

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:40 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 November 12, 2013.

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

Mayor Kneski asked the audience to recognize and salute veterans and asked if there were any in the audience. Jim Davidson raised his hand, and the audience applauded.

AGENDA REVIEW

Under Standing Committee reports, add item E, Recycling Committee Appointments

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The results of the November 5th election show that Tim Mathews and Peter Miller will be sworn in as 3-Year Township Committee Members at Reorganization in January 2014. Mayor Kneski congratulated them both.
- B. East Amwell Township Municipal Building will be closed on November 28 and 29, 2013, for Thanksgiving Holidays
- C. The annual holiday tree lighting will take place on December 8th at 4:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building. Mayor Kneski thanked the Recreation Committee for their efforts with this program.
- D. The East Amwell Historical Society will hold a holiday house tour in East Amwell on December 8 – email j david4194@aol.com for details.
- E. The Township is still soliciting volunteers for various boards and committees; contact the clerk at tstahl@eastamwelltownship.com for an application.
- F. There will be two regular Township Committee meetings in December on December 12 and 26, 2013.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 10, 2013, Special Minutes (Candidates) were approved on a motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously.

October 10, 2013, Special Minutes (Resolution for Executive Session) were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried unanimously.

October 10, 2013, Executive Minutes (Land Acquisition/Scibilia; Personnel/CFO-Treasurer; Atty. Advice) were approved on a motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried unanimously.

October 10, 2013, Regular Minutes were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried unanimously.

October 17, 2013, Special Minutes (Interview Candidates; Approve Resolution for Executive Session; Appointment of CFO-Treasurer) were approved on a motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried unanimously.

October 17, 2013, Executive Minutes (Personnel/CFO-Treasurer) were approved on a motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried unanimously.

STATE POLICE UPDATE

There was no one present from Kingwood Station, and the Clerk asked if the Township Committee would like her to remove this standing item from the agenda. The Mayor directed Mr. Matheny to contact the State Police to see if they will continue their updates in person.

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

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, spoke about sitting in on all of the sessions at the County re: financial actions and cross examinations. She commented on East Amwell starting its fourth CFO, highly recommended by Marianne Busher, and the need to “right the ship,” according to words spoken by Cynthia Yard. She spoke about the audits from Mr. Case, including the management audit. She has asked at other meetings if things were up-to-date and reconciled. She mentioned that at the Planning Board meeting last night, Don Reilly (Chair of the Planning Board) was working on their budget and didn’t have the information he needed to do so.

Ms. Gavigan referenced the June 28 (2012) letter from Auditor Case outlining 15 points with material deficiencies and recommendations. She stated that the past could not be changed, but asked if the Township was putting systems in place now for a clean slate. She asked that the Township Committee be accountable for the financial health of the municipality and asked if systems are in place, e.g., are books up-to-date and reconciled. She referenced the League of Municipalities website, with various county and municipal administrative codes mentioned, and she found Chief Administrative Officers were responsible for furnishing monthly reports, etc. She asked, “where are we ... are we getting our financial house in order?”

On a question from Mr. Mathews, Ms. Gavigan said that she was looking at the June 2012 special audit from Mr. Case with his recommendations, asking if they had been implemented, including internal controls; she questioned how it was working. Mayor Kneski said that they would ask the new CFO. Ms. Gavigan mentioned it being a “transition moment” and asking about records being complete, accurate, and up-to-date for the new CFO so that he does not have to reconstruct.

Mr. Wang-Iverson said that he and Mr. Matheny met with the Mr. Steinberg (new CFO), and he is in contact with (the former CFO) Mr. Trasente for a smooth transition. Part of the hiring resolution included a quarterly update, more than received before. Mr. Wang-Iverson commented that he “was favorably impressed by Mr. Steinberg, who had no audit findings in Marlboro last year ... he was very diligent and a hard worker.”

Ms. Gavigan commented on prior findings and recent late bills and out of sync payroll, speaking about the previous audit reports and need for corrections. She again stated the importance of “making sure that the ship is in order,” recommendations to consider, a report card of how we are doing based on the 2012 audit report. Mr. Wang-Iverson commented that Mr. Steinberg “will be in better shape ... and we are covered.” Ms. Gavigan said that she would send information to the Township Committee.

Derrick Rowe, 182 Mountain Road, explained that he is assisting Field Coordinator/Equipment Manage Philips VanMater-Miner, and commented on his knowledge of switching on the lights at the school soccer fields with an expensive peak wattage fee. He said that games are usually on one field, and he suggested switching to four circuits rather than one in an effort to lessen the wattage use.

Mr. Matheny explained that the Township is responsible for the lights, adding that there is a peak charge with fees to be paid even if the lights are not used, i.e., a bill each month. He said

that the Recreation Committee was going to be looking into this, and now with a full committee, the hope was that they would address the issue now. Mayor Kneski agreed that there was no Recreation Committee to review this, but once the minutes were done, they would be forwarded by the Clerk to the Committee for their consideration. Mr. Mathews asked about looking at a multi-circuit installation; Mr. Matheny said that they would have to investigate. Mr. Rowe reiterated that both fields are never used at the same time, noting that on another municipality's fields, people turn on their headlights to light the fields. He reiterated his recommendation to break into four circuits for each half field, with Mr. Mathews agreeing that this should be reviewed. Mr. Matheny cautioned that the fields are far from the parking area, and lights were necessary for safety reasons. Mayor Kneski agreed that the recommendation would be reviewed.

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

SPECIAL DISCUSSION

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE – Continued Discussion (See August/September/October 2013 Minutes for Background)

Mr. Cushing spoke about his review of the ordinance drafted by Deputy Mayor Sageser, based on input from Delaware Township and some other municipalities. Mr. Cushing spoke about “marrying two concepts together, i.e., vacant properties and abandonment of personal property.” Deputy Mayor Sageser said not necessarily abandoned, but properties that could use some maintenance control or encouragement. Mr. Cushing asked for the definition of vacant, i.e., did it mean not lived in, noting some of these may be foreclosed properties. He also asked about the definition of graffiti or art on dwellings. He felt that the water and irrigation issues are a problem, with mowing being a common obligation. He gave, as an example, house A owned by a bank and house B, owned by a resident, and both decide not to water a lawn... how would the Township not be able to discriminate. He mentioned that perhaps 8 inch grass might be able to be addressed in an ordinance.

Deputy Mayor Sageser explained that there may be a standing water health hazard because of negligence. Mr. Cushing spoke about abandoned pools not being fenced in and dangerous for children. A foundation may be a place for water to collect and attract mosquitoes, or it could be a safety issue. Mr. Cushing mentioned the Delaware Township ordinance and regulation of vacant buildings. He said that some towns notify owners of vacant home to maintain them in a safe way, and if there was a problem or neighbor complaint, the Zoning Officer can cite the owners for not fulfilling the ordinance.

Deputy Mayor Sageser asked if this would work with a bank-owned property; Mr. Cushing commented on vacant properties and the potential for being broken into. Deputy Mayor Sageser asked about notifications of intent to vacate, with an obligation for owners to notify the Township who to contact about property maintenance, etc. Some comments were exchanged about this, including having names and addresses of owners, who to contact, who is responsible for maintenance if bank owned, etc. Having additional mechanisms to bring parties to court may be an option with the objective to make property owners live up to the obligation of other property owners.

Mr. Mathews reminded Mr. Cushing and the Township Committee about his previous suggestion to use the existing nuisance code and add a sentence to include weeds. Mr. Cushing looked at the Board of Health ordinance, reading Section 163-2, Nuisances Declared and Prohibited, including water pollution and “the existence or presence of any accumulation of garbage, refuse, offal or animal or vegetable matter which may attract flies and to which flies may have access, or in which fly larvae or pupae breed or exist, except in the normal and careful operation of a farm.”

Mr. Mathews said that farmers consider Canadian Thistle a pollutant to the land, impacting their water and farmland and livelihood. Mr. Wang-Iverson said that the Board of Health did not consider this a health issue. Mr. Cushing commented on the noxious weed list designated by the State, and the municipality may have a right to regulate it, i.e., it could be part of the Board of Health ordinance or a stand alone, once there was a definition of what was to be regulated.

Mr. Mathews explained that the catalyst was Mr. Kanach, who came before the Committee voicing his concerns with the weeds traveling to his property. Deputy Mayor Sageser was in favor of a stand-alone ordinance, with Mayor Kneski agreeing. Some discussion took place between the Committee members on whether to include it in the Board of Health ordinance and have the County as enforcement. If it was a stand alone for weeds only, the municipality would enforce via the Zoning Officer or another official.

Discussion concluded with Mr. Cushing agreeing to write a stand-alone ordinance for weed control for the first meeting in January.

Deputy Mayor Sageser spoke about the intent of the Planning Board to set 2014 discussions regarding ways of improving the village and other historic districts. He suggested that as part of the tool kit tax abatements and other incentives may be considered in a localized way. He stated that farms have different standards, and the Planning Board felt that they needed to take a broader look at the village with ideas to facilitate improvement and enhance assets. The Planning Board would be looking to the Township Committee for support.

Mr. Wang-Iverson added that Planner Joanna Slagle will be providing the Planning Board with information and cost estimates for studies of the village area for next year.

TAX ABATEMENT ORDINANCE

Mr. Wang-Iverson explained that as a continuation after the last meeting, he was thinking of incentives, not just punitive measures for property maintenance. He considered the fact that the Township spends money on open space and thought about using some of the money to buy distressed properties, i.e., buying and selling properties with covering costs for renovations. As an example, Tax Assessor Marianne Busher advised him about assessing a property with a low value of \$100,000 on John Ringo Road, which could be back closer to \$300,000 in the village area if it was improved.

Ms. Busher provided Mr. Wang-Iverson with an abatement ordinance in Flemington, which applies to both residential and commercial properties. Property owners are given a \$50,000 break on assessments for five years, encouraging owners to improve their properties and increase their assessments over time as an incentive. Mr. Wang-Iverson said that the Township could model the Flemington ordinance while considering the incentive as either flat or rolling percentage of an increased assessment.

Mr. Wang-Iverson also provided information on Hopewell Township's COAH ordinance, providing 0% loans to low and moderate income households. He did not see a particular dollar amount listed, and he realized that there was not a lot of money in the COAH fund. Mr. Wang-Iverson stated that the village needed a lot of money to bring some of the properties up to standards. He envisioned either outright purchase or low interest loans, perhaps in 2017 or 2018, when debt is going down and using the difference between debt payments to finance the projects would be an idea. He agreed that this would be a voluntary program, allowing residents to fix up their properties and provide the financial means to do so. Mr. Wang-Iverson also spoke with Scott Bauman (East Amwell employee), who advised that some municipalities have community block grants for this. He also mentioned that with two new Freeholders coming on board, and their center of town areas as part of their platforms, perhaps the County would have programs that the Township can take of advantage of. Mr. Wang-Iverson concluded that the purchase and loan programs would be "tough to do," but he believed the option should be explored along with the tax abatement. He proposed the tax abatement ordinance for the short term.

Mr. Mathews downloaded an article from the State Comptroller on tax abatements; he said that it was a good primer for what the Township is considering; he agreed to provide the Township Committee with the pdf. Mr. Cushing explained that the Township would probably have to declare the village an area of redevelopment for the tax abatement ordinance. Mr. Mathews added that the primer indicates that a study would have to be done first, and there may be a subjective opinion of the properties in need of work; he felt that it was "slippery slope" of who determines the criteria.

Mr. Wang-Iverson said that it would be a voluntary program for residents. He believed that the Township should have the opportunities in place and advertise them by offering some outreach to the community for consideration.

Deputy Mayor Sageser mentioned discussions with Fred Gardner (Planning Board Member) regarding how the open space process got started and the importance of residents being part of it. He suggested talking to the people in the village, possibly in a committee environment, to discuss the program.

Mayor Kneski thanked Mr. Wang-Iverson for the information he provided, asking the Committee how they wanted to proceed.

Mr. Mathews again directed the Committee to the State’s primer, citing a “slippery slope” with subjective criteria. Mayor Kneski said that the matter would be brought back for discussion again. Mr. Wang-Iverson commented on finding ways to make improvements and provide encouragement to the residents and using mechanisms to enable work to be done. Deputy Mayor Sageser again mentioned that the Planner would be bringing information to the Planning Board in the near future.

REQUEST FROM EAST AMWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR UMBRELLA COVERAGE UNDER TOWNSHIP INSURANCE POLICY (See 11/5 Email from Wells Fargo Insurance and Letter of Request from the Society)

Jim Davidson, 179 Lindbergh Road, was present on behalf the East Amwell Historical Society. The Society was formed three years ago, principally from membership of the Historic Preservation Committee. They recently received their 501C, and they are organizing their first official bus tour of four houses with a reception at the Harvest Moon. Each of the homeowners does have their own insurance, and the Society also wanted to have coverage. Mr. Davidson explained that the Township allowed the East Amwell Educational Association (also a non-profit) to use Township insurance for a Halloween event many years ago. The Historical Society is looking at obtaining its own insurance; however, it will not be in place by the date of the event, which is December 8. The request was to have the Township provide a rider on their insurance for this event. The Clerk already received information from the insurance agent that they would be able to cover the Society with appropriate paperwork and resolution.

Committee members briefly discussed, noting that the Township made a similar offer to cover the rescue squad for Worker’s Comp, if they were willing to pay for coverage through township insurance. Mr. Cushing agreed that there would be no problem in allowing coverage, and it was a policy decision for this one-time event.

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RESOLUTION #111-13

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby support the First Annual Holiday House Tour to be sponsored by the East Amwell Historical Society on December 8, 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell authorizes offering insurance coverage to the East Amwell Historical Society through their carrier, PAIC, for this one-time event.

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.

UPDATE ON SUMMER PLAYGROUND (See 11/15 email from Kathy Veith with report)
Summer Playground Supervising Director Kathy Veith was present for this discussion.

Kathy Veith, 22 Wertsville Road, explained that it was a very successful year, even though numbers decreased. Even with rain risks, there was a steady attendance; the last week of the program (historically with low attendance) had the most attendance of the entire month. Focus group was the 3rd and 4th grade, with a small group of older students. There were 71 students registered this year, down from 100 last year; however, 9 children that participated in 2012 did not register at East Amwell Township School this year, and school registration is down. Survey ratings showed fours and fives with all positive comments, including more suggestions than criticism.

Ms. Veith continued her report, with the following highlights: the directors incorporated recommendations from last year’s children’s survey for activities; pictures of some of the events were provided in the report; planning the playground activities is a challenge since the budget is not determined until the middle of the year; if the playground continues, she would like to see some different activities next year; she would strongly recommend continuing the program, stating that she has dedicated personally into the program; she recommended keeping registration fees consistent with this year’s fees for next year; the hope of everyone is for a self-sustaining program going forth.

Mr. Mathews commented on discussions with the Superintendent about enrollment projections, i.e., if a smaller group utilized the program, perhaps the number of counselors could be reduced in future years.

Ms. Veith appreciated the opportunity to share the success and changes in the program, noting that the staff utilized materials from previous years and they have no surplus left. Mayor Kneski thanked Ms. Veith for the data, and Deputy Mayor Sageser commented on the “positive program.” Ms. Veith agreed that the “kids are having a ball,” and this year she implemented a email contact group to keep parents up-to-date about program scheduling and activities. Mr. Mathews suggested that Ms. Veith consider a program similar to what the scouts use, i.e., a “recruit a friend program” with a small prize.

The governing body thanked Ms. Veith for her presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLUTION ADDING CFO/TREASURER ULRICH STEINBERG AS AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

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RESOLUTION #112-13

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby amend Resolution #16-13 and #62-13 to remove the name of Nicola Trasente, CFO/Treasurer, and replace it with Ulrich Steinberg, CFO/Treasurer, as an authorized signature on Township checks.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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ESCROW RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #113-13

(As Attached to the Original Set of Minutes)

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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HUNTERDON COUNTY MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT EXTENSION FOR 2013

RESOLUTION #114-13

Fiscal Grant Extension January 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of East Amwell, further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of East Amwell was approved for a Municipal Alliance grant for the January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 grant term; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse has extended the 2013 grant term until June 30, 2014, in order to transition the grant to a fiscal year rather than calendar year cycle; and

WHEREAS, funding has been made available to the Central Hunterdon Municipal Alliance in the amount of 50% of its approved 2013 grant total for the six-month extension period of January 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014, contingent upon meeting the 25% Cash Match and 75% In-Kind Match grant requirement for the extension funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township of East Amwell does hereby support the submission of an application for the Central Hunterdon Municipal Alliance grant for the extension period in the amount of \$15,700.
2. The Township of East Amwell Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for the Municipal Alliance grant.
3. As Lead Municipality for Central Hunterdon, the Township of East Amwell Committee acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including reporting of programs within its cluster area.

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 resolutions. Some discussion took place about whether or not the Municipal Alliance was requesting additional municipal funding, but it was determined that they were not.

The resolutions were approved unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

1) Metal Recycling and Styrofoam Recycling: Mr. Mathews reported that the Recycling Committee is waiting to hear about the RVD contract and whether metal collection can be done by another hauler. Additionally, they are waiting to hear if the DPW will be able to transport Styrofoam to Hopewell as a one-time event after the holidays. Mr. Matheny said that it would not be an issue for the crew to transport the Styrofoam. He will also follow up with RVD for an answer on the metals.

ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES/BOARDS

Mayor Kneski wanted to make all the appointments at one time rather than by separate committees. Three volunteers were interviewed earlier this evening, Michael and Amy Atzert and Ron O'Reilly. He recommended the following: Jim Davidson will take the vacated regular seat on Historic Preservation through 2013 and be considered for that seat for 2014; Pamela McGovern will move to the Alternate I position, and Will Harrison will be appointed as the Alternate II. For the Recycling Committee, Ron O'Reilly and Pippin Folk will be appointed as regular members. For the Recreation Committee, Michael Atzert will fill the vacant regular seat; Amy Atzert will be the Alternate I, and Erica Johanson will be the Alternate II.

Motion by Mr. Mathews, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried unanimously to endorse these appointments.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

1) 10/9 Email of Resignation from Sue Posselt: The Committee acknowledged the email from Sue Posselt, long time member on the Board. Motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously to accept the resignation with regret.

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

1) Request for Survey Costs for Hay, B.21/L.16.03: There is already a capital ordinance for the acquisition of rights. Three different vendors were contacted, and FOSPC is recommending the lowest one at a cost of \$3,750. FOSPC members noted that the property is adjacent to 63 acres of preserved land, and closing may take place in the spring.

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RESOLUTION 115-13

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO HERITAGE CONSULTING ENGINEERS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED\$3,750.00 FOR THE SURVEY OF A PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 21, LOT 16.03 IN EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP

Hay Farm: Planning Incentive Grant

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2013, the East Amwell Township Committee approved Resolution #64-13 giving final approval to the acquisition of a development easement on the property owned by Barbara Hay located at 11 Rainbow Hill Road, Flemington and designated on the municipal tax map as Block 21, lot 16.03 in the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, on approximately 24 acres not to exceed \$72,240; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2013, the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) gave final approval of a Planning Incentive Grant for the acquisition of a development easement

on the property owned by Barbara Hay located at 11 Rainbow Hill Road, Flemington and designated on the municipal tax map as Block 21, lot 16.03 in the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, on approximately 24 acres with an estimated cost share breakdown as follows:

SADC:	\$ 216,720
East Amwell Township:	\$ 72,240
<u>Hunterdon County:</u>	<u>\$ 72,240</u>

WHEREAS, ancillary costs associated the purchase of the development easement include appraisals, a property survey, and closing costs which were not included as part of Resolution #64-13; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2013, the Administrator of the Farmland & Open Space Preservation Committee sent a request for proposal for property surveying services and three firms submitted the following proposals to survey the property known as Block 21, Lot 16.03:

Heritage Consulting Engineers:	\$ 3,750
Bohren and Bohren Associates:	\$ 4,200
Van Cleef Engineering Associates:	\$ 5,200

WHEREAS, on October 14, 2013, the Farmland & Open Space Preservation Committee discussed each of the proposals at a public meeting and recommended that the Township Committee select Heritage Consulting Engineers of 115D U.S. Highway 202, Ringoes, New Jersey 08551 with Patrick H. Fatton, PLS as representative as the best qualified firm to undertake this property survey service; and

WHEREAS, the maximum amount of this contract is \$3,750 and the funding shall be paid through Open Space General Account number 3-13-55-900-000-002 in an amount not to exceed \$3,750.00; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the East Amwell Township Committee, New Jersey as follows:

1. The Mayor and the Township Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a professional services agreement with Heritage Consulting Engineers of 115D U.S. Highway 202, Ringoes, New Jersey 08551 for a period of one (1) year (12 consecutive months), and the Township shall have the right to extend the contract for two (2) additional one (1) year extensions following the expiration of the base contract term, provided that the terms of the original contract remain unchanged or unmodified.
2. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "professional service" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-5(1)(a)(i) of the Local Public Contracts Law because the contract is for service performed by a person(s) authorized by law to practice a recognized profession, whose practice is regulated by law, and the performance of which services requires knowledge of an advanced type in a specialized field of learning.
3. Funding shall be paid from Open Space General Account number 3-13-55-900-000-002 in an amount not to exceed \$3,750.00, subject to availability of funding in the 2013 budget.
4. A notice of this action shall be published in the official newspaper authorized to publish legal notice for the Township as required by law.
5. A copy of this resolution and the executed agreement shall be filed in the Office of the Township Clerk.

By order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

Mayor Kneski thanked Mr. Matheny, Mrs. Stahl, and OEM Coordinator Gary Myers for submitting the application.

Mr. Matheny explained that plans must be developed, and some discussion took place. He noted that mapping out the circuits for the building is almost as expensive as buying a generator for the entire building. Foley rents a unit that requires installation of a transfer switch; he is looking at information on this. Mr. Matheny mentioned the on-going costs for owning a generator; he felt that wiring and a pad might be less costly. He also mentioned that the grant will not cover set up since the request was for a generator.

Mr. Mathews believed that some flexibility might be an option, and he felt that it would be appropriate to contact (local resident) Mike Strizki regarding fuel cell or solar power. Some discussion took place between the Committee on whether the grant would cover this. Mr. Matheny mentioned the company that Mr. Mathews' business uses for emergencies, mentioning "ala cart" costs as being very expensive for the municipality (e.g., \$5,000 to be on the list, paying for transportation of the unit, time at the building, etc.) Mayor Kneski voiced his concern that the grant would be lost if the Township is not "ready to go." Mr. Matheny again stated that the preliminary paperwork was for a generator; he again mentioned costs for on-going maintenance, need for permits, a decision to either use nature gas or diesel, and other issues to consider. Comments were made about fuel storage, including hydrogen fuel. Mr. Mathews agreed to connect Mr. Matheny with Mr. Strizki for further information and Mr. Matheny will continue the application process.

4) RFP for Auditor: Mr. Matheny explained that he recently met with Auditor Case, and he will not be coming back next year. Additionally, the firm, WithumSmith and Brown, will no longer do municipal auditing. There is insufficient time to prepare a request for proposal (RFP) for this year, and the new CFO has provided the names of a number of auditors, listing pros and cons. Mr. Matheny plans to vet some of the auditors, and the Township will sign a professional services agreement with one of them for next year.

5) Animal Control Officer (ACO) Shared Services – Request for Additional Compensation (See 11/8/13 Email from West Amwell Clerk): (For the record, Mr. Matheny had already advised the Clerk to notify West Amwell that East Amwell planned on continuing with the Shared Services agreement in 2014, prior to this additional request.) Mr. Matheny reminded the governing body that the services are shared between West Amwell, East Amwell, Delaware, and Lambertville. Mr. Matheny saw an email earlier from Mr. Mathews regarding an accounting of calls for services, and he said that the Deputy Clerk has reports from the ACO.

Mr. Matheny provided background information using Raritan Township in 2006 and paying over \$8,500 for services and then having Raritan withdraw the service. The Township then went to Hunterdon Humane Society at a per capita fee and a minimal level of service. Mr. Matheny commented on the current ACO having a presence in the municipal building and bringing issues to the court. The township's current cost is less than \$7,800 per year, and if he is offered health insurance at a prorated basis, the Township's cost would be around \$9,300. He said that Mr. Barson's service is valuable; committee members noted that all comments received about the ACO have been positive.

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RESOLUTION #117-13

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they agree to cover the shared portion of the health benefits for the Animal Control Officer, Nate Barson, as requested in the 11/8/13 email from the West Amwell Clerk.

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.

6) Mailbox for 107 Wertsville Road/Whitehead (see 1017 Letter from HC Freeholders and Draft Letter of Appreciation for the Post Office): Mr. Wang-Iverson commented on working with Mr. Whitehead and the post office after resident Frances Gavigan brought up the safety matter of the location of the mailbox on Wertsville Road. The post office agreed to have the mailbox placed on the resident's side of the road, and Mr. Wang-Iverson felt that a letter of appreciation should be sent to the post office for their prompt attention. Some changes will be made to the letter since it was drafted a few weeks ago. There was a consensus of opinion that the letter should be sent, and Mayor Kneski thanked Mr. Wang-Iverson for his assistance on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE FOR 2014 REORGANIZATION MEETING

The Township Committee members agreed to hold the reorganization meeting on January 1, 2014, at 1 p.m. Mr. Cushing will be contacted about attending and administering Oaths of Office.

A five minute break took place so that the computer and projector could be set up for the next presentation.

SOCIAL MEDIA – Discussion Led by Committee Member Wang-Iverson

Mr. Wang reminded the governing body that he proposed the use of social media at the beginning of the year. While not a “big fan of Facebook,” he opened an account as an example of how to use the popular program to keep residents posted on current events. He explained that Facebook is easy to use, easy to post. He noted that the City of Lambertville has a Facebook page along with their website, and so does the Town of Clinton (i.e., using a business page and advertising business activities). The Township could have a page or find a business that wants to manage it, but it may be difficult for East Amwell to find a business to do it.

Mr. Wang-Iverson briefly explained how Facebook is used, including posting pictures from the phone and text. He referenced the NJ State Police's page where comments are allowed but not posts. He commented on not having any unauthorized users posting on the site, and he envisioned having it set up so that only certain people could post, e.g., the Township Committee, the Clerk and the Administrator while the public could comment on the posts, which would be monitored. He explained that the page could be set up with or without posts and just allow likes or un-likes.

Mr. Miller explained that Facebook users have their activities and comments tied back to them, so that they would not be anonymous. He explained that it would not be like anonymous comments that can be found on NJN.com.

Mr. Wang-Iverson again explained that this would be in addition to the webpage and would be used as a way to get information out to the residents. He suggested that the Township try it for a year and see how many followers it gets, mentioning specific figures for the website and how many he would feel would be a success on Facebook.

Glorianne Robbi asked about the Lambertville Facebook page; she was told that it was duplicative of the webpage. Mr. Matheny commented that OEM considered Facebook for live updates after emergencies in the past but there were some security issues. He reminded the Committee that the Township does provide Nixle updates. Mr. Matheny also commented on putting interesting items on Facebook, not just everyday items.

Mr. Wang-Iverson felt that it would be reasonable to set it up for January and try it for a while; it could be taken down if there were any issues. Mr. Miller agreed that it would give more visibility, and people monitor Facebook rather than going to the website.

Mayor Kneski thanked Mr. Wang-Iverson for his presentation.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, asked if the State Police will be coming to any meetings. Mr. Matheny agreed to check with them to determine their plans, but he explained that it was a function of leadership, and the previous commander, Casey Dienes, was the leader who initiated the monthly visits.

Ms. Gavigan spoke about discussions on the Hess application (at the Planning Board) and the possibility of having Raritan Township police enforce Title 39 powers on both sides of the highway. She asked about someone from East Amwell calling the Mayor of Raritan to reinstate the traffic enforcement shared service. She felt that speed limits without enforcement were not effective. While she believed the contract called for patrol of the village area, she would like to see their presence elsewhere in the township and have them write tickets. Mayor Kneski advised that there was coverage on Amwell, Van Lieus, and Wertsville Roads, not just the village, noting that the Township advised the Police where to patrol.

Ms. Gavigan spoke about (Freeholder) George Melick advising to get a patrol car and set it up in an area to discourage speeding. She would also like to have the speed trailer set up at Losey Road or on the Russell property (on Wertsville Road), mentioning specific problems in that area. She restated her opinion that some outreach be given to Raritan Township to reinstitute the shared service for traffic enforcement, adding that lowering the speed limit at Unionville hamlet is also a suggestion.

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

Mr. Mathews commented on Raritan Township terminating the traffic enforcement agreement; Ms. Gavigan commented on her knowledge that they may be interested in renewing. Mr. Matheny spoke about dynamics involved; he agreed to call the Chief of Police in Raritan Township for further information.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

TREASURER'S OFFICE presented the bills of the evening. Motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson and seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser to approve the bill list. Mr. Mathews asked about the fee for City Connections; this is the annual service fee. The motion was carried unanimously.

TAX COLLECTOR HYLAND presented her October 2013 report.

Tax Collector's Resolution:

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RESOLUTION #118-13

WHEREAS, there has been a redemption made for Tax Sale Certificate #201103, Block 34, Lot 9, 54 Ridge Road, sold on October 27th 2012 to US Bank Cust/Emp IV and;

WHEREAS the amount of \$10,947.59 has been collected from the owner, Sylvia Rolinski for the redemption of this Tax Sale Certificate #201103;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a check in the amount of \$10,947.59 be prepared by the Tax Collector and mailed to US Bank Cust/Emp IV.

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.

COURT ADMINSTRATOR HOOVEN’S October 2013 report was noted for filing.

DPW REPORT for October 2013 was noted. Mr. Mathews added the following items to be addressed, which Mr. Matheny listed for the DPW:

- 148 Lindbergh is experiencing excessive power outages, which may be caused by large trees;
- 29 Zion Road - water comes across the driveway and washes it out;
- 171 Lindbergh, owner the Andersons, located just past the Lindbergh Estate on the right, i.e., a washout in the road before you reach Hopewell, washout, which causes you to move to the left. Also a giant boulder on the road heading towards Wertsville is causing a problem and should be painted to be reflective;
- 112 Lindbergh – looking for a status report on the Meszaros property;
- 5 Ridge Road, property owned by Whited – drainage pipe is clogs and washes out their driveway. The road crew moved some material and is trying to get water to move to the next cross drain; the problem is that the property is 2 feet lower than the water level.

Mr. Matheny will get updates on these items.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Matheny pointed out the 10/24 letter of appreciation from resident Nancy Treible on Linvale Road, commending the DPW for their assistance.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk