

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Peter Kneski, Deputy Mayor Dart Sageser, and Committee members Tim Mathews and David Wang-Iverson. Committee member Patricia Cregar resigned effective December 4, 2013. Township Committee member elect Peter Miller, 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 December 10, 2013.

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

AGENDA REVIEW

Under Agenda Review, the Clerk announced a special discussion with CFO/Treasurer Ulrich Steinberg on the Finance Department.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION

FINANCE DEPARTMENT UPDATE – CFO/Treasurer Ulrich Steinberg was present at this time.

Mr. Wang-Iverson explained that he and Mr. Matheny have met with Mr. Steinberg on several occasions, and deficiencies in record keeping have been uncovered. There is a significant amount of work to be done to bring the records current for 2013, and it was felt that a contractor would be helpful to review the records and implement procedures. Mr. Steinberg has identified a candidate who would work on a temporary basis of not more than 3 months. Additionally, an auditor to prepare the Annual Financial Statement (AFS) for 2013 must be hired, with a recommendation to appoint Suplee-Clooney to do so. In addition, the auditor will likely be retained to do the 2013 audit with the thought being that requests for proposals will be sought for the 2014 audit.

Action required would be to hire a temporary contractor to help bring the records up to date for accuracy and implement new procedures for 2014; also the auditor for the AFS must be appointed.

Deputy Mayor Sageser asked the reasoning behind the short term contractor, who would work 12 days at 8 hours a day. Mr. Steinberg spoke about a “fiscal audit,” internal controls, and the need for better procedures in place along with accurate posting.

Mr. Mathews asked if the public would be able to ask any questions about this; Mayor Kneski did not wish to open to the public now. Deputy Mayor Sageser noted that the public would have time to comment when the meeting was open to them, adding that there is a second meeting on December 26.

Mr. Wang-Iverson found Mr. Steinberg to be proactive and aggressive in determining the issues and getting solutions. The plan is to introduce a temporary budget for 2014 to correct problems without pressure through the middle of the year. Additionally, there will be different reporting procedures for the Tax Collector to incorporate into the General Ledger. He thanked Mr. Steinberg for his work so far and looked for continued work on the Township's behalf, including hiring a temporary contractor. The auditor would be hired as a professional service.

Some discussion took place with having a person in the finance office on a temporary nature for three months, paid by voucher, and provided with a Federal form 1099. Mr. Cushing preferred that the temporary assistant be hired as an employee for worker's compensation coverage; some discussion took place. Mr. Cushing said that he would speak with Mr. Steinberg (who had already left the meeting) about this recommendation.

Mr. Mathews said that the party that Mrs. Cregar belongs to is the East Amwell Democratic Association, stating that their principles are of a non-political nature. He wanted to be clear that any of the candidates being selected are actually Democratic candidates. Mayor Kneski said that they were all Democrats.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried by unanimous vote to appoint Charles Van Horn to fill the vacated seat of Mrs. Cregar.

Mr. Cushing administered the Oath of Office to Charles Van Horn, and he took his seat at the dais.

Committee member elect Peter Miller was also introduced at the dais.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Township is still soliciting volunteers for various boards and committees; contact the Clerk at tstahl@eastamwelltownship.com for an application.

There will be a second Township Committee meeting in December on December 26, 2013, at 7:30 p.m.

2014 Reorganization for the Township Committee will be on Wednesday, January 1, at 1:00 p.m. at the municipal building.

Dates for 2014 Reorganization Meetings for all other boards/committees will be posted on the Bulletin Board and will be on the website at www.eastamwelltownship.com

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 14, 2013, Special Minutes (Volunteer interviews) were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried with one abstention by Mr. Van Horn.

November 14, 2013, Special Minutes (Resolution for Executive Session) were approved on a motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried with one abstention by Mr. Van Horn.

November 14, 2013, Executive Minutes (Personnel, Land Acquisition, Contracts, Attorney Advice) were approved on a motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried with one abstention by Mr. Van Horn, with a correction on page 1, paragraph 6, line 5, change Clinton to Readington and on page 2, paragraph 3 first line, change Les Brown to Len Smith.

November 14, 2013, Regular Minutes were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried with one abstention by Mr. Van Horn.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Kneski asked the public to keep comments short because of the scope of the agenda still to be addressed.

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, congratulated Mr. Van Horn on his appointment and congratulated all of the governing body members for addressing the finance department issues. She mentioned a 1099 employee without a pension component.

Ms. Gavigan mentioned the bill list with attorney bills for land acquisition that will not end, i.e., \$1800 for Scibilia expenses. She noted the acquisition of rights about 10-11 years ago, and about \$90,000 attributed to attorney bills. She commented on the latest issue of the property

owner not signing the mowing agreement, taking legal action, and suggested that the Township “stop being nice and take action ... such as a lien.”

Ms. Gavigan also pointed out a Trap Rock bill with an encumbrance date of 1/1/13- it was explained that there is a purchase order being drawn upon as needed.

Ms. Gavigan spoke about a bill for \$1,556.08 for personal expenses for Mr. Matheny for mileage reimbursement and cell phone use.

She concluded by cautioning governing body members to pay attention to bills.

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

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Kneski acknowledged that the resolutions being offered tonight were congratulatory in nature for the DPW Superintendent retiring after 25 years; the auditor who has served for 36 years; the Recycling Coordinator/Environmental Commission Secretary who has served 16 years, and a volunteer with 20 years.

Auditor Charles Case was recognized in the audience at this time.

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**RESOLUTION # 120- 13
RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT
OF DPW SUPERINTENDENT BOB KADEZABEK**

WHEREAS, DPW Superintendent, Bob Kadezabek, began his employment at East Amwell Township in May 1988, starting in the road crew rank, progressing to Assistant Road Supervisor in 1998, and culminating in his appointment as DPW Superintendent in 2009, working endless hours for the Township of East Amwell, in fine weather and foul; and

WHEREAS, Bob’s gruff exterior could not nor cannot contain his heart of gold, and upon his retirement, he will be sorely missed by his co-workers and the residents of East Amwell Township, most of whom he knows by name, street location, and area of complaint; and

WHEREAS, words cannot properly express the Township’s gratitude for the contributions Bob has provided throughout the years, from plowing to paving; from ditching to digging; for his work in maintaining Township roads, Township vehicles, and the municipal building; for his role in overseeing maintenance of township owned property; for his assistance in creating and maintaining Clawson Park and the municipal fields; for his common-sense approach to any request that came his way; and

WHEREAS, Bob announced his plans of retirement in early 2013 with many of us wishing that he would change his mind and continue his service to East Amwell, but realizing the finality of his decision by his submission of a letter of intent in November 2013; and

WHEREAS, East Amwell will miss Bob’s expertise and his contributions to the well-being of the municipality and its’ residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they publicly go on record as congratulating Bob Kadezabek on his retirement and extend to him all best wishes for continued good health and happiness in the coming years ahead!

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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**RESOLUTION #121-13
RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION**

WHEREAS, Joyce Corboy began her service as the Environmental Commission Secretary in East Amwell Township in 1996, also stepping into the position of Recycling Committee Coordinator in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Joyce’s performance in both her positions as been exemplary throughout the years, always serving behind the scenes for these two boards, with job responsibilities including, but not limited to, preparing the Township’s either semi-annual or annual newsletter; arranging community presentations on environmental topics; monitoring and reporting on annual recycling activities; assisting with coordination of annual clean up days; serving as recording secretary to these two boards; among other activities; and

WHEREAS, Joyce has submitted her letter of resignation, effective December 31, 2013, to pursue other endeavors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they publicly commend Joyce for her years of service to the community and wish her all the best in her future pursuits!

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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**RESOLUTION #122 - 13
RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT
OF AUDITOR CHARLES CASE**

WHEREAS, Charles Case, CPA/RMA, answered a request for proposal in 1975, when the Township of East Amwell was in need of a Municipal Auditor, and he was subsequently hired through a Professional Services Award in 1976 to serve in that capacity; and

WHEREAS, Charles was reappointed each year since 1976 to the position of Municipal Auditor, serving the Township of East Amwell faithfully and dutifully through the years, including preparation of annual debt and annual financial statements, performing the annual audit, and providing financial advice on tax matters, bonds, budgets, fiscal affairs, and local public contract laws, among other items; and

WHEREAS, Charles has announced his plans of retirement in the year 2013 to enjoy time with his family and friends and to pursue recreational activities outside the realm of “financial proprieties,”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they publicly go on record as congratulating Charles Case on his retirement and extend to him all best wishes for continued good health and enjoyment in the coming years!

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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**RESOLUTION #123- 13
RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION**

WHEREAS, Dot Faherty took notice of a request from the East Amwell Township Committee in 1992 to serve on community boards/committees; and

WHEREAS, Dot was subsequently appointed to serve on the Local Public Assistance Board beginning in January 1993, and has served continuously on this Board for well over twenty years; and

WHEREAS, her dedication to the position, serving as Chair of the Local Public Assistance Board for many years, providing both direction and a sounding board to the Local Public Assistance Director, which has been a valuable asset to the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee that they recognize and commend the long term service of Dot Faherty as she leaves this position.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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Mayor Kneski congratulated Mr. Kadezabek on his retirement, stating that he has done “a marvelous job,” noting that he came to work in the 1980’s when the Mayor was serving as Zoning Officer.

Mayor Kneski also acknowledged Mr. Case in the audience and posed for a photo with him as he offered him congratulations.

Motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried unanimously to approve the resolutions.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION

COMCAST UPDATE Molly Adams was present for this discussion.

Ms. Adams noted that this is the required quarterly update to the governing body and allows the public to ask questions. She stated that there were no impairing weather problems; there is nothing really new; the company continues to work on customer service and provision of a wide variety of television offerings, internet, and phone. Olympic games will be on electronic devices in February.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked about resolution of a problem with Princeton Hydro, mentioned at the last quarterly meeting. Ms. Adams had no information on this since Mr. Clifton was involved with that complaint. She mentioned that internet and telephone service is unregulated, and cable television is what the Township monitors.

Ms. Adams mentioned upcoming cost increases, based on retransmission fees from broadcasters and the demand for programs. Deputy Mayor Sageser commented on internet and other fees going up each year; Ms. Adams said that there were a variety of packages to address multiple needs and budgets.

Questions from the audience were entertained.

Toni Robbi, 144 Lambertville-Hopewell Turnpike, asked what went into the programming on Channel 8, adding that there are always different shows on there. Where would he see a schedule of programs? Ms. Adams suggested the website, noting that she does not know who makes the programming decisions and is on the wire and transmission side of the business.

Sue Posselt, Cider Mill Road, complained to Rob Clifton a year ago about not being listed in the phone book. She had email information from “someone” that it was up to Comcast to make sure

that she is listed in the county wide phone book. Ms. Adams agreed to look into this for Mrs. Posselt.

Mrs. Posselt also asked where she would get a list of channels, specifically for the HD channels. Some discussion took place on difficulties in finding the channel information on the higher end of the numbers.

Ms. Adams spoke about new XFINITY products, including the Xbox, where you can type in letters to get programs, e.g., food or food network information, etc. She also suggested that customers could call customer service to obtain information on new HD boxes.

Mayor Kneski thanked Ms. Adams for attending tonight's meeting and closed to public comment. Ms. Adams left the meeting at this time.

NOXIOUS WEED ORDINANCE

Deputy Mayor Sageser commented on the proposed ordinance and memo prepared by Mr. Cushing. Some discussion took place on a ban of ragweed and poison ivy, which could theoretically be included in residential areas, but difficult to control in rural areas. Mr. Cushing felt that control could be tied to proximity to public roads, if the Township Committee so chose. Deputy Mayor Sageser spoke about all of it being invasive now.

Mr. Mathews commented on either a Board of Health ordinance enforced by County or police powers as a township ordinance; he asked Mr. Cushing for his recommendation. Mr. Cushing agreed that there was already a nuisance ordinance, but the Township Committee could do a separate ordinance and have the Zoning Officer enforce. Mr. Wang-Iverson said that Board of Health Chair Tracy Carluccio was uncertain if this is an appropriate way to go; he said that the ordinance will be on the next Board of Health ordinance for discussion. He was skeptical that the County would be able to enforce such an ordinance.

Mr. Cushing was released from the meeting at 9:10 p.m. and sat in the audience during Mr. Strizki's discussion.

PRESENTATION BY MIKE STRIZKI ON SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATE GENERATOR AND DISCUSSION ON NJ STATE POLICE HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT FOR GENERATOR (See November 18th string of email for hydrogen power)

Mike Strizki, 26 Snyderstown Road, and President of Hydrogen House Project, was present for this discussion.

Mr. Mathews explained that the Committee may be aware of Mr. Strizki's technology, but he wanted the members to hear about it in the context of the generator grant so that all options could be considered.

Mr. Strizki asked the governing body and members of the public to watch a video presentation prepared in 2007 and provided handouts about the use of hydrogen, which contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases. He stated that technology has changed since the time that the video was made, and in 2014, there are cost reductions for use. He has done work with celebrities, military bases, homes, etc, changing from fossil fuel to hydrogen. He spoke about using fuel cells now, which power devices from fork lifts to cell phone chargers; the canisters are even safe enough to be allowed on airplanes. Mr. Strizki told the audience that during Hurricane Sandy, when houses were without power for two weeks, his home was still in operation with a 45 day power supply.

Mr. Strizki said that he was offering the Township the same technology that he uses in his home and that is installed all over the world; it is solid state, no maintenance, and UL certified. He commented on the use of fuel cells, including use to back up cell towers. There is brand new technology ready to use, and costs will come down when volumes increase. The fuel cell regulates the discharge from the battery, and he has had the same batteries for 14 years at his house. Mr. Strizki further explained the technology cycle, i.e., solar, batteries, fuel cell, grid, all

modular in use. He said that the Township would spend money on gas or diesel for the generator, and by using a 20kw installation at the municipal building, there would be payback and a less expensive use of the generator.

A question was raised about selling back to the grid; Mr. Strizki's proposal did not anticipate an installation big enough to do so since he was working on the budget of the generator. He provided specifics on a time frame of making hydrogen in terms of sell back dates. He spoke about juell box technology with respect to energy creation and sell back of excess power.

Mr. Strizki returned to his proposal for the Township. The grant from the state is for \$100,000; the system he is proposing is \$150,000 for back up power and a 20 kw system. He also noted that the Township would eliminate 20% of their electric bill.

Toni Robbi, in the audience, asked a question about Mr. Strizki's house and conversion of power to AC and battery usage. Mr. Strizki answered that batteries can be replaced, elaborating on battery longevity, fuel cell usage, average home usage of power, etc.

Mr. Strizki said that the \$150,000 cost for his system for the municipal building would anticipate the \$100,000 state grant and trying to get a grant from PSE&G. He commented again on the paybacks by using solar.

Nancy Cunningham, in the audience, asked about seeing any operations in the area, noting that Mr. Strizki has built them all over the world; Mr. Strizki said that most were in the Caribbean Islands with a new 150 kw installation proposed in Corsica.

Deputy Mayor Sageser asked about use in an emergency situation and whether the 20 kw system would operate the building. Mr. Strizki said that an 80 kw system would be required for the whole building, and his proposal was for a partial use (OEM, vehicles). A transfer switch is not necessary for this system.

Mr. Mathews added that FEMA encourages individuals to be self-sufficient during emergencies for at least 3 – 5 days, not dependent on the municipality to care for them. He felt that it was important to take advantage of grant money available.

Frances Gavigan, in the audience, asked about the investment. Mr. Strizki said that the 20 kw solar system would equate to a 25% reduction in costs; he provided some specifics about annual paybacks over the years (e.g., \$30,000 investment at \$6,000 a year would equate to a five year payback, then the township would make revenue).

Ms. Gavigan asked about shower facilities or support to the community; Mr. Robbi suggested going to the school for this. Mr. Matheny said that the school no longer has shower facilities; the County will continue to arrange shelters. The intent of operating the municipal building is to allow continued service to the community; residents could come in to get warm, charge their phones, etc., but the intent is to keep basic services on-going.

Mr. Strizki spoke about fuel and water issues during an emergency, reminding everyone about the gas station problems during the past storm. The hydrogen system doesn't use fuel; the fuel cell can produce water too, noting that these systems are used for water purification in other parts of the world, such as Haiti and Africa. Mr. Strizki stated that the technology is available, and it is up to the Township to decide to use it.

Ms. Gavigan asked if this would be the first municipal installation; Mr. Strizki said yes, noting that the military has already utilized this technology.

Deputy Mayor Sageser asked about the sizing of the system. Mr. Strizki did an audit of lighting loads, a/c loads, heating loads, etc., and a 20 kw system is the smallest that can be used. The cost for an 80 kw system to do the entire building would be about \$450,000, but Mr. Strizki did not believe the Township needed a system of that size, speaking about an emergency load panel for everything but the a/c.

Mayor Kneski commented on looking at the municipal building and the barn at the grit-yard where trucks are stored; Mr. Strizki's proposal would not include the barn.

The grant deadline is December 15, and if not submitted, the Township would have to apply for an extension. Mr. Strizki has been in contact with grant representatives, and he did not believe that the Township had the necessary paperwork complete to qualify for the grant. Mr. Matheny said that the paperwork is ready to go in, and he was aware of the issues. He explained that Hunterdon County has a new emergency plan in process, of which East Amwell Township is a part. East Amwell is not in the old plan, but there is a meeting with the Police and Hunterdon County OEM next Monday night to get paperwork in order.

Mr. Strizki invited everyone to schedule a tour to see his operation and house.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked about the grant procedure. Mr. Matheny explained that the letter allocated \$100,000 but no grant was received yet. The Township must prepare a spending plan with milestones, decide on what type of installation (gas or diesel), send the information in by December 15 to be processed by OEM and then FEMA. He explained that there is an exemption letter that the Township can submit since they are not part of the original HC Emergency Plan (i.e., previous OEM did not believe that the Township needed to be a part of this). The Township approved an ordinance to be part of the new plan.

Mr. Mathews spoke about the \$100,000 grant, noting language in the original letter about green, alternative plans with possibly more money available. He suggested a response to the State that we are submitting our plan, but we would like to have a dialogue with you and attach the Strizki proposal.

Mr. Matheny agreed that all options could be considered, but he did not believe that the allocation would go up. He mentioned other grants that Mr. Strizki alluded to; the Sustainable Jersey grant was only four grants of \$20,000 a piece and would not be available until March 2014. He also noted that the County may not be working on their revised plan for another year; he recommended getting the exemption letter and submitting the application he prepared by the deadline.

Mr. Wang-Iverson spoke about the 20 kw size of the solar system rather than a generator for the full building using traditional power. He commented on contractors who came through the building and suggested 70, 80, and 125 kw systems. He spoke about the electric system, hearing from some electricians that there would be issues in identifying circuits because of the age of the building – they felt that it would be more cost effective to power the entire building than to try to delineate the lines.

Deputy Mayor Sageser also mentioned that the thought was that the grant might be able to cover the grit-yard barn. Expanding the scope of work under \$100,000 was important. Deputy Mayor Sageser elaborated on the estimates received from various contractors (i.e., highest at \$106,000 for municipal building; \$30,000 for the barn, \$9,000 for the engineer); he was in favor of expanding the scope to cover both buildings.

Mr. Matheny commented on the capital ordinance to insulate and heat the barn at the grit-yard. If there was power and heat there, welding work could also be done there. He felt that a 40 kw system would work there. Deputy Mayor Sageser asked about reducing the scope of the municipal building to cover the barn. Mr. Matheny provided other estimates he received, including a 60 kw system for \$41,000 plus \$11,000; natural gas 60 kw system at \$37,800; a 40 kw system at \$32,000 plus \$4,800. Other requirements would include installing a pad and trenching, which the DPW would do.

Mr. Mathews asked about on-going annual maintenance; semi-annual costs for diesel would be \$475 each visit and natural gas would be \$500 twice a year (or \$400, pending on size of system). A bigger line might be needed from Elizabethtown Gas, depending on pressure and volume for the generator. Mr. Mathews commented on gas line issues at the beach during the last major storm.

Deputy Mayor Sageser appreciated Mr. Strizki's presentation and felt that it was great to anticipate in the future, but he believed that powering two buildings at this time was a better option and a significant upgrade. There is currently no gas power at the barn, but Elizabethtown gas would be available there.

Mr. Matheny was looking for authorization to proceed with the program he outlined. Mayor Kneski agreed that time was of the essence.

Mr. Mathews suggested doing both, i.e., submitting Mr. Matheny’s program but adding a cover letter about “last minute technology.” Mr. Wang-Iverson spoke about paying \$50,000 more for the alternative system and only getting a quarter of what would be achieved with a traditional system. Mr. Mathews spoke about the investment over time with the offset of power reduction. Mr. Wang-Iverson said that there wasn’t enough time for an analysis, and the application had to be submitted in three days. Deputy Mayor Sageser agreed that the 20 kw system was not quite adequate and the electrical tie-in issues were problematic. Mayor Kneski again mentioned the timing issue.

Further comments were exchanged by governing body members and Mr. Matheny regarding the review process; funding allocation; the ability to look at new technology in the future; the current needs for OEM/LEPC at the municipal building during emergencies with feedback from previous OEM Council member Soos about what was lacking in the last storm; among other items.

Motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously to authorize Mr. Matheny to submit the proposal for the grant application, as currently drafted.

Mayor Kneski commented on keeping the solar technology on the table for the future. A letter of appreciation will be drafted to Mr. Strizki for his assistance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES – None

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

1) Resignation of Member Mike Petrus: Mr. Petrus submitted his 12/6 email of resignation from the Environmental Commission, effective December 31, 2013. He agreed that he wanted to continue serving on the Recycling Committee. Motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously to accept the resignation with regret.

FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

1) Annual Resolution to Bank and Reserve 2013 Municipal Allocation of Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Fund (See 11/27 letter from Hunterdon County and Email from G. Robbi on 12/10/13)

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RESOLUTION #124-13

RESOLUTION TO BANK AND RESERVE THE FY 2012 MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION OF HUNTERDON COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,770.88

WHEREAS, the Hunterdon County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland Preservation and Historic Trust Fund collected \$6,607,948.29 in FY 2012 countywide, and

WHEREAS, East Amwell Township contributed \$237,708.81 to the Trust Fund in FY 2012 and ten percent (10%)- \$23,770.88- is allocated back to the Township as part of county-administered municipal grant programs for land preservation; and

WHEREAS, East Amwell Township hereby requests that the FY 2012 allocation of County Trust Funds of \$23,770.81 be banked and reserved for future use. The Township's intent and purpose for the 2013 Municipal Grant funds is to support open space projects currently in negotiation; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that the Township's open space inventory is up to date, the inventory shall be amended to include the following properties:

- 1. Block 27, Lots 53 and 53.01. "Lang": 23 acres
- 2. Block 31, Lots 1 and 14.01. "Wiedemer": 10 acres
- 3. Block 35, Lots 51 and 52. "Polhemus": 10 acres

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that East Amwell Township Committee gives formal request to Hunterdon County Open Space Historic Preservation Trust Program that the FY 2012 allocation of \$23,770.88 be banked and reserved for future use to support open space projects currently in negotiation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the East Amwell Township Committee hereby informs the Hunterdon County Open Pace Historic Preservation Trust Program of the updates to the municipal open space inventory as noted in this Resolution.

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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR’S UPDATE: Mr. Matheny explained that his items are subjects of executive session, so his update will take place after that time.

UPDATE ON FACEBOOK (See 11/14/13 Minutes for Background)

Mr. Wang-Iverson reviewed the presentation made by Morris Enyeart (our Webmaster) at the League of Municipalities Convention. His numbers show that 169 out of 540 municipalities are now using Facebook, i.e., 31% of them. Of that number, 150 allow for public comments. Mr. Wang-Iverson asked if the governing body wanted to proceed with setting up a page, and if so, he would have it ready for the beginning of next year.

Mr. Mathews asked about moderating or removing comments. Mr. Wang-Iverson said that the page could be shut down at any point. He will monitor the site, see the usage, and if less than 300 people follow, the page may be shut down.

Mr. Mathews said it would help push communications out to the public.

There was a consensus that Mr. Wang-Iverson proceed with setting up the page.

UPDATE ON TAX ABATEMENT ORDINANCE (See 11/14/13 Minutes for Background)

Mr. Wang-Iverson wanted to correct what he said last month about Flemington’s ordinance - \$50,000 is the maximum tax benefit a property owner can receive, not the reduction in assessed value. The value of the improvement is not added for five years, as long as the tax benefit does not exceed \$50,000; he stated that looking at residential properties, they would never get close to that figure. In the sixth year, the property goes back to full value.

Mr. Wang-Iverson thanked Mr. Mathews for the information he obtained from the state on tax abatements regarding, primarily, long term abatement programs. He noted that five year plans, such as Flemington’s, are locally controlled with specific criterion and monitoring procedures.

A list of best practices was available for an ordinance. Mr. Wang-Iverson believed the program could be implemented, including incentives for residents to improve their properties, using specific criteria. He felt that further discussions could take place, perhaps in January, and a draft ordinance could be prepared in the future.

Deputy Mayor Sageser mentioned that the Planning Board was looking at facilitating a planning study of the Village, with resident and Planning Board involvement. This will also include input from Banisch and Associates, and a toolkit of incentives may be created. The intent is to listen to resident concerns and decide on the best incentives.

NEW BUSINESS

DRAFT 2014 REORGANIZATION MINUTES were distributed for review by the governing body. They were not distributed to the public.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Toni Robbi, 144 Lamberville-Hopewell Turnpike, thought about how the Township might utilize sustainable greenpower technology. He suggested the Clawson House rewiring might be a suitable place to use the innovative technology.

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, referenced page 13 of the bill list for reimbursement to Mr. Matheny for mileage and cell phone costs, asking for mileage logs and use of vehicle.

Ms. Gavigan commented on having specific questions about “financial housekeeping.” She was very impressed with the new CFO, whom she believed would get the “house in order.” She commented on having four CFO’s and a “smooth transition,” mentioning a June payroll still on the bill list. She mentioned attending all the hearings at Hunterdon County, knows a lot about financial matters and the need for management oversight. She asked that the Township Committee, because of the financial irregularities in the past, take a closer look at the systems and procedures in place and pay attention to details. She commented on moving forward, “righting the ship,” working with Mr. Steinberg and new systems and not being sent to the state; having a new assistant to help with procedures on a temporary basis; and “moving on.”

Ms. Gavigan concluded that we “don’t have the happiest ship in municipal government, ... not the happiest group of employees, ... there is enough litigation ... and two new people with fresh eyes....” She will wait until the audit and financial statements come out.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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RESOLUTION #125-13

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

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

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of East Amwell wishes to discuss contracts, personnel, and land acquisition; and

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

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

RESOLUTION #127-13

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby accept the recommendation of the Township Administrator to appoint Ryan Duckworth as a one-year probationary employee for the Department of Public Works/Laborer, with his employment term to begin on January 6, 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ryan Duckworth’s hourly rate will be \$18.57 per hour, eligible for a COLA adjustment in 2014, and he will be eligible for all benefits per the East Amwell policy book. Mr. Duckworth will also obtain his CDL within the one year probationary period; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the 2013 Salary and Wage Ordinance, currently in effect, be amended as follows:

Add DPW Employee Duckworth \$18.57/per hour

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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

4) Animal Control Officer Services: The 12/10/13 Email from the West Amwell Clerk announcing the discontinuation of the Shared Services Agreement for an Animal Control Officer was noted. This item was also discussed in executive session as a contract.

Nate Barson, who was the ACO involved in the shared service agreement, subsequently provided a quote to the Township Administrator to cover the position as a separate contract.

+++++
RESOLUTION #128-13

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that, subject to review by Township counsel, they hereby accept the proposal from Nate Barson, dated December 2013, for Animal Control Services for East Amwell Township for 2014 at a cost of \$7,900.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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

5) Holding Facility Contract from Dr. Tindall: Mr. Matheny explained that this was also discussed as a contract; and the Township will not be signing the agreement with Dr. Tindall.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

TREASURER’S Resolution:

+++++
RESOLUTION #128A-13

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS
DURING LAST TWO MONTHS
OF THE FISCAL YEAR**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-58 provides for appropriation transfers during the last two (2) months of the fiscal year, when it has been determined that it is necessary to expend for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the sum appropriated therefore and where it has been further determined that there is an excess in any appropriation over the above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose of such appropriation, and

WHEREAS, a transfer is necessary to cover expenses in excess of the original appropriation in the 2013 budget document,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell does hereby authorize the transfers among the Calendar Year 2013 Municipal Budget as follow:

FROM:

Current Fund

	Health Insurance	\$	3,000.00	
TO:	Public Defender S&W	\$	500.00	
	Engineering OE		2,500.00	
TOTALS	\$	3,000.00	\$	3,000.00

By Order of the Township Committee,

Peter Kneski, Mayor

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

Bills of the Evening: Motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson and seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser to approve payment of the bills. A question was raised about the health care bill amount; it was noted that an employee left in July and money was still in that account and not utilized. The motion to pay bills was carried unanimously.

TAX COLLECTOR HYLAND provided her November report with no comments being made.

All other administrative reports were accepted without comment.

CORRESPONDENCE

The letter from residents in the vicinity of 38 Amwell Road was acknowledged. The property has a landscape service, and notes from the Zoning Officer review were noted. Mr. Matheny will talk to the Zoning Officer about this again.

The Clerk noted that the majority of the municipalities in Hunterdon County are approving resolutions asking that Hunterdon County take over Animal Control Officer responsibilities. There was a consensus that there was no need for East Amwell Township to do so right now since they just approved an agreement with Mr. Barson.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk