

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:42 p.m. Present were Mayor Peter Kneski, Deputy Mayor Dart Sageser, and Committee members Tim Mathews and David Wang-Iverson. Committee member Patricia Cregar was absent. 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 July 9, 2013.

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

AGENDA REVIEW

Item 6, State Police Update is tabled at this time.

There will be a special discussion under item 8 on the proposed community wildfire protection plan. Fire Chief Jesse Williams will be present.

The 2013 Salary and Wage Ordinance is ready for introduction tonight as Ordinance 13-06

The 2012 audit was delivered yesterday by Auditor Case; resolution of acceptance of the audit will be on the August 8, 2013, agenda.

Under Correspondence, add the 7-10 League of Municipalities update on NJ Supreme Court Decision on COAH. Also, there is a 7-10 email from Jim Robbins that was forwarded to the governing body's email on this subject.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Grit-yard is now open the first Saturday of the month (same day as recycling depot) from 9:00 a.m. – noon for residents to bring branches/brush for chipping and to pick up mulch. PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME SCHEDULE.

Summer Playground will continue through July 26, 2013 at East Amwell Twp. School; 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. The next Computer & Electronics Collection will be held on October 12th.

Special Primary Election Day for Vacated Senatorial Seat is Tuesday, August 13, 2013, from 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. All polls are located at the municipal building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 13, 2013, Regular Minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously with two corrections on page 6, paragraph 2, and 5, change tax rate to "\$.185," not "\$1.85."

June 13, 2013, Executive Minutes (Personnel, Land Acquisition) were approved on a motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried unanimously.

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

Glorianne Robbi, 144 Lambertville-Hopewell Turnpike, spoke about the newly adopted budget, asking if tax rate figures were now available. Mayor Kneski spoke about modifying his earlier budget message, based on information received from the CFO – information will be shortly available. The Clerk mentioned that tax bills will be mailed out next week. Mr. Mathews said that the budget was approved and will not be changed; Mayor Kneski said only the budget message would be changed. Mr. Wang-Iverson said that numbers are not finalized, explaining that the effect on the municipal rate amounts to seven-tenths of a cent per hundred of assessed value. As an example, if the assessment is \$400,000 in 2013, the tax bill increase would be \$28.00 per year. He explained that they were originally using incorrect figures, i.e., the 2012 figures. He said that he obtained the averaged assessed value in 2012 and 2013 from the Assessor and calculated the taxes based on both the 2012 and 2013 rates to keep the revaluation out of the equation. The average home in the Township is \$384,000, and the tax increase will be \$26.00. Mr. Wang-Iverson also said that he looked at the county figures earlier today with the municipal rate coming in at \$.184, which was comparable to the figure provided by the CFO at \$.185. He said that the tax rate for municipal and school purposes is 2.2%, equating to a municipal tax of 8% of the total tax bill.

David Kanach, 126 Manners Road, said that he appeared before the Township Committee at a meeting last June 14 regarding a foreclosed property across the street from him, i.e., 121 Manners Road. At that time, the Township Administrator wrote a letter to the bank to maintain the property. Now, nothing is being done to maintain the property. He spoke about other municipalities who have been adopting property maintenance ordinances over the past several years for better enforcement.

Mr. Kanach spoke about having 135 acres of preserved land, and the abandoned property at 121 Manners is covered with Canadian Thistle, which is on the state list of noxious weeds. Towns can file civil suits without the need of an ordinance. Mr. Kanach spoke about his patience over the past 4-5 years, and while appreciating the Administrator's letter last year, it did not work. Mr. Kanach provided the governing body with a packet of information, including information on Canadian Thistle and a sample of the weed.

Mayor Kneski spoke about not having a property maintenance ordinance in place and perhaps "piggybacking" off other municipalities' ordinances (including Clinton Township), stating that the Township may look to do so once an ordinance has a proven track record in another town. He was familiar with the property that Mr. Kanach was speaking about, along with one or two others. He appreciated the information provided by Mr. Kanach this evening. Mr. Kanach reiterated the ability to bring the property owner to court and have them fined per stem for the Canadian Thistle.

Mayor Kneski agreed that the Township would look into Mr. Kanach's concerns. The Mayor questioned whether a municipality had the authority to enforce a state law; Mr. Kanach said that anyone could bring civil suit against a party under the noxious weed regulations.

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, spoke about the budget figures, including \$1,242,413.45 as the amount to be raised by taxes with a total budget appropriation of \$2,625,424.65 with the budget increase up by 3.5 cents. She mentioned that the major portion of the increase was due to the reassessment, which showed a 15-16 percent decrease in value. Mr. Wang-Iverson spoke about "normalizing on the property loss."

Ms. Gavigan commented on seeing some significant changes in the budget, and she asked that the Township Committee hold off on approving the Township Administrator's contract and initiate an investigation on "how it is going." She spoke about OPRA requests here in East Amwell for Township Administrator contracts from 2006 to present and requests she has made in Pennington and other municipalities for contracts and personnel manuals. She is still getting responses from other municipalities in Hunterdon and Mercer Counties. She spoke about comparisons with other municipalities, and she has prepared a table for the "VIP" showing the contract changes in East Amwell over the past six years. Ms. Gavigan detailed some of the evolutionary changes in the Township Administrator's contract here, starting with a salary of \$48,000 in 2006 with a minimum number of hours in the office; she commented on the level of vacation days, 401K contributions, increase from a standard 3 months severance to 6 months, cell phone expenses paid at \$80 per month, etc.; she compared the contract received in

Pennington Borough “with significant differences,” including 4 vacation days, only two days per week from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., a “better policy manual in Pennington than ours” showing exempt employees and comp time, etc. Ms. Gavigan asked the Committee to “step back and independently look at the contract” using expertise from business people on boards. Ms. Gavigan mentioned meetings behind closed doors, a corner office for the Administrator rather than where there would be over-sight of the office, turnover in personnel and financial problems, an unhappy office staff, and an authoritarian style that does not work with public employees. She continued by stating that the Township Administrator should oversee operations, make sure that all employee reviews have been done, make sure that bills are being paid and paid on time, make sure accounts are balanced. She concluded that this would be timely in terms of county issues.

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

Mr. Cushing left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION

REVIEW OF FOREST FIRE PROTECTION PLAN Amwell Valley Fire Company Chief
Jesse Williams was present.

Chief Williams spoke about previous discussions with then Chief Marty Alexander and Harold Ryan from NJ Forest Fire Service. The intent was to do a community assessment of fire risk and mitigation measures to improve the area. Chief Williams wrapped up the work since he took over office. He explained that the Township was divided into three districts, the village, mountain, and the remaining agricultural valley. The risk analysis included fuel hazard, risk of wildfire occurrence, structural ignitability, firefighting limitations, and the overall threat of fire. The Township fell into a higher threat area by adding the figures together. There are mitigation strategies and awareness considerations, including landscaping maintenance techniques. Chief Williams said that this made him think that unkempt lawns could be a contribution to the threat. Chief Williams continued by stating that past history in the township is favorable, stating that the Fire Company has dealt with only three major fires in the last ten years, with only two wildfire incidents. He stated that the Community Action Plan being proposed is a good one, that there is literature that can be provided to residents in tax bills, and there will be community outreach. He further stated that the Fire Company would be increasing training for its members, including working with Harold Ryan at NJ Forest Fire Service to learn wildfire protection strategies.

Mr. Mathews explained that he also participated in the meeting when setting the risks, and he believed that there was a higher risk in wooded areas, stating that the plan does not reflect dead wood as fuel. He asked about exercises. Chief Williams spoke about continued work with Harold Ryan on this. He referenced mitigation points in the plan, including costs and upkeep to get into the mountain areas after the storm to address dead wood.

Mr. Mathews asked who would take the lead; Chief Williams said that the Fire Company would work with Mr. Ryan and have the Office of Emergency Management be involved to address evacuation routes, etc.

Mr. Mathews recommended setting up an LEPC meeting and having the Fire Company present the plan. Chief Williams agreed, and he said that he would contact Mr. Ryan about the exercise in late summer or early fall.

Deputy Mayor Sageser commented on the “professionally done plan.” Chief Williams explained that East Amwell is the first municipality to put the plan together, and the hope is that it will help drive the rest of the state to participate as well. Deputy Mayor Sageser mentioned an item (on page 9 of the plan) regarding the Cider Mill grasslands and a mechanism to work with property owners to follow recommendations; Chief Williams said that he will work with Mr. Ryan on how property owners should be approached.

The Township Committee summarized that Maria Andrews will schedule a meeting of the LEPC and Amwell Valley Fire Company representatives will summarize the plan for them. The LEPC

will then discuss the plan and funding issues and make a recommendation to the governing body. The Clerk asked about urgency to adopt in order to qualify for funding; Chief Williams said that the item could be held for the next Township Committee meeting in August.

Mr. Matheny will advise Ms. Andrews to schedule the LEPC meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

4H FAIR AMUSEMENT LICENSES AG-13-01; AG 13-02; AG 13-03 FOR JUDITH WOTASEK FOR FISHING, BASKETBALL, AND DARTS

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RESOLUTION # 82 - 13

WHEREAS, South County Park, property belonging to the County of Hunterdon, is located in the Township of East Amwell, and

WHEREAS, South County Park is now the location of the annual Hunterdon County 4H Agricultural Fair, and amusement games play an important part in the entertainment at the Fair;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell approves the following amusement game application, which conform to local ordinances:

Applications AG #13-01; AG #13-02; AG#13-03:

Judith Wotasek, 207 Byram Kingwood Road, Stockton, NJ 08559
Hunterdon County 4H Fair/South County Park/ 1207 Route 179,
Lambertville, NJ 08530
August 21-25, 2013 from 11 a.m. - Midnight
Fish Pond; Basketball Toss, Balloon Dart

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE CLERK TO ISSUE AMUSEMENT LICENSES THAT MAY COME IN PRIOR TO AUGUST TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING (TO BE MEMORIALIZED AT THE AUGUST MEETING).

This item referred to any license requests that come in to the Clerk between Township Committee meetings. The fair is slated for August 21 – 25, and approval at the August meeting may be too late for state processing.

RAFFLE LICENSE RA 13-02 – ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL FOR AN EVENT TO BE HELD AT THE RIDGE AT BACK BROOK ON AUGUST 5, 2013

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RESOLUTION # 83-13

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby support the fund-raising efforts of RWJ University Hospital Foundation 10 Plum Street, Suite 910, New Brunswick, NJ 08901; and

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

Mr. Wang-Iverson said that upon speaking with Mrs. Robbi earlier, the name for the trail grant should be corrected to Rocktown Woods Preserve.

Motion to adopt the 2013 Open Space Trust Fund was made by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously by roll call vote: Mr. Wang-Iverson, yes; Mr. Sageser, yes; Mr. Mathews, yes; Mr. Kneski, yes.

Introduction of Ordinances

ORDINANCE #13-06 THE 2013 SALARY AND WAGE SCHEDULE

The ordinance lists the rate of salaries for employees for 2013 with most receiving a 2% increase. Committee members agreed that they would not be increasing their salaries.

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EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
THE 2013 SALARY AND WAGE SCHEDULE
ORDINANCE #13-06

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION ONE: The following shall be the rate and ranges of compensation for the officials and employees of the Township for the year 2013.

SALARIED:

Mayor	\$ 3,473
Township Committee Members	\$ 3,015
Township Administrator	\$60,690 - \$61,904
Tax Assessor	\$25,636 - \$34,701
Tax Collector	\$29,255- \$39,637
Treasurer/CFO	\$14,790 -\$45,000
Municipal Clerk	\$41,492- \$56,987
Payroll Clerk	\$ 1,884 - \$ 3,740
Zoning Officer	\$12,115 - \$13,257
Magistrate – East Amwell’s ½ share	\$ 8,884 - \$13,593 +\$4,000
Court Administrative Officer – ½ share	\$19,204 - \$31,125+\$5,000
Separate Franklin Court Salary ordinance in bold	
Director of Public Assistance	\$ 2,123 - \$3,615.00
Public Defender	\$ 1,016 - \$ 2,141 +\$500
Prosecutor	\$11,334 - \$16,226+\$4,000
DPW Superintendent	\$70,491 - \$77,136
(With Over-time provided beyond 300 hours of over-time)	
COAH Municipal Housing Liaison	\$ 4,414 - \$9,226

HOURLY:

Alternate Zoning Officer	\$35.00/hour
DPW Supervisor	\$22.42 - \$29.92
DPW Employee	\$18.57 - \$27.52
Extra DPW Employee, temporary as necessary	\$ 8.67 - \$21.54
Grounds Maintenance	\$ 8.67 - \$18.85
Deputy Clerk/Assistant Tax Collector	\$16.42 - \$23.64
Board of Health Secretary	\$16.14 - \$27.52

Assistant Treasurer	\$16.14 - \$27.52
Recycling Coordinator	\$10.17 - \$21.24
Planning Board Administrative Officer	\$16.15 - \$27.52
Board of Adjustment Administrative Officer	\$16.14 - \$27.52
Zoning Secretary	\$ 10.17 - \$21.24
Deputy Court Administrator – East Amwell’s ½ share	\$ 10.17 - \$12.57
Environmental Commission Secretary	\$ 10.17 - \$21.24
COAH Housing Inspector	\$35.00
Farmland/Open Space Administrator	\$16.75 - \$23.64
Farmland/Open Space Recording Secretary	\$ 10.17 - \$21.24
Recreation Committee Secretary	\$ 10.17 - \$21.24
Rabies Clinic – Secretarial	\$ 20.00
Secretarial Services	\$ 10.17- \$21.24
Agricultural Advisory Secretary	\$ 10.17 - \$21.24
Historic Preservation Secretary	\$ 10.17 - \$21.24

BOARD OF HEALTH FEES:

A. Witnessing Service up to 2 hours	\$ 50.00
B. Witnessing Service more than 2 hours, up to 8 hours in one day	\$120.00
C. Witnessing Service after 8 hours in one work day – (8 am – 4 pm) for each hour or fraction of hour	\$ 25.00
D. Surcharge for Saturday or Sunday	\$100.00

OTHER:

Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detector Inspectors	\$25.00 per inspection
Summer Playground Directors (per week)	\$194.55 - \$278.83
Summer Playground Supervising Director	\$241.74 - \$324.36
Dog Census Taker(s)	\$325.00 plus \$500.00 for mileage per district

SECTION TWO: This ordinance shall become effective upon publication, according to law, and be retroactive to January 1, 2013, or the date of salary rate change for those employees who may have had a rate change earlier in 2013.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

Attest: _____
Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Introduced:
Adopted:

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Motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously to introduce Ordinance 13-06. The ordinance will be published in the July 18, 2013, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the second reading/public hearing will be held at the regular Township Committee meeting on August 8 at 7:30 p.m.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

COAH (AFFORDABLE HOUSING)

1) 6/25 Letter from COAH re: New Certification on Housing Fund Balance and 6/25 Explanation from Planner Joanna Slagle were noted without comment.

2) 2013-14 Contract from NORWESCAP: The contract was sent to the attorney for comment, and it was provided to COAH MHL/Administrative Agent Jim Robbins. The only change in the language is the dates to cover July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Money is already committed from the COAH funds collected for construction in the township. The Clerk announced that Mr. Robbins plans to be present at the August meeting with representatives from Easter Seals and NORWESCAP to present the checks already approved. Both Mr. Mathews and Deputy Mayor Sageser agreed that they would like to see the repairs outlined rather than just allocating the funds. The Clerk provided anecdotal information of a previous round of rehabilitation funding overseen by the County – specific categories of repair had to be met by the income qualified individuals.

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RESOLUTION #84A-13

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of East Amwell authorizes the Mayor to sign the 2013-14 agreement with Northwest New Jersey Community Action Program (NORWESCAP) for the rehabilitation of five units with a fund of \$59,000 (\$50,000 for direct service and \$9,000 for administration). (Copy of Full Contract Agreement 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 unanimously to approve the resolution.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

1) Revised Resolution for Ridge Road Assemblage/Hunterdon County Grant (See 6/13/13 Minutes for Background and 7/1 Inter-Office Memo from Glorianne Robbi): Chairwoman Glorianne Robbi and Vice Chairman Dick Ginman were present for this discussion.

Mrs. Robbi explained that their revised memo was prepared after discussion with the CADB staff about the cooperative grant. Their previous assumption on cost distribution was in error, and the Township applies for 30% of the funds with the non-profit applying for 20% of the cost. Mrs. Robbi further explained that there were different directives in the policy manual and the procedure manual.

Mr. Ginman said that no money was being request at this time. However, costs of the project have been reassessed, with a base of \$200,000 per buildable lot being a “reasonable” figure, according to information they have received. FOSPC was making a request for a revised resolution. Mr. Wang-Iverson asked for confirmation that the deal would be “off” if grant money was not received; Mr. Ginman agreed.

Mrs. Robbi asked for consideration of the revised resolution, prepared with new figures; a hard copy will be delivered to Hunterdon County tomorrow. Mr. Ginman said that the Township would not know until at least December whether funds are awarded. He mentioned that the Township did not hear until Spring that they were given funding for the Plimpton property (approved last Spring); he further mentioned that “the numbers” were too low for that applicant, that the money was sitting there, and he hoped that the estate would reconsider.

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RESOLUTION # 85- 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 \$180,000 from the County of Hunterdon to fund the following project: Acquisition of 40 acres on Ridge Road, to be referred to as the Ridge Road 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 \$600,000;

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 Administrator 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 Ridge Road Assemblage;
- 2. the Municipality has its share of funds, if required, in the amount of \$300,000 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 Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried unanimously to approve the resolution.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

1) Request from the East Amwell Historical Society for 5K Run in East Amwell Township: EAHS President Mary Van Horn and Vice Chair Kat Cannelongo, both members of the Historic Preservation Committee, were present.

Ms. Van Horn mentioned the work of the Society in preparing the Images of America East Amwell book a few years ago and recently achieving their 501C3 non-profit status. Their goal is to pursue fund-raising for Clawson House in earnest, and their first endeavor is a 5K run and walk through Ringoes. They were not looking for approval tonight, but they wanted to introduce the concept to the governing body. The Historical Society by-laws require a Board vote on the project first, which they have not had an opportunity to do. Ms. Van Horn turned the presentation over to Ms. Cannelongo, who is coordinating the event and has put in an enormous amount of work on it.

Ms. Cannelongo said that the event will be called "Ringoes Run Through History," and it will encourage people to see the town. A 5K is equivalent to 3.1 miles, and Ms. Cannelongo mapped out a route of starting at Clawson Park, going over Larison Lane, up Route 579 to Toad Lane, right to Sandra Road, up to Old York Road (Route 179), and end back at Clawson Park. Ms. Cannelongo has been in contact with running groups, and they advised that a run/walk with all right turns is advisable; additionally, the course will allow people to see many historic sites in the village. The Society will also contact the State Police for help with traffic control, and they will reach out to the County as well. Ms. Cannelongo was advised that Toad Lane is the dividing line with Raritan Township and Route 179 is a State Highway, and she should contact those agencies also.

Ms. Van Horn and Ms. Cannelongo were advised to get further details and approvals and report back to the Committee for a resolution of approval. Ms. Cannelongo also mentioned that the run/walk may be sanctioned by the USATF (U. S. Association of Track and Field); if so, they would be able to provide the Township the necessary insurance certificate.

Mr. Mathews asked how the group planned to use the funds in conjunction with the grants being acquired for Clawson House. Ms. Van Horn said that the money would be donated to the Township, noting that the house will require a lot of money for rehabilitation and quipped about possibly purchasing "a front door!" The Clerk advised that there is an account set up for donations to the property.

Deputy Mayor Sageser spoke about 5K activities in Princeton, stating it was helpful to get running groups involved. Getting people to visit our municipality and more visibility of Clawson House is the goal. Ms. Cannelongo spoke about putting the event on websites and other running events, where runners will see it. Having good participation at an inaugural run may encourage future events.

Ms. Van Horn commended Ms. Cannelongo for her efforts, and she said that they would be back in front of the governing body at the next meeting with a detailed plan. Mayor Kneski thanked the women for their update and wished them good luck!

Mr. Mathews planned on leaving the meeting at this time for personal reasons. Committee members agreed to move the discussion on the approval of the 2013 Township Administrator's Contract up on the agenda now.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR'S 2013 CONTRACT

Mayor Kneski stated for the record that this item was discussed in executive session. A subcommittee of Deputy Mayor Sageser and Committee member Wang-Iverson previously met

with Mr. Matheny to review the contract and consider all information, including comments made from the public throughout the year.

Mr. Wang-Iverson said that the consensus of the Committee was to approve a contract that was fundamentally the same as last year's, i.e., the salary increase of 2% was the major change. The subcommittee agreed that the severance clause was not unreasonable and remained unchanged from last year.

Deputy Mayor Sageser spoke about public comments made by Ms. Gavigan about an increase in salary for the Administrator from \$48,000 in 2006 to over \$60,000 now. He explained that this was not an increase of \$1,700 each year, adding that the salary was bumped at one point with an adjustment for the QPA position. He believed that it was reasonable, based on the scope of work which was increased and the complexity of management, including the Administrator's experience in hiring, including CFOs. He thanked Ms. Gavigan for her comments, but he believed that his position with another municipality could not be compared. Mr. Matheny has been in East Amwell for seven or eight years and he just started his other position; additionally, his position elsewhere was his own business.

Mayor Kneski thanked Mr. Sageser and Mr. Wang-Iverson for their assistance in negotiating the contract.

Mr. Wang-Iverson added, on a personal note, that in the short period since he began in January, he has met with Mr. Matheny once a month and more recently to stay on top of the finance department. In his dealings with Mr. Matheny, he found him to be professional, having good suggestions for the Township and looking out for the Township, approaches issues pro-actively, e.g., filling positions as soon as they become open, "bird-dogging" the sidewalk project, etc. He concluded that Mr. Matheny "has been good to deal with, very professional, an asset to the township, and ...[he] had no problem with part of my taxes paying his salary."

Mr. Mathews viewed the severance issue a roadblock if the Township wished to move forward in another direction or redefine/change the position. He felt that six months payout was an issue, and he objected to this in the past and now. "In light of the finance department issues and atrociousness of the financials," he did not believe the Administrator "scrutinized" issues, and he was not supportive of renewing the contract and did not support the contract as written.

Mayor Kneski explained that whether it was three months of severance or six months, it was only in effect if the Administrator was released without cause. If there was cause or if the Administrator chose to leave on his own, no severance was offered, and the Mayor had no problem with the severance clause as written.

Mr. Mathews said that if a different Township Committee wanted to change the position or eliminate it, their hands are tied. He believed that 3 months of severance was a legal standard; this is something he asked for a year ago. Mr. Wang-Iverson mentioned an industry standard of 2 weeks of severance per year of service.

Deputy Mayor Sageser reminded the Committee that there is only six months left in the contract, and next year's Committee can modify it, if they wish. Mayor Kneski also commented that in certain positions, there is tenure, but in the Administrator's position, there is an annual contract.

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RESOLUTION #86-13

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee that they hereby authorize the Mayor to sign the 2013 Township Administrator's Contract, as presented this evening.

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 with one no from from Mr. Mathews to approve signing the contract.

Mr. Mathews left the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

STANDING COMMITTEES, Continued

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

1) 7/1 Request for Participation at the 4H Fair (8/21-25/13): Committee members were asked to consider participation; Mayor Kneski noted that the offer was open to all, including other boards and staff members. The Clerk will look for materials of interest to provide for the community table.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE:

1) Request by Planning and Zoning Board Administrator to take Zoning Class: The Administrator sent her 6/20 to the Clerk to be put in front of the Township Committee rather than following the process of applying to the Township Administrator, who would bring the matter to the Township Committee. Mr. Matheny believed that the one year program qualified the candidate to become a zoning official.

Mayor Kneski was familiar with the program, and he provided the following: the program was conceived by the Zoning and Planning Administrator's group who wished to develop a certification program; classes included budgetary process, functions of the office, case law, etc. with an intent to certify an individual to become a zoning officer; the state has not authenticated the certification program, and it was unclear if this would come to pass; whether an existing zoning officer would be required to become certified might be another issue if the program develops; among other items.

Mayor Kneski mentioned a cost of \$1790 for the series. Mr. Wang-Iverson asked if policy requires a person who completes a program pertinent to their position to remain at the Township for a given period of time; Mr. Matheny said no. Deputy Mayor Sageser said that the program was for a designation, not a certification, and he thought that there was some relevance and value to the course. He asked if the course was a one or three year event.

Committee members noted that there was \$5,000 put into the budget for education, and the Clerk was granted approval for a course (which has been put on hold until later). The Assistant Treasurer has also taken some courses. Committee members discussed the matter, including the following: determining how to utilize the funds for employees who request classes is an item to consider; Committee members agreed that the matter of Ms. Andrews' request should go back to the Administrator for resolution without circumventing procedure; Mayor Kneski agreed that following the specific procedure was important to prevent others from deviating from it going forth; all agreed that getting further details and information from the employee on whether the courses will be spread out over time is important; Mr. Matheny said that there is a policy in place with criteria that is not current – this item has been dormant for some time, but now there is interest in courses because of funding availability; Mr. Matheny said that Mr. Mathews had expressed interest in assisting with the policy, but hasn't done so yet; Deputy Mayor Sageser also asked to see the policy for comment.

The consensus was that Ms. Andrews' request would go to the Administrator for review and discussion, and a recommendation would be made by the Administrator.

2) Resignation of DPW Member Sean Hepler, Effective 6/28/13: Mr. Matheny relayed to the governing body that Sean Hepler, who had served on the DPW crew for four years, left on June 28. Mr. Matheny referred to him "as a great guy," and he will be working closer to home with advancement opportunities.

Mayor Kneski	\$ 3473
Township Committee Members Cregar, Mathews, Sageser, Wang-Iverson	\$ 3015
Township Administrator Matheny	\$60,690.00
Tax Assessor Busher	\$31,111.02
Tax Collector Hyland	\$35,550.06
Treasurer/CFO Trasente	\$40,000.00
Municipal Clerk Stahl	\$53,196.06
Payroll Clerk Stahl	\$ 2,476.56
Zoning Officer McManus	\$12,686.76
Magistrate Martin – East Amwell’s ½ share	\$ 9,184.08
Magistrate Martin – Franklin Twp.	\$ 4,000.00
Court Administrative Officer Hooven – ½ share	\$23,165.22
Court Administrative Officer Hooven – Franklin Twp.	\$ 5,000.00
Director of Public Assistance Kuhl	\$ 3,615.00
Public Defender Troy	\$ 1,127.10
Public Defender Troy – Franklin Twp.	\$ 500.00
Prosecutor Ballard	\$11,721.84
Prosecutor Ballard – Franklin Twp.	\$ 4,000.00
DPW Superintendent Kadezabek	\$73,812.30
COAH Municipal Housing Liaison Robbins	\$ 4,406.40

HOURLY:

Alternate Zoning Officer Miller	\$ 35.00/hour
DPW Employee Adamow	\$ 21.87/hour
DPW Employee Silverthorn	\$ 21.87/hour
DPW Employee Barrick	\$ 19.00/hour
Planning Board Administrative Officer Andrews	\$ 21.14/hour
Board of Adjustment Administrative Officer Andrews	\$ 21.14/hour
Zoning Secretary Andrews	\$ 18.59/hour
Board of Health Secretary Rosikiewicz	\$ 19.50/hour
Assistant Treasurer Rosikiewicz	\$ 19.50/hour
Agricultural Advisory Secretary Bauman	\$ 16.00/hour
Historic Preservation Secretary Bauman	\$ 16.00/hour
Farmland/Open Space Preservation Administrator & Recording Secretary Bauman	\$ 20.00/hour
Recreation Secretary Bauman	\$ 16.00/hour
Deputy Court Administrator Augustine – ½ share	\$ 10.61 hour
Recycling Coordinator Corboy	\$ 16.66/hour
Environmental Commission Secretary Corboy	\$ 16.66/hour
Deputy Clerk/Assistant Tax Collector Dymek	\$ 19.90/hour
Rabies Clinic Secretarial Staff	\$ 20.00/hour
Summer Playground Directors Hornsby, Scott, Rogers, Truppelli	\$245.53/weekly
Summer Playground Supervising Director Veith	\$296.53/weekly
Board of Health Witness Tatsch Up to 2 hours	\$ 50.00
More than 2 hours, up to 8 hours in one day	\$120.00
Over 8 hours, for each hour or fraction of hour	\$ 25.00
Surcharge for Saturday or Sunday	\$100.00
Inspectors Buchanan or Izzo – Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detector Inspections	\$ 25.00
Substitute Secretarial and/or Substitute Secretarial Services for Board/Committee Meetings	Current Hourly Rate Or \$16.00, which- Ever is higher

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that salaries will be effective upon adoption and publication of the 2013 Salary and Wage Ordinance, retroactive to January 1, 2013, or the date

of hire for those employees hired for a new position in 2013 or date of salary rate change for those employees who may have had a rate change earlier in 2013.

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 unanimously by those members present to approve the resolution.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Glorianne Robbi – 144 Lambertville-Hopewell Turnpike, noted her work with Mr. Matheny with regards to filling the open position for FOSPC, and she was very happy with it. She believed that he handled the situation very well, understood the need for experience and background. Mr. Matheny met with Mr. Bauman first and then discussed his findings with FOSPC. She believed that Mr. Matheny very clearly knew what was needed and handled the matter very professionally. Mrs. Robbi said that she has been around since Mr. Matheny was employed, and he is very professional; she believed that the Township Committee made the correct decision.

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville, Road, was not surprised at the decision, suggesting that the Township Committee be aware of the situation for the next 6 months, commenting on some concerns, such as bills being paid. With regard to the Township Administrator’s contracts being “apples and oranges,” Ms. Gavigan pointed out the East Amwell contract with 14 holidays, 10 vacation days, so many sick days, equating to 30 days a year being out of the office. She suggested looking at time sheets, adding comments about the salary of over \$60,000 and deferred compensation. Deputy Mayor Sageser commented on more work being required by the Township Administrator. Ms. Gavigan continued by stating that she realized negotiations had to take place, mentioning FBI training and vacation up to 10 days.

Ms. Gavigan hoped that the Planning Board Administrator’s request, which was being left up to the discretion of the Administrator, would receive similar reasonable accommodation and consideration, and she hoped that the Township Committee would support the request for training and “be even-handed across the board about generosity.”

Ms. Gavigan concluded by asking the governing body to “check the books, see if bills are being paid ... and you don’t always get what you pay for.”

Kendra Schroeder, Bowne Station Road, and Chair of the Board of Adjustment said that there is money in their budget for training budget. She commented on depending on Maria Andrew’s knowledge to answer her questions as Board Chair. She explained that there haven’t been any new members on the board, that there is still money in the budget for training, and she believed that the money might be used for Maria’s training, as one option.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

TREASURER’S DEPARTMENT presented the bills of the evening. Motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously to approve them.

There were no resolutions.

TAX COLLECTOR HYLAND presented her monthly report.

Tax Collector's Resolution:

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RESOLUTION # 88 -13

WHEREAS there has been a redemption made for Tax Sale Certificate #201201, Block 11 lot 5, 12 Boss Road, sold on October 11th 2012 to US Bank Cust for Pro Capital I LLC, and

WHEREAS the amount of \$12,207.17 has been collected from Specialized Loan Servicing, LLC for the owner Nicole & Scott Whited et als for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #201201,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a check in the amount of \$12,207.17 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 #201201 in the amount of \$3,200.00 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

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

The Court Administrator and DPW reports were received without comment.

CORRESPONDENCE

Committee members briefly discussed the questionnaire provided by Governor Christie; it was unclear who would complete it if completed at all.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk