

A special meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:15 p.m. Present were Mayor Dart Sageser, Deputy Mayor David Wang-Iverson, and Committee members Charles Van Horn and Tim Mathews (arriving during meeting). Committee member Peter Miller was absent.

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Deputy Clerk Pamela Dymek announced that this is a special meeting, with notice sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Times of Trenton, Star Ledger, posted on the bulletin board and filed in the Clerk's Office on November 5, 2014. The purpose of this meeting is to meet with a candidate for a Township Board. The public is invited to attend. Action may or may not be taken.

Mayor Sageser introduced John Buckwalter, who is interested in the Planning Board. Mr. Buckwalter worked for a management group of underwriters, traveled a lot, and retired last year. He wanted to give back and help the community. He has a small consulting business on the side, but this will not affect his service. He believed that what was done on the Planning Board is something like underwriting, e.g., the Township has a Master Plan and underwriters have guidelines and protocols, and the Planning Board manages development functions and adjudicates the functioning of the Master Plan.

Mayor Sageser commented on Mr. Buckwalter's life-long familiarity with the Township as a strong asset and hoped that "we would all aspire to keep us there." He further explained that the Master Plan is a product of the Planning Board, who looks toward the future of the township and its goals, while the Board of Adjustment is the adjudication board (as defined by state law). The Master Plan is the law of the township, and the Township has a good plan with high standards. The Planning Board also looks at subdivisions and site plan approvals. The Mayor commented on having a good planner for guidance and good experience with surrounding towns.

Mr. Buckwalter noted his volunteer service on the annual roadside cleanup for 25 years of the 30 years that Blaine Hummel has been running the program.

Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson asked about Mr. Buckwalter's interest in the Planning Board. Mr. Buckwalter commented on developing policies using "common sense," and he was interested in helping the township. Mayor Sageser commented on resident input with the Village Study this past year, and more comments were exchanged about the study and final report. The sidewalks in Ringoes were also mentioned.

Mr. Mathews arrived at this time.

Mr. Buckwalter provided more information about living in East Amwell for many years, adding that the Township "should be proud of the quality of the town," adding that there wasn't a lot of infrastructure to support. He has horses on his property, he raised his children in the township and sent them to the local schools, taxes were not a significant issue, and "there is always more to be done to maintain what is here, while recognizing changing times." He concluded that "wise stewardship is necessary."

The Mayor and Mr. Buckwalter exchanged a few more comments about the recent Village Study, with the Mayor concluding that there was a good response from the public on the report.

Mr. Buckwalter provided anecdotal information on how he began his consulting business from his work experience. He also said that he and his wife would like to travel, but he would be able to make the time commitment necessary to serve.

Mr. Buckwalter was thanked for attending the meeting, and the Mayor added that action would probably be taken at the regular meeting to follow.

The meeting was open to the public for comments, but none were made.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Van Horn, and carried unanimously to adjourn the special meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Taken from the Tape,

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Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk

