

East Amwell Township Committee - Minutes
1070 Route 202/31, Ringoes, NJ 08551
DECEMBER 29, 2010 - 7:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:30 PM. Present were Mayor Peter Kneski, Committee Members Patricia Cregar, Larry Tatsch and Timothy Martin. Deputy Mayor Linda Lenox was absent. It was noted that Township Committeeman Elect Timothy Mathews, CFO Jane Luhrs and Township Administrator Timothy Matheny were also present.

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Maria Andrews announced that this is a regularly scheduled meeting, pursuant to the resolution adopted on January 3, 2010, and a meeting notice published in the Hunterdon County Democrat issue of January 7, 2010. 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 December 28, 2010.

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

AGENDA REVIEW

Under Correspondence:

12/29/10 fax from NJLM, re: Disaster management reimbursement for December 2010 snow emergency

Greenways booklet – ask for a copy

Forum journal booklet – ask for a copy

December 2010 PSE&G notification, re: Repair, replacement and maintenance of natural gas distribution mains in public right-of-way: Application for re-issuance of statewide permit

12/10/10 Spectra Energy, re: Request for identified site information

Under Executive Session:

Land Acquisition

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Municipal Offices will be closed on the following days: 12/31/10 and 1/3/11 in celebration of the New Year.

The East Amwell Township Committee will hold its 2011 Annual Reorganization Meeting on Sunday, 1/2/11 at 1:00 PM.

There will be a recycling depot on Saturday, 1/8/11 from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM in the Municipal Building parking lot.

The East Amwell Township Committee encourages all interested residents to volunteer for available positions on boards and committees. Information forms are on the back table and are also available at **HYPERLINK** "<http://www.eastamwelltownship.com>" **www.eastamwelltownship.com**. Emails of interest may also be sent to **HYPERLINK** "<mailto:tstahl@eastamwelltownship.com>" **tstahl@eastamwelltownship.com**.

East Amwell Rabies Clinic will be held one day only on Saturday, 1/22/11 from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at the Municipal Garage.

The Reorganization Meeting dates for all East Amwell Boards/Committees is posted on the bulletin board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 9, 2010: A motion by Patricia Cregar, seconded by Larry Tatsch to approve the Township Committee meeting minutes of 12/9/10 with the following revisions noted was approved with Timothy Martin abstaining:

Page 1, Letter B under announcements – *The second Township Committee meeting in December will be on...* The sentence will be changed to: **A Special Township Committee meeting will be held on...**

Page 4, Paragraph 4 – *Welizewitz Road* will be changed to the correct spelling of **Welisewitz Road.**

Page 10, Paragraph 1 under Special Discussion – *The Township Committee had come to a previous consensus to eliminate grit use and use salt instead.* This sentence will be changed to: **The Township Committee had come to a previous consensus to change from a mix of grit and salt and use only salt for those roads authorized for salt.**

Page 11, Paragraphs 8 and 12 – *Mr. Tatcsh* will be changed to the correct spelling of **Mr. Tatsch.**

Page 12, Paragraph 10 – *Mr. Dippolitto requested re-approval as he is trying to...* The sentence will be changed to: **Mr. Dippolitto requested re-approval of a previously lapsed permit to demolish an existing house and replace it with a new one as he is trying to...**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(For comments from the public for items not on the agenda)

A motion by Timothy Martin, seconded by Larry Tatsch to open to the public was unanimously approved.

Frances Gavigan of 123 Wertsville Road came forward and suggested the Township consider utilizing the County website as a shared service. She noted the County offers webhosting for a fee of \$25 per month. Ms. Gavigan also complimented the Township staff for doing a terrific job during Clerk Stahl's extended absence and included the construction staff at Raritan Township commenting they were professional and courteous when she called to close out some old permits.

A motion by Timothy Martin, seconded by Larry Tatsch to close to the public was unanimously approved.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearings:

ORDINANCE 10-21: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE DUTCH LANE ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$295,000 THEREFORE, INCLUDING A \$160,000 GRANT RECEIVED FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$135,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Ms. Andrews explained this ordinance was introduced on 12/9/10 and published in the 12/16/10 edition of the Hunterdon County Democrat.

Township Administrator Matheny commented the ordinance is to provide capital funding for the overlay of Dutch Lane. He stated the Township must have the grant awarded by July of 2011.

A motion by Larry Tatsch, seconded by Patricia Cregar to open to the public was unanimously approved.

Frances Gavigan of 123 Wertsville Road came forward and asked if the review of the Back Brook Road intersection is included in this ordinance. Mayor Kneski noted that the project covers the evaluation of the intersection. He commented that if the Township bonds, it means the money is in place—not that it has to be spent. Ms. Gavigan asked that updates on the status of this intersection be posted on the Township’s website or put in the VIP Newsletter.

CFO Luhrs commented that even though the Ordinance authorizes the bonding, the money is not borrowed until the project goes out to bid.

Dick Ginman of 125 Mountain Road came forward and commented that if anything is done with the Back Brook Road intersection it should be done only for safety purposes.

A motion by Timothy Martin, seconded by Larry Tatsch to close to the public was unanimously approved.

A motion by Patricia Cregar, seconded by Timothy Martin to adopt Ordinance 10-21 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote: Patricia Cregar: Yes, Timothy Martin: Yes, Mayor Kneski: Yes, Larry Tatsch: Yes.

ORDINANCE 10-22: AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR PURCHASE OF AN UNDERTAILGATE SPREADER AS A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$4,000.00 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Ms. Andrews explained this ordinance was introduced on 12/9/10 and published in the 12/16/10 edition of the Hunterdon County Democrat.

Township Administrator Matheny explained this Ordinance is to replace a failing piece of existing equipment. It will be used to spread grit and salt and may also be used for blacktop projects as well.

A motion by Larry Tatsch, seconded by Patricia Cregar to open to the public was unanimously approved. Seeing no one come forward, a motion by Timothy Martin, seconded by Larry Tatsch to close to the public was unanimously approved.

A motion by Larry Tatsch, seconded by Patricia Cregar to adopt Ordinance 10-22 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote: Larry Tatsch: Yes, Patricia Cregar: Yes, Mayor Kneski: Yes, Timothy Martin: Yes.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION

Fire Company Request for New Ordinances

Ms. Cregar explained she has had a few conversations with Fire Chief Marty Alexander regarding establishing two new ordinances: (1) Lock Boxes for Businesses – Ms. Cregar commented that the Fire Company wants a lock box installed on the premises for all businesses that houses a key to the establishment in the event of a fire allowing for much quicker access. (2) Exotic Animal Designation – Ms. Cregar explained that the Fire Company would like to require property owners in possession of exotic animals such as snakes or monkeys to display notification of such posted on the front door of their home in the event of a fire.

Ms. Cregar remarked that exotic animals were a recent issue at a house fire on Fox Hunt Road. It was noted the property owner was in possession of exotic snakes.

Mayor Kneski remarked that lock boxes are routinely installed at businesses and suggested that a representative from the Fire Company be invited to attend the Township Committee meeting in January to further discuss both of these potential ordinances.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Board

Mayor Kneski commented that it is with regret that the Planning Board received Mr. Kamensky's 12/8/10 letter of resignation. He requested a letter of recognition be done for all of Mr. Kamensky's service to the Township.

A motion by Larry Tatsch, seconded by Patricia Cregar to accept Bela Kamesky's letter of resignation with regret was unanimously approved.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recycling Committee

Mr. Tatsch commented that the Committee needs to establish recycling enforcement for 2011 and suggested an ordinance be implemented. Mr. Martin noted that an ordinance has already been adopted and he clarified that what the Committee needs to do is establish a person who will enforce recycling. Mr. Martin noted the Recycling Committee is currently trying to establish the framework for enforcement to bring forth to the Township Committee for discussion.

Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee

Mayor Kneski noted the following three items: Final financial report for the Paulson/Gutowski property, the phone call from the appraiser at Farm Credit and a resolution to enter into executive session to discuss the Thompson/Cider Mill Road property land acquisition.

With regard to the Paulson/Gutowski financial report, Mr. Ginman noted the Township Committee was provided with a copy of the report for their information.

With regard to the phone call from the appraiser at Farm Credit, Mr. Tatsch explained that the phone call was in reference to Block 18 Lot 24 from an appraiser at Farm Credit noting that there was nothing in the deed stating this parcel could not be further subdivided even though this was a condition of approval in the Resolution of memorialization regarding the subdivision.

Mr. Tatsch suggested that FOSPC research what the normal procedure is for recording these types of deeds. Mr. Ginman commented that the Township's Tax Assessor indicated that it is not unusual for these types of deed restrictions to get lost as deeds get transferred. Mayor Kneski suggested that FOSPC provide an itemized list of the blocks and lots they believe to be effected to Planning Board Administrator Andrews for her to research.

With regard to the Thompson/Cider Mill Road property land acquisition, the Committee went into Executive Session. Mayor Kneski recused himself noting he has a conflict with the matter and requested Mr. Tatsch handle the discussion. Mr. Tatsch noted the discussion should take approximately 10 minutes. The following Resolution was read into the record:

A motion by Timothy Martin, seconded by Patricia Cregar to go into executive session was unanimously approved.

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**East Amwell Township Committee
Resolution Authorizing Closed Session**

Resolution 167-10

WHEREAS, Section VII of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b.(I) et seq.) permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the East Amwell Township Committee as follows:

The public shall be excluded from the Executive Session portion of the meeting in which legal matters will be discussed.

Action may or may not be taken.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the East Amwell Township Committee at a meeting held on December 29, 2010.

Maria Andrews
East Amwell Township

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Mayor Kneski returned to the dais at this time.

It was noted that a meeting will be set up at the Township Municipal Building the first week of January to further discuss the possible land acquisition. The meeting will likely include Mr. Tatsch, Township Administrator Matheny, Mr. Ralick, a FOSPC representative, Attorney Cushing and CFO Luhrs.

Road Department

Mayor Kneski noted the 2011 MSI Training schedule. Township Administrator Matheny explained that training programs are routinely offered through the Township insurance group that are often far away and difficult for East Amwell DPW workers to attend. He remarked that DPW Supervisor Kadezabek researched whether or not East Amwell could sponsor any of the training. It was noted that the Township will be sponsoring approximately 3 training sessions. The training is open to any municipality that wishes to attend and is at no cost to East Amwell.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Township Administrator's Update

Mr. Matheny noted that the job posting for the BOH/Deputy Clerk position is still up. The deadline for applications is 1/7/11 at which time interviews will be conducted.

With regard to the Raritan Township shared services contract for police coverage Mr. Matheny noted that Raritan passed a resolution to continue the shared services. He noted that the contract will be the same as the 2010 contract. He added that the coverage costs the Township \$10,000 and \$13,000 in revenue was generated from the 500 summons that were issued so the service is not costing East Amwell any additional money.

A motion by Larry Tatsch, seconded by Patricia Cregar to approve Resolution 162-10 was unanimously approved.

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RESOLUTION 162-10

WHEREAS, the Township of East Amwell and the Township of Raritan entered into a Shared Police Services Agreement; and

WHEREAS, that Agreement expires on December 31, 2010; and

WHEREAS, both Townships desire to extend that Agreement upon the same terms and conditions for one (1) year until December 31, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Township Attorney of the Township of Raritan was directed to prepare a First Amendment to the Agreement extending the Agreement for one (1) year on the same terms and conditions until December 31, 2011.

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

The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign a First Amendment to the Shared Police Services Agreement with the Township of Raritan for one (1) year until December 31, 2011, under the same conditions as the prior year agreement.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

By Order of the Township Committee,
Peter Kneski, Mayor Attest

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With regard to possible shared services for solar energy with East Amwell School, Mr. Matheny explained that he was contacted by Ed Stoloski, the Superintendent of East Amwell School. He noted that the school has been researching solar energy options and they are looking to have solar put in place that would provide revenue. Mr. Matheny indicated the Township has provided copies of their energy bills for reference. He said if the project is proposed, the Township would be able to piggy-back on the school's project and get electric at a considerably reduced rate. Mr. Matheny commented that there would be no solar panels at the municipal building grounds and the project would be at no cost to East Amwell. He noted that it appears the project is viable, then the Township may be asked to help with some engineering costs, but East Amwell is under no obligation at this point.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft 2011 Reorganization Minutes

Mayor Kneski noted that comments regarding the Township Committee reorganization meeting need to be received by the Clerk's Office by 12/30/10.

Raffle License Application from East Amwell School PTO to be Held on 5/27/11 at 3:00 PM

A motion by Patricia Cregar, seconded by Larry Tatsch to approve the raffle license was unanimously approved.

Mayor Kneski took a moment to recognize Committee Member Timothy Martin. He commented that this is his last meeting as a Township Committee Member and thanked him for all of his dedication and service over the past three years. Mr. Tatsch echoed the sentiment adding that he has always appreciated Mr. Martin's insight.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A motion by Timothy Martin, seconded by Larry Tatsch to open to the public was unanimously approved.

Andrea Bonette of 17 Ridge Road came forward and asked for a status update on the Meszaros property. Mr. Tatsch indicated the remediation investigation is on-going and commented that he hopes a remediation plan is in place by the end of 2011.

Guy Grignon of 77 Wertsville Road came forward and expressed his opposition to the Township entering into another shared services contract with Raritan Township for police coverage. He commented that he believes the police are unprofessional and remarked that they give people tickets for ridiculous things specifically noting that his daughter was given a ticket 3 times for "obstruction of view" due to a crucifix hanging from her rear view mirror. Mr. Grignon commented that the people of this community don't want Raritan Township providing police services here because East Amwell does not have a crime problem.

Mayor Kneski noted one of the primary reasons for additional traffic coverage is for safety due to residents complaining over speeding in the Township. Mr. Tatsch commented that Raritan Police coverage is saving about \$3000.00 annually because their services are generating revenue. He noted that the speed trailer has documented vehicles doing 62 mph on John Ringo Road and 90 mph on Wertsville Road. Mr. Tatsch indicated that he is not aware of any complaints regarding inappropriate or unprofessional behavior.

Mr. Matthews asked if it was possible to get data on the 500 tickets issued in 2010 regarding what the offense was—speeding vs. other violations. Township Administrator Matheny remarked that Court Administrator Hooven already pulled every ticket once, in order to determine the revenue generated and commented that her system doesn't provide for searches of this type of information. Mr. Mathews suggested the Township consider requesting detailed reports on the tickets issued in 2011.

Frances Gavigan of 123 Wertsville Road came forward and commented that perhaps Court Administrator Hooven can create a spreadsheet to keep track of the ticket data/offenses. She also commented that she would like to know if Raritan Police are issuing tickets in other areas of the

Township besides just the stretch between the Carousel Deli and Frank's Pizzeria.

Mr. Tatsch remarked that he has seen Raritan Police on Van Lieus Road. Mr. Martin cautioned the Committee about asking for too much detail from Raritan, noting that the Township may lose the contract. Mr. Matheny added that Raritan is only in East Amwell 4 hours per week.

A motion by Timothy Martin, seconded by Patricia Cregar to close to the public was unanimously approved.

Administrative Reports

Treasurer Luhrs

Ms. Andrews read the following resolutions into the record for approval:

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RESOLUTION 163 - 10 December 29, 2010

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 4 0A:4-58 permits appropriation transfers during the last two months of the current fiscal year between line items of the municipal budget, and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that certain line items are in excess of the sums needed and certain line items have insufficient funds to complete the operation of the fiscal year,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the following sums be transferred as follows:

	From	To
Financial Administration:		
Other expenses	\$ 50.00	
Revenue Administration		
Salaries & wages	\$ 130.00	
Road Repair & Maintenance:		
Other expenses	\$ 5,000.00	
Tax Assessment Administration:		
Salaries & wages		\$ 180.00
Road Repair & Maintenance:		
Salaries & wages		\$ 5,000.00
 Total:	 \$ 5,180.00	 \$ 5,180.00

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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RESOLUTION 164 -10 December 29. 2010 WHEREAS, the following Current Fund budget appropriation balances remain unexpended:

General Government Salaries & Wages	4,000.00
General Government: Other Expenses	6,000.00
Municipal Clerk: Salaries & Wages	1,549.00
Municipal Clerk: Other Expenses	250.00
Financial Administration: Salaries & Wages	300.00
Revenue Administration: Salaries & Wages	81.00
Revenue Administration: Other expenses	275.00
Engineering Services: Other expenses	3,000.00
Historic Sites Committee: Salaries & wages	100.00
Historic Sites Committee: Other expenses	
Agricultural Advisory Commission: Salaries & Wages	400.00
Agricultural Advisory Commission: Other expenses	68.00
Planning Board: Other expenses	2,500.00
Zoning Board of Adjustment: Salaries & wages	500.00
Zoning Board of Adjustment: Other expenses	3,000.00
Affordable Housing Agency: Salaries & Wages	3,500.00
Affordable Housing Agency: Other expenses	1,500.00
Uniform Construction Codes: Salaries & Wages	22.00
Uniform Construction Codes: Other Expenses	636.00
Liability Insurance	185.00
Office of Emergency Management: Other expenses	1,000.00
Solid Waste Collection: Salaries & wages	300.00
Solid Waste Collection: Other expenses	750.00
Buildings & Grounds: Other expenses	3,700.00
Vehicle Maintenance: Other expenses	750.00
Public Health Services: Salaries & wages	800.00
Public Health Services: Other expenses	8,200.00
Environmental Commission: Salaries & wages	500.00
Environmental Commission: Other expenses	160.00
Administration of Public Assistance: Salaries & wages	2.00
Administration of Public Assistance: Other expenses	250.00
Stormwater Permit-Public Health: Other expenses	470.00
Recreation Services & Programs: Other expenses	750.00
Electricity: Other expenses	4,000.00
Telephone: Other expenses	497.00
Recycling Enhancement Act: Other expenses	49.00
Social Security: Other expenses	400.00
Defined Contribution Retirement Program: Other Expenses	100.00
Matching Funds for Grants: Other expenses	50.00
Municipal Court: Other expenses	1,200.00
Public Defender: Salaries & wages	522.00
Bond Interest	0.50
Green Trust Loan	0.03
TOTAL	52,316.53

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances so that the unexpended balances may be credited to Surplus;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, State of New Jersey, that the above listed unexpended balances of the Current Fund be canceled.

By Order of the Township Committee

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION 165 - 10
December 29,2010**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell acknowledges the need to continue to fund preliminary professional expenses to determine the scope, the cost and funding sources for future road projects for the Township of East Amwell;

NOW, THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, that an additional sum of \$5,000.00 shall be appropriated from the Capital Improvement Fund to the Reserve for Preliminary Expenses for Future Road Projects.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION 166 -10
December 29, 2010**

WHEREAS, certain small balances remain on the following escrow accounts on the balance sheet of the Township of East Amwell;

WHEREAS, it has been determined that these balances are no longer necessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the following escrow balances be canceled to surplus::

Name	Escrow Account	Amount Canceled
Furst	7200036949	\$ 3.42
Verizon	7200037025	\$ 2.26
Asplundh	7760781893	\$.94

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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RESOLUTION 157 -10

WHEREAS N.J.S.A.40A:5-17.1 allows for amounts of \$5.00 or less of overpaid taxes to be canceled, and

WHEREAS the following amounts have been overpaid for 2010 taxes, and

WHEREAS it is the desire of the Tax Collector to clear these small overpayments before the New Year,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following credit amounts be canceled and applied to Surplus.

Block	Lot
2	2.01
6	21.01
8	5.05
16.01	33.01
17	25.01
18	8
23	4.18
27	73
30	33.01
33	12.01
33	16
34	21.05
38	19
40.02	9
41	44.02
Total: 2.35	
Amount	
.01	
.16	
.01	
q0052	.46
	.03 .20 .01 .01 .26 .10 .01 .06 1.01 .01 .01

By Order of the Township Committee

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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A motion by Patricia Cregar, seconded by Timothy Martin to approve Resolutions 163-10, 164-10, 165-10, 166-10 and 157-10 was unanimously approved.

A motion by Timothy Martin, seconded by Larry Tatsch to approve the bills for payment as listed on the 12/29/10 bill list was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Tatsch commented on the request from the League of Municipalities for a resolution calling for State Legislature and the Governor to exempt the reserve for uncollected taxes from the 2% cap. He remarked that it is certainly in the Township’s favor to support this.

A motion by Larry Tatsch, seconded by Patricia Cregar to approve a resolution to support exempting the reserve for uncollected taxes from the 2% cap was unanimously approved.

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**East Amwell Township
Resolution # 168 - 10**

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE
GOVERNOR TO EXEMPT THE RESERVE FOR UNCOLLECTED TAXES
FROM THE 2% CAP**

WHEREAS, on July 13,2010, Governor Christie signed into law P.L. 2010, c. 44, which reduced the cap on the property tax levy from 4% to 2% and limited the number of exemptions; and

WHEREAS, when the property tax levy was reduced, the exemption for the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes was removed; and

WHEREAS, in addition to collecting property taxes for its own operations, the municipality also serves as the collection agent for the county, school districts, fire districts and other special local entities; and

WHEREAS, the municipality must provide those entities with the full amount they deem necessary for their operations, regardless of the actual collection rate; and

WHEREAS, due to myriad factors beyond local control, the actual collection rate never equals the total local levy, especially during an economic downturn, when unemployment soars and property values plummet, causing an increase in tax appeals, which the municipality must defend and which subject the municipal budget to further losses, when successful; and

WHEREAS, to account for the shortfall and potential losses, State law requires the municipality to budget an appropriation in a line item known as the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes, which is generally determined through a formula driven calculation in which the variables change year to year; and

WHEREAS, without a levy cap exemption, municipalities will be forced to further cut their own operations, in order to meet the 2% tax levy cap to provide the county, school districts, fire districts and other special local entities the full amount they deem necessary for their operations; and

WHEREAS, those other local entities, which do not have to budget for collection rate shortfalls or the impact of declining property values, have been granted levy cap exceptions to address factors beyond their control; and

WHEREAS, Assemblymen McKeon and Burzichelli has recently introduced A-3603, which excludes increases in appropriations to the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes in excess of two percent, from calculations of the municipal adjusted tax levy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby urge the swift passage and signing of A-3603;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that consideration also be given to providing a levy cap exception to account for the impact of tax appeals on local operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to New Jersey Governor Christopher Christie, to Senate President Stephen Sweeney, to Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, to our State Senator, to our two Representatives in the General Assembly, and to the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

"This is a true resolution adopted by the East Amwell Township Committee at their meeting on December 29, 2010."

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Mr. Tatsch also commented that he believes it would be a good idea to look into the Freeholder's offer to assist with hosting websites as was mentioned by Ms. Gavigan during public comment. Mr. Tatsch asked that a letter of interest be sent in order to obtain additional information.

Mayor Kneski commented on a letter dated 12/22/10 from Township Attorney Richard Cushing indicating he has decreased his hourly rate by \$5.00 due to their concern with respect to the financial challenges facing many people. Mayor Kneski expressed appreciation for Attorney Cushing's decision.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Timothy Martin, seconded by Patricia Cregar to adjourn was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM.

Submitted by: Maria Andrews