

A special meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee came to order at 7:30 PM. Present were Mayor C. Larry Tatsch, Deputy Mayor Patricia Cregar, and Committee members Linda Lenox, Peter Kneski and Tim Mathews. Township Administrator Matheny was excused from this meeting.

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, a copy of notice of this meeting was filed in the Clerk's Office, posted on the bulletin board, and sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Times of Trenton, and Star Ledger on September 26, 2011 and published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on September 29, 2011. The purpose of this meeting is to meet with JCP&L representatives to discuss power service and outages.

The public is invited to attend and comment. Action may or may not be taken.

John Anderson of First Energy Corporation aka Jersey Power Central and Light (JCP&L) was present tonight. He is the Hunterdon County Area Manager with JCP&L.

Mayor Tatsch said that the one topic on the agenda was power interruption during Hurricane Irene. The program will cover a brief presentation of the overall power issues during the aftermath of the storm. The remainder of the meeting will be open to the public for comments and questions. Mayor Tatsch worked with Mr. Anderson every day during the aftermath, noting that "he (Mr. Anderson) was doing everything in his power to restore service within the constraints of the company, and there was a good working relationship."

Mr. Anderson thanked the Mayor and Committee, stating he worked closely with the Mayor and applauded his tenacity and patience during the challenge of Irene. Mr. Anderson apologized for not attending the last Township Committee meeting, explaining that BPU issues and other coordination issues needed to be addressed at that time. He thought that the meeting tonight was good for two way communication and to allow everyone to ask questions. He had a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Don Lynch of JCP&L about the challenges of the event. Highlights included the following: the hurricane was the first direct hit in NJ since 1903; operations response was strong, but they know communications can be improved; he cited specific areas in the state that were hit by a hurricane and not a tropical storm; the power company territory was outlined in a slide, showing 89% of JCP&L is residential and 10% commercial; JCP&L has 1.1 Million customers and PSE&G has 500,000 in a smaller geographic location than JCP&L in the central area. He detailed the storm with heavy winds after the rain, including downed trees after 4-8 inches of rain fell on already saturated land. 750,000 JCP&L customers were affected; during Hurricane Floyd, there were only 150,000 - 200,000 affected. There was significant damage in Sussex and Monmouth Counties, and traversing roads to make repairs was a problem; besides uprooted trees, the amount of damage from breaking cross-arms, wires and polls down was high, although 70% of it was addressed in 48 hours. Resources go to the outage where the largest number of customers can be addressed; the company used a tremendous amount of labor and resources to continue to restore service in areas where fewer customers were located. Substations and transmission lines were part of the problem and took more time to address. Inaccessibility to roads, including a Route 287 collapse between Morristown and Boonton, also caused a problem since the line shop was shut down near that location and had to be moved to another part of town. He provided statistics for JCP&L service, including 21,000 lines down, 1,033 circuits out, 360 poles and 47 miles of wire to repair, 400 cross-arms, 300 transformers, etc. Mr. Anderson showed pictures of the staging facility at the Livingston Mall and one at Great Adventure, explaining in detail the attempt to house personnel without safety incidents.

An unidentified member of the audience asked that Mr. Anderson speak to the matter of local events.

Mr. Anderson continued by saying that there were nearly 6,000 tree orders. The restoration process was explained, i.e., power is fed through transmission lines into substations, where there are voltage step-downs, and the power is distributed through feed lines to the community. The challenges were explained, including making sure whether circuits and wires had power before restoration. He explained in detail the need for methodically working on the lines to insure safe restoration of power and why it took longer to do so.

Mayor Tatsch commented on ground rules for tonight's discussion, including identifying oneself for the record and speaking one at a time.

Steve Anasiewicz, 235 Rileyville Road, was very upset with JCP&L. He asked about the location of the substations; Mr. Anderson said that there were a number, including Ringoes, Rosemont, Gilboa, etc. Mr. Anasiewicz said that the company learned nothing from Floyd and he was without power for 9 days with Irene. He stated that emergency trucks would not have been able to reach him, and the power company inadequately addressed the situation. He spoke about constant power outages, sometimes out two days or more, and there was no one in New Jersey to address them. His third concern was brownouts, which cause damage to appliances, well pumps, electronics, etc.; he believed that JCP&L did not want to address brownouts either. He did not see a service person until the 8th day after the storm, and it was a person from Ohio. He felt that there was inadequate handling of the situation and that the company should call independent New Jersey contractors to assist with restoration. He suggested complaints be made to the Bureau of Public Utilities (BPU) to allow all utilities here. He spoke about recently losing power around 8:30 p.m. for two hours; he is a union electrician and commented on how long it would take him to make a repair. Mayor Tatsch explained that the loss was the result of a car accident on Saddle Shop Road that took down two poles. Mr. Anasiewicz thought that poles should be moved, that the system is not adequate and causes brownouts, and hundreds of people and their animals depend on electricity and do not have generators. He felt that if JCP&L could not take care of the power, BPU should look into it, and someone else should be solicited to provide service. He concluded that during every storm he is without power, and JCP&L does not maintain their infrastructure, which includes old poles that are too small and undersized.

Patricia Lahov, 8 Harvest Hill Drive, is a farmer who was without power for 7-8 days, and the call center was in Georgia; the operator told her that power was restored when indeed it was not. She believed that these people do not know what is going on in New Jersey, it was bad customer service, and that she provides good customer service in her position at Johnson and Johnson. She hoped that JCP&L learned from this event and will protect the substations so that this type of outage does not occur again; they should also look at their infrastructure. She would like to see some honesty in the company in their responses, and she will be prepared for the next storm.

Mr. Anderson explained that the call center for JCP&L is out of Reading, PA on most days and after storms. If the volume of calls is exceeded, the calls are forwarded to other areas. He compared their service to UPS tracking services, stating their technology is incredible. Outage management is not as nearly high tech, i.e., JCP&L does not know if you are without power unless you call them. The equipment may assume that you are without power if you are in a reported range of numbers. The system also allows for call backs, and in some cases, it is making an assumption that power is restored if a repair is made. The company will now change the answering machine script to a numbering system, e.g., one number if you are restored and another if you are not. Additionally, the number of faxed notices to municipalities will be revamped to change to electronic communication.

Someone from the audience yelled that not everyone had smart phones.

Mr. Anderson stated that company representatives will be contacting officials in each municipality to determine how best they would like to receive information.

Mayor Tatsch displayed a sampling of the numerous faxes received by the Township, stating that many of them pertained to the entire state and were "not too helpful." Municipalities would rather see contact and direct information about what is affecting their area.

Karen Turner, 125 Wertsville Road, moved here from her previous home when the Morristown River deposited 8 feet of water in her dwelling. She has 30 horses and constantly watches weather reports, including NOAA. She spoke about her knowledge about tracking the storm, along with "Frances" and three or four others. She spoke about "figuring it out" and preparing by filling tubs for water. She has no generator, i.e., therefore, no well, no power, and 30 horses. She called the power company every day and was told she had power, commenting on her opinion "that you are all liars." She mentioned delivering water to many people and knows who she spoke to. Ms. Turner provided her knowledge about the storm which she learned from various sources, and she understood that the main power was on the back of the eye of the storm. She asked why JCP&L was unaware of this.

Joe Loricco, 148 Lindbergh Road, has lived with "33 years of incompetence with the company." He showed a notice he received in August from JCP&L about trimming trees, and no one ever came out. He built his house 23 years ago, and he explained problems with the company in not allowing him to put up a pole close to his home; he signed a right of way at that time to trim trees off lines but never saw a trimmer. About 15 years ago, he became "fed up with JCP&L" and started a petition to "the Public Utilities Commission (PUC)" to switch to Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G), naming others who were familiar with his complaint and have other service. During the recent storm, PSE&G was up in two days while he was still out for 8 days with JCP&L. When he was considering the switch, the PUC agreed that it could be done and notified PSE&G, who was willing to switch with PUC approval. At that time he contacted then CEO of JCP&L, who asked to look into it. At that time, the CEO agreed that there were a number of problems and agreed to feed the property from a different circuit; Mr. Loricco went three years without failure. The problems again started on a Christmas Day when he had many visitors. He felt that the company was incompetent, that they bit off more than they can chew, and they should relinquish some of their power. He wanted to take as many people as he could to the PUC and see, if PSE&G agrees to it, that a switch is made.

Mayor Tatsch asked the Clerk to relay a story about an outage today. Mrs. Stahl explained that power at her home in Delaware Township went out about 2:30 p.m. today and was still out when she came to work around 6:30 p.m. Mr. Anderson explained that a tree came down near the Rosemont transmission substation near Alexaukin Creek and broke two poles. Crews are repairing in the area. Mrs. Stahl said that there was no information on line about the outage; Mr. Anderson said that phone lines to the company would provide information.

Mayor Tatsch called for a show of hands on how many people received notices about tree trimming, and quite a number of attendees did so. Mr. Anderson explained that trees are trimmed on a four-year cycle based on presumed growth, and the Ringoes substation is on current rotation. The trimming was to occur in the third quarter of the year, i.e., July, August, and September, and is still being completed because of the delays due to storm management. On a question from the public, Mr. Anderson did not know when the Rosemont Substation would be trimmed.

Mr. Loricco asked about trimming below the trees, and Mr. Anderson spoke about balance, noting that while some people give permission to cut more, others want no trimming at all. He was a forestry manager for JCP&L years ago, and he commented on getting input from residents on how they would like to see their trees trimmed.

Iлона English, 9 Runyon Mill Road, said that she had tree trimmers from Texas at her property, and this was not cost effective. She was against "wishbone" trims, which ice up and break off. She spoke about video taping the town with the help of other people. She mentioned that she had trees trimmed three years ago by four Hispanic men in a truck with Texas plates - they did not really trim anything. She concluded that the trimmers have no supervision, it is a waste of time, and she will send pictures.

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, needed medical help and almost died during the storm. Subsequently, she sent a letter to be put on the priority list at JCP&L, and she has not received any word in nearly six weeks. She related the story of an elderly neighbor, Mr. Whitehead, who almost died by injecting the wrong insulin in the dark - rescue workers were called to assist in the middle of the night. She commented on trucks being sent from this area to the shore area "to get up for the weekend." She spoke to the Governor's Office and various County officials about 3 of the 4 county roads in the township being impassible until Friday afternoon after the storm. She stated that the problem with the pole on Rocktown Road was mentioned a year ago and has been leaning for a while. She commented on the "dog and pony show" with FEMA and BPU and spoke about cause and relationship as related to her knowledge in the pharmaceutical industry, i.e., "management failure by not having enough personal for tasks." She concluded that this was the problem with JCP&L, also citing "failure for maintenance and neglect forever."

Ms. Gavigan mentioned having trees trimmed on her property for the second time in a row and she was not on the tree-trimming list. She commented on "no boots on the ground, that tree

trimming companies are on their own...." She mentioned that Frenchtown's wires are maintained in Pennsylvania, and the town was powered up quicker than this municipality, according to what County officials told her. John Glynn at the County also told her that he could not get an answer from JCP&L whether wires on Wertsville Road were live or not or the County would have trimmed. She also noted residents who risked their lives by trimming because of frustration. Mr. Anderson cautioned that no one should touch downed wires.

Ms. Gavigan spoke about having recently had surgery and evacuating to the Hampton Inn until Friday. She spoke of her loss of a freezer and furnace because the sump pump failed (no electricity). She put in a claim but was denied. The situation was health related, i.e., she was dealing with a healing wound, there were sanitation issues, she was unable to walk, etc. She believed that JCP&L has a monopoly, but they have an obligation to serve the public, and "we were at the bottom of the trickle down food chain." She commented on JCP&L's poor planning, poor customer service, management failure in maintaining and restoring power, on filing a pro se claim in small claims court for \$30 and having the company's high price attorneys deal with her, on East Amwell being a third world country for 7 -8 days, on spending her own money to cut down trees and asking why JCP&L can't cut them down, on the ownership of the pole at Rocktown and Wertsville Road, on not maintaining infrastructure, on "smoke and mirrors and having crews sent to the shore," on a 6:1 ratio of personnel for PSE&G and JCP&L, on her email to Mr. Solomon at the BPU, and a few hours of Wertsville Road focus for FEMA. She concluded that JCP&L has a credibility barrier, and she will be going to the BPU hearings.

Andrea Bonette, 17 Ridge Road, found her files on JCP&L from when she was Mayor in 2001, which she forwarded to the Clerk. Comments at that time involved "lousy maintenance" being an on-going issue.

Mrs. Bonette explained that Darlis Maksymovich was not here tonight, but she relayed that she was without power for 8 days, and a repairman told her that "the power lines and poles are in terrible condition and not maintained properly."

Mrs. Bonette read a letter to the East Amwell Township Committee into the record from Resident Marie Loveless, dated October 1, 2011:

"I understand you are meeting with a representative of the Jersey Central Power and Light Company Wednesday, October 5, 2011. I have asked that my letter be read and recorded at this meeting.

"I am writing this letter to you Jersey Cental Power and Light Company to let you know you caused me and my family the most awful period of time of our lives when time was a crucial time for us. My husband was on an Oxygen Machine for the past nine years of his life. He always panicked when the power went off. We were on your critical help line but that sure wasn't much good.

"This particular time, Thank God if it was to be, my husband on the morning of the blackout, had to be removed to the hospital. He was in critical condition and put in ICU and the family was notified to gather. Gather we did but:

1. We had no power and our son's called the Jersey Central Power and Light Company for an ETA but was given the brush off, no information.
2. Each day members of the family stayed by my husband's side and each took turns to sit the night through with him while the rest of us came back to a house with no power again. Day after day my sons called for the ETA the same thing. Each day they checked the locations of the lines down, there was no persons there working.
3. Finally one day my one son spotted someone down the hill by the outage and he went down and spoke to him He was with the Verizon people. They told him the pole was there's but they couldn't touch it because Jersey Central Power and Light had the transformer on it that was laying on the road. With its contents leaking out on the road
4. Next we learned of the childish game these companies were playing with each other. Verizon couldn't touch the pole because Jersey Central still had not taken the transformer off, and Jersey Central couldn't do anything because the pole belonged to Verizon. Meanwhile my husband passed, and there were eleven people here in the home

5. Never was I late paying my bill which sometimes was pretty steep with Oxygen machines and Air Conditioning which he had to have, and never have we ever been treated like we were during this forever power outage. The company and their representatives are a disgrace to the business.
6. I think my son David wrote a letter to the Mayor and also to the Freeholders of Hunterdon County. This is only a 89 year woman writing this letter cannot come out at night but I want my letter read and recorded in the records.”

Iona English, 9 Runyon Mill, said that JCP&L knows that they do not maintain, i.e., "if it ain't broke, won't fix." She spoke about running financials and with all the preserved land, it is not worth the investment. She did not see repair trucks until Friday afternoon. She is going to video the town by driving all the roads and sending JCP&L the evidence. She believed that JCP&L failed to give East Amwell the same service and equipment and wires given to Princeton, Far Hills, and densely populated areas, i.e., "we are 11 on a list of 1 - 10 by your people."

Ms. English felt that it was insanity, stating that they have a generator and purchased a second one. They pumped water into a 150-gallon tank to take to other farms and almost burned out the well pump. She said that a water truck was sent to Bridgewater and asked why East Amwell did not have one. The Township is on wells and has no water unless there is electricity; not everyone can afford generators. People could not drink or flush, could not take showers, and it was a public health situation. East Amwell needs to move up on the list, and she never sees any repairs being made. She commented on the staging information, noting that she lived through a worse hurricane in Hawaii and that power was restored faster to Haiti than New Jersey. She questioned the fact that JCP&L did not know what the damage would be in the aftermath; she felt that the company did not want to pay for the costly staging if it was unclear that they would be getting federal funding. She agreed that the company should make money, but they also need to take care of the people, and she felt forgotten. Ms. English spoke about a leaning/bowing pole on Rileyville Road and arguments about ownership of the pole, stating that two trucks with four men sat at Saddle Shop and Rileyville Roads but could not trim because the electric company employees were not there. She suggested "getting it together, save money, give us power, and we'll pay." She felt that the company never fixes anything because there are not a lot of people because of protecting open space. There is a 1927 electrical system in the area. She has 25 horses that she can take care of because of a solar installation on her property; she mentioned problems with back feed and the grid being down sometimes. Ms. English commented on having no lights to find your car in the dark to plug in your phone, and she asked for the same service here as populated areas, noting that all have the same billing rate and suggesting a 50% discount for rural service. She mentioned quicker recovery at Atlantic City casinos and the shore, 20 calls from JCP&L that her power was on when it was not, and concluded that JCP&L "should provide it or give it up."

Mr. Loricco said that the residents want the same service that PSE&G gives their customers.

Mayor Tatsch agreed with Ms. English's comment about power in a rural community, i.e., water pumps would not function. He gave testimony to the BPU and sent letters about the critical nature of a rural community.

Mr. Loricco asked if JCP&L had any insurance for claims and restitution to cover losses, e.g., \$300 for food. Mr. Anderson said that residents could file a claim with their company and depending on how it happened, it will be processed accordingly.

Ms. English suggested flyers in tax bills about shutting down power during brownouts to save appliances/electronics.

John Fischer, 109 Lindbergh Road, was without power for 8-9 days. He spoke about a location between Ridge and Zion Roads and witnessing Ohio meter readers who were stationed until 8 p.m. daily not to allow traffic over downed lines. People went through after 3-4 days anyhow. He spoke about the underlying quality of the network and brownouts caused sometimes by lower voltage in the summer when power gets back feed. He mentioned a recent problem at 4 a.m. on 9/25 for a six hour period with voltage at 25 volts and hearing odd noises from the appliances. He located severe sparks on wires on Lindbergh Road and relayed the information to JCP&L. At the time, there was no evidence of downed branches, winds were calm, and there was no

extreme temperature. He believed that the quality of the infrastructure was terrible, and the lines on Lindbergh are "really spliced." He asked if someone could look at the location and report on substandard conditions and what can be done to correct the 25 volt brownouts. Mr. Anderson will have the engineering department look at Lindbergh Road in terms of tree trimming, splices, voltage issues, stating that there can be part power with delta wires resulting in one phase of the power being out. Mr. Anderson asked if the lines were delta or Y; he felt that the engineers would be able to assist. Modern Y systems are used for all lines while delta use phases. Mr. Fischer said lines were delta and that the system was installed in 1940 and not upgraded. He wanted to know from the governing body what to do to make the town viable and become self-sustaining. If JCP&L cannot handle the situation (not just repair for 3-5 years), another solution is necessary, e.g., getting another company. He suggested that a plan should be created "to do what we have to do."

Andy Reid, 62 Linvale Road, lives in the Mountain Zone. He commented on storm information and an inadequate system. He felt that the Township should have an engineering report, commenting on good conditions on Ridge Road and Linvale Road, but having outages and power reductions from Linvale to Lindbergh. He also commented on improper maintenance and increased incidents over the past 30 years, particularly in hot weather resulting on partial power losses even on good days. He mentioned areas outside of East Amwell that are developed and on the grid as well, these areas have been expanded and upgraded, while East Amwell bills are the same and we have lesser service. He asked if an engineering report of what is wrong and what can be done to correct could be prepared, i.e., an inventory and report.

Mayor Tatsch asked Mr. Anderson if he would bring this request to management to provide a road by road overview of the township, and Mr. Anderson said he would do this. Mr. Kneski asked for an actual time frame to have this done or look at other alternatives.

Ms. Gavigan asked if the report could include who was working in township the 8-11 days after the storm, ending on Saturday for 11 days, and then send the information to the BPU.

Jackie Wasitowski, 531 Route 31, in Ringoes, commented on JCP&L being personal and nice and experiencing no personnel problems. However they are not always able to help, i.e., engineers were sent to her site to evaluate lines, with "critters manipulating old wires and causing problems." A report was written to replace the wires, but this was never done.

Carol Johnson, Saddle Shop Road, called the electric company and kept getting a recording stating that they were sorry but they were not taking calls. She tried the alternate number provided but was unable to get through. Ms. English will provide her with a direct number to the company for future use. Mrs. Johnson stated that they were without power but nothing happened. She has a generator that was noisy and expensive to run. She agreed that there were health issues and a water truck would have been nice.

Mr. Anasiewicz said that generators can not handle wells.

Carl Maffei, 107 Lindbergh Road, mentioned the wires down on Lindbergh, being three houses down. Trees in the area are a jungle, and he was delighted with the tree trimming notice he received and was going to buy the trimmers lunch, but they never came before the storm. He also commented on the wires from the street to the houses being really old with no insulation; all incidents cause broken breakers. Trees need to be trimmed or fix the wires since incidents occur at least twice a year with tree limbs, ice, etc. He concluded that something has to be done, noting that he was without food during the storm.

Ms. English commented that a JCP&L employee from North Carolina commented to her that he never saw such old poles.

Richard Spiegel, 1 Mountain Road, has lived here 20 years. He mentioned his experience in his 42 year career as an iron worker, including management. He was knowledgeable about pre-job meetings and the need for better communication. He believed that there was no communication with all the utilities. He spoke about the BPU listening to complaints, but noted that there is a tariff in place for the electric company. He spoke about sitting on the Township Committee and reading the Comcast tariff at the time. He would like to see a copy of the electric company's tariff available for public inspection at the municipal office.

Mr. Spiegel spoke about a claim he made with the electric company when there was an outage on Mountain, Rileyville, and Stony Brook Roads. He lost appliances at the time, and the claim was denied. He read a class action case at the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs about negligence and public welfare. He stated that he mentioned such class action at the previous Township Committee meeting, and he felt that all municipalities should be involved since JCP&L was not serving people and endangering lives by negligence.

Mr. Spiegel also believed that there was no communication between the utilities, e.g., JCP&L, Verizon, and Comcast. He believed that if three utilities were sharing the pole, electricity is of primary importance; he felt that an outside agency should oversee everybody. The Governor had declared a state of emergency two days before Irene. Mr. Spiegel saw personnel from Edison, Toledo, Louisiana, and Pennsylvania at the Quik Chek Store - and they said that they never saw such old poles as stand in this township. He asked about ownership of poles, and Mr. Anderson stated that it was 50-50 between the electric company and the phone company. Mr. Spiegel asked about engineer review of excess weight on poles; Mr. Anderson said that it depended on the application, e.g., if a pole is only for communication, a smaller pole is alright; for installation of electric lines, a bigger pole is used for new construction. Mr. Spiegel spoke anecdotally about installing poles in the Lawrenceville area when "equipment was nothing"; he asked about the weight of a transformer, which is about 150-200 lbs. Mr. Spiegel speculated about hanging additional weight on existing poles which are leaning out; he felt that "it was an accident waiting to happen." He felt that companies should have foresight or not be in the construction field; he related his experience with 42 years of "nobody getting hurt" under his supervision, and asked that JCP&L not put people at risk by using outdated equipment and overloading them. He recommended that agencies talk to each other. He would like to discuss legal avenues with Attorney Cushing, commenting on two major roads out of commission (i.e., Wertsville for 6 days and Rileyville for 10 days), and he mentioned the luck of not having any fires or emergencies in the area at that time. He mentioned an aging population in the township, celebrating a 100 year old birthday of a resident a few years ago. He believed that you could not see emotions on a computer or phone, and he could not live with that. He believed in live communication, and he related a story about giving away 200 candles during the power outage.

Mr. Spiegel commented on red-lining Rileyville Road with a pole that was hit four years ago and then came down in a storm. He spoke about protecting the pole and saving lives. Mr. Spiegel also heard that JCP&L is being purchased, and he asked Mr. Anderson if he was aware of that; Mr. Anderson said no.

Mayor Tatsch commented on additional equipment added to poles, using a pole on Lindbergh Road as an example, i.e., in 1971 it was a skinny pole with limited equipment and now it also has Verizon and Comcast cables installed. Mr. Spiegel commented on a split on the pole on the inside and asked about structural design, i.e., concrete or eyebolts and any casing, type of galvanized cable. Mr. Anderson said there was no casing.

Mr. Spiegel concluded by suggesting a change and getting every town in New Jersey on the band wagon; he thought that the time was right for class action.

Ms. English suggested that an audio compact disc of the meeting tonight should be submitted to the BPU; Mayor Tatsch agreed that the clerk should send one.

Mr. Loricco asked about Township responsibility for cleaning up trees. Mayor Tatsch explained that if the DPW identifies a tree that may block the road, they will respond. However, if the tree is near power lines or could affect the lines, JPC&L is notified. He provided anecdotal information about a case on Route 518 with PSE&G, when a de-energized line became re-energized and caused a transformer fire on the ground.

Ms. Turner was very angry to learn about a water truck in Bridgewater, outlining her caring for 30 horses, including a foal born the day before the storm and not knowing whether to give the water supply to the mother or foal. She believed that the power company had the responsibility to share water with everyone, including water for her horses. She said that she called everyone and she questioned why she wasn't told about the water. She eventually was able to get water from a fire company. She spoke about another lawsuit and the seriousness of power outages, relating her own story of dealing with the outage, e.g., no facilities, no water for cleaning for a

week, helping a neighbor during the ordeal, etc. Ms. Turner believed that someone was lying to her, and communication has to be sorted out. A horse requires 10 gallons of water of day, and there was no water for animals. The town is on well and septic, and she believed that the power company should have had FEMA provide a water truck in the municipality for safety and health; the company did not do so, and in her opinion, it was wrong and criminal. She hoped that the power company was taken to court for the serious neglect of health and welfare of the area.

Mr. Anderson explained that there was no water truck provided by JCP&L in Bridgewater. Both JCP&L and PSE&G provided ice and water for customers, and in the early part of the storm JCP&L contracted with local grocery stores for people, not animals. Bottled water and bags of ice were provided. Information was dispatched to state, county, and local OEMS, and by Tuesday and Wednesday, they were running out. Another truck of ice and water was available at a County facility located in West Amwell, again for people, not livestock. Mr. Anderson could not speak for Bridgewater but speculated that PSE&G may have had a box truck for bottled water distribution.

Ms. Turner mentioned press releases, stating that she had no cell phone, no power, no water, etc. and asked "how the hell do we get a press release."

Ms. English said that the tariff does not relieve the power company of negligence. When information is submitted to them by certified mail, residents can then sue. She mentioned taking pictures, which would go back in files, and "nothing will happen." She believed that generators were needed in both the municipal building and school.

Mr. Anderson again stated that there was no water truck in Bridgewater; Ms. English will refer to her notes to advise him who told her that. She commented on the company's negligence and antiquated equipment. "As a resident and customer, if you continue to ignore ... the negligent situation with equipment and poles not repaired, ... on public record ... and power is lost again, a lawsuit will be filed that we will win.... There is a dangerous situation, and you have been advised." She believed if the situation was not fixed, there would be a negligence suit in court.

Mr. Loricco mentioned working with FEMA some more. Mr. Anderson explained that interaction with them goes through The Rock in Trenton at the state level, who interacts with FEMA.

Ms. Gavigan commented on state information not getting to the county and local levels. She and her neighbor almost died. She spoke about a 250 gallon water container she used to get water out to people, and she commended the Neshanic Fire Company, who opened a hydrant for her. She felt that the township was "reduced to a 3rd world country with a failed system... and it harmed people." She suggested that Mr. Anderson had a lot of information to take back to JCP&L, including antiquated and inadequate equipment with people harmed; she felt that the form letters from JCP&L should be reconsidered also. She mentioned filing a pro se claim in court. She felt that it was "time to fix equipment and do the right thing; ... East Amwell has educated people ... tenacious and persistent...." She suggested fixing things or making an effort to do so.

Ms. English asked how resources are concentrated, leaving a town without power for 5 - 7 days, with about 100 alone on Wertsville Road. Five to six trucks went right up Linvale Road and disappeared without work orders until two days later. Ms. English spoke about the need for better deployment of resources, whether there was a resource issue or just incompetence, the need for logistical management. Reading actual bills and rates, residents can determine JCP&L average use for a month, and the company should be able to adjust consumer bills at least for one quarter. She again asked about resource deployment and why the problem was not fixed sooner. She spoke about call centers being outsourced, along with the problem. She commented that both JCP&L and PSE&G organize for more profit. On a question of the location of call centers, Mr. Anderson noted that billing is through Red Bank and service is in Reading, PA or elsewhere.

Mr. Anasiewicz asked about assistance with OEM in Hunterdon County; Mr. Anderson mentioned troubleshooters. Mr. Anasiewicz asked about power losses all the time on Saturdays and being told that they cannot get anyone until Monday. Ms. English asked about the closest repair, and Mr. Anderson said that there were troubleshooters in Flemington. Mr. Anasiewicz

reiterated problems with loss of power, saying it happens all the time. He mentioned bringing JCP&L to court 23 years ago and the need to "do something and attack the problem now."

Mr. Mathews commented on surviving the outage during warm weather, noting that in bad weather conditions would be different, which the power company is aware of. He also asked about the possibility of crediting the electric bills for residents who were without service, suggesting perhaps a payment of only 75% of the bill.

Mr. Anasiewicz spoke about moving the pole on Rileyville Road to the other side of the street before someone got killed. Mayor Tatsch provided information on the recent accident on that road.

Mr. Spiegel spoke about estimated bills from the power company, saying that customers do not have to pay them. He does not pay until he receives an actual bill, which is usually less. He spoke about meter reading in general, noting that when paying estimated bills, the company can invest more of your money. Mayor Tatsch commented on higher estimates on some bills.

Mr. Spiegel spoke about a crew on Wertsville Road and rather going down the road three miles more to make the next fix, the crew packed up and went elsewhere, while another crew was sent to Wertsville a few days later. He believed that there was no communication, and there was need for a road superintendent to do field orders. He spoke about man hour analyses and recalled his service as a crew leader in his career. Mr. Spiegel understood the complexities of dealing with electricity and the fact that no one was hurt this time, but something may occur in the future and it was important for the power company to know what to do. He spoke about a split near the Kinderman property at Wertsville and Rileyville Roads.

Ms. English mentioned outages and dealing with electronics.

Ms. Gavigan asked that letters and information be posted on the township internet, including various faxes from JCP&L and Mr. Anderson; she asked for expedited posting to make it easier to get information. She would also like to see information on the telephone calls and notification period about Wertsville Road closure between Runyon Mill Road and Rocktown Roads.

Ms. Gavigan mentioned the Wertsville Road pole and wire down, noting that there was a report a year ago and nothing was done. She believed that this was negligence and failure to act, stating that it was defective by design and "a system designed to be a barrier to do nothing and generate profit, which was a fairly decent representation of what they (JCP&L) were doing and was sloppy business."

Ms. English asked about special needs assistance, stating that the forms people fill out got somewhere and no one checks on the list. She asked, "Why do it if it is not recognized?" Mr. Anderson responded that special needs cases need a letter from a doctor sent to the company, and the people are put on the special needs list. While it would be helpful to have one, Mayor Tatsch commented on attempts in the past to get this list, but privacy issues were involved; he would like to see a list if the power company could provide one. Mr. Anderson commented on the list being for outages and the list was for priority in restoration of services; if it is available to the municipality, Mr. Anderson will get a copy for the Mayor. He looked at information from Ms. Gavigan regarding her request to be on the list.

Mr. Mathews asked about providing an engineering report; Mr. Anderson said that he will get it within a week. He mentioned that he also had anecdotal stories, but they would not be shared tonight.

Mayor Tatsch asked about getting the public comments to JCP&L; Mr. Anderson would take the comments back to the company. The comments will be reviewed at a future meeting with the governing body or a subcommittee. Mr. Mathews suggested a subcommittee, which included township residents with expertise. Mayor Tatsch said that the request for membership on a subcommittee, including interested residents, would be on the next regular Township Committee agenda; the subcommittee will include two members of the governing body.

Ms. Gavigan is working on a list of farm assessed properties and an inventory of livestock to work with the county on future events. She recommended that something be obtained from

seniors too. Mr. Kneski said that this should be the OEM responsibility, noting that they have listings since they are the "point group."

Mayor Tatsch called for any other comments.

Ms. Gavigan said that a farm forum will be held on October 17 at 7 p.m. George Wagner and CERT will provide information for equestrian facilities. There will also be an electrician to speak about safe care with generators.

Mr. Loricco suggested that a copy of tonight's minutes be given to Mr. Anderson to provide to his superiors. A suggestion was made to provide them with a compact disc recording.

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

Mayor Tatsch thanked Mr. Anderson for appearing at tonight's meeting.

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Kneski, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cregar, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk