

A special meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee came to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Mayor Peter Kneski, Deputy Mayor Patricia Cregar, and Committee members Linda Lenox, Tim Mathews, and Dart Sageser.

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 February 3, 2012. The purpose of this meeting is to interview candidates for a Township Board and Commission.

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

Pauline Serafin, 111 Boss Road, was interviewed for a position on the Board of Health. Tracy Carluccio, Chair of the Board of Health, was present for this interview.

Ms. Serafin served for four years on the Raritan Township Board of Health. She completed her EMT training last year and is a member of the Amwell Valley Ringoes Rescue Squad. She explained the Raritan Township Board of Health oversight of vendors, licensing, septic work, etc. with attendance at meetings with County representation. Ms. Serafin works for locally for an accounting firm.

Mr. Mathews asked Ms. Serafin's opinion on sand replacement septic systems. Ms. Serafin explained that there are a number of failures and depending on soils, these types of systems may be necessary. Ms. Carluccio concurred that it did depend on soils, and the installations would have to have special approvals.

Ms. Carluccio advised that the Board of Health meets the third Tuesday of the month, and Ms. Serafin would be available, stating her other commitments, including Historic Preservation meetings and squad meetings are on other Tuesday evenings.

Ms. Carluccio asked about Ms. Serafin's service on the Raritan Township Board of Health, and Ms. Serafin advised that the County representative would report to the Board of Health. Ms. Carluccio explained that East Amwell has specific ordinances for septic designs and water quantity along with solid waste regulations that they monitor, and the County enforces under the Board's direction. She further stated that the Board of Health was certified by the State of New Jersey since she attended specific training in Trenton on behalf of the Board.

Ms. Carluccio advised the Township Committee of potential problems with the possibility of a shared service between Hunterdon County and Sussex County for public health administration. Information just came to light 36 hours ago, and it is unclear how the shared service will evolve. Ms. Carluccio will keep the governing body advised.

Mayor Kneski thanked Ms. Serafin for attending and advised that action may be taken at the regular meeting to follow.

Sean Grace, 36 Linvale Road, was interested in serving on the Environmental Commission. Mr. Grace is a sanctuary manager for the New Jersey Audubon's Plainsboro Preserve and provided an extensive detail about his background, including years spent in the Blue Ridge Mountain area; his educational background in wildlife studies and biology; his work in education; his work in Jackson, Wyoming as a nature guide for expeditions; his return to N.J. to attend the School of Conservation of Forestry when he met his wife and settled in NJ; his experience as a Market Manager; and his current position for the past seven years at the Sanctuary. His family, including his wife and two children, has lived in East Amwell for 10 years, and he has the time to devote to the Environmental Commission. Members of the Environmental Commission feel that he may be able to help with "lots of resources" for the community.

Mayor Kneski explained that the Commission meets the fourth Monday of the month, and Mr. Grace would be available for the most part. The open position is the Alternate II seat.

Mr. Mathews asked for Mr. Grace's perspective on the Sourland Planning Council's proposal of a Master Plan; Mr. Grace had not read it, and Mr. Mathews agreed to send him a copy.

Mr. Grace spoke about good natural resources in Hunterdon County, mentioning a possible program in the spring on land preservation and wildlife.

There being no further business, motion by Ms. Lenox, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cregar, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk