

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mayor C. Larry Tatsch and Committee members Linda Lenox, Peter Kneski, and Tim Mathews. Deputy Mayor Patricia Cregar and Township Administrator Timothy Matheny were absent. Attorney Richard Cushing 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, 2011, and a meeting notice published in the Hunterdon County Democrat issue of January 6, 2011. 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 June 7, 2011.

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

### **AGENDA REVIEW**

Under Township Administrator's Update, the May 2011 Raritan Township Police report was added.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Summer Playground will be held from June 27 through July 29 at the East Amwell Township School. There will be no charge for playground this year.

Municipal Offices will be closed on Monday, July 4, 2011, for Independence Day.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

May 12, 2011 Regular Minutes were approved on a motion by Ms. Lenox, seconded by Mr. Kneski, and carried unanimously with corrections: page 11, paragraph 3, line 2, remove "last night" and line 5, change "He" to "The OEM"; page 11, paragraph 4, line two, change "Aman" to "Amin"; page 11, paragraph 7, first line should read, "Mr. Cushing cautioned about limiting comments that might be construed as being limited because of what is being said."

May 12, 2011 Executive Minutes were approved on a motion by Ms. Lenox, seconded by Mr. Kneski, and carried unanimously.

May 19, 2011 Special Minutes (Public Hearing on Ordinance) were approved on a motion by Ms. Lenox, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried with one abstention, Mr. Kneski.

The Clerk announced a minor Correction on April 14, 2011 Minutes under Discussion on Letter to Hopewell Valley Engineer re: Public Records, i.e., the tape shows that Mr. Matheny was going to work with the Township Attorney on a response (not that Mr. Matheny was going to write the letter).

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

Andrea Bonette, Ridge Road, asked about electrical power loss on three occasions without explanation. She mentioned an electric company liaison she had when she served on the governing body, asking if there is currently one. She asked if there was a way to find out about the outage and about the development of a system to pay for damages during the outage.

Motion by Mr. Kneski, seconded by Ms. Lenox, and it was carried unanimously to close to the public.

Mayor Tatsch called JCP&L as Mayor to find out in detail what occurred. He explained that there are two medium voltage lines (32,000 volts per line) from the substations. JCP&L was maintaining one line and it was de-energized, while it was felt that there was plenty of power to

be supplied by the other line. However, the line heated up and failed during the hot spell. Extra crews were called in to fix the second line, and some customers were asked to modify usage until the line was repaired. Mayor Tatsch stated that he would call the company if more problems occurred, noting that one of the failures included outages from this area to Flemington, including some traffic lights.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES/PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**

#### **SPECIAL DISCUSSIONS**

**QUARTERLY PRESENTATION BY COMCAST REPRESENTATIVES** - Molly Adams, Government Affairs Manager for Northern and Central New Jersey, was present.

Ms. Adams explained that as part of the agreement with Comcast, East Amwell requires a quarterly appearance; she was here on the quarterly visit to answer any questions. Mayor Tatsch quipped about continued Comcast service even when JCP&L service failed. Ms. Adams commented on more stress on electronics in the heat than during the winter.

The Mayor indicated that service is "reasonably good," noting some instances of pixelation. Mr. Mathews commented on power going up and down, particularly when a television is attached to a DVR. Ms. Adams noted better quality with high definition, but more sensitivity to surges.

There were no questions from the public present. Motion by Mr. Kneski, seconded by Ms. Lenox, and it was carried unanimously to close to the public. Ms. Adams was thanked for her appearance tonight.

**PRESENTATION BY MEMBERS OF THE SOURLAND ALLIANCE REGARDING A REQUEST FOR RESOLUTION OF ENDORSEMENT OF THE SOURLAND COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN** Tracy Carluccio and Don Reilly were present.

Ms. Carluccio explained the proposal as follows: the original plan began ten years ago as a Phase I project under East Amwell Township's lead, and Frank Banisch was also planner at that time. The second phase was a separate grant award and included East Amwell, West Amwell, Hillsborough, Montgomery, Hopewell Township, along with Hunterdon, Mercer, and Somerset Counties. The comprehensive Master Plan came after completion of Phase II in 2007, and there was a meeting here in East Amwell - what the public wanted to see in the Sourlands was discussed, along with inter-municipal initiatives to save the mountain, not to over-develop, protect water and forests, keep the land rural, protect fragile resources, and groundwater (which is limited in quantity), and to protect natural assets such as migrating and resident birds, wildlife, amphibians, and an array of diverse species across the mountain.

Ms. Carluccio mentioned protecting the fragile nature of the forest, noting certain ordinances are needed, i.e., good forest protection ordinances, stream corridor ordinances, stormwater protection ordinances, etc. There were some model ordinances presented from some agencies, but she cautioned that the intent was not to adopt as "cookie cutter," but to be used as guidelines to unify regulatory controls. She commented that municipalities "were remarkably the same, more alike than not in terms of zoning, similar lot sizes, land regulations, etc." She mentioned municipalities working together and doing some volunteer work in terms of forest stewardship and educational programs and sharing information to know what to protect - these were the goals of Phase II. The end result of that Phase was the creation of the Sourland Alliance, which East Amwell endorsed by resolution. She mentioned the next step of considering a resolution to endorse the Plan, and a copy of the link to the full report and the summary were previously provided to the governing body.

Mr. Reilly reiterated that the link and summary were provided to the Township Committee, and the Planning Board also reviewed them. The Planning Board unanimously felt that the plan was consistent with the goals and objectives of the Township and the Master Plan. The Sourland Alliance and the Phase II report provided two major thrusts, i.e., regulatory and educational.

Regulatory included identifying resources to share with municipalities on managing and developing the mountain, noting that there was "no one approach, but different, all unique with shared objectives, including shared best practices and fostering education. He concluded that the plan is a good one and enables the Township to look at the region and coordinate with others on protections. Participating municipalities and counties were reiterated.

Mayor Tatsch read the Executive Summary of the Plan, referencing preserving the mountain's resources through regulatory efforts of five townships, including water protection, local land stewardship, collaboration in advancing shared protection goals through the Sourland Alliance, and utilizing "non-regulatory and regulatory strategies and innovative planning opportunities to protect the Region's resources and residents."

The Planning Board has endorsed the Plan and recommended that the Township Committee also endorse. A sample resolution from West Amwell was previously provided to the governing body, but Ms. Carluccio also handed out a specific one for East Amwell at this time.

Mayor Tatsch asked if there were any particular requirements or funding expected of the Township. Mr. Reilly commented that the Township Committee would just be endorsing the plan, and there is no obligation; the plan would be a resource for the Planning Board and used by the Township to educate residents. The Committee was advised that the Plan also includes "great maps."

Mr. Mathews asked to delay the vote for a resolution for one meeting until he had the opportunity to read the full report in detail. Other municipalities have either endorsed at this time, or in one case, an Environmental Commission is still reviewing. The only impact with a one month delay will be that the Alliance will not hit their goal of full endorsement, but there was no other tangible impact.

Mr. Kneski felt that since there was no pressing need to adopt the resolution tonight, he believed that everyone should read the report. Mr. Reilly said that the report "had no surprises...all of it is consistent with the thrust of what we have been doing for 25-30 years." Mayor Tatsch said that he greatly appreciated all volunteer efforts for this work, and he thanked Ms. Carluccio and Mr. Reilly. This item will be on the next agenda for action.

#### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS - None**

#### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION:**

Present during this discussion were Chairwoman Glorianne Robbi, Administrator Judy Conard, and Vice Chairman Dick Ginman.

Mrs. Conard announced that the Township closed on the Zuegner property on Dutch Lane, an 84 acre farm. The acquisition was a cost share with Hunterdon Land Trust and the Duke Foundation. The Township's share was \$205,000, and the Duke Foundation reimbursed the municipality \$75,000 with funding already deposited in East Amwell's bank account. She concluded that at a net cost of \$132,000 for 84 acres, the Township's share was \$1,570 per acre for preservation, which "is good news."

Mrs. Robbi commented on the Cider Mill property preservation project, noting a letter to the Democrat and two press releases from the State of New Jersey and D & R Greenways, mentioning East Amwell's role in this acquisition. The Township used their Green Acres funds, and no tax payer money was used.

1) Scibilia Property, B.11/L.37 and 37.03: (See 6/1 Inter-Office Memo from J. Conard on Subordination Application, Appraisal, and Refund): Mrs. Conard commented on difficulties with mortgaged property and preservation of the lot and getting the \$176,000 reimbursement from the State. A solution was suggested to transfer the security for the mortgage to the non-preserved property, and the property owner would sign the necessary paperwork. Mr. Scibilia

agreed to sign only if the Township reimbursed him \$700, which he paid for a Board of Adjustment variance several years ago to allow Princeton Hydro use the property.

The memo from FOSPC also requested an application fee to Wells Fargo and a partial release fee, both of which should not exceed \$725.00.

Mr. Cushing suggested that some conditions be put on the release, and he spoke at length about the work of FOSPC, particularly Judy Conard, in tenaciously trying to get the reimbursement, including contacting Congressman Holt a few months ago. He mentioned efforts and expenses involved, suggesting that "it makes sense to wrap it up." He suggested that money not be paid (to the property owner) until the Township receives the check from the State. Mayor Tatsch reminded the governing body that the Township loses \$1,000 in interest each year that the state funding is not received.

Mrs. Robbi said that Mrs. Conard spoke with SADC representatives, and they are still holding the funds for East Amwell since they know that the Township has been working diligently on this. She credited Mrs. Conard for her assistance in this matter, noting that SADC took money back in other instances. FOSPC has not yet discussed the reimbursement to Mr. Scibilia although they have discussed the Wells Fargo fees. Mrs. Robbi explained the necessity for the Board of Adjustment to allow a non-agricultural use on the site. Mrs. Conard explained the lot line adjustment, which was also necessary. Mr. Mathews asked if the owner has benefited from rent of the non-agricultural related business, and he was told yes.

Committee members made several comments about the request, and there was a consensus to move ahead.

+++++

**RESOLUTION #86-11**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby approve the expenditure of up to \$725.00 for closing costs for Wells Fargo for Block 11, Lots 37 and 37.03; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee also approves a \$700 adjustment payment to the property owner once the municipality receives its reimbursement check from the State of New Jersey.

By Order of the Township Committee,

\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Larry Tatsch

+++++

Motion by Mr. Kneski, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and it was carried unanimously to approve the expenditure of up to \$725 for closing costs for Wells Fargo and to provide a \$700 adjustment to Mr. Scibilia. Mr. Cushing recommend amending the motion to include that the \$700 adjustment is payable when East Amwell Township receives its check from the State of New Jersey. Mr. Kneski amended his resolution, and Mr. Mathews seconded it. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Robbi spoke about a tax bill mailing insert, which FOSPC is preparing. She explained that each year an annual report is provided to the residents and tax payers, relaying information on what farms closed and includes a map of preserved and conserved land. This year's insert also includes a notation about the NY Times article on East Amwell properties and the NJ Audubon article on grasslands, both of which FOSPC is "very proud of ..., and it takes a committee and an excellent administrator to do it (i.e., preserve)."

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE:



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby go on record as honoring Jane Luhrs upon the completion of almost 27 years of dedicated service to the Township of East Amwell as Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee, on behalf of staff, residents, and professionals, extends to Jane Luhrs all best wishes for a very happy retirement and continued good health to enjoy time with her family; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to her by the Mayor of the Township of East Amwell.

By Order of the Township of East Amwell,

\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Larry Tatsch, Mayor

+++++  
Motion by Mr. Kneski and seconded by Ms. Lenox to approve the resolution. Mayor Tatsch stated that "Jane will be terribly missed; we will replace her with competent staff, but I can't imagine not working with her on budgets. It is a great loss for the Township, but we wish her the best." The motion was carried unanimously.

5) Roadway Mowing: Mayor Tatsch explained that there were delays this year since the boom mower broke down and getting parts for the older model was a difficult task. DPW Superintendent Kadezabek welded the equipment in the interim, and the DPW is keeping up with the mowing.

6) JCP& L Power Outages: See Open to the Public above for the update.

7) Sidewalks in Ringoes Update (See 5/19/11 Email from HC Engineer's Office with Estimated Costs): Mayor Tatsch commented on receiving an estimate from the County Engineer at a cost of just over \$200,000, with a percentage coming from grant funds. The next step is to meet with the County and review the plans with the public to educate them. The County advised the Clerk that they were not able to come to an up-coming Township Committee meeting. Mayor Tatsch will call County Engineer John Glynn to ask again.

8) Solar Power for Municipal Building: Mr. Cushing spoke with Mr. Matheny about this, and the project must go out for bid. The law looks at this as a concession, i.e., a third party using equipment owned by the Township for an economic benefit, and competitive bidding is warranted. Mr. Cushing continued by mentioning problems associated with putting solar panels on municipal roofs, DCA and BPU involvement, including having roofs in good shape, responsible parties and remedies if roofs leak, and DCA and BPU requirements to have engineer designed specs, etc. He also spoke about tax credits driving the market, the possibility of market collapse in the future with a potential of a drop in credit value, and the future financial viability of these projects. Mr. Cushing concluded by presenting an example of another municipality's negotiations with a solar company for their product.

9) Resolution to Appoint a Certifying Officer for P.E.R.S.: This item will be tabled until Mr. Matheny is present.

10) Joint Municipal Court Judge Update: This item will also be tabled until Mr. Matheny is present.

11) Other: Mayor Tatsch wished to update the Township Committee on the recent meeting on the Meszaros property with ERM, the company that is overseeing the investigation on site, to discuss a short term strategy on moving ahead. Mayor Tatsch outlined the history of doing a comprehensive study on site, with a few areas of contamination near the borders of the property. There is \$40,000 left in the \$200,000 state grant for the remedial investigation (RI), and ERM would be able to do the work to see how far the contamination has spread; however, boundary lines must be determined either by a field visit or by having a surveyor find the property lines. The next phase will be to have ERM provide a remedial clean-up plan (RA); the

Township will pay 25% and the state will pay 75%. Informing the property owner and lien holders about conditions is important; once ERM has completed the work, they will be notified. Mayor Tatsch commented on moving forward with the intent of acquiring and cleaning up, although it may be ten years hence. Comments were made about the tire removal grant from the State in the past, and Mayor Tatsch credited then Mayor Andrea Bonette for her initiative in this. Mr. Cushing commented on having liens on the property, which has some environmental concerns; no development on the site is anticipated at this time.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED ZONING OFFICER FEES (See 5/12 and 5/19/11 Minutes for Background Information)

Mayor Tatsch outlined the proposed zoning fees in the ordinance previously introduced but not adopted. Mr. Mathews felt that "the Township was essentially funding work through taxation and now asking tax payers to pay an additional fee." He said that a previous point he made was to not pay a salary to the Zoning Officer but pay by the piece; he felt that charging additional fees to residents making applications was not warranted. Some discussion took place on what would trigger the Zoning Officer fees; Mr. Kneski explained the connection between Construction and Zoning offices. Mayor Tatsch mentioned the thought that fees would cover the salary, similar as required by Construction permits and fees. Caution was also given about tying fees to salary incentives.

Mr. Mathews did not want to see additional fees implemented at this time. Mr. Kneski mentioned that other municipalities were also looking at fees to offset salaries and administrative expenses. Mayor Tatsch reminded the governing body that Treasurer Luhrs suggested looking at implementing the fees, which was done and benchmarked with other municipalities who already charge fees. Mayor Tatsch felt that a philosophy of paying for services received would directly allow tax monies be used for other purposes. Mr. Kneski made a motion to move forward with the fees which were previously suggested.

Ms. Lenox was not supportive of \$150 for a new house review and \$50 for stormwater review, which would not even cover the engineer's fees. She had some questions about the applicability of fees. Mr. Cushing felt that the Zoning Officer might be able to provide some detail of time involved with reviews. Mr. Kneski withdrew his previous motion. Mr. Cushing continued that the Zoning Officer should account for the costs involved with items under item A and costs for stormwater reviews. Mr. Mathews also asked for information on which reviews trigger costs. Information will be solicited from the Zoning Officer on the above.

**NEW BUSINESS**

2011 M & R BID AWARDS (See 6/3 Recommendation to Award from Engineer O'Neal and 6/8 email from Attorney Judith Kopen regarding Bid Documents)

Mr. O'Neal's memo outlined the results of the bids, recommending the award for all parts (except 1 inch blend) to Flemington Bituminous. The 1 inch blend award was recommended for Trap Rock.

Ms. Kopen agreed that bids were acceptable, with the exception that a letter should be obtained from Trap Rock Industries stating that the Secretary of the Corporation has the authority to sign contracts and bind the company.

+++++

**RESOLUTION # 91 -11**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby award the following contracts:

Flemington Bituminous Corporation  
205 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Flemington, NJ 0882  
Up to 600 Tons of MABC Surface Course, I-4Mix

\$59.45 per ton, up to \$35,670.00  
Up to 500 Tons of FABC Surface Course, I-5 Mix  
\$59.45 per ton, up to \$29,725.00  
Up to 100 Tons of ¾ in clean stone  
\$15.75 per ton, up to \$1,525.00  
Total Award: Up to \$66,920.00

Trap Rock Industries, Inc.  
P. O. Box 419  
Kingston, NJ 08528  
Up to 500 tons of 1 inch blend  
\$11.75 per ton, up to \$5,875.00

By Order of the Township Committee,

\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Larry Tatsch, Mayor

+++++  
Motion by Mr. Kneski, seconded by Ms. Lenox, and it was carried unanimously to approve the resolution.

2011 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES FOR HARVEST MOON INN AND AMWELL VALLEY FIRE COMPANY

The Clerk noted that both applications were satisfactorily submitted with appropriate fees.

+++++

**RESOLUTION #92-11**

WHEREAS, the Amwell Valley Fire Company, 22 John Ringo Road, Ringoes, NJ 08551 has applied for the renewal of their Club License #1008-31-002-001; and

WHEREAS, the application has been submitted in proper order, the appropriate fees submitted and no complaints have been filed with the Municipal Clerk objecting to the granting of the renewal of this license; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee finds that the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by Title 33 of the New Jersey statutes and regulations promulgated hereunder, as well as municipal ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the renewal of the Club License for the Amwell Valley Fire Company be approved; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this renewal shall be effective July 1, 2011, and the Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to sign and seal said license certificate on June 30, 2011, and deliver the same to the Amwell Valley Fire Company on that date.

By Order of the Township Committee,

\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Larry Tatsch, Mayor

+++++

**RESOLUTION # 93-11**

WHEREAS, Stan and Theresa Novak applied for the renewal of the Plenary Retail Consumption License – #1008-32-001-006 with “Broad Package Privilege” for said premises, The Harvest Moon Inn; and

WHEREAS, the application has been submitted in proper order, the appropriate fees submitted and no complaints have been filed with the Municipal Clerk objecting to the granting of the renewal of this license; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee finds that the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by Title 33 of the New Jersey statutes and regulations promulgated hereunder, as well as municipal ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the renewal of the Plenary Retail License for Brennex, Inc. under the name of The Harvest Moon Inn be approved and is hereby granted, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) It shall be noted on the license that "This license bears the Broad Package Privilege pursuant to P.L. 1948, Chapter 98 (N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.23) and N.J.A.C. 13:2.35.1 et. seq. (formerly state regulations No. 32)."
- 2) This renewal shall be effective July 1, 2011, and the Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to sign and seal said license certificate on June 30, 2011, and deliver the same to The Harvest Moon Inn on that date.

By Order of the Township Committee,

\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Larry Tatsch, Mayor

++++  
Motion by Ms. Lenox, seconded by Mr. Kneski, and it was carried unanimously to approve the ABC licenses for 2011.

**RELEASE OF ESCROW FEES FOR SPRINT, BLOCK 18/LOT 10**

The letter of request for release of escrow from Sprint (now known as Century Link) was noted, and the engineer agrees to the release of the fees.

++++  
**RESOLUTION #94-11**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of East Amwell Township that they hereby accept the recommendation of Engineer O'Neal to return escrow funds in the amount of \$303.24 to United Telephone Co. of NJ d/b/a (formerly Sprint) being held for development on Block 18/Lot 10.

By Order of the Township Committee,

\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Larry Tatsch, Mayor

++++  
Motion by Mr. Kneski, seconded by Ms. Lenox, and it was carried unanimously to approve the resolution.

**HUNTERDON COUNTY SHARED SERVICES UPDATE**

Mayor Tatsch attended a meeting on shared services presided over by Freeholder Walton. Somerset representative Jack Citeralli was in attendance to provide information on Somerset County's county-wide police initiative, providing detailed information on Somerset's savings (18%), consolidation processes, including "buy in" by local police forces, grand-fathering

officers and reduction in force by attrition, etc. Consolidation of school districts was also discussed, but this needs legislation to do so and would be a future consideration.

Attendees at the Hunterdon County shared services meeting provided ideas for shared initiatives, including the Animal Control Officer and Recycling Coordinator positions, which may be supported. Additionally, Hunterdon County may have a list of items that they are willing to share, which is on their website.

There was a consensus by members in attendance to look at the possibility of creating a county-wide police service in Hunterdon County; however, because of the number of separate police departments, there is a "different dynamic and there may not be incentive to be part of it." Freeholder Walton will speak with Prosecutor Anthony Kearns to see how this will work.

## **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville, Road, gave her opinion about the zoning officer fees, taxes versus paying separate fees for permits, living in East Amwell for 16 years and zoning complaints in that time and the need for better performance over time, concluding that "a tax is a tax."

Ms. Gavigan gave her opinion on setting up a meeting with the County on the sidewalks in Ringoes project, suggesting that the Township communicate with Mr. Glynn on getting a date for the meeting. She also spoke about an application for Bridge E-174 and about solar power alternatives for the municipal building (including using other municipally owned property, low impact options, parking lot installations) - she suggested reaching out to experts in the community to write specs. Ms. Gavigan mentioned mowing on Cider Mill Road, and she has seen the list of equipment available through the county on their website.

Ms. Gavigan said, "Congratulations" to the Township on receiving "a \$40,000 grant" from the County for the Clawson House. As a member of the Historical Society, she spoke about funds for the recent history book and expenses of applying for non-profit status. She spoke about a fund-raising and a joint (Township and Historical Society) outreach benefit to showcase the house plans, including promoting the village area, involving local businesses, etc. She mentioned specific society members who may be willing to help her on this project. Mayor Tatsch commented on getting the grant money and rolling out the plans again with a public presentation, suggesting that the Township would think about an event. Ms. Gavigan suggested such items for the event, including something along the lines of "Antique Roadshow" with appraisers, a picture day, a community picnic, etc. possibly to be held in August. Mayor Tatsch said it was something to think about.

Les Hamilton, High Mowing Road, spoke about the need to have sidewalk plans available to the public well in advance of any meeting with the County. He also spoke about past discussions on sidewalks and maintenance of the sidewalks. He felt that the people who have the improvements "should pay their fair share."

Mr. Hamilton commented on the Zoning Officer helping him with plans, noting the importance of publicizing the work that a Zoning Officer does. He felt that the average person "doesn't see the things that the Officer does every day, and this should be communicated to the public. Mr. Hamilton provided an example of problems with a property where a swimming pool was built across property lines because the zoning officer was not consulted.

Mr. Hamilton concluded by thanking the governing body for doing what they do each day.

Motion by Ms. Lenox, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and it was carried unanimously to close to the public.

Mr. Cushing left the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Treasurer Luhrs presented bills of the evening and a statement of cash on hand. Motion by Ms. Lenox, seconded by Mr. Kneski, and it was carried unanimously to approve the bills of the evening.

The May 2011 Revenue Report and Certification of Determination and Award of \$780,000 Bond Anticipation Notes were also noted.

Treasurer's Resolutions:

+++++

**RESOLUTION #95-11**

BE IT RESOLVED that Resolution #40-11 and #36-11 amending Resolution #16-11 to authorize bank signatures be further amended to include the name of Deborah L. Smith as Assistant Treasurer and authorized signature on certain Township checks, as noted in the original resolution.

By Order of the Township Committee,

\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Larry Tatsch, Mayor

+++++

**RESOLUTION #96-11**

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the Engineer of the Township of East Amwell that the following escrow fee can be refunded;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund the following amount to the applicant:

Applicant	Amount Refunded
United Telephone Co. of NJ d/b/a Century Link	\$303.24

By Order of the Township Committee,

\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Larry Tatsch, Mayor

+++++

**RESOLUTION #97-11**

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the Board of Health of the Township of East Amwell that the following witness fees can be refunded;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund the following amount to the applicant:

Applicant	Amount Refunded
James Mansfield	\$700.00

By Order of the Township Committee,

\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Larry Tatsch, Mayor

+++++

**RESOLUTION #98-11**

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the Planning Board of the Township of East Amwell that the following escrow fee can be refunded;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund the following amount to the applicant:

Applicant	Amount Refunded
Richard Pantel	\$22.26

By Order of the Township Committee,

\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Larry Tatsch, Mayor

+++++

**RESOLUTION #99-11**

WHEREAS, the Public Works Superintendent of the Township of East Amwell has approved the refund of the following driveway bond;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue a refund check to the following applicant:

Applicant	Amount Refunded
Dante DiPirro	\$1,500.00

By Order of the Township Committee,

\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Larry Tatsch, Mayor

+++++

Motion by Mr. Kneski, seconded by Ms. Lenox, and carried unanimously to approve the resolutions.

+++++

**RESOLUTION #100-11**

WHEREAS, certain Capital appropriation ordinances have funding that are no longer necessary;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances:

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 unexpended balances be canceled:

	Amount	Cancel to:
Ordinance 08-13/Ordinance 08-19 Back Brook Road	\$71,168.34	
Ordinance 08-20 Lindbergh Road		
Ordinance 10-05 Back Brook Road	\$ 78,554.84	
		\$80,916.84 Grant Receivable
		\$78,554.84 Deferred Charge for Future Taxation-Unfunded

\$101,491.40 Capital Surplus

\$260,963.08 \$260,963.08

By Order of the Township Committee,

C. Larry Tatsch, Mayor

+++++

**RESOLUTION #101-11**

WHEREAS, certain Capital appropriation ordinances have funding that are no longer necessary;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances:

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 unexpended balances be canceled:

	Amount	Cancel to:
Ordinance 10-17 Zuegner	\$219,521.56	Open Space Trust Fund
Ordinance 10-12	\$245,000.00	Deferred Charge for Future Taxation – Unfunded

By Order of the Township Committee,

C. Larry Tatsch, Mayor

+++++

Motion by Mr. Kneski, seconded by Ms. Lenox, and it was carried unanimously to approve the resolutions.

All other administrative reports were noted for filing.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Joan McGee, 120 Lindbergh Road, emailed a letter, which she asked to be read into the record:

“To the East Amwell Township Committee, Ringoes, NJ 08521

“Re: Expensive and detrimental Road Salt: Please Read this letter into the Record on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in its entirety.

“Dear Mayor and Committeemembers:

“As you approach the season for purchasing road treatments, please consider the extremely high cost and detrimental effects of using road salt. I urge you to re-consider your over-use of this toxic material and return to brine and cinders, which will better serve the residents of East Amwell in the long-run.

“Last year when the Township Committee authorized the purchase and use of road salt, it said it wanted it to be used sparingly, but then abdicated complete discretion over its use and resultant overuse to the Township Administrator and Road Supervisor. Please eliminate the use of road salt for the following reasons:

1. The “overuse” of road salt last winter has been documented by other residents, such as Fred Gardner I can vouch for the fact that excessive amounts of road salt are used even on flat, straight roads such as Ridge Road. There is no reason at all to use salt on flat, straight roads. The Township has abused its discretion and cannot be trusted to make thoughtful, careful decisions on the amounts of salt to be used only in certain, limited areas.
2. The ill effects of salt on the quality of streams and wells have been documented. The Township of Clinton Municipal Building on Route 31 had its drinking and washing water polluted by excessive salt use on Route 31. Now, the cost of remediation and substitute water clearly exceeds the benefit to the Township.
3. Storing salt is a potential for disaster. As West Amwell Township found out, even the best intentions for storing salt resulted in groundwater contamination and the need to remedy the water supply for about half a dozen residences. In the meantime, these people have suffered greatly, and most of them had to try to sell their houses.
4. The rationale by Tim Matheny that salt is cheaper is a complete myth. During budget negotiations this year, Matheny said that he was recommending a salt storage barn which would cost \$160,000! In no type of cost-benefit analysis can the use of road salt, under this example be deemed “cheaper” for residents. We will have to pay \$160,000. If you amortize this, the cost of using bring and cinders clearly outweighs the complete cost of salt. I urge you to look beyond the budget for the next election and take the long-term view.
5. The use of road salt last winter was one of the causes of excessive road damage, such a pot holes, which will have to be fixed this year at additional expense. The direct connection between use of salt as a corrosive agent, and damage to asphalt, has been documented. Just look at the effect of road salt on your car. Unless you keep washing your car, the car will corrode.
6. If residents simply reduce the speed of their vehicles when there is snow and ice, the need for any road treatment decreases greatly.

“Given the over use of road salt, and the grave potential dangers to water quality, groundwater and excessive long-term cost to residents, there is simply no justification for using salt. In the long-run, it will cost more money to taxpayers and harm the environment. We cannot pay more taxes and we cannot take the chance that even one residential well, or one stream becomes contaminated.

“Please contact me if you need any additional information. Sincerely, Joan McGee”

Mayor Tatsch commented on the letter as follows: The Township never used brine, which is actually salt in water; there are some instances where salt should be used on “straight, flat roads,” examples such as Snyderstown, Lindbergh, and Mountain Roads where huge ice formations had to be chipped away and chipping can ruin paving; the reference to a \$160,000 “salt” barn was really a regular storage barn for salt and cinders, both of which must be covered; while salt is corrosive, there is no evidence that it damages asphalt; while the Mayor agreed with Ms. McGee’s concerns of excessive salt usage, he believed that using it for a specific level of road maintenance was appropriate since the Township assumes liability of maintaining roads like surrounding municipalities; Mayor Tatsch believed that the DPW was very careful about using the material sparingly to maintain the roads for safe travel.

Mr. Kneski added that in the past both the post office and school bus drivers approached the Township Committee about the safety and the accessibility of the roads, which is another reason to endorse the use of salt.

Mr. Mathews mentioned the broader discussion on the use of water softeners by homeowners, who discharge salt water onto their properties and can also end up in the aquifer. Mayor Tatsch mentioned the on-going water testing by the Board of Health since salt started being used on the roads.

Mayor Tatsch mentioned a letter from Senator Doherty about the use of property taxes for school aid. Additionally, there was a resolution provided by the Township of Washington to be considered.

+++++

RESOLUTION #101A-11

RESOLUTION FOR FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF STATE AID FOR EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, believes that every child should have equal resources of state aid distributed by the legislature for an education in the State of New Jersey by utilizing a fair school funding mechanism; and

WHEREAS, the current distribution of state aid for education to the schools has not been distributed in a fair and equitable manner to provide property tax relief to all the citizens of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Article III., Paragraph 1, of the New Jersey State Constitution states, "The powers of government shall be divided among three distinct branches, the legislative, executive, and judicial. No person or persons belonging to or constituting one branch shall exercise any of the powers properly belonging to either of the others, except as expressly provided in this Constitution;" and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section IV, Paragraph 1, of the New Jersey State Constitution states, "the Legislature shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools for the instruction of all children in the State between the ages of five and eighteen year;" and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section IV, Paragraph 2, of the New Jersey State Constitution states, "the fund for the support of free public schools . . . shall be annually appropriated to the support of free public schools, and for the equal benefit of all the people of this State;" and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section I, Paragraph 7.a. of the New Jersey State Constitution states, the income tax is to be "annually appropriated . . . exclusively for the purpose of reducing or offsetting property taxes;" and

WHEREAS, this body can no longer bear the burden of the continued diversion of its fair share of state school aid for the students between the ages of five and eighteen years of age who reside within this jurisdiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon does hereby call upon the Legislature of the State of New Jersey to fulfill its constitutionally assigned duty to distribute the state aid for education to the school districts in this state in a fair manner that is for the equal benefit of all the people of the state and not by means that are prejudiced by the actions of special interests that may have been presented before the Court or other venue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of this entity is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Governor Chris Christie, Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Senate Minority Leader Thomas Kean Jr., Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver and Assembly Minority Leader Alex DeCroce.

By Order of the Township Committee,

C. Larry Tatsch, Mayor

+++++ Motion by Mr. Kneski, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and it was carried unanimously to adopt the resolution.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, motion by Mr. Kneski, seconded by Ms. Lenox, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

---

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk