

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 8:23 p.m. Present were Mayor Dart Sageser, Deputy Mayor David Wang-Iverson, and Committee members Tim Mathews, Charles Van Horn, and 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, 2014, and a meeting notice published in the Hunterdon County Democrat issue of January 9, 2014. 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 7, 2014.

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

### AGENDA REVIEW

Under Standing Committee, add item B, Board of Health – Well Ordinance Update from David Wang-Iverson.

Under Administrator's Update, add discussion on the 2015 Animal Control Officer Contract.

Under Administrative Reports, add an update from the Tax Collector on the 10-9-14 Tax Sale.

Two items of correspondence: 9/25 West Amwell re: Land Use Ordinance public hearing on woodlands protection and 9-25 School Nurse Billera re: Appreciation for Summer Playground.

For the record, during the Administrator's Update, Mayor Sageser added discussion on the Clawson House Rehabilitation Bid

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Hunterdon County Utilities will hold a computer and electronics collection day on Saturday, October 11, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the County Complex. Email [swrs@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:swrs@co.hunterdon.nj.us) or call 908-788-1110 for more information. They will also hold a special shred event on Saturday, November 1, and a hazardous waste clean-up day (same place, same time) on November 8, 2014.

B. Day Light Savings Time Ends on Sunday, November 2, at 2 a.m.; turn clocks back an hour.

C. General Election Day is on Tuesday, November 4, from 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. All East Amwell polls are located at the municipal building.

D. The municipal building will be closed on Tuesday, November 11, in recognition of Veteran's Day. Board of Adjustment and Recycling Committee meetings will, however, take place during the evening.

Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson added that D & R Greenway Land Trust recognized East Amwell Township for their long term collaboration at a dinner celebration on September 13<sup>th</sup>, awarding the Township their Local Community Special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Partnership Award. Glorianne Robbi and Dick Ginman accepted the award on behalf of East Amwell.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 11, 2014, Special Meeting Minutes (Interview) were approved on a motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson, and carried unanimously.

September 11, 2014, Regular Meeting Minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried unanimously with a correction on page 4, paragraph 4, line 5, reverse the words "window" and "house."

September 29, 2014, Special Meeting Minutes (Executive Session Resolution/Personnel) were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Van Horn, and carried with one correction on page 3, paragraph 3, change first sentence to read, “Mr. Mathews spoke about previous information he received about hiring a firm and paying a CFO one dollar to sign off on the work.”

September 29, 2014, Executive Meeting Minutes (Personnel, CFO, Finance Office) were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson and seconded by Mr. Van Horn. On a question from Mr. Mathews about listening to the tape to add information to the minutes, he was advised that executive sessions are not recorded. Mr. Miller and Mr. Mathews will be provided with copies of the Rice Notices issued for that meeting. The motion on the minutes was carried unanimously.

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

It was noted that the Open to the Public Session was held before the end of the special meeting previously held.

#### **SPECIAL DISCUSSIONS**

UPDATE ON THE FINANCE OFFICE – CFO Margaret Pasqua was present at this time.

On a question from the Mayor regarding Ms. Pasqua’s eight days in office, Ms. Pasqua said that she was finding the office “severely neglected and very disorganized... but nothing illegal.” She is looking for documentation for things, wading through and taking care of items that need immediate attention, including getting accounts reconciled to have a base to operate. She commented on having difficulties with the records as to what was done last year. She spoke about reconciling the capital account through September, acknowledging that it balanced with what was in the computer and is a low activity account. Working on the current budget would require having an accurate balance in order to reconcile. Ms. Pasqua mentioned her concern about how to handle cash receipts, since they were not logged into a central system; she said that all money goes into the operating account, and she spoke about not having records past May. Mr. Van Horn commented on the need to have procedures in place. Mayor Sageser spoke about getting the audit soon, and Ms. Pasqua said that it would provide a starting point.

Ms. Pasqua also noted that she would be wiring the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter pension payment tomorrow, adding that there were some issues to address going forth.

Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson wanted the public to be aware of an item mentioned in executive session that Ms. Pasqua was able to find money on short notice for submission of the NJ Department of Transportation grant. She was able to cancel a purchase order and reassign one to pay for engineering. He commented on asking the previous CFO for weeks and Ms. Pasqua being able to handle the matter in days; on behalf of the governing body, he appreciated her efforts.

Mr. Mathews asked about neglected items and asked what was missing. Ms. Pasqua said that she is looking at money going in and out and bank reconciliations needed to be up to date. The general ledger needs work too. Ms. Pasqua said that she was not familiar with Edmunds and does work by hard copy – she would rather see hard copies rather than just trusting the computer. Mr. Mathews asked whether there was a policy book on how to operate the office; there is none. Ms. Pasqua commented on it being “a disaster; although the files are there, it needs organization.” Mayor Sageser asked what Ms. Pasqua needed as support; Ms. Pasqua answered that she is figuring things out. The Mayor commented on offering support and getting the office in better shape by next month or thereafter. Mr. Mathews asked if the policies did not exist; Ms. Pasqua said that she didn’t see them, but she was working through the issues. Ms. Pasqua spoke about eventually setting policies, adding that the office needs more than one person for internal controls. She said that she could not comment until she saw an overview of the office.

Mr. Miller asked about expectations, i.e., timing for a rough assessment of what to do first and steps to establishing controls. Ms. Pasqua said that she has a lot of work to do and wanted to work on the reconciliations. Mr. Miller said that it was of interest to him and the Township Committee that some controls are established to assure the taxpayers that the Township is on a path to get the financial issues under control. He would like to know the steps as soon as possible without one hundred percent of the procedures in place. He asked if there were things that Ms. Pasqua felt, as an expert, needed to be done sooner than later and whether she could have this information in a couple of weeks. Ms. Pasqua said it may be possible by the next meeting, depending on how the office is run from here on in. Mr. Miller asked for an opinion from the resource perspective; Ms. Masqua said that the office should not be one person alone, and there should be another person also watching operations.

Mr. Mathews commented on oversight not being there, having six CFOs with mess and chaos. He commented to Ms. Pasqua that “you may be great, jumping in and doing the work.” But he asked for her honesty in saying what oversight and boundaries that the Township should give her, and whether outside help with procedures was needed. He agreed that procedures were important and he would like to hear in the next few weeks if procedures could be set up, such as templates for repetitive tasks, including reconciling within a specific time frame for the next person coming in. Ms. Pasqua spoke about too many changes being made, and rather than changing, she was trying to learn what the Township has and then address. She spoke about deposits made in real time, purchase orders that are delayed but should be done in real time, not having enough staff, items that were neglected “and fell to the wayside,” little time for procedures and policies, and she would not have any recommendations tonight. Mr. Miller said that he would not expect that, but he agreed that the Township Committee would like to see activities defined to expected controls, and they would like feedback and interaction on achieving these controls.

Mayor Sageser suggested that the Township Committee could meet with Ms. Pasqua in a couple of weeks for an update; Mr. Mathews suggested a special meeting. Mr. Van Horn commented that it would be beneficial for an update in two weeks. Mr. Miller agreed, stating the expectations of finding out what Ms. Pasqua needs, what was done, itemized details and how much effort is required. The governing body will be polled for a date for this meeting.

The Committee spoke about approving a resolution confirming Ms. Pasqua’s employment. Mr. Mathews commented on the previous resolution as a temporary CFO being unacceptable.

Mr. Cushing had prepared a resolution, which was previously distributed to the governing body. It was agreed to add a sentence amending Resolution #114-14 from the last meeting.

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**RESOLUTION #116 -14**

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

WHEREAS, the position of Chief Financial Officer of the Township is required by statute; and

WHEREAS, the position of Chief Financial Officer recently became vacant on short notice; and

WHEREAS, the Township has reached out to the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government, for advice and information; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the term for the Chief Financial Officer is a four year term which is scheduled to expire December 31, 2014; and.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that a Chief Financial Officer be appointed to fill the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, the Township has recently appointed Margaret Pasqual as the temporary, acting Chief Financial Officer in order to make sure that its financial matters were being properly handled; and

WHEREAS, the Township seeks a permanent Chief Financial Officer and is soliciting requests to fill that position; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Pasqual has been kind enough to agree to fill the position until it can be filled permanently.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they amend Resolution #114-14 and confirm the appointment of Margaret Pasqual is to fulfill the unexpired term of the position of Chief Financial Officer. The term of her appointment shall be the earlier of December 31, 2014, or the appointment of a replacement Chief Financial Officer.

By Order of the Township Committee,

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Dart Sageser, Mayor

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Motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried with one abstention, Mr. Mathews.

SUMMER PLAYGROUND UPDATE – Supervising Director Kathy Veith was present at this time.

Mrs. Veith provided a handout to the Township Committee, including a completion survey with eight respondents. She highlighted the positive responses, including new activities, a variety of options, new art projects led by Jen Stafford, etc. There was also a sheet showing three incidents at the playground and how they were handled; Mrs. Veith highlighted them, and Mr. Van Horn asked that the names of the children be redacted from the record. There was an attendance analysis, showing a few more children registered this year, with nine new kindergarteners, no six graders registered, and a large 3<sup>rd</sup> grade population. Another page showed weekly attendance and another, a letter from the school nurse. Mrs. Veith said that the budget and salary was almost 2/3 funded through registration; she added that she was under budget this year and will have some items left over to begin next year. The last page was a collage of pictures from the program, showing activities, including a water balloon fight. She concluded that there was good response from kids and parents, and they were looking forward to doing it again next year.

Mayor Sageser thanked Mrs. Veith for all her efforts.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON UNFIT BUILDING ORDINANCE (See Aug./Sept. 2014 Minutes for Background)

Mayor Sageser said that he sent his comments to Attorney Cushing for consideration, adding that at last night’s Planning Board meeting about the Ringoes Village Study, maintenance issues were excluded from the discussion and will be on a future agenda once feedback from the village residents has been garnered. Mr. Mathews commented on this matter being part of the Raritan service and enforcement being contemplated.

Mr. Mathews also mentioned the email from Mr. Cushing regarding the new state law for dealing with abandoned buildings and language which will allow the owner to adhere to any local municipal nuisance ordinance. He mentioned previous conversations about tightening the existing nuisance ordinance and adding noxious weeds while the Township still discussed the unfit buildings. He believed that the new law would allow the Township to add a new definition to the nuisance ordinance, provide a list of weeds from the state list, and that way address Mr. Kanach’s concern.

Mr. Cushing explained that the new law created a way for municipalities to deal with abandoned properties nearing foreclosure, i.e., banks would be penalized if they don't maintain the properties. This would be done under an ordinance, and the abandoned properties law did allow a nuisance code with penalties for violations. Banks will now have to take responsibility to address problems. Mayor Sageser asked if the Township could have a local version of the law; Mr. Cushing said the law only applied to abandoned properties, with the Mayor acknowledging the intent of a broader ordinance for unmaintained properties, not just foreclosures.

Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson asked about adopting the language directly from the statute. Mr. Mathews referenced the existing Board of Health nuisance ordinance, which addresses pollutants. He suggested changing pollutants to include noxious weeds and provide the state list of weeds so there would be an ordinance on the books. Mr. Cushing said that a noxious weed is not a pollutant; Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson said that the Board of Health dealt with water quality and did not see weeds as pollutants. He also noted that the Agricultural Advisory Committee was working on the issue.

Mayor Sageser asked about enforcement of an ordinance; Mr. Cushing said there was a mechanism to bring the banks into the process and force them to comply. He added that it doesn't address the standards allowed in the Uniform Construction Code, and he also said that property maintenance codes are hard to enforce in rural communities. The Mayor added that it would not address aesthetics either. Mr. Cushing also added that it would be unfair to mandate that abandoned houses had to have lawns cut while next door, if the house is occupied, they would not have a uniform application of the law and could have overgrown grass. He also stated that it was hard to have such an ordinance in East Amwell, and this type of ordinance was more suited for a suburban community. Mayor Sageser added that the Agricultural Advisory Committee was working on this issue.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

RAFFLE LICENSE #14-04 – EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL PTO

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**RESOLUTION #117-14**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby support the fund-raising efforts of the East Amwell Township School PTO, 43 Wertsville Road, Ringoes, NJ 08551; and

WHEREAS, the PTO has made application to hold an off premises 50/50 raffle on November 24, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. at the East Amwell Township School, 43 Wertsville Road, Ringoes, NJ 08551;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, that raffle license number #RL-14-04 be approved and processed for the PTO.

By Order of the Township Committee,

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Dart Sageser, Mayor

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**Public Hearing:**

ORDINANCE 14-06: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL, SPECIFICALLY CHAPTER 75, FEES, ADDING FEES FOR DELIVERY OF MULCH

As proof of publication, the clerk provided the legal notice from the Hunterdon County Democrat. The ordinance has been posted and available to the public since introduction on September 11, 2014.

The ordinance will allow the township to charge for delivery of mulch to residents; the DPW Superintendent says that the mason dump is approximately 5 cubic yards while the single axle truck is about 10 cubic yards. Mr. Mathews ascertained that the public was still able to go to the yard and pick up their own mulch at no cost, which was not listed in the ordinance.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried unanimously to open to the public for comments. There being no comments, motion by Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried unanimously to close to the public.

Ordinance 14-06 was adopted on a motion by Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Van Horn, and carried unanimously by roll call vote: Mr. Van Horn, yes; Mr. Wang-Iverson, yes; Mr. Mathews, yes; Mr. Miller, yes; Mr. Sageser, yes.

**Introduction of Ordinance:**

ORDINANCE 14-07: AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR LEVELING AND SUBGRADE RECONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS TOWNSHIP ROADS AS GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$75,000.00 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Mr. Matheny explained that the funding would allow the DPW to do various road work, including building inlets on township roads without drawing down the regular budget. He commented that a lot of work was done under previous capital ordinances, which are almost exhausted. The ordinance will span multi-years and stay in place until needed and is not limited to specific roads. Ms. Pasqua was able to find the funding in the capital improvement fund.

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**TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL  
ORDINANCE 14-07**

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR LEVELING AND SUBGRADE RECONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS TOWNSHIP ROADS AS GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$75,000.00 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, as follows:

Section 1 The improvement described in Section 2 of this ordinance is hereby authorized as general improvements to be made or acquired by the Township of East Amwell, New Jersey. For the said improvements or purposes described in Section 2, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$75,000.00 said sum being inclusive of all appropriations heretofore made therefore.

Section 2 The Township of East Amwell is hereby authorized to provide funding for the leveling and subgrade reconstruction of various Township roads and engineering costs, which will include but not limited to Mountain, Lindbergh Road, Rocktown Road, and Rainbow Hill Road.

Section 3 It is hereby determined and stated that the undertaking of the aforesaid work, acquisition or improvements is not a current expense of the Township of East Amwell, but rather a capital expense and the East Amwell Township's estimated cost of said work, acquisition or improvement is \$75,000.00.

Section 4 The sum of \$75,000.00 is hereby appropriated for said purpose. The funding is provided by appropriating \$75,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund of the Township of East Amwell for said purpose as required by law and now available therefore in one or more previously adopted budgets.

Section 5 No debt of any kind is authorized for this undertaking.

Section 6. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

APPROVED BY TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE,

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dart Sageser, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk

Introduced: October 9, 2014

Adopted:

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Motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson, and carried unanimously to introduce Ordinance 14-07.

The ordinance will be published in the October 16, 2014, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the public hearing is scheduled for the next regular Township Committee meeting on November 13, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS - None**

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION**

1. Van Doren Property, Block 35/Lot 58 Title Insurance for Donated Property: Attorney St. Angelo sent an email on 9/18 asking if the Township wanted to have a title report and insurance on this donated property. D & R Greenway Land Trust did not believe it was necessary, and Mr. Cushing agreed that the report would not provide much value. Mayor Sageser agreed. Mr. Mathews noted that an environmental assessment was already done. There was a consensus that title insurance and a report would not be sought.

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

1. Proposed Well Ordinance (See September 2014 Minutes for Background): Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson said that based on the comments from the governing body last month, the Board of Health postponed attorney review and pulled the ordinance. He provided a comparison sheet of the existing and proposed language in the ordinance with “fairly minor language changes” with the basic ordinance in existence since 1998 and updated in 2006. He explained that sections B and C were rearranged, a sentence in section B was removed to avoid confusion, and the last sentence was modified about the increase of 20% to be sure it covered areas where water supply is problematic, e.g., the mountain zone. He explained that the Board of Health likes to recertify wells if there is a question about water supply. He mentioned that neighboring residents sometimes come to the Board of Health with questions about their well if they see new construction.

Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson also noted the public’s concern about non-residential wells; he said that it was very clear that this is for non-residential wells only and excludes farms with residences. He referenced a new definition for a residential well, stating that a well used for residential and farming activities was exempt from the totalizing meter requirement. As an example, he referred to a golf course or nursery for the use of the meter. He mentioned section 176-9 where language was changed to specify volume to distinguish a residence from a non-residential use, and that is where the 500 gpd came in as an appropriate figure for the well test. There is also a new item 3 in section 176-11 regarding witnessing by a hydrogeologist and/or others.

Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson said that the ordinance is going for attorney review, and the Board of Health hopes to introduce at their October meeting, adding that it was circulated to various committees.

Ms. English, from the audience, asked why not the Agriculture Advisory Committee; Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson said it was not provided to them. The Mayor suggested that the ordinance be given to the Agricultural Advisory Committee. The Deputy Mayor commented that discussions on the ordinance were held at the Board of Health meetings and the ordinance has been in existence since 1998. Ms. English commented on never surveying agriculture, which is the largest industry in the township, that they have no say, and things could have been done better. Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson commented on procedures and on doing better.

Mr. Cushing left the meeting at this time.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR’S UPDATE**

1. Best Practices Inventory: Mr. Matheny said that the survey is being reviewed with the CFO and specifics will be discussed at the next meeting (on November 13). He reminded the governing body that the state can withhold a percentage of aid, adding that East Amwell always qualified for their full percentage. This item will be discussed next month, and upon completion of the survey, it will be available in the Dropbox.

2. Brush Pickup: The DPW is making great progress and completed pick up in zones 1 and 2 in 1.5 days (31 stops in zone 1 and 20 stops in zone 2). Mr. Matheny mentioned the request from the Township Committee to utilize in-mates in the County program; in-mate population is down, so there were no workers to assist. One worker did do some park maintenance this month.

3. NJ Department of Transportation Municipal Aid 2015 Application: The engineer is completing the application by the deadline, and one of the requirements is submission of a resolution, which was presented for approval.

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**RESOLUTION #118 -14**

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP**

RESOLUTION: Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Zion Road Improvements Project

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee 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-2015 – Zion Road -00521 from NJ DOT SAGE to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of East Amwell.

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

By Order of the Township Committee,

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Dart Sageser, Mayor

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Motion by Mr. Van Horn and seconded by Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson to approve the resolution.

Mr. Mathews asked if the work was just on Zion Road. Mr. Matheny explained that past grant applications were rejected for smaller pieces since the State likes to see big projects. The application was revamped to cover Zion Road, which has drainage issues and includes the road from Spring Hill to Lindbergh. The engineer believes it is a good project area.

The motion to submit the grant resolution was carried unanimously.

4. Fuel Cell Technology: Mr. Matheny reminded the governing body that they asked him to look into this, based on the State’s letter of non-award for funding for the generator. He spoke with OEM Coordinator Gary Myers, who talked to the Hunterdon County Coordinator. The County is not getting funding for alternate technology, adding that the state controls the flow of money. The problem is that the Township is not in the new County plan, which is still being developed; therefore, the Township is not eligible for the funding. Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson asked when the County’s new plan would be complete; Mr. Matheny was told this fall, but this was unclear. Mr. Matheny said that Mr. Myers keeps in touch with the County regularly.

5. Municipal Court 10/1 Request for Salary Increase of 2% for Franklin Shared Service Agreement: Mr. Matheny explained that as part of the joint court of East Amwell and Delaware, they have taken on Franklin Township as a shared service. Franklin Township pays the municipality for the service. In the original agreement (ordinance), the court personnel receive a set salary from Franklin for their work, not listed in the municipalities’ salary and wage ordinance. The amount in the agreement is paid half by East Amwell and half by Delaware. The agreement is not written with a COLA increase included although the contract does increase annually by 2 percent with nothing passing along to the employees. Delaware Township has already made their 2014 employee increase for the court personnel who qualify. Mr. Matheny spoke with Attorney Cushing about this, and his advice was just to include the percentage adjustment in the Township’s salary and wage resolution. Some comments were made about allowing this adjustment “as being passed along and no burden to the municipality.” The Clerk advised that the following resolution was neither of the ones previously submitted to the governing body for consideration, but another option, approved by the attorney.

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**RESOLUTION # 119– 14**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, that they hereby amend the 2014 Salary and Wage Resolution as follows to add a 2% increase on the Franklin Township share of the employee’s salary:

Change:	From:	To:
Magistrate Martin – Franklin Twp.	\$4,000	\$4,080
Court Administrative Officer Hooven – Franklin Twp.	\$5,000	\$5,100
Public Defender Troy – Franklin Twp.	\$ 500	\$ 510
Prosecutor Ballard – Franklin Twp.	\$4,000	\$4,080

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be retroactive to January 1, 2014.

By Order of the Township Committee,

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Dart Sageser, Mayor

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

6. Current Job Postings: Mr. Matheny explained that the Farmland/Open Space Preservation Administrator position was posted in house for a short time, and a decision was made to reach out to a wider pool, including posting on the League of Municipalities' website and on the Township's site and posted in the building. The CFO position is also on the League's and Township's site. A comment was made that the League's site currently has 17 municipalities looking for a CFO. The Assistant Treasurer position is also posted in the municipal building and the East Amwell website, but not on the League's site.

Mr. Miller asked if the plan was different in terms of augmenting assistance in the finance office; Mayor Sageser commented on exploring alternatives.

7. Animal Control Officer 2015 Contract: Mr. Matheny reminded the Township Committee that in the past they did a shared service, which dissolved and last year, they contracted independently with Nate Barson. The proposed contract appears close to the same as last year's, and Mr. Matheny commented on Nate "doing a good job." He spoke about Mr. Barson's ability to take animals to no-kill facilities. Mr. Matheny is able to sign the contract as QPA, but he wanted the governing body to be "on board." Mayor Sageser commented on a consensus of the Committee to pursue the agreement.

8. Clawson House Bids: Mayor Sageser asked to add this item to the agenda at this time. He spoke about vetting the statutory requirements and there were two options for the bid of restoring the existing windows or replacements as determined by the contractor. He mentioned that the low bidder provided the replacement option at a figure of \$20,000 less than restored windows. Mayor Sageser continued by stating that he has spoken with the architect, Chris Pickell, and others about the bid. The low bidder came in at \$97,292 and \$117,600 with the restored windows. The county grant is \$61,800 for siding and windows, and as part of the grant, the Township agreed that they would contribute if there was some component needed. He mentioned taking funding for Clawson Park from the Open Space Trust Fund and meeting the CFO about this.

Since the remainder of the Township Committee was not previously apprised of the matter, the award of the bid will be held until the next meeting.

#### 2014 TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACT

Mayor Sageser said that this item will be tabled until the next meeting to allow the governing body to review material received tonight.

#### CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON RARITAN TOWNSHIP CONSTRUCTION OFFICE AGREEMENT

Mr. Matheny and Mr. Van Horn met with a neighboring entity to discuss the construction office, based on the recommendation from the governing body last month. Further information is being gathered for that municipality. Mr. Mathews also said that West Amwell would be interested in a shared service.

Mayor Sageser spoke about a discussion with the Mayor of Raritan Township, who explained that they are interviewing and hiring new staff. There has not been a final decision on the new Construction Code Official, and the Mayor of Raritan promised Mayor Sageser that he would be advised when this is determined.

A question that was raised about outstanding open permits, e.g., for the school and others, i.e., what would happen if coverage is switched. Mr. Matheny commented on open permits which were paid for and needed to be inspected – the municipality covering the town would have to do the inspections (i.e., if there was a big project open, the covering town would have to inspect and not get paid). Mr. Miller asked about reimbursement; Mr. Matheny said this is not an option. Mayor Sageser spoke about state set up of the service, and Mr. Matheny said that there may be an additional fee from another municipality for switching over. Some other comments were exchanged by the governing body members about fees and perspective large projects in the township, including the school project.

Mr. Matheny spoke about a meeting with the School Superintendent and the Board of Education President regarding the issues with their construction. He commented on a “he said/she said” situation with the permit hold-ups. He believed that it was a worthwhile meeting, and they discussed the potential of a switch in services with new inspectors if this happened.

Mayor Sageser commented on both Construction Liaison Van Horn and the Administrator keeping him informed about discussions. He commented on the School’s involvement with the Construction Office and the fact that the State dictates construction code requirements. In his discussion with the Raritan Township Mayor, he was told that the Construction Office is more independent.

Mr. Mathews asked the Mayor where they were with the agreement with Raritan Township. Mayor Sageser said that East Amwell Township reserved their right, adding that the real issue is who is in the Construction Office. Mr. Van Horn commented that they would be told when the new staff comes on and will look at changes. They are also talking with other townships. It was noted that the fees ordinance would have to be amended if the shared service changed, and there may be different software/licensing requirements, so that there will be some expenses. The agreement should be in place the end of the year. Some additional comments were exchanged between the Mayor and Mr. Van Horn regarding inspectors in flux in Raritan Township; matching fees with other municipalities; whether there would be less inspection hours in another town; etc.

#### 9/26 AND 10/5 EMAILS FROM STEVE SOUZA OF PRINCETON HYDRO AND NJ DEP RE: RECEIPT OF 319H GRANT FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Mayor Sageser commented on the communications about the award of the \$446,000 grant from the NJ DEP, which includes drainage issues on Clawson Park and the municipal ball fields. The funds must be used on public property, and there will be further discussion next month.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### PENNEAST PIPELINE – 10/1 REQUEST FROM DELAWARE TOWNSHIP FOR RESOLUTION OF OPPOSITION

Mayor Sageser said that this item should be forwarded to the Environmental Commission since the Chair has been attending meetings. He added comments that East Amwell has a different set of issues than Delaware Township since East Amwell is not in the path of the pipeline, although this may change. The approval of the pipeline won’t take place until next July. The Mayor asked that the Environmental Commission advise the Township Committee how to proceed with this. The Board of Health was also copied (and for the record, Farmland/Open Space Preservation Committee because of the affect on preserved land). Mayor Sageser asked that the Ag Advisory Committee also be copied.

#### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mike Strizki, Snyderstown Road, wished to speak about the fuel cell issue, mentioning a proposal he did for a backup generator. He said that he found out that the Township did not qualify with state paperwork. He spoke about other grants available to municipalities under the Sandy Resilient Grants with \$220 Million available for renewable energy.

Mr. Strizki spoke about the audit he did of the municipal building commenting on loads that were based on fuses and paybacks to the municipality with solar and fuel cell installations with great savings than fuel based installations. He spoke about installing inverters and batteries to pick up peak loads and sustain continuous loads. Mr. Strizki said that his house has been off-grid for eight years, adding anecdotal information about his work on powering islands and working with the military. He referenced Toyota with their dare to the earth to adopt alternative technology. He commented on technology available now used in different areas, including 911. He lived here all of his life, and he would like to see this technology used in the

building and in the school. He is now semi-retired and would like to educate the public. He spoke of providing a legacy for our future generations on earth and asked that the Township adopt and embrace the technology.

Mr. Van Horn said that Steve Souza put together a proposal, which the governing body reviewed as beneficial and went from there. He stated that Mr. Strizki has the knowledge, and he suggested that Mr. Strizki work with the Township Administrator and bring back recommendations to the governing body. Mayor Sageser said that he was glad that Mr. Strizki was here; he remembered seeing something concerning the Sandy related Resiliency Bank. He suggested working with Mr. Matheny and the Township would offer what they could to help, including getting letters of support.

Mr. Strizki said that he'd like to see an electrical vehicle charging station in the township and power the building with fuel cell technology. Mr. Van Horn spoke about Mr. Strizki's expertise and knowledge of the process while the Township could provide basic information. Mr. Strizki agreed that helping each other was important, mentioning doing level 3 energy audits to save tax payer money. He suggested that all municipal buildings should have solar as a bare minimum and partner to get tax credits until 2016, adding that "we have to change."

Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson asked about load calculations which Mr. Strizki previously mentioned. Mr. Strizki said that he measured loads only for heating, not air conditioning, and was designed for emergency situations. He spoke about going all solar for the building, with the Deputy Mayor asking if there was funding to do so; Mr. Strizki agreed that there was no funding available for going totally off the grid. Mr. Strizki spoke about net metering already existing, and it can be calculated on what is consumed to design a solar system for the load and qualify for credits and perhaps be a demonstration project. He noted that there were paybacks on everything, commenting on doing a level 3 energy audit with sophisticated calculations and controls, including sensors to shut a room down when unoccupied. Mayor Sageser spoke about the value of being more efficient. Mr. Strizki said that on a scale of 1 – 10, East Amwell was a 6, which was impressive, but did not rank high on the insulation category. Mr. Strizki was thinking of doing a flat system, less efficient but has one quarter more kilowatt, with solar being cheap and the roof space valuable. He wanted this to be a model and the Township owed it to the children.

Mayor Sageser thanked Mr. Strizki for his offer of assistance.

Andrea Bonette, 17 Ridge Road, was surprised about the Mayor's attitude regarding the pipeline and hoped that it did not mean that he did not care. She spoke about support from the Mayor of Princeton even though the pipeline is not passing through Princeton. Mrs. Bonette has gone to the Hunterdon County Freeholders, who are waiting to hear from the municipalities. She said that the pipelines are not needed at all, adding that the pipeline representatives say that 84% of the gas will be coming to NJ, but there hasn't been any development in NJ for 8 years, so there wasn't a need for a lot of gas. She referenced communications to [penneast-pipeline@googlegroups.com](mailto:penneast-pipeline@googlegroups.com), and read into the record an excerpt from Laura Wilson from Milford, as attached to this set of minutes.

Iлона English, Runyon Mill Road, said that she did not see the well ordinance on the agenda; the clerk advised that it was added at the agenda review at the beginning of the meeting.

Ms. English said that she has a large solar system on her property and suggested that the Township look at alternative energy sources and embrace them for the younger generations ahead. She spoke about having a generator for emergencies and she commented on past assumptions that liquid hydrogen is synonymous with the Hindenbergh. She spoke about a 60% subsidiary and a payback in four years, adding specific percentages available for schools and public buildings. She concluded that "a small solar system is a good thing."

Mr. Strizki spoke about the Toyota commercial for fuel cell technology, stating that "this is going to happen."

Ms. English felt that using new windows on the Clawson House was a better way to go for energy efficiency and they would meet the historic requirements. Mayor Sageser mentioned the type of windows being considered.

Frances Gavigan, Wertsville Road, said that based on conversations with the Township Committee, the Agricultural Advisory discussed noxious weeds at their meeting. They are gathering ordinances for information. Ms. Gavigan said that she provided a draft ordinance to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor; there is a section concerning informal meetings with the Zoning Officer and Agricultural Advisory Committee, adding that agriculture is exempt from nuisances. She also spoke with Mr. Kanach for information.

Ms. Gavigan congratulated the Township for hiring Ms. Pasqua, stating that she was “a good worker bee.” Ms. Gavigan recorded County hearings, has no reservations, believes that County matter was political, and suggested that the Township “judge the person on performance and be amazed.” Ms. Gavigan offered her assistance in developing procedures on monitoring and controlling, based on her past work background.

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

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

FINANCE OFFICE provided the bills of the evening. Motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson, and carried unanimously to approve the bills of the evening.

TAX COLLECTOR HYLAND provided her monthly report and a report on the tax sale held today at 10 a.m.

MUNICIPAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR HOOVEN presented her September report.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT SILVERTHORN provided the September activities report. Comments were exchanged about the new backhoe and its versatility in service. Mr. Matheny also commended the DPW for their great work on Van Lieu’s Road, showing ingenuity in using recycled material from the Route 579 project (inlets) and getting the work done in-house at a reduced cost.

West Amwell and State Police reports were missing from the Dropbox and will be provided to the Township Committee members.

Mayor Sageser commented on the Planning Board meeting regarding the village, and one item of concern was calming traffic in Ringoes, adding that residents would like to see more grass areas near the point at Carousel Deli. He asked Mr. Matheny to encourage the Police to focus on the two village roads and provide details about traffic. Mr. Matheny spoke about the limited amount of time for patrol and suggested using the Township’s speed trailer for data. It is currently on Zion Road for work with the NJ DOT grant. Some other comments were exchanged, including the Planner saying that the County is a player in traffic control in the village; the bridge on Cider Mill Road is posted; a tractor trailer recently hit the train tressel in Ringoes.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Hunterdon County 2014 Abstract of Ratables was briefly mentioned. All other correspondence was noted for filing.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 p.m., with Committee members agreeing to set up the next special meeting with the CFO via email.

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Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk