA built over the last 30 years because they did not like what was built in the last 30 years and they will continue to dismantle it. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that momentum is building in East Amwell in favor of what they are doing and the momentum is like a big freight train, with more force to continue. He said that EADA can step in front and criticize, but they would not wear him down.

Mayor Mathews said that during the election, he and Mr. Miller knocked on 1200 doors, socialized these changes and had a chance to meet with residents. He said that no one said don't change, but said please do it, we need a change. Mayor Mathews said these changes are a mandate from the residents in two election cycles where the residents have spoken. He asked for measured results. The Mayor said that he is a businessman who implements plans, if the residents are not happy with results, they can vote him out of office.

The Mayor thanked everyone for this discussion.

UPDATE REGARDING THE WEBPAGE COMMITTEE

Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that a webpage and resident communication committee is being formed. He has been working with resident Alison Castellano to work on the current website that is difficult to navigate, is stale, and not easy to find things, like an orphan with no parent. The Clerk posts information but does not maintain the pages. The formation of a webpage and resident communication committee will be done through an ordinance with regulations on how it will operate. Deputy Mayor Wolfe and Ms. Castellano are open to feedback with the goal to facilitate a user friendly and cost effective means of communication for the residents, and include items such as actions by the Township Committee, non-partisan community events, emergency events such as prolonged power outages and road closures, and will include items on the webpage, social media, and texts. The Committee will report to the Township Committee and actions must be approved by the Township Committee although the committee will have autonomy. It will have seven members and three youth members between 12 — 18 years old, and be appointed by the Mayor. One member of the Township Committee will sit on the committee at the pleasure of the Mayor for a 1 year term along with 6 others, some of who might be on other committees, for 3 year terms. Two of the slots can be non-residents so that the Committee can use people outside the Township who may have technical expertise. There will be a chair/vice chair, monthly meetings, no compensation, Mayor can remove a member for cause, have a budget, and each committee/board will have liaisons who will be responsible for keeping their individual pages current. Deputy Mayor Wolfe and Ms. Castellano will talk with the Webmaster about changes, and Erica Johanson will also serve on the committee, with the Deputy Mayor, adding that "Erica is a hard worker and will help a lot." Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that they are open to ideas, and an ordinance will be introduced in March for approval in April.

Mr. Wang-Iverson said that he set up a Facebook page in 2014 and asked if the committee would take that over. He said that there was a following of about 300 people. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that the Facebook page would be part of their plan, along with finding out how to deal with the Facebook page, East Amwell Bulletin Board, which is operated by another resident.

UPDATE REGARDING THE LINDBERGH BRIDGE

Mayor Mathews said that the bridge on Lindbergh Road was targeted for replacement, and a resident brought it to his attention. He said that Deputy Mayor Wolfe took the lead to work with the residents and the County to put up obstacles from tearing out the bridge which has historic significance.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that Tamara Lee reached out to him, adding that he and his wife, Kathy, drove out to the bridge. It does have historic significance but is not on a NJ historic list because they do not consider it a bridge but a culvert. Additionally, the bridge is at the entrance to the Historic Lindbergh Estate, and he believed that the bridge is historic. The County Engineer was not helpful to Ms. Lee but he was more helpful to the Deputy Mayor. The County agreed to assess conditions in the spring. The issue is that the wall is leaning because of a hole in the barrel, and there is a question of structural integrity. It is unclear whether it can be preserved, but if not, the replacement will be a bridge architecturally similar to what is there now and perhaps use the same stones. It will continue to be a one-lane bridge, which Deputy Mayor Wolfe believes is quaint and discourages speeding. Deputy Mayor Wolfe has calendared a date to call the County Engineer in the spring about the assessment. Freeholder Van Doren also reached out to the County Engineer about the bridge.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe thanked Ms. Lee for bringing the matter to the Township's attention, and Ms. Lee thanked the officials for their speedy response "and turning the engineer around."

Frances Gavigan, in the audience, mentioned an agreement ten years ago by the Hunterdon County Freeholders to bring any issues in East Amwell to the Township as a process to have community "buy in." In the interim, John Glynn retired, and Tom Mathews was unaware of the agreement. She mentioned challenges in procedures and processes with changes in staff. She congratulated Tamara Lee, Jim Davidson, and the officials for their efforts.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Appointment of Additional Members to 2018 Boards/Committees, if applicable

The Clerk reminded the governing body that they did not appoint a Stormwater Coordinator at the reorganization meeting. In the interim, Engineer O'Neal has been doing stormwater review work. The new Tier B regulations approved last year indicate that the Mayor is the Stormwater Coordinator unless another is designated. Usually, the engineer is the appropriate party.

Mayor Mathews said that the following appointments are made.

William Burr, Engineer, Maser Consulting will be the Stormwater Coordinator.

He also appointed Janis Grover to the Board of Health as Alternate 2. Mr. Wang-Iverson said that he would like to recommend Bogdan Slecza be reappointed to the Board of Health, saying that he participates and attends meetings, but was not reappointed at reorganization. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that for all the reasons he mentioned earlier he would like to have Janis Grover appointed.

The Mayor asked how many seats were open; he was told only the Alternate 2, and he affirmed his recommendation to appoint Janis Grover to that seat.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 28, 2017, Regular Minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried with two abstentions, Mr. Miller and Mr. Mathews, with all corrections offered in Deputy Mayor Wolfe's version.

January 11, 2018, Special Meeting Minutes (Interviews) were approved on a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously.

January 11, 2018, Special Meeting Minutes (Budget) were approved on a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously with a typing correction on page 3, sentence 5, change \$17,00 to \$17,000.

January 11, 2018, Regular Minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously with all corrections offered in Deputy Mayor Wolfe's version, and the following corrections: in Deputy Mayor Wolfe's version, on page 7, paragraph 8, line 3, change "interpreted" to "interrupted." Under approval of all December 2017 minutes, change to two abstentions, Mr. Mathews and Mr. Miller. On Page 16, under Professional Services Agreements, before Resolution #32-18, add the full statement that Mr. Wang-Iverson made into the record prior to adoption of the resolution.

Executive minutes for January 11, 2018, will be reviewed in the second executive session tonight and will be approved thereafter at the open portion of the meeting.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sue Posselt, Cider Mill Road, said that she listens to the audio on the website, and it was very difficult to tell who is speaking when Township Committee go on for a long time. She asked if the Township Committee members could identify themselves before they speak. She was told that there is a plan to videotape the meetings, and this would be very helpful.

Glorianne Robbi, 144 Lambertville-Hopewell Road, spoke about comments this evening and the issue of Pay to Play, mentioning the “new, inexperienced Township attorney” who contributed \$500 to the Township Committee’s campaign. Her concern was that Mr. Wolfe will be assisting with legal advice and it was a matter of public record that he was the target of a \$65,000,000 legal suit by Millenium Chemicals because he failed to advise the client in an IRS matter. She suggested that the public read information about this, adding that this is a concern that she has and is a concern of a number of people in the community.

Helen Rynearson, a resident in the audience, asked about having brush pick up curbside, saying that it used to be done in spring and fall and hasn’t been done in a while. She would like to see the Committee bring curbside collection back again, adding that she is not able to get her brush to the grittyard. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that the elimination of the program was done for cost savings, and Mr. Wang-Iverson added that it took the road crew 3 ~~=~~ 4 weeks to pickup brush in the whole town and kept them from other work. Mr. Wang-Iverson added that it could be reconsidered. Mr. Miller spoke about a targeted approach. Mr. Ostrander agreed that it was convenient to have brush picked up at the property rather than loading a vehicle and driving it to the yard, adding that he appreciated that some residents do not have the means to bring brush to the yard. Mayor Mathews said that this was worth discussing with the DPW, and Deputy Mayor Wolfe offered to pick up Mrs. Rynearson’s brush.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried to close to the public.

CONSENT AGENDA - None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S)/PUBLIC HEARING(S)

Introduction of Ordinance(s):

ORDINANCE 18-02 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL TO DISSOLVE THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND VEST ITS POWERS IN THE PLANNING BOARD

Mr. Wang-Iverson commented on not having any preliminary discussion on this ordinance. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that was not correct. Mr. Wang-Iverson said that the ordinance was not discussed at the last meeting, and Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that he talked with (Planning Board Chair) Don Reilly about this, and he was 110% behind it. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that he and Mayor Mathews gave this a lot of thought. He said that the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment are two key committees in the Township and not just anyone could serve. These boards need a high level of commitment. He knew that lines were blurred as to what falls under each committee, and he spoke about the things that swayed him to consider this ordinance: 1) it is easier to find 9 people for land use decisions versus 16 for two boards; 2) in 2017, the Board of Adjustment cancelled 6 of their 12 meetings because of little or no business. In 2016 3 meetings were cancelled and in 2015 5 meetings were cancelled because there was not a lot going on. He spoke about his wife, Kathy, agreeing with Mr. Reilly about the meetings. 3) There will be a not insignificant cost savings, adding that there was a salary of \$36,000 for two administrators, and costs will be reduced with having one administrator. He said that the cost would not be half, but it would be significant. Having one lawyer will help and allow for more efficiency, and there would be a better product with 9 committed members.

Mr. Wang-Iverson was concerned that the ordinance was being introduced without Township Committee discussion and already having the governing body members decide that this was the way to go. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that they are having the discussion now and committee members (including Mr. Wang-Iverson) can weigh in and that the public can weigh in at the open session or at hearing on this ordinance.

Mr. Wang-Iverson spoke about the comment that volunteers were not dedicated, adding that many of them have been participating for many years and very experienced. He was also not convinced about the efficiency, adding that there was not a lot of overlap with the two boards. He said that if there was ever a situation of an appeal or an application for a variance and the Planning Board was dealing with the affordable housing issue at the same time, it would be difficult. Mr. Wang-Iverson said that he spoke with Mr. Reilly about this, and a special meeting would have to be scheduled. Mr. Wang-Iverson mentioned some past applications, which were quite lengthy, including the Ricci matter; Peacock's, and Speedway.

Mr. Wang-Iverson said that he was not convinced about the efficiency of having one board and was not convinced about not having enough people in the community to serve on the Board of Adjustment, adding that this will now remove volunteer opportunities for people. He added that a two hour meeting could now be a four hour meeting, and the amount of money for an attorney for one meeting versus two is not a cost savings. He also noted that the zoning board budget was not changed.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe did not agree with keeping two committees when once in a while there might be a lot of work involved. He felt that merging would be a cost savings and more efficient. He suggested making the combination board and seeing what results were shown. He said that while he respected Mr. Wang-Iverson's comments, for the most part he did not agree with them.

The Clerk added that she had been in email contact with Attorney Taylor on whether this needed to be noticed to surrounding municipalities since it was amending the land use ordinance, Chapter 92. Mr. Taylor's advice was that it was not affecting zoning and was not necessary, but on the side of caution, the Township could let the County and neighboring municipalities know, but it was up to the Township. They had no objection to this being done.

Mr. Wang-Iverson pointed out typing errors in the ordinance for correction.

++++
ORDINANCE #18-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL TO DISSOLVE THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND VEST ITS POWERS IN THE PLANNING BOARD

WHEREAS, the Township of East Amwell currently has a Planning Board, pursuant to Section 92-14 of the East Amwell Township Code (the "EATC"), and a Board of Adjustment, pursuant to Section 92-13 of the EATC;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 92-14A of the EATC, the Planning Board has nine (9) members;

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-25(c)(1) provides that a municipality that has a population of 15,000 residents or less and a nine member planning board, may, by ordinance, grant authority to its planning board to exercise, to the same extent and with the same restrictions, all the powers of a board of adjustment, but the Class I and Class III members of the planning board cannot participate in the consideration of applications for development that involve relief pursuant to subsection d. of N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70;

WHEREAS, the Township of East Amwell has less than 15,000 residents according to the most recent census and has a nine member planning board; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to improve efficiency and reduce costs, the Township Committee, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-25(c)(1), desires, by and upon passage of this ordinance, (i) to grant authority to its Planning Board to exercise, to the same extent and with the same restrictions, all the powers of its Board of Adjustment, and (ii) to dissolve its Board of Adjustment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Board of Adjustment of East Amwell Township is hereby dissolved, effective upon passage of this ordinance.

2. Effective upon passage of this ordinance: (i) Section 92-13 of the EATC (Board of Adjustment) is repealed; and (ii) any reference to “Board of Adjustment” or “Zoning Board” in the EATC is repealed and excised from the EATC and, where relevant, replaced with a reference to “Planning Board.”

3. The Planning Board shall continue to exercise all powers granted to it as a planning board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-25, other relevant statutory provisions and Section 92-14 of the EATC. In addition to those powers, effective upon passage of this ordinance, the Planning Board shall also exercise, to the same extent and with the same restrictions, all the powers of the Board of Adjustment of East Amwell Township; provided, however, that the Class I and Class III members of the Planning Board shall not participate in the consideration of applications for development that involve relief pursuant to subsection d. of N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70.

4. The number and class of the members of the Planning Board shall remain the same, except that, as permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-23.1, Section 92-14B(3) of the EATC shall be amended to provide for two additional alternate members, designated at the time of appointment as “Alternate No. 3” and “Alternate No. 4,” each of whom (i) must be a resident of East Amwell Township, (ii) must meet the qualifications of the Class IV members of the Planning Board, and (iii) shall be appointed by the Mayor of East Amwell Township. The terms of these two alternate members shall be two (2) years, provided that the initial term of Alternate No. 3 shall be one (1) year. The provisions set forth in N.J.S.A. 40:55D-23.1 and Section 92-14B(3) of the EATC applicable to Alternate No. 1 and Alternate No. 2 shall also apply to Alternate No. 3 and Alternate No. 4.

5. The EATC shall be amended to reflect the provisions of this ordinance. Until such amendments are made, the provisions of this ordinance shall supersede any provisions in the EATC that are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance.

6. If any provision in this ordinance is, or is held to be, invalid or unlawful, (i) such provision shall, if possible, be deemed amended to the extent necessary to make it valid and lawful, and (ii) such invalidity or unlawfulness shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this ordinance.

7. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its final passage and publication as required by law.

By Order of the Township Committee

Tim Mathews, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Introduced: February 8, 2018

Adopted:

+++++
Motion by Deputy Mayor Wolfe and seconded by Mr. Ostrander to introduce Ordinance 18-02.

Mr. Miller said that the ordinance made sense and there may be a cost savings. He also was glad to see an effort made for efficiency, adding that it would be important to see if the ordinance works.

Mr. Ostrander commented that for the efficiency and the potential for cost savings he thinks it is fine to merge the two boards.

The vote was four yes and one no vote by Mr. Wang-Iverson.

The ordinance will be published in the February 15, 2018, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the public hearing will be at the March 8, 2018, regular Township Committee meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Gail Glashoff, in the audience, asked for a copy of the ordinance. The Clerk said that it would be available by tomorrow.

Public Hearings: None

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS — None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UPDATE ON COMCAST PUBLIC ACCESS (see 1/11/18 Minutes for Background)

Mr. Miller reported that he and Mr. Ostrander spoke with David Keenan at Comcast, and he provided details on how the process works. The Township would send a DVD to Comcast, and Comcast will air it at a specific time and repeat it at the same time until the next meeting date. Mr. Keenan indicated that it was up to the Township to create the video and put it onto a DVD and get it to them. Comcast is also working on a system that should be in place later in the year to upload the video. Mr. Miller and Mr. Ostrander will further discuss, and the process will include creating the video, establishing a chain of custody, copying a DVD, and getting it to Comcast.

Some discussion took place about getting the video set up with audio. The possibility of getting a camera to mount on the dais and providing wireless mikes for the governing body was mentioned. Putting the video on both Comcast and on the website was considered a good idea with the ability of the public to watch facial expressions.

Rob Clifton, from Comcast, will be at the next meeting and be asked about proper equipment to use. Mayor Mathews suggested that Mr. Miller and Mr. Ostrander reach out to Comcast to determine what other communities televise meetings and see how they do it. The suggestion of a permanently mounted camera wired to the recorder was mentioned. Another suggestion was made to see if there was a video technology club at the high school who might have some students to help.

Mr. Ostrander mentioned that Comcast will allocate a specific time slot for the Township's video and will run the same time every month and not move around. Mr. Miller was unclear whether the company would cut short a meeting if it overruns the allotted time; he will find out about this.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe joked about having a fundraiser at his house to watch the video and raise money for township causes.

Mayor Mathews thanked Mr. Miller and Mr. Ostrander for finding out about video-taping.

UPDATE FROM MR. WANG-IVERSON AND MR. OSTRANDER ON RESOLUTIONS #22-18 AND #23-18 (See 1/11/18 Minutes for Background)

Mr. Wang-Iverson said that they reviewed the resolutions (for the record, originally adopted at reorganization). Minor typing corrections in font changes were made, and the ordinance was cleaned up to give the Mayor the previous Township Administrator's responsibilities. Additionally, some language changes, which they thought was confusing, were corrected. A section about the short-term vacation was mentioned. The Clerk asked why specific names were removed from the new version, saying that these employees' vacation time was based on the hours worked listed with their names. She was told to put their name and hours back into the document. The Committee will review the changes and adopt at the next meeting.

Mayor Mathews thanked Mr. Wang-Iverson and Mr. Ostrander for the work, adding that the policy manual will also have to be reviewed for tactical changes. He mentioned the need for patience while documents “are being cleaned up going forward.”

INTERVIEW PROCESS FOR VACANT SECRETARIAL POSITIONS IN EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP.

Mayor Mathews said that five positions were posted, Recycling Coordinator; Recreation Committee Secretary; Board of Health Secretary; Planning Board Administrator; Board of Adjustment Administrator, and now there is an intent to combine the latter two. Eleven applications were sent to him for review. After his review he found them to be good people with experience that doesn’t tie, with many having careers in other places. He would like to prioritize and have various chairs interview candidates with a Township Committee liaison. For the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment, there was one applicant with experience, and Deputy Mayor Wolfe and Mr. Reilly will interview that person. They will schedule the interview and get back to the Mayor with their recommendation.

Mayor Mathews spoke about doing this with other Township Committee liaisons and chairs and have them report back with possible appointments in March. Mayor Mathews also commended other employees for stepping in. He added that he hoped that more applications would come in and encouraged members of the audience to let people know about the available positions.

On a question from Mr. Miller regarding the interviews, Mayor Mathews said that he would be making the salary recommendations based on advice from the Chair and liaison. Deputy Mayor Wolfe spoke about centralized negotiations with one person being optimal. All were in agreement with the process.

NEW BUSINESS

1/23 REQUEST FOR FARMLAND RIDE BICYCLE EVENT ON SUNDAY, JUNE 10, ON EAST AMWELL ROADS AND USE OF MUNICIPAL LOT FOR REST STATION Resident Dena Scibilia was present for this discussion.

Ms. Scibilia explained that she is organizing the event for the Flemington Synagogue as a community event in Hunterdon County to reach people from outside the area and introduce them to the county. It will allow families to get together for a nice ride and to enjoy lunch and snacks. She provided a mock up brochure for the Committee to review. The event is scheduled for June 10, there will be only about 125 riders who will be staggered throughout the day. Ms. Scibilia asked to use the municipal lot as a rest station, saying that a port-a-john will be delivered on a Friday and removed after the event. A suggestion was made by the Clerk to consider using the lower lot, but that may not be wide enough for their purposes. Alison Castellano, in the audience, spoke about notifying sports teams who may be using the fields at that time. The Clerk advised the Mayor that she would take care of this notification.

Mayor Mathews said that his pet peeve is littering energy bar wrappers and water bottles on the roads. Ms. Scibilia said that there would be a clean up crew. Ms. Castellano said that the organizers may use the recycling cans available at the municipal lot, which are usually used for the baseball fields, and that the DPW would set them up for the event on the Friday before the ride.

Ms. Scibilia noted that the organizers are working with the State Police also. The Township Committee concluded that they were “okay” with the ride taking place and use of the lot as a rest station.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CONTRACT FOR THE SPECIAL TAX APPEAL COUNSEL TO INCLUDE ALL TAX APPEALS

The original contract for Martin Allen was specifically for one tax appeal, and the Tax Assessor has asked that Mr. Allen be the attorney of record for all tax appeals.

+++++

RESOLUTION # 35 -18

RESOLUTION EXECUTING A REVISED CONTRACT WITH TAX APPEAL ATTORNEY

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby sign an amended contract, as of this date, with Martin Allen, Special Counsel, from the firm of DiFrancesco, Bateman, Kunzman, et.al, for services for the year 2018, changing the scope of his work from tax appeal legal assistance for The Ridge at Back Brook to all tax appeals for the calendar year.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Tim Mathews, Mayor

++++
Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously to approve the resolution.

REQUEST FOR RIGHT OF WAY INFORMATION — 1/9 18 NJ SADC LETTER RE: VAN DOREN PROPERTY, CIDER MILL ROAD

Mayor Mathews said that this was an email initiated at the State with a request to the Township to say whether they wanted to purchase a right of way easement for possible road improvements. Deputy Mayor Wolfe spoke about the width being 16 feet with the standard being 25 feet, and a potential cost of \$13,000 for purchase of a right of way for future expansion. Deputy Mayor Wolfe spoke with Fred Gardner about this, and this has never been done in the past. Mr. Gardner also spoke with Mrs. Robbi about it. The Deputy Mayor was not in favor of purchasing the easement. Mayor Mathews was in agreement that this was not necessary.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that the form from SADC had some specific language, and he will prepare an answer for the state.

BLUE LIGHT PERMITS FOR AMBULANCE CORPS — TARA MERSHON AND JEREMY HACKER

The Clerk explained that prior to having a Township Administrator, the governing body approved the Mayor’s Signature on blue light permits, based on the signature of the chiefs that the members were in good standing. There was a consensus to return to this practice, and the Committee agreed that the Mayor should sign the permits for Ms. Mershon and Mr. Hacker.

RESIGNATION OF MUNICIPAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR CINDY HOOVEN, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2018

Mr. Wang-Iverson spoke with Ms. Hooven about her proposed resignation on July 1. He explained that there is a tentative meeting scheduled on Tuesday at 7 p.m. here at the municipal building with Ms. Hooven and Delaware Township members Charlie Herman and Susan Lockwood. Posting the position will be discussed, and the Administrative Office of the Court has specific posting guidelines to follow. The position will be posted as soon as possible. It was noted that the Deputy Court Administrator may apply for the position, and her position maybe be posted. The Administrative Office of the Court must sit in on the interviews as well, and Mr. Wang-Iverson asked if anyone else wanted to sit in on the court meeting. Mayor Mathews and Deputy Mayor Wolfe were supportive of Mr. Wang-Iverson handling this matter.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously to open to the public.

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, spoke about Maria Andrews' resignation for a new opportunity in West Amwell, and she suggested that the Township Liaison and Mr. Reilly use the expertise of a member of the Planning Board, Gail Glashoff, during the interview process since Ms. Glashoff does this function elsewhere. Ms. Gavigan believed that Ms. Glashoff would be a good resource.

Ms. Gavigan welcomed Attorney Taylor to the Township.

Glorianne Robbi, 144 Lambertville-Hopewell Road, said she was interested in the governing body's opinion on pay to play by applicants for professionals as exemplified by the \$500 paid to the Mathews/Miller campaign by the Township Attorney, asking if they thought that this was an acceptable way to run things.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe asked how many people on the various township committees donated to the EADA and said donations were totally legal. Mrs. Robbi said that this was a professional services appointment for the Township, and she again asked what the take was on pay to play being fair and open. Mayor Mathews said that a fair and open process was conducted and it was legal. She said that there was an obvious example of pay to play in front of the Township Committee, which was being ignored, that it was sad for ethical governing, and "this is not a good start."

Andrea Bonette, 17 Ridge Road, had several follow up comments to ensure that the public record is clear and read from a prepared statement as follows:

"Now that I have had a chance to see the January minutes, I'd like to add an item to my list: I never made any judgmental comments on Mr. Wolfe's house. I have stated that it is, at 14,000 square feet, the largest house in East Amwell. Those are numbers, not judgmental statements.

"At the January EATC meeting I challenged Mr. Wolfe to a wager that he could not provide a shred of proof that I ever lied even once, although he has repeatedly accused me of doing so. For whatever reason Mr. Wolfe declined to take me up on this wager although winning it would have required me to donate one thousand dollars to a charity of his choice. I can only assume that he knew he did not have any proof of his assertions because none exists. I leave it to others to determine their confidence in his credibility.

"Instead of accepting my challenge Mr. Wolfe demanded that I sue him. These January minutes I just picked up appear to have been altered- perhaps by Mr. Wolfe?-to say that I wanted to sue him for libel. I never said any such thing. He has suggested this previously and I decline again for the same reasons: (a) he has nothing that I want that I would gain or even ask for if I did win such a lawsuit; and (b) As a seventy-ish grandma I am more than a little intimidated by the prospect of going up against a 400-member Manhattan law firm.

"Every now and then a Scout leader, teacher, or other adult brings young students to observe Township Committee meeting as part of earning a badge or completing an educational goal. Given the tenor of some of the comments made by Township Committee members, I encourage anyone who is considering bringing children into this venue to first listen critically to an audio of a previous meeting before making such a decision. In fact, I recommend listening to an audio of tonight's meeting."

Mrs. Bonette said that she was running from the meeting now before she had to hear more.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously to close to the public.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe said he will respond to the question that was posed. He said that over the years, there were undoubtedly dozens of EADA donors placed on committees; and the EADA found nothing unethical about that and that the people on committees have a far greater role on the day-to-day lives of East Amwell residents than our professionals. He said, regarding the \$500 donation made by the Township Attorney, the bottom line was that the governing body was seeking individuals with the same view of East Amwell Township that the governing body has, and the Committee does not care about party affiliation. He said that governing body does even know the political affiliation of some of the people having key roles on the committees, and the governing body doesn't care. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that as long as they share the Township

Committee's view, as is the same with the professionals sharing that view, it's the reason for appointment. Donations were made to the Miller/Mathews campaign because these people shared their view and wanted to see them win and "boot the EADA;" off the Township Committee, with Deputy Mayor Wolfe saying that he was speaking for himself. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that if the public was saying that Mr. Taylor's donation of \$500 swayed the Deputy Mayor's view, they were sadly mistaken. Deputy Mayor Wolfe had already made up his mind on Mr. Taylor before knowing about the contribution, and comments tonight "that his donation "bought him a seat were nonsensical," and he had nothing more to say on this topic.

Mayor Mathews said that several firms applied for the professional positions, some may have made donations, some may have not and it was irrelevant, adding that firms were appointed whether they made a donation or not.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that they held a fundraiser for the Mathews/Miller campaign, 75 people attended, many of them East Amwell residents and that a number of them have been appointed to committees. The fact that they made a donation was irrelevant. They shared our view. He added that the Lt. Governor, a Congressman, and Freeholders came to the fundraiser, there was a broad degree of diversity, and some who came to the event did not donate. Money was raised for the campaign to fight the EADA, a well funded, well organized machine, and their group did what they could to fight them. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that in the end, there was one common thought, i.e., a change in East Amwell. He said that fortunately, they got that change.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe called on Mrs. Robbi, saying that since he won in 2016, every time he has seen her, she asks how the lawsuit (at his firm) is going, adding information on it is on the internet. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that this is the price of doing business, i.e., that someone will sue. He said that in any event, he cannot talk about it, that it doesn't move his needle at all, and he was actually glad that Mrs. Robbi raised this, so that the question of the lawsuit wouldn't be raised each time he sees her. Deputy Mayor Wolfe commented on fundraising for the campaign, having all worked for the best, that this was like a freight train with momentum, and if people jumped in front of it, "God Bless."

There was a member of the public who wished to speak.

Motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously to open to the public.

Nancy Cunningham, 14 Wertsville Road, said that the EADA has been funded by residents and individuals in East Amwell who believed in their vision over the years and continues to do so. She added that the Hunterdon County Republicans donated \$13,000 to the Miller/Mathews campaign, that it was predominantly funded by the Republican County Party, and by an engineering firm in Pennsylvania.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously to close to the public a second time.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe spoke about being interrupted by Mrs. Robbi and will not respond to people who continue to interrupt him. He also spoke about coming to the Township Committee, before he was on the governing body, to speak about the Open Space Trust Fund, and partway through his comments, was told by the Mayor to sit down and shut up, although not in those words. He said once he was on the Committee, anytime he was saying something that was critical of the EADA, Mayor Van Horn closed discussions to shut him down, although there was no motion to do so. He said that if the public thinks they will shut him down by interrupting him, that is not going to happen.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that when he ran for office, he had some ground rules, commenting on "how slimy the EADA is," and that he hates bullies. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that his ground rules included not attacking opponents and he didn't want to know about donations at all or see any checks and could not answer questions about who donated to campaigns.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe concluded that Mr. Mathews and Mr. Miller were two ethical people, and that their decision for hiring professionals was not influenced by donations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

+++++

RESOLUTION #36 - 18

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, East Amwell Township Committee is of the opinion that circumstances presently exist; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of East Amwell wishes to discuss contracts (sale of property) and executive minute review; and

WHEREAS, minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then minutes can be made public;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the public be excluded from this meeting.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Tim Mathews, Mayor

+++++

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously.

Executive Session began at 10:30 p.m.

The regular meeting resumed at 10:51 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, Continued

January 11, 2018, Executive Minutes (Contracts, Sale of Property, Affordable Housing Litigation) were approved on a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried with corrections outlined in executive session.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

CFO/TREASURER PASQUA provided the bills of the evening. Motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried unanimously to approve the bills of the evening.

There were no resolutions from the Tax Collector.

MUNICIPAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR HOOVEN’S REPORT: Mr. Wang-Iverson made a motion to accept Cindy Hooven’s resignation, effective July 1, with deep regret. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously.

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP POLICE: Mayor Mathews said that he spoke with Lt. Skillman in West Amwell about expanding traffic enforcement, and they are excited. Committee member Zack Rich was asked to provide a written proposal, outlining steps, and seeing if there could be a volume discount applied. A proposal will be forth-coming.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no comments on correspondence.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk