

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:30 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 March 6, 2018.

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

AGENDA REVIEW

Two items of correspondence are added: February 2018 Construction Report from West Amwell; 3/6 Email from Jennifer Neves, Asst. to Atty., St. Angelo, re: Order to Delete Settlement Order dated 3/5, until compliance hearing on 4/19/18.

Table 5C, Compliance with Federal Civil Rights Requirements Affidavit until the next meeting. We will discuss the requirement at that part of the agenda.

Table 6A, Visit from Comcast Representative Rob Clifton. We will discuss public access equipment requirements, listed in his 3/8 email.

Item 6B, Rocktown Hill Road speeding will also be tabled tonight. Mr. Hajek has had a death in his family.

Under 11, Introduction of Ordinances, 18-05 Comp Ordinance will be tabled until a future meeting. A new ordinance is being introduced, with the approval of the attorney to add it to tonight's agenda, and will now be called Ordinance 18-05, An Ordinance to Amend the 2017 Salary and Wage Ordinance.

Under 13B, table an update from West Amwell regarding traffic enforcement. West Amwell Township Committee did not meet last night due to inclement weather.

Under 13 C, there is only one candidate being interviewed, since one candidate for Environmental Commission withdrew her candidacy request.

Under 13, add item D, Resolution to Appoint a Qualified Purchasing Agent

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A 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 also changed her Tuesday evening hours, during collection period only, to 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The Tax Assessor's Tuesday night hours are now 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., and the Zoning Officer posted Tuesday hours from 4 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

B. Dog Licenses are now due. Fees are \$12 for neutered animals and \$15, if not. Effective 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)

C. Hunterdon County Utilities posted these two up-coming events: Hazardous Waste Collection on March 10 and Computer Collection on April 10 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the County Complex on Route 12 in Flemington. Contact 908-788-1110 for further information.

D. Hunterdon County Freeholders also announced the 2018 Shred Days from 9 a.m. – noon, on the parking lot behind the Historic Court House, 71 Main street, on the following dates: April 21; May 5; September 8; October 6; November 3. Details at www.eastamwelltownship.com

E. East Amwell will hold the following events:

- Well Testing through Raritan Headwaters Association: Kits will be available from 4/2 through 4/13 with a return date of 4/17/18. Information will be available in the upcoming spring newsletter.
- The annual Roadside Clean Up on Saturday, April 21. Contact Ron O'Reilly at ron@stories-worth-repeating.com or 908-399-9189 to volunteer and get a road assignment.
- Spring Clean-Up Day will be held on Saturday, April 28, from 8 a.m. – noon on the municipal lot. Contact the Clerk's Office at 908-782-8536 for information on permits.

UPDATE FROM THE CFO

Ms. Pasqua said that the bond sale took place today; two bids were received with an interest rate of 2.78 percent. Closing should be the last week in March.

Update on 2018 Budget: Ms. Pasqua provided a new summary sheet with a new tax rate, including the new salaries for new employees and a small adjustment. She asked about one outstanding item: the Environmental Commission asked to increase their OE from \$750 to \$3150. Mr. Wang-Iverson spoke with Planner Slagle about updating the environmental resource inventory and he was told that a few parts were updated as part of the master plan. Ms. Slagle suggested meeting with the Environmental Commission about the status of the environmental resource inventory and see what they wanted to do. Mr. Wang-Iverson's original suggestion of \$2,000 to update the inventory was made before talking with Ms. Slagle; after his discussion, he was recommending putting \$500 in a miscellaneous line item to have Ms. Slagle meet with the Environmental Commission and give them information on the updated status of the inventory and its components. The other increase in their budget was for an increase in dues to \$300 since ANJEC dues have increased to \$350. Some other meetings are around \$10 each, so he was suggesting an increase to \$400, adding that another \$100 was for some team building exercises that the Commission was considering.

Mayor Mathews asked if the environmental resource inventory was required. Mr. Wang-Iverson did not have details but it was a study of the environmental resources of the township, including geology, aquifer, open space as main items and deals with issues relating to regulations with the master plan and open space plan being two main areas. The environmental resource inventory should be looked at any time a development application comes to the Township, and the Environmental Commission is charged with looking at developments and uses the resource inventory as a guideline. Deputy Mayor Wolfe asked if the applicant should provide this review and have this charged to the applicant. Mr. Wang-Iverson said that the review is done by the Environmental Commission, with the application being referred to the Commission for any impact to the environmental, and there was no money involved with this review. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that developers should be asked for environmental impact statements, and Mr. Wang-Iverson agreed, adding that the Environmental Commission reviewed the information. Deputy Mayor asked if the Commission would be just given the information that the application provides. Mr. Wang-Iverson explained that the environmental resource inventory is a guidance document that helps the Commission and committees review applications. Deputy Mayor Wolfe thought that something more specific would have more weight than something general, and if someone was coming in to develop a particular parcel, he would want to see the environmental impact on the parcel, not an overlay sheet with the general state of affairs for this area. Mr. Wang-Iverson said that he thought that this was done, and there haven't been any developments since he was on the board, so he was not really familiar with all the details of the process. He believed that the environmental resource inventory was a document that the Township was required to maintain along with the master plan and the open space plan.

Mayor Mathews asked if Mr. Wang-Iverson was suggesting putting in \$500 for the Planner to look at the inventory; Mr. Wang-Iverson answered affirmatively. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that they should not be taking comments from the public at this time. An unidentified person in the audience said that she wanted to provide information on what the Environmental Commission does on the site visits for applications. Mayor Mathews said that they would wait until the Open to the Public portion of the meeting so that the train of thought was not lost. Mayor Mathews said

that he was okay with the suggestion to put in \$500 so that the Environmental Commission could meet with Planner Slagle to get a baseline of what actually needs to be done. Mr. Ostrander said that this was appropriate. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that \$500 seemed like a lot of money for a baseline and he wanted to wrap his arms around this. On a question from the Mayor, Ms. Pasqua said that she needed the answer by the end of next week.

The Clerk reminded the Committee that some members from the senior citizens were in the audience tonight to discuss their budget.

Mr. Wang-Iverson wanted to add that he spoke with Court Administrator Cindy Hooven today, and he wanted to make sure that there was enough money in the budget to cover a double salary for two months. Ms. Hooven will be using a month's vacation, and she was expecting to have a month's training for a new hire, so that would mean double salary for May and June. Ms. Pasqua said that she will add this to the budget, and Mr. Wang-Iverson reminded her that half of this amount would be billed to Delaware Township.

Mayor Mathews also asked if there was enough money in the budget, given all the overtime that the DPW has put in for the storms. Ms. Pasqua explained that overtime is divided into two categories, storm and regular overtime, and the DPW doesn't usually use all the regular overtime. She believed that there was sufficient funding in the overtime line for the men. Mayor Mathews added that the DPW was doing a great job.

Mr. Ostrander confirmed that there was \$1,000 in the budget for the senior group.

Bob Rowe, 33 Toad Lane, was representing the East Amwell Senior Citizen's Club. He thought that he had reported back to the Committee last year but did not. Mr. Rowe did go to Raritan Township to request assistance for the club and while originally offered \$1,000, a week later the Committee rescinded the offer and offered to pay for one bus trip as long as the bus was offered to all Raritan Township residents. Mr. Rowe said that he declined the offer because it did not make sense. Mr. Rowe also went to their Recreation Committee for assistance, and he was declined flat out. He commented on East Amwell supporting their group all these years.

Mr. Rowe said that they increased dues from \$5 to \$10, and members have to put a dollar in the wishing well each time they use the Elks. They did go to Kirkpatrick Church, but the meeting room is on the second floor, and many of the members on walkers can't get to the second floor. The club holds 50-50 drawings to raise money, and if donations are received, they are auctioned off. They also try to subsidize dinners for the members with \$5 – 10 per \$30 meal, as an example. The club used to have four bus trips a year, but they have had none yet although they hope to have one in a month or two as the one and only. Mr. Rowe commented on Music Mountain opening now, and this may be a venue where seniors can drive without the need for a bus. Mr. Rowe appreciated the Township's contribution of \$1,000 last year, after reducing it from \$2,000, but he hoped that the Township could raise it to \$2,000 again this year.

Mayor Mathews asked if the \$10 dues covered use of the Elks; Mr. Rowe said no, that members put \$1.00 in the wishing well each time they are at the Elks, which equates to another \$20 a year per member. The money that the Township contributed in the past was used for bus trips and entertainment. Mr. Rowe spoke about getting someone to come in and entertain the group and paying them \$50; he added that the nursing home and the hospital often send speakers for their group, and the schools send choirs once a year. Cutting the funding essentially cut out the club's ability to go anywhere outside of driving distance.

Mayor Mathews asked how many seniors were from East Amwell. Mr. Rowe said that two new members joined, so there are about 15-16% East Amwell members out of the 42 registered. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that this was about 38%. Mr. Rowe said that they are getting more interest in East Amwell because of their column in the VIP; he added that not all members attend events, and there are usually 30 members or so.

Mr. Ostrander asked if Mr. Rowe considered going back to Raritan Township again this year; Mr. Rowe did not. Mr. Ostrander asked if Mr. Rowe thought that \$2,000 would cover the program, and Mr. Rowe said that this amount would allow them to have two bus trips and subsidize other events, such as something at Music Mountain. Mr. Ostrander reminded the governing body that he suggested the seniors look at options last year, and if they were unable to get other financial

support, that the Township Committee would look at other options to contribute the \$2,000. Mr. Ostrander offered to pay one quarter of the additional \$1,000, or \$250. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that he and his wife would contribute \$500. Attorney Taylor was asked if there was a problem with this, and he said that there may be issues of combining private and public funds. Mr. Taylor agreed to look into this. Mr. Rowe agreed to put \$200 in contributions also. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said if there were legal issues, the \$500 he donated would be coming from Mrs. Wolfe only. Mr. Ostrander said that his wife would be making the donation also.

Mayor Mathews appreciated the generosity, but he was thinking about contributing dues and offering tax credits to seniors to cover the East Amwell members' dues. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that this would only be \$500 and the Township was already contributing \$1,000 through the budget. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that the reason he did not want to increase the budget was the assumption that the Township was spending tax money for Raritan Township residents, and by contributing on his own, people should not complain that he was spending his own money. Mr. Rowe appreciated the donation, adding that they had to open the club because there weren't enough East Amwell members.

Mayor Mathews again suggested paying \$10 dues for about 15 people, or \$150. Deputy Mayor Wolfe spoke about a problem with Raritan Township not paying for part of the bus and East Amwell paying for the bus with only 38% of the population being from East Amwell Township. Mr. Ostrander asked about budget management; it was confirmed that the seniors are given the \$1,000 and they manage their own budget.

On a question from the Mayor, Deputy Mayor Wolfe confirmed that the intent is to have \$1,000 in the budget and \$1,000 will be raised privately for a \$2,000 budget.

Mr. Rowe was thanked for making his presentation tonight.

NJ DLGS FINANCE NOTICE 2017-27 – COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS REQUIREMENTS

This item will be tabled until the next meeting. There is a new requirement that the governing body must sign an affidavit that they are familiar with the federal civil rights requirements, and the affidavit is submitted with their budget to the state. The Clerk has a paper copy of the affidavit for signature at the next meeting.

CFO/TREASURER RESOLUTIONS

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RESOLUTION #41-18

CHANGE ORDER RESOLUTION FOR CLAWSON HOUSE

Padovani Construction – March 2018

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby authorize the following change order of \$3,950.00 to the original contract awarded on October 26, 2017, to Quality Roof Cleaning d/b/a Padovani Roofing and Construction, 46 Higginsville Road, Neshanic Station, NJ 08853 in the amount of \$22,000 for Electrical and Security for Clawson House:

Install (3) 120 Volt interconnected smoke detectors	\$950.00
Install bathroom vent for and run venting outside	\$600.00
Run new microwave circuit/outlet	\$300.00
Run new refrigerator circuit/outlet	\$300.00
Install (2) closet lights (customer supplied), (1) switch	\$500.00
Install track lighting in office (customer supplied)	\$700.00
Install track lighting 2 nd floor storage (customer supplied)	\$600.00
 Total labor and materials	 \$3,950.00

By Order of the Township Committee,

Tim Mathews, Mayor

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

SPECIAL DISCUSSIONS

PRESENTATION By MIKE STRIZKI - Although sent a copy of the agenda, Mr. Strizki was not present at this meeting. The Committee will wait until he contacts them again for inclusion on an agenda. Mayor Mathews commented on Mr. Strizki’s knowledge of very interesting solar, hydrogen, and generator technology.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

- 1) Resolution in support of Grant for Clawson House, Next Phase

Mayor Mathews read the letter of support he wrote for the project, as attached to this set of minutes.

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RESOLUTION #42-18

WHEREAS, the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders has approved an Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund and established a Historic Preservation Grant Program to provide County funds in connection with the acquisition of historic properties and the preservation of historic properties, buildings, structures facilities, sites, areas or objects, in Hunterdon County; and

WHEREAS, the Township of East Amwell desires to further the public interest by obtaining funding in the amount of \$70,500 from the County of Hunterdon to fund the following historic preservation project: Clawson House Renovations – Stage VI, including the following:

- 1. Interior Painting - \$21,500 (9 rooms, 2 hallways – primer and second coat on ceilings)
- 2. Floor Refinishing - \$23,400 (8 rooms, 2 hallways – sand, seal, and 2 coats of polyurethane)
- 3. Security System - \$21,200 (motion detectors in 6 rooms, security locks on basement windows, 3 security cameras, keypad, and computer remote hookup)
- 4. Portable Display Cases \$4,400 (10 cases at \$440 each)

Total of all items: \$70,500

NOW, THEREFORE, the governing body/board resolves that Tim Mathews, Mayor, or the successor to the office of Mayor is hereby authorized to:

- (a) a) make application for such Historic Preservation Grant Funds,
- (b) b) provide additional application information and furnish such documents as may be required, and
- (c) c) act as the authorized correspondent of the above named applicant; and

WHEREAS, the County of Hunterdon shall determine if the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the Hunterdon County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Plan, adopted Freeholder Board Policies and the Procedures Manual for the Historic Preservation Grant Program adopted thereto, and notify the applicant of the amount of the funding award; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is willing to use the County funds in accordance with such adopted Policies and Procedures, and rules, regulations and applicable statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL,

1. That the Mayor of the above named body or board is hereby authorized to execute any documents and agreements with the County of Hunterdon known as Clawson House Renovations – Stage VI .
2. That the applicant **may** have it share of funds.
3. That, in the event the County of Hunterdon’s funds are less than the total project cost specified above, the work will be adjusted accordingly;
4. That the applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Tim Mathews, Mayor

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 8, 2018 Special Meeting (Resolution for Executive Session – Personnel and Contracts – Sale of Property): Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously.

February 8, 2018 Executive Meeting (Personnel Only) were approved on a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously with one correction provided by the Mayor.

February 8, 2018, Special Meeting (Budget) were approved on a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously.

February 8, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Ostrander.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe said a summary in the March VIP had a statement that was incorrect. He read the statement as follows: “The one-lane bridge on Lindbergh Road near the Lindbergh Estate will be replaced by the County with an esthetically similar two-lane bridge, which may encourage speeding.” Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that this was wrong on all counts. The one lane bridge will be repaired, and if it cannot be repaired, it will be replaced with a one-lane bridge to avoid the speeding, as clearly laid out in the February minutes. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that the Township minutes for February were correct, and the VIP was incorrect. He said that this is an important point because the bridge is architecturally significant for East Amwell, and he did not want people reading the VIP article and thinking that the Township was getting something that they were not. The Township may not be getting a new bridge at all, and a repair will be attempted. If not, it will be replaced and it will be the Township’s decision as to whether it will be a one or two lane bridge, and it was already indicated that the Township wants to keep it one lane.

The regular meeting minutes of February 8, 2018 were approved unanimously.

February 8, 2018 Executive Meeting (Contracts-Sale of Property) were approved on a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously.

February 22, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried with one abstention, Mr. Ostrander.

February 22, 2018, Executive Meeting (Contracts-Sale of Property) and Litigation (Affordable Housing) were approved on a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried with one abstention, Mr. Ostrander.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Will Harrison, 4 Larison Lane, said that the subject of his statement was the Clawson Park Advisory Committee. He read a prepared statement into the records, as attached to this set of minutes.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe thought that there was a major misunderstanding. The January 2 reorganization statement wasn't a statement disbanding the Clawson Park Advisory Committee at all. It was nothing more than, gee, we are thinking about having Clawson Park potentially be part of a potential committee that we may form to study the village. So the basic premise of what Mr. Harrison just read is a misunderstanding of what was said. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that he would defer the rest of the discussion until later in the meeting, adding that they do have thoughts on Clawson Park and the Advisory Committee, which will be raised later in the committee with a very long runway and certainly allow anyone who wants to give input, they can as to what we are going to suggest. He asked if the Committee wanted him to talk about it now or wait until later. Mayor Mathews said sure.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that ~~they were~~the Township Committee is going to introduce an ordinance establishing a webpage committee. Then ~~they~~the Township Committee will take that ordinance and use it as a template and to officially establish a Recreation Committee. There is a Recreation Committee that exists basically in air. There is no ordinance, no law, and it just exists. After the November election, Deputy Mayor Wolfe sat down and carefully went through every committee and tried to figure out if it was by statute or ordinance or both. The Recreation Committee just exists, and it will be formalized with an ordinance, along the lines of the webpage committee ordinance. As part of formalizing the Recreation Committee, ~~they want~~the Township Committee wants to open up for discussion rolling Clawson Park into the Recreation Committee and perhaps changing the name of the Recreation Committee to Parks and Recreation Committee. It may cover more than Clawson Park and oversee trails, etc. The Recreation Committee will have a formal budget and structure. ~~They were talking~~The Township Committee was considering having nine members, but when thinking about rolling in Clawson Park, ~~they~~the Township Committee may increase the number to more than nine members, perhaps eleven. Youth members will be appointed because their goal is to try to get more young people involved on committees. Deputy Mayor Wolfe was discussing this now because historically the Township Committee gave a one month runway before ordinances were brought for a vote. This Committee is trying to give a two month runway, as was done with the website ordinance. Last month the Deputy Mayor gave a detailed recitation, and tonight the ordinance was being introduced, and next month there will be a vote. This will allow people to weigh in, and people can help with the formulation of the ordinance, and once brought for review, people can weigh in on the language. ~~They are~~The Township Committee is looking to roll Clawson Park into the Recreation Committee, and there will be at least a two month runway. Anybody on the Clawson Park Advisory Committee who wants to give input is welcome, and if those committee members want to be part of the Parks and Recreation Committee they are welcome to submit applications when the time is right. ~~They are~~The Township Committee is not looking to cut anybody out on any committee on giving input. Everything that ~~they have~~the Township Committee has done so far, ~~they have it has sought input from people who ~~they~~the Committee thought had significant experience on the particular matter at hand. The notion that ~~they are~~the Township Committee is doing things and not seeking input from people who had involvement over the years is just not true and not the way that ~~they are~~the Township Committee is doing business. There has been a great misunderstanding, and no one is knocking the legs out from the Clawson Park Advisory Committee effective in January, but those members now have a sense of the direction that they would like to take this. If that committee has thoughts now or over the next couple of months, Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that they should be~~

shared. If Mike Petrus has thoughts, he should share them with either the Mayor or anyone on the committee, and the door is open for whatever input they wished.

Mayor Mathews apologized to Mr. Harrison and did not mean to disrespect Mr. Harrison. He added that he had a lot of respect, and this was really a deferral until this was formalized into a broader vehicle. Mr. Harrison said that the Mayor got his point. He said to the Deputy Mayor about going forward, that it was fine. Mr. Harrison said that his emphasis was on how they use and interact with the volunteers, people with expertise, not only on your own board, and that includes Mr. Wang-Iverson, but the volunteers already serving and they feel are respected and valued. That was Mr. Harrison's point. He agreed that it was great to have plans going forward, but he was speaking about what has been done, and those who needed to know were not given the explanation. Mr. Harrison said that the Township had some pretty dedicated people who were serving on the Clawson Park Committee. He said that a lot of work was going on, and maybe the Township Committee didn't realize it, even though the Committee only met a few times a year. He added that especially Mike Petrus, who was at the park all the time, and other folks also. He added that there were new benches and a lot of things that were done by people who cared about the park. Mr. Harrison said that the Committee needed to be cognizant so whether or not they wanted to sweep this altogether, adding that he did not want to get into the discussion about the best way to go forward because it is complex, not simple. But the fact of how they dealt with people was Mr. Harrison's concern. Mr. Harrison said that he had a file on the village work, with a lot of work being done, and it was available if needed. Mayor Mathews thanked Mr. Harrison.

Sue Posselt, Cider Mill Road, said she knew that the Township Committee had a lot on their plate, but she attended a Board of Education meeting a couple weeks ago, and when she got home, she wondered why anyone hadn't ever thought about combining Delaware and East Amwell and build a grammar and separate middle school. She spoke about her children going through the local school and not knowing anyone. When her daughter went to the high school, she didn't know anyone until the last period when another East Amwell student was in her class. Ms. Posselt thought that the combination would allow for more social interaction if East Amwell joined with Delaware. She did not know how much influence the governing body had on this, but she added that this was just a thought.

Ms. Posselt said that she would like to add a comment on something that was on the agenda that maybe could be relayed to Bob Rowe. She suggested asking the seniors in that group to write their letters to their own township committee members and raise hell with them.

Mayor Mathews said that they have nothing to do with the school issue, although they all have kids that went through East Amwell. He said that this discussion has come up casually among the parents, and he suggested that Ms. Posselt approach the Board of Education. The Mayor said that one challenge is that there should be a long lead time because people buy a home in a town because of the school, and if they thought that they bought a home in East Amwell for the East Amwell School and are told that their children would not be going there, that may or may not sit well with them. He said that anytime this type of discussion has come up, it has been in the context of a long lead time. Ms. Posselt understood that and believed that it would be good for the kids for social reasons. Mayor Mathews said that this worked with the merger with baseball. Ms. Posselt was unclear whether the school came to the township anymore. She and the Mayor exchanged comments about the only time that the Board of Education came to the Township now would be for budget discussions. Ms. Posselt thought that perhaps the Township Committee had some pull with the school, commenting on some of the members having children in the school.

Andrea Bonette, 17 Ridge Road, had a question for the Mayor. She was aware last year and the beginning of this year that there was a lot of discussion about editing the minutes and the procedure for not taking up a lot of Township Committee time discussing changes, additions, and corrections. She said that it appears that the Committee has decided on a system to resolve the problem to get the minutes corrected and edited on a timely manner, and she was wondering what is the system. Mayor Mathews said that it has not changed since last year. Mrs. Bonette asked if underlining in the minutes was new. The Mayor deferred to the Clerk to answer. Mrs. Bonette said, "So you are not aware of any changes on how it is done." The Mayor said no, saying that the members all see documents in a share file to look at and provide comments. The Clerk said that she provides a version, and after he proofreads, there is a version that Deputy Mayor Wolfe provides with his edits, and that is the set available to the public on the back table, showing the underlined changes made. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that he cares a great deal about the detail in

the minutes, and he does a fair amount of editing for more detail, typically coming right from the tapes. He then submits a black line version to the Clerk, who makes it available to the public. The other Committee members also give comments but Deputy Mayor Wolfe's tend to be more significant in terms of volume, so he does a blackline so people can see the changes. Mrs. Bonette said that some have a single line and some that have a doubleline. The Deputy Mayor said that if there is a line through it, it is a deletion. If there is a line under it, it is an addition. Mrs. Bonette said that this answered her question. The Mayor thought that this was a good process that was working.

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

Deputy Mayor Wolfe wanted to talk about a few things. He has been the subject of a number of attacks over the last several months, and his colleagues as well, regarding their openness, their ethics, trustworthiness, and in his case, for everything except the size of his forehead, and he was told that the size of his forehead will probably become an issue in the next campaign. He wanted to talk about a few incidents because the people who are attacking are doing so to try to deflect attention from some of the issues that this committee is trying to fix. The Deputy Mayor wanted to raise four issues. The first is longer, and he was glad that Mrs. Bonette was here tonight. He said that his charity is Hunterdon Land Trust, and he had an opportunity tonight to get \$1,000 donation to the Trust.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that let's assume that New Jersey enacts a law, and the law says that a Township can impose a new tax on its residents in order to raise money to buy cows, lions, and elephants, those three things only. And there are three conditions to imposing this tax, first, you have to tell the residents which of the three things you are going to use the dollars for, cows, lions, or elephants, it can be any one, two, three of them. Second, you have to get voter approval. Third, once you get voter approval, you can only use the money for the things that the voter approved. So let's assume that East Amwell submits this for a vote and says to the voters, we are going to raise money to buy cows and only cows, no lions, no elephants, only cows. Lions and elephants don't really go in East Amwell, only cows do. We tell the voters that, repeatedly, month after month. Only cows, only cows, only cows. And then the voters approve only cows. Lo and behold, a couple of months later, our Township Committee writes an ordinance that says the money can be spent for cows, lions, and elephants. Something is wrong. The Township Committee told the residents repeatedly only cows. Now they write an ordinance that says cows, lions, and elephants. Normal people don't do that, not if they are trying to be truthful and honest. Then what happens is that the Township Committee starts spending the money shortly after the ordinance to buy lions and elephants, and much more than cows. Then the very members who approved this illegal ordinance sit back over the years and watch the township spend money on lions and elephants and say nothing. Then all these Township Committee members come to you and say that this was an honest mistake and they want you to believe that. They want you to believe that this was an honest mistake. Notwithstanding that they swore up and down only cows only cows only cows, they write an ordinance that says cows, lions, and elephants. And they spend money on cows, lions, and elephants. And they watch people over twenty years spend money on cows, lions, and elephants. And it is an honest mistake? And then you call them out on it, you say guys, there is nothing honest about that. There is nothing honest about that at all. That wasn't a mistake; that was deliberate. And what do these committee members do? They try to do what a lot of people try to do when they are caught doing something wrong, they try to deflect attention. So how do they deflect attention? They start personal attacks on the person who pointed out what they did. When that is not particularly successful because that person doesn't get ruffled, then they start blaming other people. They blame the lawyer for the township except the lawyer steps in and says that he had nothing to do with it. They retract that. They say that it was somebody else on the Township Committee, but that person is dead and can't defend themselves. An easy target, very easy target. They even start attacking residents who didn't even live here at the time that the ordinance was enacted. People who came onto the Township Committee after and spent money on lions and elephants because the ordinance said that they could but they weren't even living in the township when the ordinance was enacted. That is not working very well either so what do they do? They come to you and say, alright but who was harmed by this? Nobody was harmed so you should ignore the fact that we did something wrong. To Deputy Mayor Wolfe, that is like walking into the middle of Time Square with a pistol, firing it in the air, getting arrested, and saying to the Judge, Your Honor, who was hurt by that? Don't throw me in jail, nobody was hurt by that. That is how nonsensical that justification is. Worse yet, there was harm by what they did. Buying lions and elephants did harm the residents. So Mrs. Bonette wants proof that she lied. He said that Ms.

Bonette and Mr. Hamilton, who are both sitting right here, and who were Deputy Mayor and Mayor at the time this transpired, are welcome to tell him how they can tell the public for months repeatedly, verbally and in writing, after committee discussions only cows, no lions and elephants. How do you then sit down and write an ordinance that says cows, lions and elephants. Then immediately after it is passed, start spending the money and sit there for twenty years and watch people continue to spend the money. He asked them to tell him how this was an innocent mistake and not flat out lying to the residents. He said to Mrs. Bonette that she wanted proof, and there was her proof. He said that when she sat down and cogitated on that, she would do one of two things, either do the right thing and live up to her word and write the check for \$1,000 for the Hunterdon Land Trust or more likely come back as she has done in the past with pages of drivel that has nothing to do with the issue he just raised, but rather attack him as an illegal candidate or illegally moving into his house or having too big of a house or having too big of a forehead. He said that it would be one of those. He said that this was his first issue.

The Deputy Mayor said that he had a second issue, and this one actually came to him from a resident and got him very upset. He wanted to give a little background and then show people some pictures. He said that last year when they were considering the budget, the EADA members of the Township Committee, Mr. Wang-Iverson, Mr. Van Horn, and Mr. Sageser, raised taxes 10% and bumped the budget by about \$100,000. Most of the money was supposed to go to fix potholes in the roads, and that is all in the record, potholes, potholes, potholes. He asked each one of them, who said yes, it is going to fix potholes. He then pointed out that the budget was an illegal one, and they all went scurrying off to wherever they go scurrying off. They come back the next day and say, oh no, we didn't mean potholes, we are going to chipseal. So now they fix their illegal budget by chipseal. And what do they do? They rush out and chipseal Van Lieus, and then they brag to the community what a great job they did. The Deputy Mayor read the Mayor's update from the meeting as follows: "The majority of the East Amwell Township Committee voted to increase taxes this year for road maintenance repair in order to protect the town's \$12,000,000 investment on our roads (the Deputy Mayor said that he did not know where the \$12,000,000 came from). We plan to continue this process each year until we have repaired all township roads that are beginning to show deterioration from traffic and most importantly from the action of water getting in the cracks that freeze and thaw throughout the winter resulting in crumbling roads. Chipseal provides an effective moisture barrier for the underlying paving against water intrusion by sealing cracks in the pavement. Several residents along Van Lieus Road have complimented the process and are very pleased that the Township saw the need to repair and invest in their road."

Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that the Mayor (Van Horn) said that several members along Van Lieus Road complimented the process. At the Township Committee meeting, there was only one resident who commented on Van Lieus Road and the chipseal. That resident, the Deputy Mayor said, reading directly from the minutes, "asked if the tar and chipping on Van Lieus Road, was completed. The Mayor said yes. The resident commented that there are some areas that are already showing signs of wear. No repairs were made to the road before tar and chipping and there are bumps and the road is unstable on this high traffic road." The Deputy Mayor said that he then spoke up and agreed with the resident that the tar and chipping does not fix the deviation and even accentuates the problems in addition to the chips making a mess. He said that the EADA colleagues went ahead with the chipseal, spending almost \$50,000. He received pictures from a resident this week, and Kathy and he drove out to look at Van Lieus Road. He wanted to share some pictures, starting by giving them to Mr. Wang-Iverson, saying that this was what the \$50,000 paid for. He said he had a lot of pictures, which he shared with the governing body, saying to go walk Van Lieus Road, and there are cracks everywhere. He said if the Committee wanted, they could pass the pictures around the audience. He said that the Township just blew almost \$50,000 chipsealing a road that should not have been chipsealed and was not ready to chipseal. The Township just wasted almost \$50,000, and this made him furious.

Regarding his third issue, Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that when he got elected to the committee, there were a number of things that he did not understand, one of which was why were they paying \$70,000 a year for an administrator who at most worked 20 hours a week and as best as he could tell, really wasn't doing a great deal, and the work he was doing was work that the Deputy Mayor thought that the Committee should have been doing. Deputy Mayor Wolfe could not figure this out. It wasn't until after the November election that it started to become clear to him. It was a big issue for him because \$70,000 is a huge amount of money for East Amwell, and when he couldn't figure out why it was being spent, it gnawed at him. After they won the election, people started coming to him and saying things that made it very clear to him exactly what Mr. Matheny's role

was. Mr. Matheny did two things, basically he did work that the Township Committee should have been doing but wasn't, because the committee was too lazy to do it. He suggested that if people thought that he was just making the comment off the top, people should go back to the minutes for a month or two after he was elected and look at what Charlie Van Horn thought that his role was and what he was being paid to do. The other reason was that Mr. Matheny in effect served as the Township Committee's bodyguard and gatekeeper. The Deputy Mayor has had many residents come to the committee with problems that they say in the past died with Mr. Matheny. Mr. Matheny was the place where the elephants go to die. People came with concerns and comments and issues that the Township Committee did not want to deal with, so they just died with Mr. Matheny. And a number of people have complimented them since the election on the fact that they can actually speak directly with the Mayor or Deputy Mayor or any of the other people on the committee, and there is no filter and they don't have to go through Mr. Matheny. They come directly to them.

Regarding his fourth and final issue, Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that he wanted to read a statement and he wanted the public to listen very carefully to the statement, which is attached to this set of minutes.

He said that this statement was sent to him by a resident and was not written by him. It basically said that decisions regarding appointments should be made in executive session so not to embarrass people. And that it is okay for the majority of the township committee to set the direction of the committees that they decide to appoint. And that means some good people might not be appointed, and that is okay because that is how democracy works. He said that was what they were doing, and they are being criticized by a whole bunch of people, including people sitting in this room tonight. You do not have an open government; you are not opening this up for discussion. You are making these kinds of appointment decisions behind closed doors. He asked if people know who wrote the statement he read; he said Fred Gardner, one of the Grand Poobahs of the EADA wrote it, saying it could be found in the January 7, 1998, minutes. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that he had the EADA sitting there criticizing them about the way they are making appointments, but yet this is what they do. He said that Mr. Gardner was right, that these kinds of appointments should be made in executive session and not discussing their opinions about candidates in the public that could be potentially uncomfortable for volunteers. He said that Fred was right, but Fred was only right when the EADA was in power. When someone other than the EADA was in power, Fred is all of a sudden wrong, and Deputy Mayor Wolfe found that very disturbing. He asked what the purpose of all of this was. The purpose of all of this is that he was tired of the EADA leveling the baseless attacks. They will be running an open government. When they put ordinances in place, they are not giving a one month window; there will be a two month window. They are putting up for a vote this evening an ordinance to establish the webpage committee. The webpage committee is going to make sure that the residents of this township are informed on a timely basis of anything that is going on in this township that matters so people can weigh in. There won't be anything going on behind closed doors except certain things that need to be done behind closed doors, such as employment issues, privilege advice from the attorney, otherwise everything is being done out in the open. And the notion that somehow they are not doing things out in the open is not going to fly. That is all that the Deputy Mayor had to say. He wanted to get this off his chest.

Mr. Wang-Iverson said that based on his experience on the Township Committee, relative to his comments about the dissolution of the Zoning Board, at least on his term on Township Committee, ordinances about the potential changes in governance of the township have been discussed prior to the introduction language. He said that the unsafe and unfit building ordinance took six to eight months to be finalized and adopted, and the abandoned building ordinance took about five months. He said that the earlier comment that ordinances were introduced on a one month time frame was not the case, and that was his concern, as stated last time. The dissolution of the zoning board was a decision made prior to the meeting. Mr. Wang-Iverson said that you don't introduce an ordinance unless it is more or less final because the language can't be changed after introduction. He explained that the unfit building ordinance went through at least three or four drafts before finalized.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that what Mr. Wang-Iverson was incorrect, and the language of an ordinance introduced can be changed a million times but if changed substantially, it would have to be reintroduced. Mr. Wang-Iverson said that was he was saying exactly. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that was not what he said, saying once it is introduced, it cannot be changed, and it can be

changed. To the extent that someone had comments, they are welcome to make them, and if Mr. Wang-Iverson had comments, they were welcome. He said that when he was in the minority of the Township Committee, he had to fight to get information on anything. He would show up at meetings and get data dumps a few hours before a meeting on key issues that he knew absolutely nothing about. In reading minutes from 1998 and 1999, Andy Reid, God rest his soul, made the same comment that he would get massive data dumps a few hours before a meeting and be expected to vote on it. He said that you guys did everything you could to keep us out of the loop, to keep Kevin and the Deputy Mayor out of the loop. He did not want to hear that you took five or six months and there was all this input; he was not given the opportunity for input and he had to fight for input. He has shown Mr. Wang-Iverson more respect in the last two months than Mr. Wang-Iverson showed him in the entire year. He said that he always turned to Mr. Wang-Iverson in the end of discussions and say, David, do you have anything you would like to add, and that isn't a joke or a formality. He did want to hear what Mr. Wang-Iverson wanted to say. The notion of combining zoning and planning came out of the blue is just nonsense. It did not come out of the blue. Don Reilly talked about this years ago as something to save money. This is something that they have discussed with residents throughout Tim's campaign and his campaign as one of the ways to save money. And to the extent that somebody had a substantive comment on this ordinance that had merit, he had no problem saying okay, we will incorporate that comment and reintroduce the ordinance. He did not need to finalize the ordinance tonight if somebody has a comment. They will take comments on any of their ordinances. That is why the Deputy Mayor wants a two month runway, and he wants to do like he did with the webpage ordinance by giving a detailed recitation like he did last month of what's going on. Tonight they are introducing the ordinance so that people have a month to comment before ordinance is adopted. If there are substantive comments that have merit, they will be incorporated. There is no urgency to get any of the committees done if there is a good reason to hold off doing it. The Deputy Mayor said that for Mr. Wang-Iverson to sit there and say that he did not agree that it was going to save money is not swaying his vote. He said that the Township has already saved significant money, saying look what they had in the budget for the Administrator for these two committees and the Township would be winding up saving money. He was happy to have any suggestions about being open but their whole platform is on openness.

Someone from the audience asked if the Committee was still open to the public. She was told that a motion was made earlier to close to the public, and there would be another session later.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

BLUE LIGHT PERMIT

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RESOLUTION #43-18

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee approves the Mayor's Signature on a Blue Light Permit for Christopher Townes as a member of the Amwell Ringoes Rescue Squad.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Tim Mathews, Mayor

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

RAFFLE LICENSE

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RESOLUTION #44-18

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby support the fund-raising efforts of CentraState Healthcare Foundation, 225 Willow Brook Road, Suite 5, Freehold, NJ;

WHEREAS, the organization has made application to hold a raffle for a drawing on June 11, 2018, at The Ridge at Back Brook, 211 Wertsville Road, Ringoes, NJ 08551;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, that Raffle License number #RL18-01 be approved and processed.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Tim Mathews, Mayor

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearings:

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

As proof of publication, the ordinance was published in the February 15, 2018, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat, and was posted and available to the public since the day after the meeting of introduction.

The meeting was open to public for comments. There being none, motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried to close to the public.

Mayor Mathews read an email of support from a resident, Tamara Lee, as attached to this set of minutes.

Mayor Mathews added that this Saturday four new members of the Planning Board are going for training.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that Don Reilly gave a session at the last Planning Board meeting about the responsibilities being undertaken when the boards combine. The Planning Board attorney will also be preparing a session so that the members will be better able to deal with the zoning board matters to follow through on the suggestion from Ms. Lee. He said that Ms. Lee would have been here tonight but for the reasons articulated earlier, Ms. Lee has not had a good week. Mayor Mathews said that so many of us have not had a good week.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe made a motion to adopt Ordinance 18-02, seconded by Mr. Miller.

Mr. Wang-Iverson said that he would like to state his objections, saying that he had a lot of respect for Tamara Lee and Don Reilly, but he thought that it was unfortunate that they were eliminating the seven volunteer positions. He believed that the previous arrangement was successful, and both the Planning and Zoning Boards were able to fulfill their functions successfully. He said that it was true that they could save costs in terms of the administrator and secretary and that it could be done without as many hours, but he was skeptical about efficiency gains because there is no real overlap between the function or membership of the two boards.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that the notion that there was no overlap was just wrong, and everything that you read says that there is significant overlap. He read both statutes several times, and he cannot figure out where the line is between planning and zoning, and he has been practicing for 30 years. There definitely is overlap, and articles written about this talk about overlap. If you talk to people like Don, he talks about the overlap, so the notion that there is no overlap is wrong. Regarding the notion that seven volunteers are being eliminated, an ordinance is being introduced tonight to create the website and resident communication committee will create seven volunteer

positions. And if they do what he wants to do with the Recreation Committee and ultimately roll in Clawson Park and certain other responsibilities, additional volunteer opportunities are being created. They already created two, taking membership from seven to nine, and creating two more. Then if they set up the Ringoes Village Committee, coming to the Committee in the not too distant future, they will be creating more volunteer positions. The Ringoes Historic Village Committee will also be an important committee so there will be a lot of important volunteer positions created, so the notion that they are eliminating seven and leaving people homeless is wrong. If you look at statistics for the zoning board of adjustment, in the last three years, one year they cancelled six meetings, one year they cancelled five, and one year they cancelled three. Lots of meetings were cancelled. His own view was that it was just a place where the EADA could put its friends so that they would have something to do, and for the most part, that is what they do. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that they are eliminating that and reducing costs.

Roll call vote was taken: Mr. Wang-Iverson, no; Mr. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Ostrander, yes; Mr. Miller, yes, Mr. Mathews, yes.

The adoption notice will be published in the March 15, 2018, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat.

Introduction of Ordinances:

ORDINANCE 18-03

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ORDINANCE 18-03 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 75, FEES, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL, SPECIFICALLY SECTION 75.1, EVENT FEES AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES TO INCREASE THE COST FOR SUMMER PLAYGROUND

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby amend the Code of the Township of East Amwell, Chapter 75, Fees, as follows:

Section 75.1, Event fees and miscellaneous fees.

B. Miscellaneous fees shall be as follows:

(7) 7) Fees for summer playground:

Change (a) to now read: Participation fee per attendee for the four-week program: **\$75** if paid by June 15; **\$80** if paid after June 15. Once the fee is paid, there will be no refunds for days missed.

This ordinance will take effect immediately upon publication by law.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Tim Mathews, Mayor

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

Introduced: March 8, 2018

Adopted:

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Mayor Mathews explained that the ordinance is being introduced to allow for a nominal fee increase to cover salaries for the summer playground counselors who have not had a salary increase since the inception of the playground, around six or seven years. He said that it is a successful program, and it is a reasonable cost for four weeks of essentially childcare and fun. The increase the program fee to \$75 if paid by June 15, and \$80 if paid after that date.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously to introduce this ordinance. The ordinance will be published in the March 15, 2018, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the public hearing will be at the April 12, 2018, Township Committee at 7:30 p.m.

ORDINANCE 18-04

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**TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE #18-04**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING
A WEBPAGE AND RESIDENT COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell believes that an important characteristic of a fair and open government is the timely communication to its residents of information regarding significant actions taken or proposed to be taken by the Township Committee or other Township boards or committees;

WHEREAS, the Township Committee also believes, where practical to do so, the Township should communicate to its residents, through its webpage, social media, email and texting, “real-time” information during and/or regarding (i) Township-wide disasters, such as Superstorm Sandy, (ii) other emergency events in or near the Township, such as significant, prolonged power or cable outages, (iii) Township road closures and (iv) similar events; and

WHEREAS, to improve the Township’s performance with respect to the foregoing objectives, the Township Committee desires to form a Webpage and Resident Communication Committee, as set forth in this ordinance.

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

Section 1. The following is hereby added to Chapter 28 of the Code of the Township of East Amwell:

Chapter 28: Website and Resident Communication Committee.

§ 28-1 **Establishment.** There is hereby established in the Township of East Amwell a Website and Resident Communication Committee.

§ 28-2 **Members.** The Website and Resident Communication Committee will consist of the following members, each of whom will be appointed by the Mayor:

- A. Seven regular members, each of whom will be a voting member.
- B. Up to three youth members, who must be between 12-18 years old at the time of their appointment, each of whom will be a non-voting member.

§ 28-3 **Composition of Members; Terms.**

A. Class A Member. One regular member will be designated a “Class A Member.” The Class A Member must be a member of the Township Committee, and may be the Mayor. The Class A Member will serve at the pleasure of the Mayor for a term ending on the earlier of one year, or the date upon which such person is no longer a member of the Township Committee.

B. Class B Members. The remaining six regular members will be designated as “Class B Members.” Each Class B Member must be a resident of East Amwell Township, except that up to two (2) Class B Members may be non-residents of East Amwell Township who have expertise on webpages and other forms of public communication. A Class B Member cannot be a member of the Township Committee, but may be a member of any other committee(s) or board(s) of the Township and may be an employee of the Township. The term of each Class B Member will be three (3) years, except that (i) the term of a Class B Member who was a resident of the Township

when appointed as a Class B Member will end on earlier of three years or the date such person is no longer a resident of the Township, and (ii) the term of a Township employee that is a Class B Member will end on the earlier of three years or the date such person is no longer employed by the Township. The terms of the Class B Members first appointed pursuant to this § 28-3 will be between one and three years, so that there are no more than two openings each year during the first two years (i.e., two Class B Members will have a one (1) year term, two Class B Members will have two (2) year terms, and three Class B Members will have three (3) year terms).

C. Youth Members. Each youth member must be a resident of East Amwell Township. The term of each youth member will be one (1) year.

D. Vacancies. If a vacancy occurs with respect to any member other than by expiration of that member's term, the vacancy will be filled by an appointment for the balance of that member's term.

§ 28-4 **Leadership.** At each annual reorganization meeting of the Website and Resident Communication Committee, the regular members of the Committee will elect, by a majority vote, a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson. There will be no limit on the number of times, consecutively or nonconsecutively, that a person may serve as Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson.

§ 28-5 **Meetings.** The Website and Resident Communication Committee will hold public meetings on a regular basis.

§ 28-6 **Quorum.** A majority of the regular members will constitute a quorum. Approval of any matter will require the affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum.

§ 28-7 **Removal.** The Mayor will have the right, in the Mayor's sole discretion, to remove any regular member or youth member. It is expected that each regular member will regularly attend the meetings of the Website and Resident Communication Committee. Unexcused absence from three or more of the regularly scheduled meetings in any calendar year will be grounds for removal and replacement by the Mayor.

§ 28-8 **Budget.** Each year, the Website and Resident Communication Committee will prepare an annual budget, and will submit that budget to the Township Committee for its approval. Approval of any such budget will be in the sole discretion of the Township Committee.

§ 28-9 **Compensation.** No member of the Website and Resident Communication Committee will receive any compensation for serving on the Committee.

§ 28-10 **Liaisons.** Each committee and board in the Township will have a liaison to the Website and Resident Communication Committee. Those liaisons will be responsible for providing updates with respect to their respective committees/boards to the Website and Resident Communication Committee for inclusion on the Township's webpage.

§ 28-11 **Duties.** The duties of the Website and Resident Communication Committee will be as follows:

A. To manage and oversee the operation and maintenance of the Township's webpage, with the goal of making the Township's webpage informative and user-friendly.

B. If the Township decides to have a Facebook page or other form of social media, to manage and oversee the operation and maintenance of that page or other form of social media.

C. To facilitate – through the Township's webpage, social media, email and texting – efficient, user-friendly and cost-effective communication to the residents of East Amwell of the following:

(1) Information regarding significant actions taken or proposed to be taken by the Township Committee or other Township boards or committees.

(2) Non-partisan community events.

(3) “Real-time” information during and/or regarding (i) Township-wide disasters, such as Superstorm Sandy, (ii) other emergency events in or near the Township, such as significant, prolonged power or cable outages, (iii) Township road closures and (iv) similar events.

§ 28-12 **Oversight.** The Website and Resident Communication Committee will report directly to the Township Committee.

Section 2. 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.

Section 3. 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: March 8, 2018

Adopted:

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Mayor Mathews was excited about the formation of the committee, adding that in this day and age of technology, there was so much more that could be done to inform residents about what’s happening and venues, and we are not using the latest technologies with the old webpage and technology. This committee will be charged with essentially getting real time information to the residents as fast as possible through social media and technology along with how to videotape and display these meetings more appropriately. He felt that it was an exciting ordinance and complimented Mr. Wolfe for taking the lead.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe wanted to compliment Alison Castellano, who did far more work than he did. He was greatly enthusiastic about it and thinks it will be terrific when it is done. He said that you really pick up on this when you think about what has happened over the last two weeks with the storms, there is no way to get real time information out to the residents and is a high priority. There were one or two critical emails about the webpage, and residents are not happy about how information about what is going on during the storms is getting out there. Hopefully, soon, a more efficient system to get information to people will be in place, and not just by the webpage but through texting and other forms of social media to sign up and get real time updates. The Mayor has been on the phone literally five or six times a day with JCP&L with no way to get information out to the residents on a real time basis. When the new webpage committee is up and running, a system will be set up, even if money has to be spent to do it, to get information out to people about power outages, downed wires, what they have heard from JCP&L specifically and real time. They really have high expectations and believe that it will be a really good thing. He complimented Alison Castellano, saying that she has been doing a huge amount of work on this.

Mayor Mathews spoke about a real time example, saying that he received a text at 3:45 p.m. today from DPW Superintendent Jason Silverthorn, who notified him that there were four roads closed: Rocktown, Zion, Lindbergh, and another, perhaps Ridge. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that there were five roads closed. The Mayor’s first thought was to tell everyone, tell all the people who live on those roads, but how does he do this. There is not an easy way to do this with the Township’s technology. Technology does exist today from a smart phone to push a button and get information. He is excited about the speed to communicate because a lot of things are timely.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked about a section of the ordinance regarding duties to manage and oversee and maintenance of the Township’s webpage, i.e., will the Township be building and operating their own webpage and would there be their own server, or were they still going to use a service, such as City Connections, to run it. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that the webpage right now was about at the same level of a Wang computer. If you had a Wang computer and wanted to move your information to a modern system, you cannot do it. You have to throw the Wang out and build a new one. He understood that they were going to building a new webpage. Mr. Wang-Iverson asked who would be doing this. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that right now there is a resident with a skillset who will work with them. He did not know if the Township would stay with City Connections and may shift to someone else, saying that City Connections technology is outdated. At the next open to the public, Ms. Castellano can give more information; he was giving laymen’s terms. The Deputy Mayor said that he sat in on some of the calls, and their technology is outdated, and they want modern technology. They also do not want to spend a lot of money. They have seen proposals for \$30,000, which they will not spend, and they are planning on doing most of the work themselves. In terms of updating the webpage, Alison Castellano is looking into technology that will give people different forms of clearance, e.g., technology people will have technology clearance, the Mayor would have clearance to go in and in real time give updates from JCP&L, different security clearances to different people, each township committee will have a liaison responsible for keeping that committee’s webpage updated, not necessarily the mechanical work but feeding the information because some of their pages are outdated. The Deputy Mayor said that this is a work in progress, but basically they want the best technology and they want to do as much work themselves for the cheapest cost.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked about the actual operation of the website, would this be done by a contractor, even if it was not City Connections. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said yes, but this would be done on a cost effective basis. He said that he was not being critical of City Connections, but he said that they were paying a lot more than what they are getting, paying roughly \$4200 a year and can get a lot more for less.

Mr. Wang-Iverson thought that the Mayor’s updates during the storm were pretty good and came out pretty fast. Mayor Mathews said that the numbers and data provided by JCP&L had no veracity and he wondered at times what he was really updating. Every time he spoke with JCP&L and looked at their site, it was changing with different numbers of power outages at different times. As an aside, the Mayor said that there would be a meeting with JCP&L, when the storm settles, and have an open hearing on that topic, so all the residents can ask them questions, adding that they have a lot to explain, based on his experience. He said that he did participate in every Mayor’s call since the storms started, participating in JCP&L and PSE&G calls, having two contacts at JCP&L, making calls and getting updates and hearing from people that nothing is happening. Mayor Mathews felt that the committee owed it to the residents to see what they could do, e.g., have residents post pictures on a particular road to show conditions. Mr. Wang-Iverson said that this did actually happen on the Facebook page, before he lost power, adding that he posted weather reports. Residents did comment on the Facebook page that wires were down on Woodsville Road, which was posted before Mr. Wang-Iverson lost service at his home. Mayor Mathews commented on a resident’s call about a tree down on Welisewitz Road, and when the Mayor called the DPW Superintendent, within two hours, the tree was gone. He said that if the Township is aware, they can take care of things themselves, but they need to improve the velocity of communication.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried to introduce Ordinance 18-04. The motion was carried unanimously.

The ordinance will be published in the March 15, 2018, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the public hearing will be at the April 12, 2018, Township Committee at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Mathews encouraged everyone who has interest to come to the meeting, provide feedback, and get on the committee, once it is established because they want to make this the go-to place for information.

ORDINANCE 18-05

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ORDINANCE 18-05 AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2017 SALARY AND WAGE ORDINANCE

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

The 2017 Salary and Wage Ordinance shall be amended as follows:

Salaried:

REMOVE Board of Health Secretary	\$14,500 - \$15,500
Add Board of Health Secretary	\$12,000 - \$14,000
Recycling Coordinator	\$ 2,700 - \$2,900
Recreation Committee Secretary	\$ 2,700 - \$2,900
Planning Board/Board of Adjustment Administrator	\$15,000 - \$17,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this ordinance shall become effective upon publication, according to law.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Tim Mathews, Mayor

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

Introduced: March 8, 2018

Adopted:

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Mayor Mathews explained when five positions were posted, about eleven responses were received and two more came in later. They identified three candidates who were interviewed by the liaisons and chairs of the committees, Planning Board, Recycling, Recreation, and Board of Health. After listening to the candidates and their requirements, they were able to package them into two positions as a cost effective method and budget saver than what was paid previously in these roles, and they are bringing on board two experienced people who are excited to participate.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked about the hours for the positions; Mayor Mathews said one came in at 64 hours a month as a blend for three positions and the other came in at 60 hours a month for the other. All have in-office regularly scheduled hours for residents and time for monthly meetings. The chairs provided a sense of time, and their requirements are being met as well as meeting the requirements of the candidates. Mr. Wang-Iverson asked if the positions would now be salary and would any be hourly. Mayor Mathews said that they are coming up with a blended salary, paid a salary for a number of hours for the committees.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that they sat down with chairs to figure out the hours needed and took an hourly rate and came up with a salary. Mr. Wang-Iverson thought that converting to salary was good.

Mr. Miller asked if there were new job descriptions with the newly merged positions. Mayor Mathews thought that this would be a good thing to do.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe suggested keeping them separate in case the position is ever vacated and there are three openings again. He commented on getting a very well qualified candidate who was willing to take all three positions. If two people fill four slots, there is more consistency, and it worked out really well. He added that the recreation job will be evolving over the next few months because the committee will be evolving, and when the ordinance is introduced next month, this will be seen.

Mr. Ostrander said that his only comment, since he and Mr. Miller sat in on the interview for Recycling and Recreation Committees and looked at the job descriptions and checked the hours from previous years, he loved the salary approach, but with substitution, there was a very specific

amount if the secretary couldn't make it and someone filled it. He asked how this would be covered. Mayor Mathews said that he spoke with the Clerk about this, and he would like to change this so that the person who substitutes gets their wage as opposed to stepping down. Some comments were exchanged about this, including not having this happen very often, with Mr. Miller saying that because of attrition, there would be limited people filling in. In the event of something happening, he wondered if there were enough resources to do the job. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that they have not had any of the jobs filled for the last few months, and they were able to cover them. Maria Prendamano, in the audience, said that she has been covering her positions. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that they have been able to cover these months with no one in position.

Mr. Miller said that Terri would step in if there was an absence. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said or Pam. Mayor Mathews said that one of the new staff could step in. Mayor Mathews said that it would be odd to him not to pay them the rate of the job that they are stepping into, adding that if Terri took the role, then she should be paid. The Clerk mentioned providing the Mayor with a copy of the employee manual regarding this.

Mr. Ostrander commented on employees being paid salary for the full year, even if they don't show up. He spoke about observing specific behavior patterns. The Clerk asked for clarification as to where an issue about this would be brought; she was told the liaisons and Board chairs.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked how many full time staff there are in the building; the Clerk enumerated the staff members. On a question about covering the window if the two full time people are out, the Clerk said that they would probably shut the window unless one of the other employees could help out. Mayor Mathews said that the new employees would have 6 hours of office hours a week, whether they overlap or how it best satisfies the residents and rest of the staff. Given the applicants that they had and the way it evolved, he believed that this worked out to be a nice arrangement. Mr. Miller mentioned a significant savings; the Mayor said that this was because of the merger of the two boards, paying one board secretary with the chair's recommendation of hours. Mr. Wang-Iverson said that this employee would only be in the office six hours a week in contrast to the previous employee who was here 30 hours a week, which went to his point that there are not a lot of full time staff during business hours. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that it was a trade off, saying that it is no different for the request for \$70,000 for a new tennis court, saying that he would love to spend \$70,000 for a new tennis court and have a golf course for the residents, but the township doesn't have the money to pay for it. The goal is to try to keep the taxes manageable and there are trade-offs. He said that a fair amount of thought went into how many people was right and whether to go hourly or salary, and this is an experiment. It has advantages and disadvantages, and they would see how it works out. Mr. Ostrander said that it was not set in stone, and they could always revert back. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that it was an experiment, was given a lot of thought, will save the town money, and if it blows up in their face, they say that they are sorry, go back to the drawing board and will try again.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously to introduce Ordinance 18-05.

The ordinance will be published in the March 15, 2018, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the public hearing will be at the April 12, 2018, Township Committee at 7:30 p.m.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS #22-18 AND #23-18

Mayor Mathews said that these were revisions made to the January 2, 2018, resolutions, made by Mr. Wang-Iverson and Mr. Ostrander, and he thought that they did a great job and accepted all their recommendations.

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RESOLUTION #22-18 Rev. 3-8-18

A RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL'S CIVIL RIGHTS POLICY WITH RESPECT TO ALL OFFICIALS, APPOINTEES, EMPLOYEES,

PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS, AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT COME INTO CONTACT WITH MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS.

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Township of East Amwell to treat the public, employees, prospective employees, appointees, volunteers and contractors in a manner consistent with all applicable civil rights laws and regulations including, but not limited to the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 as subsequently amended, the New Jersey Law against Discrimination, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Conscientious Employee Protection Act, and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of East Amwell has determined that certain procedures need to be established to accomplish this policy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of East Amwell that:

Section 1: No official, employee, appointee or volunteer of the Township of East Amwell by whatever title known, or any entity that is in any way a part of the Township of East Amwell shall engage, either directly or indirectly, in any act, including the failure to act, that constitutes discrimination, harassment or a violation of any person's constitutional rights while such official, employee, appointee, volunteer, or entity is engaged in or acting on behalf of the business or using the facilities or property of the Township of East Amwell.

Section 2: The prohibitions and requirements of this resolution shall extend to any person or entity, including but not limited to any volunteer organization or inter-local organization, whether structured as a governmental entity or a private entity; that receives authorization or support in any way from the Township of East Amwell to provide services to the Township of East Amwell.

Section 3: Discrimination, harassment and civil rights shall be defined for purposes of this resolution using the latest definitions contained in the applicable Federal and State laws concerning discrimination, harassment and civil rights.

Section 4: The Mayor or his/her designee(s) shall establish written procedures for any person to report alleged discrimination, harassment and violations of civil rights prohibited by this resolution. Such procedures shall include alternate ways to report a complaint so that the person making the complaint need not communicate with the alleged violator in the event the alleged violator would be the normal contact for such complaints.

Section 5: No person shall retaliate against any person who reports any alleged discrimination, harassment or violation of civil rights, provided however, that any person who reports alleged violations in bad faith shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Section 6: The Mayor or his/her designee(s) shall establish written procedures that require all officials, employees, appointees and volunteers of the Township of East Amwell as well as all other entities subject to this resolution to periodically complete training concerning their duties, responsibilities and rights pursuant to this resolution.

Section 7: The Mayor or his/her designee(s) shall establish a system to monitor compliance and shall report at least annually to the governing body the results of monitoring.

Section 8: At least annually, the Mayor or his/her designee(s) shall cause a summary of this resolution and the procedures established pursuant to this resolution to be publicly communicated within the Township of East Amwell. This communication shall include a statement from the governing body expressing its unequivocal commitment to enforce this resolution. This summary shall also be posted on the Township's website.

Section 9: This resolution shall take effect immediately.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Tim Mathews, Mayor

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

2018 BENEFITS RESOLUTION (May be Amended at future date)

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RESOLUTION # 23-18 Rev. 3-8-18

2018 East Amwell Benefits Schedule

SECTION ONE: Sections ONE, TWO, and THREE pertain only to the Department of Public Works. All Public Works employees shall be paid time and one half per hour for time worked in excess of the regular forty hours per week. Holiday, vacation, and personal leave time shall be considered as time worked for computing overtime.

A sick day will be considered from 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Employees that are on sick leave will not be called to report for work. Employees who are substantially sick, or on medication that may impair their judgment or performance, will not be permitted to work.

SECTION TWO: For working a holiday, all Public Works employees shall be paid regular 8 hours pay, plus 1 ½ times their hourly rate for hours worked. The DPW Superintendent will receive approval from the Mayor prior to authorizing any work on holidays. If the Mayor cannot be reached, the DPW Superintendent will get approval from the Deputy Mayor, or Department of Public Works' Liaison, prior to authorizing this overtime. If none are available, the DPW Superintendent will document in writing his/her attempts to make these notifications and will then have the authority to call in the employees.

SECTION THREE: All full-time Department of Public Works employees will be reimbursed up to \$150 per quarter or part thereof that they work in a calendar year (maximum of \$600.00 per year) for work clothes in addition to their regular salary. The Superintendent of Public Works will pre-approve the type and quantity of work clothes to be purchased and reimbursed. Appropriate receipts must be submitted to the Treasurer for reimbursement.

SECTION FOUR: Employees will receive a mileage allowance at the rate of \$ 0.535 per mile, subject to the submission of a properly approved voucher to the Treasurer. Mileage shall be computed while on official township business and not for commuting back and forth to work. Mileage shall be computed round trip from home to job site or from municipal building to job site - using the lesser distance.

SECTION FIVE: For attendance at special meetings, even if they precede a regular meeting, and attendance at any other meeting other than the regular monthly Township Committee meeting, the municipal clerk shall be granted compensatory time. The Court Administrator is entitled to compensatory time for night court sessions and police call outs outside of normal (8:30AM-3:00PM) working hours.

SECTION SIX: Substitute secretarial services for board and committees shall be compensated at the current pay rate for the employee performing the substitute secretarial services or \$16.00 per hour, whichever is higher.

SECTION SEVEN: Full time for office staff shall be considered 30 hours or more per week, Public Works employees 40 hours, excluding temporary help, and seasonal workers. Overtime is over 40 hours, which will be compensated at a rate of time and one half, subject to approval of the DPW Superintendent for DPW employees or the Mayor for all other employees.

SECTION EIGHT: A) All full time employees referenced in Section Seven will be entitled to apply for full hospitalization coverage.

For the purposes of medical benefits all previously (prior to 2004) qualified employees are grandfathered under the benefits schedule.

B) Employees identified as those in Section Seven and Section Eight shall be entitled to receive short-term disability insurance and participate in the State Dental Plan with the Township paying 50% of the premium cost. Part-time employees meeting the State compensation thresholds for short-term disability will also be enrolled in the short-term disability plan.

SECTION NINE: Hourly employees working an average of 20 hours per week or less, are considered part time, will receive pay for the number of hours normally scheduled for a holiday that falls on their regular work day. Employees that work outside of Township business hours or do not work regularly scheduled days are not entitled to a holiday day.

SECTION TEN: DPW personnel and employees considered full-time shall be entitled up to 5 bereavement days (death of a spouse or partner, child, parent or sibling) and 3 days for grandparents, mother- or father-in-law and sister or brother-in-law with full salary paid. Part-time employees working an average of 20 hours per week will be granted bereavement leave for the hours scheduled during the 5 day or 3 day period based on the above categories, with pay. Bereavement leave will be granted within these guidelines from date of death through the date of the funeral. Extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Mayor. Employees working less than 20 hours per week will be granted the same time off without pay or penalty.

SECTION ELEVEN: An employee’s request for a vacation or “leave of absence” of up to two consecutive calendar weeks will require prior approval by the Mayor, or in the case of DPW employees the DPW Superintendent. Any request for more than two consecutive calendar weeks will require Township Committee approval and must be submitted at least thirty (30) calendar days in advance for consideration. Such requests will be treated on an individual basis, based on the circumstances as they exist for the time requested, such as available personnel coverage.

SECTION TWELVE: A) All full-time employees and regularly scheduled part-time employees working at least six hours a week during business hours are eligible for vacation, sick days and personal days. Annual vacations are based on the calendar year and are determined by number of scheduled work days per week and length of service, and are accrued as follows. For purposes of calculating vacation time for part time employees, 6 hours ordinarily equals one day. Employees with a shorter regular work day will use the hours normally worked in a day to compute this benefit time. Part-time employees who are regularly scheduled and work in-office every workday will use “5” as the number of days worked for vacation, sick and personal purposes within the matrix. Reimbursement for these benefit days will only be for the number of hours regularly scheduled on a workday.

<u>Years Of Service</u>	<u>Days Worked Per Week</u>	<u>Sick Days</u>	<u>Vacation Days</u>	<u>Personal Days</u>
Year 1 Hired Between January 1 st and March 31 st	5	5	8	3
	4	4	6	2½
	3	3	4	2
	2	2	2	1½
	1	1	0	0
Hired Between April 1 st and June 30 th	5	3	6	2
	4	2	4	1 ½
	3	1	2	1
	2	0	0	0
	1	0	0	0
Hired Between July 1 st and September 30 th	5	2	4	2
	4	1	2	1½
	3	0	0	1
	2	0	0	0
	1	0	0	0

Hired Between October 1 st and December 31 st	0	0	0	0
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Years of Service	Days Worked Per Week	Sick Days	Vacation Days	Personal Days
Beginning January 1 st into Second Calendar Year Of Employment 2-5 Years	5	5	10	3
	4	4	8	2 ½
	3	3	6	2
	2	2	4	1 ½
	1	1	2	0
6-10 Years	5	5	13	3
	4	4	10	2 ½
	3	3	8	2
	2	2	5	1 ½
	1	1	3	1
11-17 Years	5	5	15	3
	4	4	12	2 ½
	3	3	9	2
	2	2	7	1 ½
	1	1	5	1
16-20 Years	5	5	18	3
	4	4	15	2 ½
	3	3	11	2
	2	2	9	1 ½
	1	1	7	1
21-25 Years	5	5	20	3
	4	4	18	2½
	3	3	15	2
	2	2	11	1½
	1	1	9	1
25+ Years	5	5	25	3
	4	4	23	2½
	3	3	20	2
	2	2	16	1½
	1	1	14	1

For vacation purposes, the following personnel’s vacation, sick and personal days are based on the average hours as noted:

Tax Assessor	M. Busher	15 Hours
Tax Collector	M. Hyland	24 hours
Assistant Treasurer	C. Santo	12 hours
Zoning Officer	R. McManus	__hours/2 days
Farmland/Open Space Administrator	K. Fullerton	6 hours/2 days
Deputy Court Administrator	P. Williamson	19 hours

B. Employees can carry over a maximum of 5 vacation days until the end of the following calendar year. Vacation days will be lost if not used by that time. The Mayor may grant additional

short time carry over on a case by case basis for exigent circumstances. Personal days cannot be carried over.

C. At the end of the calendar year, sick days not used may be accumulated up to a maximum of 35 days. Any person leaving the employ of East Amwell Township will not be compensated for any accumulated sick days.

D. A part-time employee may not apply for multiple consecutive vacation days for their regularly scheduled hours without the Mayor's approval. Vacation time is defined as a day when you would normally report to work/call in days.

E. Vacation, Sick and Personal time benefits are not grandfathered under the benefits schedule and are subject to revision, either increased or decreased, due to changes in average hours worked per week.

F. The following table is to be used in conjunction with the longevity table currently contained in the employee policy manual for calculating Vacation, Sick and Personal Days as well as for determining the number of scheduled/posted "in office" days and hours for all office staff.

Average Hours Worked Per Week	Equivalent Number Of Days Worked For V/S/P Purposes	Minimum Number Of "In Office" Scheduled/Posted Days	Minimum Number Of "In Office" Scheduled/Posted Hours
6-11	1	1/2	3
12-17	2	1	5
18-23	3	2	10
24-29	4	3	15
30 Or More	5	5	30

SECTION THIRTEEN: To calculate years of service for longevity: If you were hired before June 30th, you receive credit for that year. If you were hired after June 30th, you do not receive credit for that year.

SECTION FOURTEEN: Hourly employees working at home shall document the number of hours and activities in a format provided in the Policy Manual.

SECTION FIFTEEN: All employees will document their working hours accurately as described by Township Policy on timecards provided. Timecards will be forwarded to the payroll clerk and must be in his/her possession prior to Monday of the following week. The Township reserves the right to hold an employee's check until submission of an accurately completed timecard. Timecards submitted after this deadline will be processed during the next payroll cycle for hours worked, including any overtime.

SECTION SIXTEEN: A. Annual input for the official employee evaluation for each in office employee should be submitted to the Mayor or his designee(s) by Supervisors, Township Committee and Board Committee/Commission Chairpersons no later than March 15 of the following year. Employees working for boards/committees that do not work at least 10 in office hours per week will be evaluated by their respective boards no later than January 15 of the following year. These evaluations will be forwarded to the Mayor or his designee(s) BEFORE review with the evaluated employee. This section is under advisement and subject to change in 2018.

B. No requests for salary increases in excess of the normal rate shall be offered unless submitted in signed, written form with specific examples to justify the request. Negative evaluations: If suggested areas are not remediated satisfactorily, all or part of a salary increase may be withheld.

SECTION SEVENTEEN: The following shall be paid holidays for full time, qualified part time, and salaried employees:

New Year’s Day	Monday, January 1, 2018
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 15, 2018
President’s Birthday	Monday, February 19, 2018
Good Friday	Friday, March 30, 2018
Memorial Day	Monday, May 28, 2018
Independence Day	Wednesday, July 4, 2018
Labor Day	Monday, September 3, 2018
Columbus Day	Monday, October 8, 2018
Veteran’s Day	Monday, November 12, 2018
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 22, 2018
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 23, 2018
Christmas Eve	Monday, December 24, 2018
Christmas Day	Tuesday, December 25, 2018
New Year’s Eve	Monday, December 31, 2018
New Year’s Day	Tuesday, January 1, 2019

SECTION EIGHTEEN: This resolution is effective immediately.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Tim Mathews, Mayor

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Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously to approve the revised resolutions.

INTERVIEW OF ADDITIONAL CANDIDATE FOR A COMMITTEE/BOARD

James Edwards was present at this time. Mr. Edwards has a degree from Rutgers in environmental and physical geography and worked for a private mapping company on GIS. He also worked for the Census Bureau, Dept. of Commerce GIS system, and was on loan to Dept. of Defense. He became a horse dentist and has a farm in East Amwell. His background is in environmental science, loves it, loves outdoors, and wants to give back to the community.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe asked this candidate to apply because of his qualifications. Mayor Mathews asked how big a horse’s tooth was; he was told large.

Mr. Ostrander spoke about a big leap becoming an equine dentist from a cartographer, and he spoke about Mr. Edward’s excellent qualifications. He asked about Mr. Edwards’ time availability. Mr Edwards has his own business and is able to assist. He has two children in East Amwell School, but he is available on Monday evenings.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked Mr. Edwards if he knew Doug Schleiffer, who worked in GIS at the NJ DEP and was a former chair of the Environmental Commission. Mr. Edwards said that the name sounded familiar. Mr. Edwards has been following the Environmental Commission through their webpage and thinks that this is a good opportunity to learn, and he looks forward to serving. The Committee thanked Mr. Edwards for volunteering.

Mayor Mathews said that he would be taking action on appointments. He appointed James Edwards as an Environmental Commission member and move Lisa Davis to a regular position on Environmental Commission from an alternate position, as recommended by Mr. Wang-Iverson and the Environmental Commission Chair.

Mayor Mathews also appointed Tim Willey, who was on Board of Adjustment, to fill the new Planning Board alternate 3 position. The Clerk said that there was still an alternate 2 open on the Planning Board. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that was correct from the Environmental Commission,

when they move Lisa Davis, who is currently an alternate on that commission, to a term expiring in 2019, so that will open up an alternate two on Environmental that will need to be filled and an alternate 4 for the combined Planning and Zoning Board.

RESOLUTION FOR QPA

Mayor Mathews reached out to Trenton who sent a list of over 500 QPAs in New Jersey, providing email addresses. He reached out to two towns, who were not interested in shared services because, he believed, it was not a big enough transaction to go through the legal discussion. The Township of Hopewell introduced him to their QPA, who is a certified QPA and a twenty year veteran, doing it full time, and a terrific person that he had the pleasure of speaking with. CFO Pasqua has also spoken with her on the phone, and she is excited about taking on the role for East Amwell. After consulting with the attorney, Mayor Mathews said that she would be appointed as a professional and to pay her a fee for services rendered throughout the year. There is money in the budget for this appointment. The Mayor was looking for a resolution tonight to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a professional services agreement with Nancy Canto, whom he felt was a dynamic woman who asked a lot of questions and was a stickler for detail, which will add value to purchasing decisions. The Mayor said that there was some urgency to move quickly for the Clawson House procurement and guidance needed by the internal staff. Ms. Canto is willing to get started as soon as possible.

The Clerk had prepared a resolution for consideration

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RESOLUTION #45-18

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, that, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:11-1 et. seq, they hereby make the following professional services appointment for the position Qualified Purchasing Agent in the Township of East Amwell, based on the submission of a contract and a New Jersey Business Registration Certification:

Nancy Terranova Canto
86 Elderberry Drive
Levittown, PA 19054
\$6,000 per year, prorated

By Order of the Township Committee,

Tim Mathews, Mayor

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

NEW BUSINESS

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SHARED SERVICES FOR CONSTRUCTION OFFICE

Mr. Wang-Iverson spoke with the Construction Official Secretary Gail Brewi recently, who advised that the four year agreement for the shared service will be expiring in December 2018. She indicated that the Townships can redo the agreement anytime. Mr. Wang-Iverson spoke about the fact that residents are happy with the services that West Amwell provides.

Ms. Brewi also told Mr. Wang-Iverson that she works with the Zoning Officer in West Amwell to collect zoning fees and make sure that applications are complete as a stream-lining process. A possibility of her doing the same work for the East Amwell Zoning Officer was mentioned, with

Mr. Wang-Iverson saying that it would be important to have her here in the building in order to do that.

Mr. Wang-Iverson said that he reviewed the construction agreement, which references the Township Administrator for dispute resolution; he felt that it would make sense to redo the agreement sooner than later. Mayor Mathews also commented on residents being very happy with the services of West Amwell rather than Raritan Township, with West Amwell generating the revenue on permits. He had asked Ms. Brewi for information on revenue to see how lucrative it was for that municipality.

Mr. Wang-Iverson agreed to take the lead on renewal of the agreement with West Amwell, with Mr. Miller commenting on doing it now because of the reference to the Administrator resolving disputes. Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that he had nothing but nice things to say about dealing with West Amwell, who accommodated even same day requests for items, and he was very happy with renewal of the agreement.

Mayor Mathews agreed that Mr. Wang-Iverson should take the lead on the renewal.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

Andrea Bonette, 17 Ridge Road, said that she didn't comment on the ordinance to merge the zoning and planning boards because she hasn't read it yet, but it seemed like a good idea to her. She said that in general, in the future functioning of the board, someone mentioned a user friendly board. She wanted to point out a double edge sword, and as a personal example, she spoke about neighbors who moved in with a lot of dogs. Their builder kept coming to the municipal building, saying that they were going to have a dog shelter, which was prohibited by East Amwell ordinances. She said that she is a dog lover, and while wonderful to have a shelter, it would not have been good for her if she wanted to sell her home.

Mrs. Bonette said that with the new Zoning Officer, she would urge the governing body to have a clear description of his responsibilities, vaguely remembering an issue with this Zoning Officer a while ago when he was asked to look at a piece of property under discussion by the zoning board, and he said that he was not paid enough to do that. Mrs. Bonette encouraged the Township Committee to be clear about the Zoning Officer's responsibilities.

Mrs. Bonette commented on thinking that she had successfully escaped Mr. Wolfe's recital of the past history at the February meeting, but there was a captive audience tonight and it wasn't even on the agenda. She spoke about having our very own ground hog day going on here.

Mrs. Bonette said the reason she asked about the minutes was because she was looking at the underlining on the January 11 draft minutes on page 15, and it was changed to say that Mrs. Bonette said that she would like to sue Deputy Mayor Wolfe, and this was a change that Deputy Mayor Wolfe put into the minutes. Mrs. Bonette said that was not at all what she said, and what she said was submitted in a written document. She went back and listened to the audio to be sure, and she said this: "He has also accused me of being a crook and corrupt as well as a liar. I cannot afford to sue him and his giant law firm for defamation of character. He has a much bigger button than I do so I challenge him to prove his allegation in writing." Mrs. Bonette said that she really never did say that she wanted to sue him, and she wanted to clarify that. She thought that it may be a problem if you allow people to put things in the minutes that don't agree with the audio. She did not think that this was a great system.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe asked for clarification on what his big button is. Mrs. Bonette said it was about Kim Jong Un in Korea and how he had all the nuclear resources, and Donald Trump could explode the hell out of him because he had a bigger button.

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, thanked the governing body for the penny, saying that adding them up is not a lot, but it is in the right direction. She wanted to clarify something in the record. Fifteen years ago, the neighbors on Ridge Road, the Monroes, who have personal dogs and have contributed through their foundation to shelters were never doing a shelter on their

property and were brought into Superior Court, which cost a lot of money and caused distress, to be allowed to continue to keep the animals that they had and have. The bill in 2003 was about \$3,600-3,700 so it depends on the story, and abuses can come in 360 degree circles. There is always an opportunity for things to go wrong and for people to be abused or read to from Black Beauty. Fortunately, there are getting to be more people in the audiences here, and she was not feeling quite so alone, and she appreciated it. The discourse that the committee had among itself, one suggestion that she made was to consider the fact that you have essentially in the office Pam and Terri, people get sick and take vacations, and include in the ordinance the possibility of getting some office help because people come in and have a permitting thing and want files pulled, and that is a burden that people need to get between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. She believed that people appreciated having access to their files. She spoke about the CFO having an assistant who comes in a certain amount of time so there may be ways to spread some of these things but she didn't think it would be a major financial hiccup to have an administrative aid. She also recommended a suggestion box so that people can provide feedback anonymously.

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

The Township Committee took a small break at 9:56 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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RESOLUTION #46-18

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 personnel-hiring and contracts – sale of property; 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

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

Executive session began at 10:01 p.m.

The regular meeting resumed at 10:21 p.m.

APPOINTMENT TO VACANT SECRETARIAL POSITIONS

Mayor Mathews highlighted the appointments being made in the resolution.

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RESOLUTION #47-18

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that the following appointments be made as one year probationary appointments, with an effective start date of March 12, 2018 or thereafter:

Rosemary Georgett - Board of Health Secretary; Recycling Coordinator; Recreation Committee Secretary;

Krista Parsons – Planning Board/Board of Adjustment Administrator

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2017 Salary and Wage Ordinance be amended to provide salary ranges for these employees, and the 2017 Salary and Wage Resolution be amended as follows:

- Remove Maria Andrews Board of Health Salary \$14,500/salary
- Replace with Rosemary Georgett, Board of Health Salary \$12,012/prorated salary

- Remove Maria Prendamano Recycling Coordinator \$15.92/hour
- Replace with Rosemary Georgett, Recycling Coordinator \$2,730/ prorated salary

- Remove Maria Prendamano, Recreation Committee Secretary \$15.92/hour
- Replace with Rosemary Georgett, Recreation Com. Secretary \$2,730/prorated salary

- Remove Maria Andrews Board of Adjustment Administrator \$22.88/hour
- Remove Maria Andrews Planning Board Administrator \$22.88/hour
- Remove Maria Andrews Zoning Board Secretary \$20.12/hour
- Replace with Krista Parsons, Planning/Zoning Board Administrator \$15,600/prorated Salary

By Order of the Township Committee,

Tim Mathews, Mayor

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

CFO Pasqua provided the bills of the evening for 2/22/18 and 3/8/18. (For the record, the bill list from 2/22/18 was tabled until this meeting.)

Motion by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Ostrander to approve the bills of the evening. Mr. Ostrander asked if the CFO could point out anomalies in the bill list when she is here and perhaps give a status on the budget as to actual to see how things were trending, giving a bill for the animal control contract on tonight’s bill list as an example. Mayor Mathews agreed that this would be a good suggestion to ask the CFO to point out new or unique bills. Deputy Mayor Wolfe agreed that the CFO should tell the committee if there are any significant deviations up or down from the budget. Mr. Ostrander said that this puts everyone on notice to be potentially cautious with spending. The Committee agreed that they would like to see reports without creating a lot of busy work for the CFO.

The bills were approved by unanimous vote.

Tax Collector Hyland provided her monthly report and a redemption resolution. Mayor Mathews asked if the Collector would once again come to a meeting to explain how the redemptions work.

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RESOLUTION #48-18

REDEMPTION TAX SALE CERTIFICATE

WHEREAS there has been a redemption made for Tax Sale Certificate #201515, Block 40.02, LOT 12, assessed to Robert D & Marianne Murphy which was sold on October 22nd 2015 to US Bank Cust/Pro Cap 4 LLC and,

WHEREAS the amount of \$69,546.00 has been collected from Marianne Murphy for the redemption of this Tax Sale Certificate #201515,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a check in the amount of \$69,546.00 be prepared and the Mayor, Treasurer and Clerk be authorized to sign this check and that this check be mailed to:

UC Bank Cust /Pro Cap 4 LLC
50 S 16th Street-Suite 2050
Philadelphia PA 19102

By order of the Township Committee,

Tim Mathews, Mayor

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

Municipal Court Clerk Hooven provided her report.

The Clerk said that there was no State Police report this month.

The DPW Report was noted for the record.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Ostrander said that the Recycling Committee discussed taking a quarter of the \$30,000 recycling funds and earmarking it for a new truck. He said that the group was very comfortable with that cap expenditure.

Deputy Mayor Wolfe said that the Treasurer had an update sheet dated March 1.

The Clerk said she spoke with Meredith Hammond from the NJDOT, and the NJDOT is doing work on Route 31 and will look into the light at Route 31 at Route 579 to see if it can be included in their scope of work. The \$50,000 for a light would be the Township's portion if they wanted to see a light put in at the point in the Village of Ringoes, where none currently exists.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Comments by Will Harrison to Township Committee March 8, 2018

Subject: Clawson Park Advisory Committee

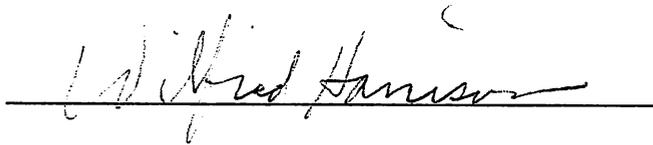
• At the January 2, Reorganization Meeting **[Quote from Terri] Mayor Mathews said that they would be holding off on Clawson Park Advisory Committee appointments, adding that there is an intent to create a group focused on the Village area with items such as the library and Clawson Park, and they will be deferring action at this time. The 319H Grant ad hoc will continue with the members noted.**

- This means that the former Clawson Park Advisory Committee had been summarily dismissed without consulting with or advising the Chairman or any other volunteers in advance.
- The announced intent of combining the activities of the Clawson Park Committee into a future Village Committee may have merit. Or maybe not! I do not wish to discuss the relative merits of such a plan tonight; only the way this decision was handled.
- We all laud the contributions of the many volunteers helping East Amwell to be the fine place to live that we all enjoy. However the volunteers appreciate the feeling of being respected by the citizens we serve as well as the Township Committee.
- I was hurt by the abrupt decision to cast the Clawson Park Committee into limbo, and I believe that others were hurt, as well. On February 14, I sent an email to the Mayor and Committeeman David Wang-Iverson , who is the listed Clawson Park liaison, (copying several others) expressing my concern and David and Terri replied. I have heard nothing from the Mayor.
- In David's reply he stated that, not only did he have no involvement in the decision, but he knew nothing of it until the announcement made on Jan. 2, the same time as the rest of the public. This revelation disturbs me even more; David seemingly was kept out of the decision process.
- One would hope that this was merely an innocent oversight, an anomaly, not a pattern for future governance here in East Amwell.
- Included in this proposal is to focus on Village issues. I wonder how many Committee members have studied the great amount of work already done in this area, going as far back as 1994 and as recently as 2014. I know David is familiar with this last study, as he spearheaded the effort.
- A positive observation is that while the Township is seeking to fill some staff vacancies, Committee Chairs as well as TC liaisons are invited to participate in the screening process. This helps all involved to feel respected, even, dare I say, important.

Some Suggestions Moving Forward

- First, everyone affected deserves an apology, especially the Former Chair of the Former Clawson Park Advisory Committee.
- Although appointments are the purview of the Mayor, these appointments and dissolution of same should rely on advice and consent of the ENTIRE Township Committee, definitely including the relevant TC liaison. To include committee chairs as well is a plus.
- Regarding future plans for The Village, the Library or Clawson Park, there are many in our town who have experience in these areas and they should be consulted before there is any attempt to move forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wilfred Harrison", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Wilfred Harrison

Tonight's meeting - Joint Board

1 message

Tim Mathews <tmathews@eastamwelltownship.com>

Thu, Mar 8, 2018 at 4:47 PM

To: Tamara Lee <tglee156@gmail.com>

Cc: "Tim Mathews (home)" <tmathews@comcast.net>, Richard Wolfe <rwolfe@eastamwelltownship.com>, "Wolfe, Richard" <Richard.Wolfe@friedfrank.com>, Terri Stahl <tstahl@eastamwelltownship.com>

Thanks. Please stay warm. Hopefully the power will be back soon.

On Thu, Mar 8, 2018 at 4:25 PM, Tamara Lee <tglee156@gmail.com> wrote:

Gentlemen,

I was planning on attending the meeting tonight to lend my voice and support to the plans for a joint land use board. Unfortunately, my driveway has not yet been plowed, it's our 6th days without power and we lost our landline service yesterday. Nonetheless, I wanted to share with you my thoughts, in case they are helpful.

I cannot comment on the performance of the existing PB and ZB since I have only appeared before each a couple of times. I assume they are more than competent. I also cannot comment of the financial aspects of independent boards vs joint boards. I have no experience with the expenses.

However, the State legislature amended the Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) for the first time in 1985 to allow small towns (2,500 people or less) to use joint boards. It was so successful that the MLUL was amended again in 1994 to permit towns with populations up to 10,000 to use joint boards. Finally in 1996 the law was changed to allow all towns to have them and in 1999 the law was changed again to make the process of switching to a joint board even easier.

All of these changes to the state law were reflective of the fact that joint boards work and, in my opinion, they are superior to independent boards for two reasons.

- 1) With the exception of the Class 1 and Class 3 members who must step down from hearing use variances, all other members of a joint board hear all development applications. This means the same group of people are hearing all applications. Therefore, the decisions of a joint board are more consistent than the collective decisions of two separate zoning and planning boards. Consistent decisions leads to better planning.
- 2) Since all development applications should be evaluated relative to the Master Plan, and since the Master Plan is written by the Planning Board, joint boards are in a better position to know the Master Plan than zoning boards are. Therefore, the decisions made by joint boards tend to be more consistent with the Master Plan and that too leads to better planning.

The only towns that should have separate boards, in my opinion, are those that have so many applications that the PB cannot hear them all in a timely manner.

One caution, I have been the planner for a couple towns that have made this transition. It can be tricky. Please give some thought to educating the joint board members appropriately. If the joint board is to include existing PB members, they will need some education on hearing use variances. If you need me, I'm happy to volunteer to assist. Until recently, I taught classes for new and experienced members of planning and zoning boards. I gave it up after more than 20 years of teaching.

Good luck tonight. Sorry I won't be there.



Municipal Offices
1070 Route 202/31
Ringoes, NJ 08551-1051
(908) 782-8536
Fax (908) 782-1967

March 1, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

The East Amwell Township Committee strongly endorses this grant application for the next phase of work on the Clawson House.

The Township acquired Clawson House in 1999, as part of the acquisition of Clawson Park. The restoration of Clawson House by the Township began in 2014, three years after the initial grant was received. Our goal throughout the restoration process has been to maintain the historic integrity of the home.

To date, we've completed the entire exterior of the house, including the windows and siding, and recreated the original front porch and the kitchen addition in the rear of the house. The rear addition will house a 1920's kitchen as well as a handicapped accessible bathroom, with historically accurate features.

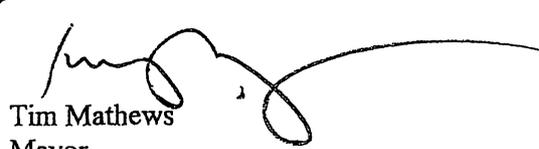
On the interior of the house, the rough plumbing and wiring have been completed, and the walls and ceilings have been sheet rocked. We have started the installation of the trim work, the kitchen cabinets and the tile on certain floors. We have received donations of antique furniture, lighting fixtures and other objects for the house.

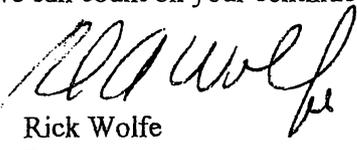
Throughout this process, volunteers – mainly Township residents – have worked tirelessly to help with the restoration of Clawson house, even to the point of assisting with some of the physical labor, such as demolition and landscaping.

We now need funding to complete the interior, including painting, floor sanding and finishing, a security system and display cabinets.

With a continuous funding stream, we are confident that Clawson House can be completed and ready for use within the next 12 months. When finished, Clawson House will be a treasure for East Amwell Township and Hunterdon County. The Clawson House will house our museum, allowing us to proudly display the Township's archival material that is currently stored in the basement of our Municipal Building and serve as a community center for, among other things, lectures on our area's rich history.

On behalf of the East Amwell Township Committee, we hope we can count on your continued support.


Tim Mathews
Mayor
East Amwell Township Committee


Rick Wolfe
Deputy Mayor
East Amwell Township

Fred Gardner

I would now like to make a comment about the committee appointments. East Amwell is fortunate that so many of its citizens are willing to volunteer their time and talents to the process of making our Township government work. This year there were significantly more applicants than there were places to fill and we had to make choices. In the process we balanced a number of considerations. The most important was what we felt the citizen could bring to the work of the committee and the needs of the Township in the way of talents, knowledge and experience, including diversity of viewpoint and opinion. But we also considered how each person was likely to contribute to the direction and agenda that we believe are appropriate for the committee.

I do not believe that there were significant differences of opinion among the members of the Township Committee concerning the talents, knowledge and experience of the applicants, which were in virtually all cases impressive. Where we did differ was in the area of direction and agenda, where considerations of personality and political opinion may be important. These can be sensitive matters on which argument and public debate can be unpleasant for the volunteer applicant whether he or she is in the room or not. For that reason, the majority of the Township Committee voted to continue the traditional practice of holding the final appointment discussions in executive session. The majority also prevailed in determining what the specific appointments would be. That is the way a representative democracy works.

I have a personal story which I believe bears on this point. Nine years ago I ran for Township Committee for the first time and was defeated. At the time, I was serving on the Planning Board and my term expired that year. I was not reappointed - in fact, I was not even asked if I was interested in being reappointed. I felt that I had served well and conscientiously and was somewhat upset. However, I came to realize that my exclusion was totally correct. The new Township Committee wished to determine the direction and agenda of the Planning Board and wanted to make sure that its membership would be responsive. I might have worked constructively toward that end, but that was a risk they could not and should not have taken, given the majority power that the voters had given them.

That does not mean that we expect members of the various committees to march in lockstep. That would be truly unfortunate and everyone would rebel at the suggestion. I am confident that all of you will do and say what you feel is right, and I am delighted that East Amwell has such a capable group of volunteer citizens to look out for its needs.