

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:38 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 October 8, 2013.

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

AGENDA REVIEW

Under Standing Committees, Mr. Mathews asked to add an item regarding Recycling.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

East Amwell Township Municipal Building will be closed on Monday, October 14, 2013, for Columbus Day

Hunterdon County Utilities will hold a computer and electronics collection day on Saturday, October 12, 2013, at the County Complex from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 908-788-1110 or email swrs@co.hunterdon.nj.us for more information. (The next hazardous waste collection day will be on November 9, 2013, at the same time and place.)

There is a special election on Wednesday, October 16th, for the Senate seat. All polls are at the municipal building and hours of operation are 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.

The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2013, from 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 12, 2013, Special Minutes were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried with one abstention, Mrs. Cregar, to approve the minutes.

September 12, 2013, Executive Minutes (Land Acquisition/Scibilia) were approved on a motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried with one abstention, Mrs. Cregar, to approve the minutes.

September 12, 2013, Regular Minutes were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried with one abstention, Mrs. Cregar, to approve the minutes with one correction on page 2, under announcements, Special Election, remove word “primary.”

STATE POLICE UPDATE

No representatives from Kingwood Barracks were present, and the Township Committee had no comment on their September 2013 report.

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

The meeting was open to the public for comments.

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, asked for support in sending a letter to the post office to move the mailbox at 107 Wertsville Road to the other side of the road for Mr. Whitehead. She

has also asked the Freeholders for support. She explained that the resident “almost got killed” picking up his mail from the box across the street. She also wanted the County to consider lowering the speed limit, which was in their purview.

Ms. Gavigan also asked that the Township re-stripe their parking lot, especially the handicapped spots.

Ms. Gavigan also asked here at the Planning Board meeting last night as well, that all plans, such as site plans, be put on electronic systems so that the public would have an advantage of seeing them, e.g., the Hess application, which is before the Board of Adjustment.

Wilfred Harrison, 4 Larison Lane, provided a color-coded sketch, felt that the new sidewalk “was good,” but he asked for completion of “a missing link,” shown as a blue line on his sketch. He spoke with County representatives and with Mr. Matheny about this, and they believed that the state would have to be involved. He explained in detail the route that residents would have to walk to go from Larison Lane to the Post Office, including walking through existing rubble. He asked that the Township Committee go for a walk in town to see what he was speaking about. He hoped for a vote on a proposal by the Township Committee or an application for a grant to complete the sidewalk near the old lodge hall, the Harrison property, and others. He hoped that there would be a plan for next year to “finish the job.”

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

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

RATIFICATION – ABC LICENSE FOR HUNTERDON COUNTY TRI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AND HISTORICAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION EVENT HELD AT THE 4H FAIRGROUNDS ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

RESOLUTION #104-13

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, that they hereby ratify the approval of an Alcoholic Beverage Control Social Affairs Permit for the Hunterdon County Tri-centennial Celebration and Historical Education Association, 3 Chorister Place, Flemington, NJ 08822 for an event to be held at the Hunterdon County Fairgrounds on September 28, 2013, based on consensus of the governing body that the Clerk sign the application prior to the meeting on October 10, 2013, with formal ratification at that time.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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MA2014 DOT APPLICATION: RESOLUTION OF SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2013: EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP 2014 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

**TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL
RESOLUTION #105-13**

RESOLUTION: Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the East Amwell 2014 Road Improvement Program

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell formally approves the grant application for the above stated project;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2014-East Amwell Township-00505 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of East Amwell Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of East Amwell Township and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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RESOLUTION FOR ADDITIONAL 2013 COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES NOT LISTED IN 2013 SALARY AND WAGE RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #106-13

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby authorize the following retroactive payment to employees whose names are not listed in the 2013 Salary and Wage Resolution. These retroactive payments were made because these employees served in positions in 2013 for a short period of time and vacated them or had a specific salary adjustment made prior to the adoption of the Salary and Wage Resolution, thus being qualified for retroactive 2013 pay in the position from January 1, 2013, through the end of their position or through their previous salary range before adjustment.

Maria Andrews, Assistant Treasurer		\$ 17.67
Christine Rosikiewicz, Recreation Secretary		
Christine Rosikiewicz, Historic Preservation Secretary		
Christine Rosikiewicz, Agricultural Advisory Secretary		
Christine Rosikiewicz, Farmland/Open Space Secretary		
Christine Rosikiewicz, Board of Health		
Christine Rosikiewicz, Finance Office	Total of	\$ 162.30
Jason Silverthorn, Acting DPW Superintendent		\$ 345.50

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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Motion by Mrs. Cregar, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda resolutions.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Public Hearing:

ORDINANCE 13-07: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A BACKHOE AND BARN GARAGE RENOVATIONS FOR AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$259,700 THEREFOR, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$246,715 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

As proof of publication, the Clerk provided the legal notice of the ordinance summary from the September 19, 2013, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. The ordinance has been posted and available to the public since introduction.

Mr. Wang-Iverson spoke about not using the entire amount of the money being authorized since the barn is about \$80,000 less than the amount in the bond. Deputy Mayor Sageser concurred that the ordinance is the authority to bond, but the bond itself will be the actual amount of the purchase.

The meeting was open to the public for comments on Ordinance 13-07. There being no comments, motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried unanimously to close to the public.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mrs. Cregar, and carried unanimously by roll call vote to approve Ordinance 13-07: Mr. Wang-Iverson, yes, Mrs. Cregar, yes; Mr. Sageser, yes, Mr. Mathews, yes, Mr. Kneski, yes.

The Clerk advised that the estoppel notice would be published in the Hunterdon County Democrat, issue of October 17, 2013.

Introduction of Ordinances – None

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION COMMITTEE

1) Appointment of Chris Kellogg: Mayor Kneski explained that Mr. Kellogg was interviewed at a special meeting earlier tonight. Motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried unanimously to appoint Christopher Kellogg as a regular member of the Recreation Committee (unexpired seat).

2) Membership on Committee: Mr. Mathews spoke about his request to Attorney Kopen (at the last meeting) to research the ordinance about having his position as a Township Committee liaison being a voting member to make quorum.

The Clerk reminded the governing body and attorney that there is no ordinance for the Recreation Committee, and earlier this year she provided the history on the creation of the committee in the 80's. The Committee membership has changed through the years by motions and resolutions. Earlier in the year, the Township Committee agreed that an ordinance was not warranted this time.

Mr. Cushing said that the Township could amend the resolution to allow a Township Committee liaison to be a voting member, mentioning that the committee is an advisory one and has no legal authority to spend money. Deputy Mayor Sageser explained that there may be an expectation that the Recreation Committee will be collecting fees and permitting uses, and they could have more authority with clearly defined functions in the future.

Mr. Cushing said that some municipalities have recreation commissions, which are more autonomous and have the ability to spend money and raise funds. Mayor Kneski felt that there may be some statutory regulations with a commission, including an increased membership. Mr. Cushing also noted that recreation commissions are somewhat independent, and there are often times conflicts in municipalities between the commissions and the governing bodies.

Deputy Mayor Sageser asked about fees being exclusive to a commission, mentioning fees for summer playground. Mr. Matheny explained that the Recreation Committee is not involved with Summer Playground, with only the Summer Playground budget running through the Recreation Committee budget. The Township Committee makes policy, which is executed by staff.

Deputy Mayor Sageser spoke about “being in the dark” about the soccer fields, and believing that the Recreation Committee could assist in the matter. He also spoke about attending the County’s presentation on fields on their property and commenting on West Amwell’s Recreation Committee’s organization – he believed that handing more responsibility off to the Recreation Committee was important. Mr. Wang-Iverson also commented on keeping members on the committee.

Mr. Mathews suggested keeping an eye on the committee and not making any changes yet regarding the liaison as a voting member. Mayor Kneski agreed that keeping an eye on the committee and continuing under resolution instead of ordinance would be appropriate.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

1) Appointment of Liaison for FOSPC: Historic Preservation Member David Harding attended the recent Farmland Open Space Preservation Committee, and he is interested in appointment to the position for the remainder of this year. Motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried unanimously to appoint David Harding as the Historic Preservation Liaison for FOSPC.

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

1) Request for Letter to Hunterdon County Asking for Reinstatement of Grant Funding for Plimpton, Block 38, Lot 3: Mrs. Robbi explained that the Township originally applied for grant funding last year, the award was approved, and D & R Greenways was going to assist with funding the 21 acre parcel, minus the house. D & R Greenways was negotiating with the estate, but the estate management firm in California was not interested, and the Township notified the County that the project would not be pursued. Recently, Jay Watson at D & R Greenways heard from John Plimpton, a nephew of the deceased landowner, and there is still some interest in the purchase of property adjacent to the County park. The nephew believes that the appraisal was reasonable, and he is asking to see the contract for review. The Township’s letter to Hunterdon County “is sitting on Bill Millette’s desk,” and FOSPC was asking that the Township send another letter to Hunterdon County stating its renewed interest in utilizing the grant funding.

Motion by Mrs. Cregar, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried unanimously to authorize a letter, under the Mayor’s signature, to be sent to Hunterdon County advising them that the Township will be utilizing the grant money previously approved for the Plimpton Property, Block 38, Lot 3.

Mr. Cushing cautioned the FOSPC representatives that negotiations regarding the estate would have to be done with estate representatives that have authority; Mr. Ginman said that the nephew is working on getting this authority at the present time. Mr. Cushing suggested that the family member may seek help from the surrogate.

2) Rocktown Road Project: Mr. Ginman said that good progress is being made on the Rocktown Road parcel with a Township Committee member helping on the development of the trail. Materials have been purchased utilizing the grant, and a bridge is being built. There will be more work done this weekend, if volunteers would like to assist. Mayor Kneski asked about pictures; Mr. Ginman said they are being taken, and a grand tour for ANJEC (grantors) will be held when work is complete, perhaps by Earth Day next year.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

1) Metals Collection: Mr. Mathews said that the Recycling Committee discussed this at their recent meeting, i.e., getting clarity on the Raritan Valley Disposal (RVD) contract for hauling on clean up day. He asked about getting the metals separated out so another vendor may handle them.

Mr. Matheny mentioned that the Township just went out for quotes for trash removal, and only one quote came back from RVD. He will review it, stating that since it was a quote, not a bid, there may be options; he will also talk to representatives at the company. Mr. Mathews explained that there is another company who will collect metals in a Dumpster and remove them at no cost.

2) Styrofoam Collection: Mr. Mathews said that the Recycling Committee was looking at their calendar of events for next year, anticipating another Styrofoam collection since it was very well received last year. They had hoped to continue collections, but they stopped it because of liability issues in having a volunteer drive the material to Hopewell. Mr. Mathews asked about having the DPW drive the material down to Hopewell on the Monday after next year's event. Some discussion took place with the following highlights: Mayor Kneski was concerned with having a DPW truck transporting masses of Styrofoam; putting the material in bags was mentioned; Mr. Mathews said that the Recycling Committee did discuss Styrofoam as a revenue source, but the Township would have to drive it directly to Somerset or South Jersey, and there was a questions about liability for volunteers; Mr. Cushing said that most volunteers would be covered under their own insurance, but there is insurance coverage through the municipality for non-owned automobiles that are used on behalf of the insured - the insurance company would have to provide a cost estimate for this type of coverage; Mr. Cushing also suggested that having the DPW delivering the material would be a reasonable consideration. Mr. Matheny will check with the DPW about handling the delivery, which will take place only once a year, probably in February.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

1) Appointment of CFO/Treasurer: Mr. Matheny explained that he and the Clerk interviewed a candidate, who had extensive training, lots of experience, worked with the State as the Director of Local Government Services, and served as Chairman of the Local Finance Board. Negotiations are still on-going regarding hours to serve, including one day per week in the office and additional hours to do all the functions of the job. The candidate also works in two other towns, an agreement with East Amwell Township is being developed, and there will be a special meeting on October 17 at 7 p.m. to hire the individual.

Mr. Wang-Iverson added that he and Mr. Matheny spoke with the individual, and he agreed with Mr. Matheny's conclusions. He believed the candidate to be extremely well qualified, he has committed to be on site one day a week, seems to be "calm and confident, and will be a good leader for the finance department."

Mayor Kneski suggested also inviting candidates who are volunteering for boards to attend the October 17th meeting, starting with interviews for boards and then meeting with the CFO/Treasurer candidate at 7:30 p.m.

Some discussion took place on approval of a resolution showing the Township Committee's commitment to hiring the candidate, provided an agreeable resolution was developed to address employee conditions. Mr. Wang-Iverson explained that the resolution would clearly define the role and responsibilities, along with the time in office, emulating a similar agreement the employee signed in Bethlehem. The Clerk found her notes from the executive session and read that the governing body wished to approve a resolution in open session showing intent to hire.

Mr. Cushing felt that the Township should approve the resolution at the special meeting, once specifics of the resolution were developed. Mr. Mathews explained that the Township Administrator asked the governing body to authorize him to pursue a resolution that emulates Bethlehem's. Mr. Matheny clarified that he wanted to provide the candidate with a "show of intent to hire" without particulars. Mr. Cushing provided the language for the resolution.

Motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried unanimously to acknowledge that the candidate, identified in executive session, will be hired provided that agreeable terms and conditions are worked out between the parties.

Later in the meeting (right before discussion on Property Maintenance), Mr. Wang-Iverson added that the CFO/Treasurer candidate came highly recommended by Tax Assessor Marianne Busher, and this was very important to him.

2) Listing Road Equipment with Municibid: Mr. Matheny explained this as an “Ebay for government.” He said that the road edge mower is still usable; the boom arm has cracks and needs repair while the tractor part is in working order. The equipment is on line and the bid is currently at \$14,500 and expected to go higher. Mayor Kneski concurred with the assessment on the boom arm, stating that he has seen it. Mr. Matheny said that the Township has ordered a new tractor and boom mower; the tractor came in during August with the mower portion just coming in. The equipment should be put together by next week, and areas such as Snydertown Road, will be cut after that.

3) Best Practices Checklist: Mr. Matheny reminded the Township Committee of the state requirement to complete the checklist each year. Scoring on the checklist will determine whether a municipality gets its full state aid allotment the following year. The form allows for yes, no, prospective, and a certain amount of not applicable answers. The Clerk reviews the list first, followed by the CFO/Treasurer, and Mr. Matheny also reviews for a collaborative answer.

Mr. Matheny reviewed some specific areas on the form, as follows: the Township has no collective bargain units, so these questions would be N/A; question 17 regarding P-cards, pertained to procurement cards, similar to credit cards, but with specific guidelines – they would be helpful with internet purchases, as one aspect, and their use would be subject to specific oversight and restriction. On questions 30-31, pertaining to State Health Benefits Plan coverage, the Township already uses that service. Deputy Mayor Sageser asked about question 20 regarding a policy on surplus – it was agreed that it was important to discuss surplus usage, and a good practice would be to have a five year plan for surplus. It was agreed that the Township could consider this for next year and discuss during budget season. On question 23, about receiving electronic quarterly reports from the CFO/Treasurer, Mr. Wang-Iverson noted that as part of the agreement being developed with the new CFO/Treasurer, he will meet with the Township on a quarterly basis. Mr. Matheny also noted that computer generated reports are available, even on a daily basis, as requested. On question 57, regarding the Sandy Monitoring Regulations, the Township did not have \$2,000,000 in damage from Sandy, so this was an N/A answer.

Mr. Matheny explained that based on the answers provided by the Township, the score was 42; based on a score of 41-50, the Township would be entitled to get 100% of their state aid without penalty, which was equivalent to the final 5% of their aid. He concluded that the Township was in good shape.

4) United Telephone-Century Link – Inter-Office Memo from Tax Assessor Busher: Mr. Matheny explained the phone company’s contention that since they do not provide 51% of service to the municipality, they do not have to pay property taxes. Ms. Busher is working with Attorney Judy Kopen; the Township will not anticipate the taxes, there will be an appeal filed, and taxes will be adjusted. Deputy Mayor Sageser said that this is an issue with Verizon also, mentioning legislative involvement and “an antiquated tax mechanism.” Mr. Matheny concluded that the Tax Assessor is taking care of this matter.

5) Search for DPW Employee: Mr. Matheny said that he has received almost eighty applications, and he is working with DPW Employee Jay Silverthorn on reviewing them and deciding which candidates to interview within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Matheny said that if the Township finds a couple of good candidates, they will look at hiring one of them at the end of the year, when another position opens.

6) Resignation of Recycling Coordinator/Environmental Commission Secretary Joyce Corboy: Mr. Matheny said that he received a letter from Joyce Corboy (dated 10/8/13), stating that she will be retiring, effective December 31. He will be advertising both of these positions.

Mrs. Cregar left the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE – Draft Ordinance Prepared by Committee Member Sageser (See August/September 2013 Minutes for Background)

Deputy Mayor Sageser's put together a draft ordinance, based on information gleaned from ordinances from other municipalities in the county. The attorney has not had an opportunity to review it yet, and a copy was provided to him at this time.

Mr. Mathews has some comments as follows: Under section 1.1, purpose, the ordinance refers to vacated or abandoned properties and does not cover properties in disrepair or unfinished properties. He asked for a better definition to cover all properties, not just vacated properties. Deputy Mayor Sageser spoke about buildings and large structures, also noting that farms often keep unused equipment on site. He agreed that the threshold had to be further defined. He also felt that the intent is to cover properties where the owners are known, but they have vacated the property. Mr. Cushing stated that the term "abandoned" is a statutory term in some instances.

Under section 2.2, abandoned personal property, Mr. Mathews asked "what is wrecked or derelict property," suggesting that it may be subjective to the property owner. Mayor Kneski felt that the Zoning Officer or designee would need to provide standardized definitions.

Under section 2.5, nuisances and hazards, Mr. Mathews spoke about items of danger to health and safety, and asked if seed blowing situations could be covered here.

Under section 2.7, vacated property, he asked if a foundation would qualify as a building. Deputy Mayor Sageser said that a property in question did have a building permit.

Under 4.4, pools and spas, Mr. Mathews asked about large puddles or collection containers that act like ponds. Mr. Wang-Iverson spoke about Board of Health involvement with pools and other water-bodies where mosquitoes can thrive. A suggestion was made to add "...or other containers of water, whether intentionally or unintentionally collecting water."

Deputy Mayor Sageser mentioned his work with property maintenance ordinances for buildings, and other aspects came forth, e.g., junkyards, pools, etc. The Township already has a separate junkyard ordinance, and it was noted that ordinances should be correlated.

Mr. Wang-Iverson was in favor of dealing with health and safety issues rather than cosmetic issues, e.g., like an open foundation, unsafe construction, etc. Deputy Mayor Sageser spoke about open foundations being under construction permits and being a potential hazard. Mr. Matheny stated that the construction code covers open foundations with specific requirements for enclosing or not. Mayor Kneski also commented on the construction code regarding open foundations, quoting specifics.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked about having an ordinance superseding the code, i.e., being more subjective than the construction code itself. Mr. Cushing explained the statutes for unfit buildings refer to an enforcement officer, which is usually in the construction area. The Township could go beyond construction but would have to develop rational reasons for the ordinance. It may also be challenged as subjective, so the Township would have to have a rational reason to defend it.

Deputy Mayor Sageser commented on developing an ordinance for vacant and abandoned properties and abatement of safety hazards and then discussing terms of expansion, enforcement, and objective application. Further comments were exchanged by the governing body, with the following highlights: specific areas of concern were mentioned, i.e., an open foundation on John Ringo and a burned out property on Route 31; writing an ordinance in conflict with the construction code may be an issue; Mr. Cushing cautioned that the ordinance should address dangerous situations, not necessarily aesthetics; Deputy Mayor Sageser asked about adding liens to properties where the Township would be able to mow and back charge for the maintenance; Mr. Cushing spoke about the intent of the ordinance, including covering abandoned, vacated, and foreclosed properties – he provided an example of two properties with graffiti, one occupied and one abandoned and asked about intent to improve the site; Mr. Cushing cautioned against a cosmetic maintenance ordinance; Mr. Cushing also mentioned that this is a statewide problem at the present time regarding abandoned properties, many with banks as the mortgage holders; Mr. Cushing also spoke about some ordinances regarding keeping grass cut to about 10 inches, but

cautioned that this is a rural community with 10 acre zoning and that type of ordinance is more appropriate for an urban area or along highways.

Mr. Cushing concluded that the Township would have to create a very clear ordinance that would be defensible in municipal court. Mr. Mathews mentioned that he had previously made the recommendation to add language to the current nuisance code (under the Board of Health), which Ms. Kopen was reviewing with the Board of Health. Mr. Wang-Iverson noted that the Board of Health Chairperson, Tracy Carluccio, felt that the Board's ordinance deals with water safety issues and securing the aquifer. Mr. Mathews countered that a farm could be polluted with weeds. It was noted that the ordinance could be broader dealing with ponding water and mosquitoes as well.

Mr. Cushing stated that enforcement is also an issue. He said that there is a statewide nuisance ordinance, which he will research. Having the Zoning Officer as the enforcement authority was also mentioned.

Mr. Matheny said that the Zoning Officer also wanted the opportunity to review any ordinance that may be considered.

Mr. Mathews commented that it will take some time to have an ordinance in place. Mr. Cushing concluded that he would look at the state regulations, look at the current nuisance ordinance, and get some input from the Zoning Officer. The Committee will discuss the ordinance at a later date.

Mr. Mathew's comments, made this evening, will be saved for future discussion.

Before Mr. Cushing left, he commented on the state nuisance ordinance does have a provision on the growth of ragweed, and he read a short excerpt.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OPPOSING S-1085, FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM ON STATE OWNED LANDS (see August/September 2013 Minutes for Background)

Mr. Mathews felt that it was good legislation and some good parameters were given for stewardship; he would like to know the specific objections that other municipalities have offered. Deputy Mayor Sageser felt that it was "best management" practices for state owned land with some foresting required. Both he and Mr. Mathews commented on "good checks and balances."

The Committee agreed that they would neither offer support or opposition to the legislation, and the item will be removed from future agendas.

Mr. Cushing left the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Glorianne Robbi, 144 Lambertville-Hopewell Turnpike, spoke about the bond ordinance passed earlier this evening and asked Mr. Mathews about his conflicting bonding support. She mentioned bonding for farmland preservation and purchase of development rights, which area set up by state statute. Such a purchase is not for a limited time but for eternity, and something that affects a community through the years. She asked about his vote on bonding for one purpose or the other.

Mr. Mathews explained his view of open space bonds, i.e., he believed in what is brought into the open space trust fund should be the revenue for purchase of open space. He believed that there was enough cash in the open space trust fund to pay for purchases, and he did not believe that the Township should bond for land purchase. He said that if it was a large purchase that couldn't be satisfied through the fund, he would probably have a different opinion, but [for the prior purchase], he felt that the money could have been taken from the open space trust fund. He offered this explanation as why he objected to the specific transaction.

Mrs. Robbi commented that bonding was being done for the community, noting that current residents will be turning their properties over to someone else someday, and those residents will continue to have something that they can appreciate with a quality of life purchase. She did not believe in purchasing only what the Township had sufficient revenues for. She believed that Mr. Mathews had a conflict in values.

Mr. Mathews stated that there was no conflict in his values.

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, was surprised about employees getting paid every two weeks and the payroll items listed on the bill list for June, July, and September (with August being paid last month). She said that this raised some red flags in finance, that there have been problems from months ago, including a vaguely coded bill in April and in May a bill for PERS interest in the amount of \$46.38. She questioned the delayed payments, and interest due, stating that these were signs or signals. She asked about the late payment of bills, and she would be interested in finding out about the April and May bills and why interest was due to PERS and why the “hopscotch” of various payrolls. Ms. Gavigan continued by stating that some of the coding in descriptions does not give much information, e.g., Ferriero was paid for Hess and some other special services. She spoke about not having much public information and would like some more substantial information, e.g., an invoice for Yard Plumbing in the amount of \$478.98 for maintenance of the building but not explaining specifics. On page 7 of the bill list, there was an invoice for the attorney for Scibilia, and Ms. Gavigan wondered if there was a running total of how much has been paid in order to get money back for the Township. She questioned “how far down the rabbit hole we are, ... and another \$1,856.00 to the attorney is disturbing.” She would like to see information on specific invoices with more clarity, stating that the PERS thing was “very concerning.”

Ms. Gavigan spoke about gasoline purchase, saying that municipalities can get county prices for purchase, and she asked why the Township was paying for commercial gas and diesel when a lower rate has been negotiated elsewhere. She felt that there was some financial accounting to follow up on. She liked the new software, which shows if conferences or hotels are listed, if one pays attention, but she believed that there was a need for transparency in invoicing. She hoped that a new CFO/Treasurer will “track pennies better....” She would like an answer to why payroll was out of sequence and an explanation of the April and May PERS expenses.

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

Mr. Mathews asked about using the county fuel depot and one located on Route 31, noting that he would like to see a price and calculate any savings. Mayor Kneski explained that the DPW purchases gasoline and diesel at the Hess Station for convenience (e.g., filling vehicles at the end of the day before going home, etc.). Mr. Matheny explained that the state depots, such as the one close to the Elks on Route 31, are not open to municipalities. He noted that the Hunterdon County price did not provide great savings, and Hess offers a government price by not charging tax for gas and diesel. Additionally, having a local supply, particularly during snow plow season, is beneficial.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

TAX COLLECTOR HYLAND provided her September 2013 report and her inter-office advisory dated 10/10 on the recent tax sale. It was noted that one property on the tax sale list (B.40/L.17.01) was the same property listed under correspondence (land offered for sale).

All other reports were noted without comment.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was noted for filing without comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk