

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Peter Kneski, Deputy Mayor Dart Sageser, and Committee members Patricia Cregar, Tim Mathews, and David Wang-Iverson. Township Administrator Timothy Matheny and Attorney Richard Cushing were 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 1, 2013, and a meeting notice published in the Hunterdon County Democrat issue of January 10, 2013. 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 11, 2013.

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

AGENDA REVIEW

Under Standing Committees, table discussion on Historic Preservation request for funding and refer to the new 6/13/13 FOSPC memo on Pearson with accompanying resolution; Under Executive Session, note that hiring for various positions will take place in public session; Under Correspondence, see the June 11th League of Municipalities Notice on COAH/Appellate Decision. Under State Police Update, Sgt. Nini may not be in attendance this evening. Under Public Hearings, the Open Space Trust Fund hearing is tabled until perhaps the next meeting.

Mr. Mathews asked to add an additional item under Standing Committee reports, i.e., Recycling Committee requests.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The grit-yard is now open the first Saturday of the month (same day as recycling depot from 9 a.m. – noon for residents to bring branches/brush for chipping and to pick up mulch.

Municipal Offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2013.

Summer Playground will be held from July 1 – 26, 2013, at East Amwell Township School; cost is \$50 for enrollment before June 14 and \$60 after that date. Information is available on the Township website and at the Clerk's Office.

Hunterdon County Household Hazardous Waste clean Up Day will be held on Saturday, July 13, 2013, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the County Complex on Route 12 – Contact 908-788-1110 for details.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 9, 2013, Regular Minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson and seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, with the following corrections: on page 2, under Open to the Public, paragraph 2, line 3, added "Acting" between DPW and Superintendent; page 6, paragraph 1, line 3, change "40 years" to "17 years," and remove full sentence, "He spoke about maximizing the use of the funds going forth."

Mr. Mathews commented on Resolution 66-13, introducing the budget, stating his concerns about using the word "approve." Mrs. Stahl said that the wording was read into the record on May 9th as the state supplied resolution. CFO/Treasurer Trasente said that the intent was to approve "introduction" of the budget, with approval of an adopted budget tonight. Mr. Mathews noted that the discussion tonight will clarify the public record that he was not approving the budget, only approving introduction of the budget at the last meeting.

The vote to approve the minutes was carried with one abstention, Mayor Kneski.

May 9, 2013, Executive Minutes (Land Acquisition/Scibilia, Personnel, Litigation, Attorney Advice) were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mrs. Cregar, and carried with one abstention, Mayor Kneski.

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

Dick Ginman, 125 Mountain Road complimented the Administrator and the Road Crew for the work done on the trails on Rocktown Road. Mr. Wang-Iverson concurred.

Glorianne Robbi, 144 Lambertville-Hopewell Turnpike, mentioned a “Keep It Green” Coalition trying to get a ballot question for November for sustaining preservation and conservation. She mentioned pending legislation in the Assembly and Senate to use one fifth of a penny of existing sales tax revenues for long term and sustainable funding for farmland and historic preservation. She asked that the Township Committee consider a letter or resolution of support of bills S-Continued 138 and A-Continued 179 to be sent to the Legislators, including Senator Turner.

Mr. Wang-Iverson made the motion and seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser to send their support. Mr. Mathews said that he would have liked to read the detail. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, spoke with a Raritan government official, and she believed that there may be some willingness on the part of Raritan to entertain another agreement for police coverage that has lapsed. She suggested that Mayor Kneski reach out to the Mayor of Raritan for negotiations, mentioning a specific location on Wertsville Road near Losey Road that should be monitored.

Ms. Gavigan commended the governing body for their discussion at the last meeting to move the executive session earlier in the evening to save money to be paid to the attorney; she recommended that the Administrator’s report also be moved up so that the employee’s hours could be conserved to “trim expenses.” She also felt that a fifth DPW person was a good idea.

Motion by Mrs. Cregar, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried unanimously to close to the public.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR JUDY CONARD

Mayor Kneski recognized Judy Conard, former Farmland/Open Space Preservation Administrator, in the audience. He commended Judy for her 10 years of service to East Amwell and read the following resolution into the record:

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RESOLUTION # 69 -13

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION**

WHEREAS, when the East Amwell Township Farmland Open Space Preservation Committee (FOSPC) was looking for an Administrator to assist the municipality in their preservation efforts in April 2003, Judy Conard answered the call; and

WHEREAS, Judy’s remarkable experience, including familiarity with the farming community from her past employment with First Pioneer Farm Credit, her affiliation with the Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture, membership in the Howell Living History Farm Friends Organization, past officer of the NJ Flying Farmers Organization, among some of Judy’s ventures, has made her, in the words of the FOSPC Chair Glorianne Robbi, “a uniquely qualified individual serving in the position of Administrator of this Committee”; and

WHEREAS, Judy has spent ten years at East Amwell, diligently working with the members FOSPC, helping the Township to attain their preservation goals, through individual applications with farmers and through partnering with conservation non-profits, and Judy's expertise in preservation and her ability to "go the extra mile" in her assistance to the residents and her work with the conservation and government agencies has resulted in a strong, successful, and beneficial program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they publicly acknowledge all of Judy Conard's efforts over the course of the last decade and hereby extend their heartfelt appreciation to Judy for her years of service and contribution to the Township of East Amwell; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee and Staff of East Amwell offer Judy Conard all best wishes as she retires from service in the Township.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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Motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and it was carried unanimously to approve the resolution.

Mrs. Conard graciously accepted the resolution with thanks.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

2013 NJ ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL ANNUAL LICENSES FOR THE HARVEST MOON AND AMWELL VALLEY FIRE COMPANY

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RESOLUTION #70-13

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 written complaints have been filed with the Municipal Clerk objecting to 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 thereunder, 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 Club License for the Amwell Valley Fire Company be approved; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this renewal shall be effective on July 1, 2013, and the Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to sign and seal said license certificate on June 30, 2013, and deliver the same to the Amwell Valley Fire Company on that date.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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RESOLUTION #71-13

WHEREAS, Stan and Theresa Novak applied for the renewal of the Plenary Retail Consumption License -number 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 written complaints have been filed with the Municipal Clerk objecting to 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 thereunder, 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:

a) It shall be noted on the license that "This license bears the 'Broad Package Privilege' pursuant to P.L. 1948, Chapter 98 (NJ.S.A. 33:1-12.23) and N.J.A.C. 13:2.35.1 et. se. (formerly state regulations No. 32)."

b) This renewal shall be effective July 1, 2013, and the Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to sign and seal said license certificate on June 30, 2013, and deliver the same to the Harvest Moon Inn on that date.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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NJ RIDE AGAINST AIDS – BICYCLE RIDE THROUGH EAST AMWELL ON 9/28 – 50 RIDERS (AMWELL, MANNERS, WERTSVILLE, LINDBERGH, ZION ROADS ONLY)

The May 7, 2013, Letter from Co-Founder/Coordinator Adam Weyer asked for permission to hold the 12th annual event to raise money for NJ based AIDS charities, with 50 riders expected (resulting in very limited impact on communities from High Point to Cape May, NJ).

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Motion by Mrs. Cregar, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda items.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Public Hearing:

THE 2013 EAST AMWELL MUNICIPAL BUDGET:

As proof of publication, the Clerk provided the legal notice published in the May 23, 2013, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. Copies of the budget have been available to the public since introduction, and it was posted on the website.

CFO/Treasurer Nicholas Trasente was present for this discussion. He explained that an additional \$1,400 was taken from surplus, with no impact on the tax rate. He further explained that he had provided governing body members with a spreadsheet earlier in the week since they requested information on all changes to the previous year's budget. He also adjusted the calculated tax on a \$460,000 assessed home rather than a \$300,000 assessed home, i.e., a difference of \$159.94 or \$13.33 a month. The new tax rate is \$.0185 based on the new assessment; he noted that property owners were made aware of their new assessments and can calculate their taxes on their own.

Some discussion took place about the introduction of the budget at the last meeting and the decision to add additional funding in the budget for legal fees. Mayor Kneski agreed that he

would defer to the Committee’s decision at the last meeting to increase the amount by \$8,500 to \$45,000 in that line.

The meeting was open to the public for comments.

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, had some questions. She asked Mr. Cushing if the Township was being sued or involved in a suit; he said no. She commented on reviewing legal bills and seeing many for Feinberg/delCampo with significant cost to date. She was in favor of having the attorney attending a meeting earlier in the meeting to save money.

Ms. Gavigan asked about the tax rate; Mr. Trasente said it was \$.0185 per hundred. She asked if anyone goes through expenses on a broad sweep to get an understanding of them. She referred to a budget line for the Administrator, which showed a figure of \$71,959; she was told that Farmland/Open Space Administration also comes from that budget.

Ms. Gavigan explained that East Amwell residents like to know levels of detail, including how much was spent on CADB, on the Feinberg issue, on what the tax rate will be, on any type of relief, etc.

Mr. Trasente explained that the budget is prepared in a state form, while Ms. Gavigan said it was not quite transparent. She was also advised that salaries could be determined through the salary ordinance, once the budget is constructed. It was noted that the governing body agreed to a 2% increase for staff, while some employees will not get the increase due to changes in their salary this year. Ms. Gavigan spoke about efforts here and at the county to save tax payer money, which would be appreciated.

Les Hamilton, 23 High Mowing Road, commented on all the work that went into the budget, stating that smart cuts were made, holding the rate flat for two years. He was advised that the rate would be going up this year.

Motion by Mrs. Cregar, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously to close to the public.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2013 BUDGET

Mr. Trasente explained that there needed to be a separate line for the fire district in the budget; this was not done last year, and he has never worked with a fire district. Some discussion took place on whether the Township Committee was adopting the budget or an amendment budget; they would be adopting an amended budget.

The meeting was open to the public for any comments on the amendment; there were none.

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RESOLUTION #72-13

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2013 BUDGET
(as attached to the original set of minutes)

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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Motion by Mrs. Cregar, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried by roll call vote: Mr. Wang-Iverson, yes; Mrs. Cregar, yes; Mr. Sageser, yes; Mr. Mathews, no.

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RESOLUTION #73-13

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2013 BUDGET
(as attached to the original set of minutes)

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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Motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried by roll call vote:
Mr. Wang-Iverson, yes; Mrs. Cregar, yes; Mr. Sageser, yes; Mr. Mathews, no.

Mr. Mathews asked about the Administrator’s contract and the bearing on the budget. He was told that the subcommittee has been updating the Mayor on their work, and the item will be in executive session at the next meeting.

Mayor Kneski thanked the public and staff for their efforts with keeping the budget in line, and there were some comments about trying to get the budget done earlier next year.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD OF HEALTH

1) 6/10 Memo re: Mobile Food Licenses: Mr. Wang-Iverson explained that the Board of Health is looking for more flexibility to license vendors who attend multiple events at the same site (i.e., an annual permit rather than multiple permits); these would pertain to events at the fair grounds and the firehouse property. He provided more information, including getting information on other municipalities from the county, on the fact that an ordinance would have to be approved by the Board of Health and fees established, the county would determine the number of inspections, etc. Mr. Mathews commented that he was satisfied with the licenses pertaining to limited locations. There were no comments from other members.

FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE Chair Glorianne Robbi and Vice Chair Dick Ginman were present for this discussion.

1) 6/11 & 6/13 Memo on Pearson Assemblage on Ridge Road: FOSPC members explained their latest inter-office memo in detail, explaining their intent to apply for Hunterdon County grant funding, including funding for non-profits. D & R Greenways will apply for 20%, the Township will apply for funding, and they will use their Green Acres money for additional funding if the appraisals are acceptable to the property owners (i.e., the figures shown in the memo are only estimates). Additionally, the Township receives an annual Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Fund allocation (last year’s was used for the Wiedemer property); FOSPC would like to apply this year’s County funds to the Pearson Assemblage. Only one appraisal each would be necessary for these properties, and D & R Greenway will facilitate them; 50% of soft costs is covered by Green Acres funds, and D & R Greenways will ask the sellers to pay the other 50% of these costs. The properties are all on Ridge Road in proximity to conserved and preserved land (e.g., D & R Greenways property, Hunterdon County property, and NJ DEP property). Mr. Ginman provided specific details about the properties, noting that D & R Greenways had previously approached owners.

Mr. Ginman displayed a color coded map, showing various preserved areas in the township, including Clawson Park, Cider Mill Road property, Cattail Brook area, Hunterdon County Preserve, and others, with or without parking. He stated that there was a strategic plan in place, with an eventual plan to have trails tied together.

Mr. Mathews asked if these properties were on the list of targeted property previously presented to the governing body; Mrs. Robbi said that those properties were primarily farms, and she was unsure whether these properties were on that list. She again mentioned past interest by D & R Greenways, stating that there was an enhanced opportunity to pursue acquisition now.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked about Green Acres funding, and Mrs. Robbi explained a recent meeting with the State (including D & R Greenways representation) – they encouraged the Township to use their funding. There is \$104,000 left in the Township’s grant, but the State is willing to assist further if they find a viable project. Mr. Ginman provided comments about working on the application in the category of a previous application, which received a high review at the County level; he said that the first step is to authorize the application, then proceed with an appraisal. He mentioned getting information on recent sales in the Township, which were between \$50,000 - \$500,000 with general sales between \$140,000 - \$200,000 in the middle range.

Mr. Cushing provided some remarks about proceeding, i.e., that the Township was authorizing the application, and they would have the ability to accept or reject a grant document at a future time. Mrs. Robbi said that the application would be to request a grant from the County in the amount of \$96,000.00.

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RESOLUTION #74-13

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR HUNTERDON COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUNDS

WHEREAS: The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders has approved an Open Space Trust Fund and established a Municipal Grants Program to provide County Funds in connection with preserving open space, natural areas, farmland and historic sites; to acquire, develop, improve and maintain county and municipal lands for recreation and conservation purposes; and preservation of historic structures, properties, facilities, sites, areas, or objects; or for the payment of debt service or indebtedness issued or incurred by the municipality for any of the purposes described above; and

WHEREAS, the Township of East Amwell desires to further the public interest by obtaining funding in the amount of \$96,000 from the County of Hunterdon to fund the following project: Acquisition of 40 acres on Ridge Road, to be referred to as the Pearson Assemblage, Block 34, Lots 18, 19, 19.01, 21.01, and 21.02 on Tax Map of the Township of East Amwell at a cost of \$480,000;

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

WHEREAS, the Township of East Amwell is willing to use the County funds in accordance with such adopted Policies and Procedures, and applicable state and local government rules, regulations and statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, Hunterdon County that the Mayor or Chair of the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee is authorized to:

- (a) make application for such County Open Space Trust Funds,
- (b) provide additional application information and furnish such documents as may be required, and
- (c) act as the authorized correspondent of the Township of East Amwell; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that

- 1. the Mayor and Township Clerk of the of the Township of East Amwell, Hunterdon County are hereby authorized to execute any documents and agreements with the County of Hunterdon necessary to accept grant money from the County of Hunterdon in connection with the project known as Pearson Assemblage;
- 2. the Municipality has its share of funds, if required, in the amount of \$240,000

Green Acres Grant.

- 3. in the event the County of Hunterdon's funds are less than the total project cost specified above, the applicant has identified potential sources for the balance of funding necessary to complete the project, including partnering with a non-profit land preservation organization;
- 4. the applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and
- 5. this resolution shall take effect immediately.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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 Motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried by roll call vote to approve the resolution: Mr. Wang-Iverson, yes; Mrs. Cregar, yes; Mr. Sageser, yes; Mr. Mathews, yes.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

1) Contract for Solid Waste Disposal for Residents and Power in Lambertville: Mr. Mathews commented on discussions at the Recycling Committee about the two issues. Regarding solid waste disposal, the Committee would like to look into having municipal service – some issues to consider include allowing residents to opt in, opt out, legal aspects involved, revenue accounting, and how taxes will be paid to cover costs. Mr. Cushing explained that there would be a separate fee for garbage, referencing issues in Lambertville when they tried to have the service (i.e., problems with the 2% cap). Mr. Mathews suggested a fee could be charged or taxes increased to cover services; Mr. Wang-Iverson said that this would mean that everyone would be taxed, even if they opted out of service. Various Committee members commented on the possibility, and Mr. Cushing added that the service would have to go out to bid or the Township may consider a shared service with another municipality. Mr. Cushing and Mayor Kneski recommended that Mr. Trasente look at the financial aspect as a first step, e.g., whether there was a cap issue.

Mr. Mathews asked whether any progress was made on the previous request from Mr. Harrison about participating in the power purchase with South County; Mr. Matheny has not yet contacted any of the participants, but he will do so.

A suggestion was made to have a short recess at 9:18 p.m., and the regular meeting resumed at 9:25 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR’S UPDATE

1) Continued Discussion on Soccer Field Usage: Mr. Matheny explained that there was “some push back” by the adult soccer league, who wanted to use the school field since the contract prepared by Attorney Staples included language that lights could not be used. The contract was sent to them for signature, but there has been no response. Additionally, South County Soccer League indicated that the nets and poles belong to their club, not the Township.

Deputy Mayor Sageser spoke about a meeting in West Amwell regarding fields across from the fairgrounds with South County Soccer representatives being involved. He noted that they are using the school fields, and while there was an intent to let one field lay fallow, this does not seem to be happening, and fields are “going down hill.” He also mentioned having the Recreation Committee involved now and the possibility of instituting fees for field use from this point. Mr. Matheny commented on having the Recreation Committee develop a process.

2) and 3) Full Time DPW Employee and Overtime for the DPW Superintendent: These items will first be discussed in executive session.

4) and 5) Farmland/Open Space Preservation Administrator/Secretary & Secretary for Historic Preservation, Recreation, and Agricultural Advisory Committees: Mayor Kneski set the ground rules for discussion, including hearing from the Administrator and the governing body.

Mr. Cushing explained that usually employment issues are discussed in executive session to protect people’s rights; he further commented the current situation (i.e., some candidates wanted a public discussion and one candidate did not waive any rights). Discussion will be held in public.

Mr. Matheny reviewed his memo of recommendation in detail, including two current employees who wanted parts of the positions, i.e., one would work for one board five hours per month as a flat fee, would not attend any meetings, would do minutes from the tape, and would want \$21.00 per hour. Another employee wanted to the job at a set fee of \$200.00 per month, including minutes and correspondence, which would equate to \$2400 per year, or \$40.00 per hour. Mr. Matheny also explained that there were other candidates for the secretarial positions, highlighting some of their qualifications.

Mr. Matheny said that one candidate wanted all the positions, including attending monthly meetings, minutes, etc.; he is employed at another city full time and is a licensed planner. FOSPC representatives Robbi and Ginman sat in during a second interview of the candidate and were “excited about the candidate.” Mr. Matheny said that he was recommending Scott Bauman, who is in the audience this evening. There would be some adjustments made with Mr. Bauman coming in some evening hours and on the fourth Tuesday in the morning; he will attend CABD and other meetings, as necessary. The Historic Preservation Committee meeting will have to be changed to accommodate Mr. Bauman.

Mr. Mathews asked why Mr. Matheny did not interview other potential candidates, including some who were residents. Mr. Matheny said that the candidates may not have had experience in specified areas and may have been at a different tier. He also noted that it is not policy that candidates from the municipality were given any different weight, and he noted that Mr. Bauman’s credentials included experience as a planner, in grant preparation, etc. Mr. Mathews again commented on looking at the pool of candidates and considering other candidates at possibly lower amounts of pay. Deputy Mayor Sageser commented on the fact that Mr. Matheny reviewed all the resumes and decided not to interview, adding that Mr. Bauman’s salary was within the range of pay for employees with the in-house staff proposals being at a higher rate of pay. Mr. Matheny agreed that both in-house employees have the skills and are “very good employees and can handle the jobs.” The issue was that Mr. Bauman was qualified with “high credentials” and able to handle the positions as posted, while the propositions by in-house staff were more expensive and not as the positions were posted. It was noted that Mr. Bauman did submit two separate applications for the positions, and he has experience in all fields.

Mr. Wang-Iverson commented on the “remarkably fortuitous find” to have Mr. Bauman meet the qualifications for all boards; Mayor Kneski concurred, agreeing that Mr. Bauman may be of assistance in getting grants for Clawson House and other locations as time progresses. Mr. Wang-Iverson agreed that it was good to have one person in all the positions, i.e., having Agricultural Advisory and FOSPC working together, adding that it was a good idea to streamline the secretarial/administrative position for FOSPC.

Salary recommendations were discussed. The previous secretarial positions were paid at a rate of \$14.28 per hour, and Mr. Matheny was recommending \$16.00 per hour. The prior FOSPC Administrator was paid \$20.77 per hour, and Mr. Matheny was recommending \$20.00 per hour for the Administrative/Secretarial position. This employee would not be subject to an increase in salary when the salary and wage resolution was prepared for 2013.

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RESOLUTION #75-13

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby accept the recommendation of the Township Administrator, as outlined in his memo of June 3, 2013, and appoint, as a probationary employee, Scott Bauman as the secretary of the Historic Preservation, Recreation, and Agricultural Advisory Committees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that they hereby appoint Scott Bauman as the Farmland/Open Space Preservation Committee Secretary/Administrator; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2012 Salary and Wage Resolution be amended as follows:

Remove Christine Rosikiewicz at \$14.28/hr. for Historic Preservation, Recreation, Agricultural Advisory, and Farmland/Open Space Preservation Committee Secretary;

Remove Farmland/Open Space Preservation Administrator Conard \$20.77/hr.

Add:

Historic Preservation Secretary Bauman	\$16.00/hr.
Recreation Committee Secretary Bauman	\$16.00/hr.
Agricultural Advisory Committee Secretary Bauman	\$16.00/hr.
Farmland/Open Space Preservation Secretary/Administrator Bauman	\$20.00/hr.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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Motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser and seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, to approve the resolution to hire. Mr. Mathews agreed that he would fully support the impeccable candidate but was concerned that qualified residents were not interviewed. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Kneski thanked Mr. Matheny for his assistance in hiring, noting “it was a monumental task.” He also supported staff serving in multiple positions, and he thanked them for their applications.

Mr. Bauman was introduced to the governing body, and he thanked the Township Committee for their confidence. He looked forward to working with everyone. Mayor Kneski concluded with, “Welcome aboard!”

Mr. Matheny noted that Mr. Bauman would not be able to work until the week of July 15. The Clerk indicated that staff would cover the work until he was available.

6) Summer Playground Director: Mr. Matheny explained that one of the hired summer playground directors resigned before the event, and a search for a replacement has been on-going. There were a couple of applications, with one applicant highly recommended by the school superintendent; she resides in Pennsylvania, and in theory, could not be hired (although technically, the candidate had a year to apply for residency, and the program would be over before then). The other candidate is a resident, a substitute at the school, and was highly recommended. Additionally, her application came in before the other one, and she would be interested in participating in future years. Neither candidate can work the first week of the program; however, Supervising Director Veith did not see a problem with this.

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RESOLUTION #76-13

BE IT RESOLVED by the East Amwell Township Committee that they hereby accept the recommendation of the Township Administrator and appoint Loretta Truppelli as a Summer Playground Director; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2012 Salary and Wage Resolution be amended to remove the name of Yvonne George and replace it with Loretta Truppelli at the rate of \$240.72/week.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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Motion by Mrs. Cregar, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried unanimously.

7) Extension of 2012 M & R Contracts: Mr. Matheny explained wording in the 2012 contracts that allow extensions for up to two years.

A recommendation was made to enter executive session now and continue the remaining agenda items afterwards. The Committee agreed to hold the Open to the Public portion of the meeting before proceeding.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, located the 2012 salary and wage ordinance, mentioning that the Township Administrator range is from \$59,500 and \$60,000 for 20 hours work per week, equating to \$56.00 per hour. She mentioned “percs” including benefits and trips, stating “we can’t afford ... and not getting bang for the buck.” She spoke about contract negotiations by a subcommittee, suggesting the committee “pretend it’s your money ... and bargain hard.” She mentioned the fact that the Administrator has no fixed hours in the office as “a thorn for a lot of people.”

Ms. Gavigan mentioned the qualifications of the new employee, including being a planner, noting that the Historic Preservation Chair is very happy with this. Ms. Gavigan understood the decision to hire, but said that she has not heard the same story twice. She cautioned the Township Committee and boards on what they can afford and mentioned the experience of staff.

Ms. Gavigan obtained a copy of the personnel manual through OPRA, and she commented on the authority given to the Township Administrator as “not a democracy.” She concluded by stating that she believed things needed to change, that the impact on reduced property values in terms of equity will make residents “cranky” when they get their tax bills. She believed that committee meetings should be streamed on the internet and the public should start paying attention, adding that she appreciated the Township Committee’s service and her ability to have time to comment during open sessions.

Ms. Gavigan concluded by suggesting residents take their garbage to West Amwell as a shared service.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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RESOLUTION #77-13

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

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

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of East Amwell wishes to discuss the personnel issues and property acquisition and to receive attorney advice,

WHEREAS, minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then minutes can be made public;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the public be excluded from this meeting.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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Motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously to approve the resolution.

Executive Session began at 10:18 p.m. Attorney Cushing left executive session at 10:40 p.m.

The regular session began at 10:43 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS, Continued

2) Appointment of Full Time DPW Employee: A recommendation was previously discussed in executive session to hire David Barrick as a full time DPW employee, after serving as a temporary employee since last November, during the absence of the DPW Superintendent. Mr. Matheny commented on Mr. Barrick as “an excellent employee ... with a great attitude.” He is currently serving as a temporary employee through the end of June, with a recommendation to move him to a full time position as a probationary employee for one year, effective July 1.

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RESOLUTION #78-13

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby approve the hiring of David Barrick as a full time DPW employee, with benefits, for a one year probationary period, effective July 1, 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2012 Salary and Wage Resolution be amended as follows:

- Remove Temporary DPW Employee Barrick \$17.00 per hour, effective June 30, 2013
- Replace with DPW Employee Barrick \$19.00 per hour, effective July 1, 2013

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

+++++
Motion by Mrs. Cregar and seconded to approve the resolution. Mrs. Cregar asked a question about hiring a fifth worker; Mr. Wang-Iverson commented on hiring “an exceptional employee” and on an unknown factor about Mr. Kadezabek’s plans. The motion to approve the resolution as approved with one no vote by Mr. Mathews.

3) Overtime for the DPW Superintendent: The matter was discussed in executive session, and Mr. Matheny will send a letter to the employee.

7) Extension of 2012 M & R Contracts, Continued: The Township Committee has the ability to extend prices in the 2012 contract for 2013 upon written agreement from the vendors. Both Flemington Bituminous and Trap Rock submitted letters agreeing to the extension.

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RESOLUTION #79-13

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby agree to extend the 2012 contracts through 2013 to the following vendors:

Trap Rock Industries, LLC
PO 419

Kingston, NJ 08528
Up to 600 tons of 1 “ blend stone, FDS \$7,380
Up to 100 tons of 1” clean stone, FDS, \$1,730

Flemington Bituminous Corp.
205 Pennsylvania Avenue
Flemington, NJ 08822
Up to 500 tons MABC 1-4 FOB \$28,975
Up to 500 tons FABC 1-5 FOB \$28,975

Contracts are on file in the Municipal Clerk’s Office, 1070 Route 202, Ringoes, NJ 08551, for public inspection during normal business hours.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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Motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mrs. Cregar, and carried unanimously to approve the resolution.

8) Notice from Tax Collector Calling for Inserts in Tax Bill Mailing: Committee members reviewed the proposed enclosures. Mr. Mathews suggested having information related to bear safety. Another suggestion was made to notify residents about the Animal Control Officer.

9) 5/29 & 6/5 Notifications from HART re: Special Recognition of Ringoes Sidewalk Project: Mr. Matheny reported that HART provided East Amwell with a \$10,000 grant earlier in the conceptual stages of the project, and they would like to recognize the Township during the completion of the work. Committee members were invited to attend HART’s annual meeting on July 25th from 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. at the Grand Colonial.

Mr. Matheny gave a brief update on the project, including sidewalks and paving completed and some additional work to be finished. Mrs. Cregar commented on a small portion of sidewalk that could have been installed on John Ringo, just past Iron Horse. Mr. Matheny explained that the NJ DOT would not allow that section unless there was a cross-walk installed.

10) Request from Employee to Receive Up to 25% of State Health Benefits Plan (SHBP) Cost by Waiving Health Benefits Coverage: Mr. Matheny explained that many towns offer this as an incentive to employees to opt out of health care coverage. State regulations set the maximum figure at 25% of the coverage cost or \$5,000, whichever is less (i.e., previously, some towns offered up to 50%). In this instance, the employee is waiving his benefits since he is covered under another plan; however, if the employee losses the other coverage, he is able to get back into the SHBP. Mr. Matheny did speak with the attorney about this, and Mr. Cushing said that the payment was an incentive, but not a requirement.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked about the effect on the budget, which was adopted tonight. It was noted that about \$12,000 was budgeted for the coverage already. Mayor Kneski noted that it was not mandatory to give the incentive. Mr. Mathews noted that the affordable health care act will have more opportunities for employees to find more economical health care in the market place – however, this program has not yet been developed.

There was a consensus of the Committee not to offer an incentive this year and consider budget impacts next year. Mr. Wang-Iverson asked about the budget impact if one decides to get back in the system; Mr. Matheny explained that the employee has the right to do so.

11) 6/11 Request from Clerk to take Public Purchasing Course: The Clerk explained that she would like to take the purchasing class, based on education funding being available in the budget. Motion by Mrs. Cregar and seconded by Mr. Mathews to allow the Clerk to take the class. Mr. Mathews asked how the money will be allocated, i.e., exhausting it on a first

come basis or another way. Mr. Matheny explained that there are categories of classes in the policy manual, and if the class does not fit a category, the request comes to the governing body.

Mr. Mathews agreed to send some ideas to Mr. Matheny to incorporate into a policy to assign funding.

The motion to allow the clerk to take the purchasing class was approved unanimously.

300TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUNTERDON COUNTY (See February 2013 minutes and April 18th memo from Cynthia Yard)

There was no update from Jim Davidson at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

CHANGE IN 2013 ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE TO HOLD EXECUTIVE MEETING, BEGINNING AT 7:00 PM (See May 9, 2013, Minutes for Background)

Committee members discussed how they would advertise their intent to have an executive meeting, if applicable, from 7 – 7:30 p.m., while holding the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. The intent is to have Mr. Cushing present in executive session at the earlier meeting and stay for about one half hour through the regular meeting, then being released. The meeting would have to be so organized to make sure that executive material is arranged accordingly. The Committee also acknowledged that they would have to “more disciplined” in trying to get the executive sessions done within the 30-minute time frame. Mayor Kneski also noted that if any legal items come up during the regular meeting, when the attorney was not present, they could be held until the next meeting. The consensus was that the public session will start at 7:30 p.m. each month, with an executive session, if necessary, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The attorney will also be asked to stay for a portion of the regular meeting, e.g., the first half hour. A public notice will be prepared for publication to begin this practice in July.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

TREASURER’S OFFICE:

Bills of the Evening were approved on a motion by Mrs. Cregar, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried unanimously.

There were no resolutions offered.

TAX COLLECTOR HYLAND presented her May 2013 report.

Tax Collector’s Resolution:

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RESOLUTION #80-13

WHEREAS there has been a redemption made for Tax Sale Certificate #201204, Block 22 lot 4, 56 Rainbow Hill Road, sold on October 11th 2012 to US Bank Cust for Pro Capital I LLC, and

WHEREAS the amount of \$27,629.09 has been collected from Emigrant Mortgage for the owner Gary Jolley for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 201204,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a check in the amount of \$27,629.09 be prepared by the Tax Collector and mailed to US Bank Cust for Pro Capital and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a check for the premium paid for Tax Sale Certificate #201204 in the amount of \$26,000.00 be prepared by the Treasurer and that the

Mayor, Clerk and Treasurer be authorized to sign this check and that it also be returned to US Bank Cust for Pro Capital I LLC.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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Motion by Mrs. Cregar, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried unanimously to approve the resolution.

All other reports were acknowledged without comment.

The Mayor’s Message for the budget was mentioned, with some changes offered regarding the value of the homes used as the example for tax impact, wording for the fifth roadman, and increased legal fees. Corrections were made accordingly.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Mathews referred to a public hearing notification from West Amwell Township with respect to a development at the golf course on Route 31. The plans include a golf course, restaurant, a liquor & wine store, and an ice cream shop. Mr. Mathews spoke about increased traffic on Route 31 in the vicinity of a “treacherous” intersection. Deputy Mayor Sageser may also attend, and Planning Board members may be interested.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Mrs. Cregar, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk