

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:30 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 April 8, 2014.

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

AGENDA REVIEW

Under Consent Agenda, add a Resolution Appointing a Certified Recycling Coordinator to Submit Annual Recycling Grant Application; a Resolution to Amend the 2013 Salary & Wage Resolution for Mayor's Salary; and a Resolution to Approve Waiver of Zoning Permit Fee for East Amwell Twp. School under The Code of East Amwell, Chapter 66, Section 2P

Under Standing Committee Reports, add the Recycling Coordinator's Request for Annual Tonnage Report Resolutions (to submit application and tonnage costs).

Under Administrator's Update, Finance Update, this will include the discussion on CFO Professional Corporation (Information Provided by Mr. Mathews).

Added Correspondence : Undated Copy of Letter to Atty. Cushing from Atty. Schneider re: Gonsiewski property; 4/7 Copy of Hunterdon Central Regional High School Budget

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. East Amwell Township now has a Facebook Page. Follow us at [Township of East Amwell, New Jersey](#)
- B. Roadside Clean Up day will be on **Saturday, April 12**. Contact Blaine Hummel at 609-466-2907 to sign up for a road. Some grippers and vests are available through the Clerk's Office.
- C. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on **Saturday, April 12**, at 11 a.m. at the East Amwell Township School.
- D. Hunterdon County will hold a Computer and Electronics Collection Day on **Saturday, April 12**, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the County Complex on Route 12. Email swrs@co.hunterdon.nj.us or call 908-788-1110 for details.
- E. Municipal Offices will be closed on Good **Friday, April 18**.
- F. The Annual Clean Up Day will be on **Saturday, April 26**, from 8 a.m. – noon at the Municipal Parking Lot. Permits are available through the Clerk's Office at a cost of \$15/car; \$25/van or SUV; \$35/truck.
- G. There will be a plant exchange day on **Saturday, May 3**, from 9 a.m. – noon at Clawson Park.
- H. The East Amwell Historical Society will sponsor the Ringoes 5K Run Through History on **Saturday, May 10**, beginning at 9 a.m. Contact fawn1552@embarqmail.com for details and registration information.
- I. Residents are reminded that the grit-yard, located at 4 John Ringo Road, is open for brush

collection from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily and the first Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. – noon. For further information, refer to the Township website at www.eastamwelltownship.com

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 13, 2014, Regular Minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried with two abstentions, Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson and Mr. Van Horn, to approve the minutes with a correction on page 3, line 2, add the words “or school” after “firehouse” and a correction on page 7, middle of the page, under Fire at Peacocks, line 3, change “Mr. Mathews” to “Mayor Sageser.”

March 13, 2014, Executive Minutes (Atty. Advice; Contracts; Personnel) were approved on a motion by Mr. Mathews, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried with two abstentions, Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson and Mr. Van Horn, to approve the minutes.

March 27, 2014, Special Meeting (Budget/CFO) were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Van Horn, and carried unanimously with a correction on page 3, under Discussion with Finance Department Representatives: The Mayor asked that the record be changed to indicate that the discussion was with Mr. Steinberg and Ms. Jones; Ms. Rosikiewicz was only in attendance.

March 27, 2014, Executive Minutes (Personnel, Appt. of CFO - 1st Session) were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried unanimously.

March 27, 2014, Executive Minutes (Personnel, Appt. of CFO - 2nd Session) were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Van Horn, and carried unanimously.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sue Posselt, Cider Mill Road, said that Cider Mill Road is in dire need of repair. She stated that the road was cleaned and a tracking pad was installed, but heavy trucks are traversing the road carrying dirt and destroying the road. The Clerk noted that DPW is aware of the conditions and Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District (HCSCD) has been called in; HCSCD gave a stipulation for installation of a tracking pad, which was installed. Ms. Posselt asked what was being done on the site; the Clerk will get details from HCSCD and report back to her.

Dan Deutsch, 1 Fox Hunt Road, said that he wanted to put a garage on his property for cars and motorcycles, speaking of discussions with the Zoning Officer and parameters of keeping under 10% coverage and being allowed 2,000 square feet for a building. The Zoning Officer would only approve two buildings that were 750 square feet each, but he would not allow one building of 1,500 square feet. Mayor Sageser suggested that the Zoning Officer would be the appropriate person to give details, adding that the intent is to make the accessory buildings look more residential. Mr. Deutsch wanted the building to look nice with siding, shrubs, etc., adding that he needed more garage space. He questioned why he would have to spend thousands of dollars for a variance. Mayor Sageser explained that by exceeding the ordinance, the neighbors, who might have a different perspective, would have an opportunity to give their opinion. The Zoning Board may allow the variance, and it is within their authority to grant the approval. Mr. Deutsch again questioned why he had to get approval, noting his rights to have two 750 square foot buildings and wanting to erect one larger building.

Mr. Cushing explained that there was a process with regulations on how big a building might be, and these ordinances must be enforced by the Zoning Officer. Mr. Deutsch could appeal the decision at the Board of Adjustment within 10 days of the decision. Mr. Deutsch said that he had no application or decision yet. Mr. Cushing continued by stating that Mr. Deutsch might want to sit down with the Zoning Officer, who will explain the ordinance and may look at the ordinance in a different manner. If an appeal is necessary, the next step is the Board of Adjustment. Mr. Deutsch once again questioned why he had to spend the money to do something on his property. It was suggested that the Board of Adjustment Administrator Maria Andrews could answer specific questions about the Board of Adjustment process and fees. The

Clerk agreed to have Ms. Andrews contact Mr. Deutsch tomorrow. Some comments were made between the Mayor and Mr. Deutsch regarding wording on the application as an agricultural building.

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, mentioned the bridge at Cider Mill and Welisewitz Roads and specific weight capacities. Ms. Posselt said that the trucks are coming from Amwell Road and dumping soil on the site without crossing the bridge.

Ms. Gavigan asked about a \$49,000 pension payment on the bill list. The Clerk thought that the Assistant Treasurer had provided information to Ms. Gavigan earlier in the day. It was explained that the amount is an annual figure, due at the State on April 1; the original bill came in December and was reduced in March 2014. The amount due is the annual Township portion of pension. It was also explained that further information will be obtained from the CFO when he is in the office on Monday, and it will be provided to Ms. Gavigan.

Ms. Gavigan asked about bills for sewage disposal and payment to Applied Septic Service; it was noted that the DPW has wastewater tanks in the garage that must be pumped as a requirement for Stormwater Management.

Ms. Gavigan asked about reimbursement for Denise Gonsiewski; Mayor Sageser explained that the item was on the bill list tonight but not yet approved. Ms. Gavigan spoke about "a gentleman who left and providing insight for him." She was concerned with residents paying thousands of dollars for escrow and review fees, stating that other communities similar in size do not do so. She said that in terms of an agricultural operation, these requirements are a financial barrier and burden. She asked the governing body to look at fees and services, mentioning one such escrow fee at \$25,000. Mayor Sageser explained that the Township was not making money on fees, and taxes are going up. Ms. Gavigan felt that the fees are out of line and should be compared to other municipalities. She also noted that three municipalities use Maser Engineering, and they charge a flat fee for services. She spoke about hearsay comments that there is a 25% premium if a septic system is built in East Amwell. She concluded that "the economics are not like Donald Trump building a golf course, and real people are paying fees."

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

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLUTION TO EXTEND CONTRACTS FOR 2012 ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR MATERIALS

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RESOLUTION #49-14

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby agree to continue purchase under the 2012 M & R Contracts for one additional year, 2014, as outlined in the original bid specifications, which are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Clerk's Office, 1070 Route 202/31, Ringoes, NJ 08551. Contracts are held by the following vendors:

Flemington Bituminous Corporation
205 Pennsylvania Avenue
Flemington, NJ 08822
Up to 500 tons of I-4 & I-5 at \$57.95 per ton

Trap Rock Industries, LLC
P. O. Box 419
Kingston, NJ 08528
Up to 600 tons of 1 inch blend at \$12.30 per ton
Up to 100 tons of 1 inch clean stone at \$17.30 per ton

By Order of the Township Committee,

Dart Sageser, Mayor

REVISIED 2014 TEMPORARY BUDGET

RESOLUTION #50-14

Revised 2014 Temporary Budget
(As attached to the original set of minutes)

By Order of the Township Committee,

Dart Sageser, Mayor

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RESOLUTION TO APPOINT ROBERT W. SWISHER TO PREPARE THE 2013 AUDIT FOR THE JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT OF EAST AMWELL AND DELAWARE

RESOLUTION #51-14

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby authorize the Municipal Court Clerk to sign the Professional Services agreement for the 2013 Audit of the Joint Municipal Court of the Townships of East Amwell and Delaware to be awarded as follows, based on funding that will be available in the 2014 budget:

Robert W. Swisher, CPA
Suplee, Clooney & Company
308 East Broad Street
Westfield, NJ 07098
Contract in Effect until December 31, 2014
Rates Not to Exceed \$150/hr., Based
on Rates Ranging from \$85-\$150/hr.
and Not to Exceed \$3,000.00

By Order of the Township Committee,

Dart Sageser, Mayor

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A CERTIFIED RECYCLING COORDINATOR TO SUBMIT ANNUAL TONNAGE GRANT

RESOLUTION #52-14

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of East Amwell Township hereby appoints Alan Turdo as the Certified Recycling Coordinator to sign East Amwell Township's Annual Tonnage Report.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Dart Sageser, Mayor

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2013 SALARY AND WAGE RESOLUTION TO CHANGE MAYOR'S NAME

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RESOLUTION #53-14

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby amend the 2013 Salary and Wage Resolution as follows:

Delete:

Township Committee Member Sageser \$753.75/quarterly

Add:

Mayor Sageser \$868.25/quarterly

By Order of the Township Committee,

Dart Sagaeser, Mayor

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RESOLUTION TO WAIVE SCHOOL FEES FOR ZONING PERMIT

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RESOLUTION # 53A-14

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby authorize the waiver of zoning permit fees for the East Amwell School, Block 16.01, Lot 35, as per the recommendation of the Zoning Officer, citing The Code of East Amwell, Chapter 66, Section 2(P).

By Order of the Township Committee,

Dart Sageser, Mayor

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing:

ORDINANCE 14-01: AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2013 SALARY AND WAGE ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE THE POSITION OF A VIOLATIONS CLERK

As proof of publication, the legal notice from the March 20, 2014, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat was presented by the Clerk. The ordinance has been posted and available to the public since introduction on March 13, 2014.

The ordinance allows for an appointment of a Violations Clerk in the Municipal Court Office. The Deputy Municipal Court Clerk position still remains, but that position is more regulated and requires certification. A Violations Clerk is a more flexible position, approval wise, and the cost to the Township would be less.

The meeting was open to the public for comments. No comments being made, a motion was made by Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried unanimously to close to the public.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 14-01 was made by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson, and carried unanimously by roll call vote: Mr. Van Horn, yes; Mr. Wang-Iverson, yes; Mr. Mathews, yes; Mr. Miller, yes; Mr. Sageser, yes.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION WITH TAX ASSESSOR MARIANNE BUSER

1) 2013 Reassessment Update: Ms. Buser said as an update to the reassessment, she would provide the number of appeals filed for 2014: 4 were residential, 3 of which were uninspected properties and owners thought that the information on file was incomplete and assessments too high; 1 of the residential appeals was on vacant land; 3 commercial appeals, and one proactive appeal for United Telephone whose taxes were reduced based on the fact that they do not provide 51% of the phone service in the municipality – the appeal was to protect the Township's interests if the legislature denies the telephone company's position, and the Township would be able to recoup the assessment.

Mr. Mathews asked how the residential properties were missed; Ms. Buser explained that the inspectors were on their properties but were not let inside; subsequent letters were sent asking the owners to contact the Assessor with opportunity to request an inspection, but they did not. The three residents had a reduction in tax assessments, but they may have been in the percentage that saw increased tax dollars.

2) Proposal for Annual Reassessment: Ms. Buser said that the Township Committee could consider funding an annual reassessment with 25% of the properties inspected each year. Properties would be adjusted with market trends and reassess the entire town each year. Mayor Sageser asked if the information would be extrapolated from the 25% and applied across the board; Ms. Buser said yes.

Ms. Buser said that 25% of the properties would be inspected in a rolling reassessment and values adjusted each year. There were nine years between the last revaluation and last year's reassessment, and values were too high. An annual look at market trends would show sales coming in, and values would be adjusted up or down to keep with the market and protect against large swings in tax dollars.

On a question of costs, Ms. Buser explained that the reassessment last year, done in house with outside inspections cost \$46,528; the full revaluation nine years ago cost \$135,700 and all work was done by an outside agency. The proposal for the 25% inspection was at \$14,200 per year for inspections by an outside agency and the data adjustments made by her. Mr. Van Horn noted that the cost would be \$56,800 over a four year period, and he asked about turnover in property sales. Ms. Buser said that there were 11 sales since October 2013. Mr. Van Horn was not supportive of the quarterly plan.

Mr. Mathews asked what the benefit would be to follow this recommendation. Ms. Buser explained that the properties would maintain assessments based on market trends and specific classes; it would also prevent big spikes in values. Mr. Van Horn asked why the reassessment was done after nine years; Ms. Buser explained that there were a number of residential appeals with subsequent assessment reductions – the Township had to refund school and fire district taxes to these property owners. Mr. Van Horn again stated that he was not supportive of the annual reassessment since there were not a lot of sales.

Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson asked if there was a statutory requirement to reassess; Ms. Buser said that the municipality may be ordered to do so if there was a coefficient deviant over 15 and ratio of over 115 percent – the coefficient will tell that there is a skew in values to prices. A comment was made about Middlesex not revaluating in a long time.

Mayor Sageser said that this would be discussed during the budget review cycle, adding that it was good to get the Assessor's perspective on keeping assessments on track. Ms. Busher added that reassessment applications are due in June, if being discussed at budget meetings. On another question, Ms. Busher added that Lambertville, West Amwell, and Flemington are on rolling reassessments, as well as Somerset.

3) Professional Services Resolution for Appraisal for The Ridge at Back Brook: Ms. Busher explained that The Ridge at Back Brook is under appeal at the State for 2013 taxes. She was asking for consideration in the budget for \$10,000 for an appraisal of the golf course to help in the appeal process. Mayor Sageser asked about the legal potential of the appeal. Ms. Busher explained that if an appraisal is done, it will help to support the assessment, and it is better that she knows prior to 2015, so it can be used in the negotiations for the next few years.

Mayor Sageser asked about a five year summary, and Ms. Busher outlined the following: in 2005, the property was assessed at \$19,566,700; there was a settled appeal for 2005, 2006, and 2007, with a reduced assessment to \$18,766,700 in 2008. The assessment reached \$10,500 in 2010 (where it stands today) with the stipulation that the taxes not be appealed in 2010 and 2011. The owners are appealing again now. Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson further explained that what the Assessor was looking for was a way to support and defend the tax appeal with the assistance of the appraiser.

Mr. Mathews asked what the assessment of the golf course was after the reassessment; Ms. Busher said it was \$10,500. Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson reminded the governing body that one third of the valuations went down, one-third remained the same, and one-third went up.

The governing body asked a few more questions of the Assessor about the type of appraisal and how it is done. Ms. Busher explained that it would be up to the appraiser to decide how to do it, e.g., base on income, special use, commercial nature, etc.

Mr. Cushing suggested that the Township Committee might want to consider discussing the nature of the appraisal in executive session. Committee members agreed that they would do so, but not tonight. They wanted Ms. Busher to provide them with further information, including the current taxes collected on The Ridge. Mr. Van Horn commented on costs adding up very quickly and the willingness to fight the appeal, based on taxes collected v. the \$10,000 for the appraiser.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Sageser asked what would come under this heading; the Clerk said items such as the Clawson Advisory Committee or another committee assigned by the governing body.

Mr. Van Horn took this opportunity to report that the Clawson Park Advisory Committee did recently meet and met with David Bausmith, the Eagle Scout Candidate with a project for the park. Member Peg Sullivan has agreed to serve as a contact and meet with David and Mr. Matheny with input from DPW Superintendent Jason Silverthorn as needed. There is a site walk of the park planned for May to determine location of the fitness stations; the project has been approved by Scout leaders. The use of mulch or rubberized material will be determined in the future, depending on what the Scout can obtain from contractors. David's uncle is a contractor, who will be assisting the building of the stations.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

1) Recycling Tonnage Grant Resolutions: The Clerk advised that she just learned from the new Recycling Coordinator that she is working for submission of the grant by the end of June and the resolutions are required now.

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RESOLUTION # 54-14

WHEREAS, the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, P.L. 1987, C.102, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grants may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent and the spirit of the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act to use the tonnage grants to develop new municipal recycling programs and to continue and to expand existing programs; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated recycling regulations to implement the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act; and

WHEREAS, the recycling regulations impose on municipalities certain requirements as a condition for applying for tonnage grants, including but not limited to, making and keeping accurate, verifiable records of materials collected and claimed by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, a resolution authorizing this municipality to apply for such tonnage grants for the calendar year 2011 will memorialize the commitment of this municipality to recycling and to indicate the assent of the Township Committee of East Amwell Township to the efforts undertaken by the municipality and the requirements contained in the Recycling Act and recycling regulations; and

WHEREAS, such a resolution should designate the individual authorized to ensure the application is properly completed and timely filed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that East Amwell Township hereby endorses the submission of the recycling tonnage grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and designates Maria Prendamano to ensure that the application is properly filed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the monies received from the recycling tonnage grant be deposited in a dedicated recycling trust fund to be used solely for the purposes of recycling.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Dart Sageser, Mayor

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RESOLUTION #55-14

WHEREAS, the Recycling Enhancement Act, P.L.2007, chapter 311, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grants may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, there is levied upon the owner or operator of every solid waste facility (with certain exceptions) a recycling tax of \$3.00 per ton on all solid waste accepted for disposal or transfer at the solid waste facility.

WHEREAS, whenever a municipality operates a municipal service system for solid waste collection, or provides for regular solid waste collection service under a contract awarded pursuant to the "Local Public Contracts Law," the amount of grant monies received by the municipality shall not be less than the annual amount of recycling tax paid by the municipality except that all grant monies received by the municipality shall be expended only for its recycling program.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of East Amwell, that East Amwell Township hereby certifies a submission of expenditure for taxes paid pursuant to P.L.2007, Chapter 311, in 2013 in the amount of \$105.54. Documentation supporting this submission is available at 1070 Route 202/31, Ringoes, NJ 08551, and shall be maintained for no less than five years from this date.

By order of the Township Committee,

Dart Sageser, Mayor

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

APPOINTMENTS TO VACANCIES ON 2014 BOARDS/COMMITTEES, IF APPLICABLE

Mayor Sageser said that he is still working on this, looking for a Local Public Assistance Board member and a Planning Board member. There was a small discussion on the Planning Board member appointment, noting that there is a special Class II position for a Township Official that has not been filled for a number of years. Mr. Cushing recalled working on this with the previous Mayor, and he asked the Clerk to send him background information. Mr. Miller also asked to be copied on the information, and Mr. Mathews asked that everyone be copied.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Mayor Sageser explained that the Township Administrator was excused tonight but items would be addressed.

1) Finance Office Update/"CFO Professional Corporation" Legislation: Mr. Matheny previously provided a 4/1/14 email indicating that the candidate appointed as the Acting CFO, William Pandos, declined the position.

Mr. Mathews has been meeting with various legislators, and Senator Bonnie Watson Coleman has drafted legislation for review. A copy was previously forwarded to the governing body. Mr. Mathews explained that it helps by allowing municipalities with less than 5,000 get private entity under the supervision of someone with CFO certification, e.g., a public accounting firm, to run the practice and individual manages engagements. Mr. Mathews thought that this would be helpful to "give us a longer run way to grow out own CFO." Mr. Mathews continued that another option is to get a three year waiver from the state to appoint a certified CFO. Mr. Mathews was happy with the response he received from the legislators, especially with "Craig" at the Senator's office, who initiated activities.

Mr. Mathews also spoke about planting seeds with other municipalities who have the same situation. He commented, however, that he did not know how long it would take to get the legislation through; he was confident that Senator Watson Coleman would be able to fast-track the legislation. Mayor Sageser commented on being optimistic but was cautious about how long it would take to get a firm in place; he felt that it was good to get attention at the higher level. Mr. Mathews saw a CFO, such as Mr. Steinberg, who might find it to be lucrative to connect with an accounting firm and "grow a practice." Mayor Sageser agreed that "it would be interesting to watch."

A question was raised about appointing a temporary/acting CFO, with Mr. Cushing agreeing that it was important to have a CFO for any necessary certifications. He suggested that a CFO could be a rented service from an agency on a temporary basis. Mr. Mathews asked about appointing a Township Committee member; Mr. Cushing said that must be someone independent, noting that Mr. Matheny had been appointed in the past.

Mayor Sageser commented on looking at the applicants after Mr. Pandos declined, stating that there was a candidate interviewed that would be discussed in executive session. He spoke about looking at all options and adding that the need to start the budget was the most pressing need.

2) Permanent Employee Status, as of 4/13 for Christine Rosikiewicz, Assistant Treasurer: Mr. Matheny provided a supportive memo on this, with Mayor Sageser commenting that Ms. Rosikiewicz has "worked well and is improving the role effectively." Motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Rosikiewicz to permanent status as the Assistant Treasurer.

3) Appointment of a Violations Clerk: Mr. Matheny provided a memo detailing the interview process for the position. The salary and wage ordinance amendment was approved earlier in the meeting to add this position. The recommendation was to appoint Pamela Williamson at a rate of pay of \$15.00 per hour, half of which would be coming from Delaware Township.

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RESOLUTION #56-14

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby approve appointment of Pamela Williamson as a Violations Clerk for a one year probationary period, per policy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2013 Salary and Wage Resolution be amended as follows:

Remove	Deputy Court Administrator Augustine	\$10.61/hour
Add	Violations Clerk Pamela Williamson	\$ 7.50/hour

By Order of the Township Committee,

Dart Sageser, Mayor

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

3) Appointment of Secretaries for Recreation Committee, Agricultural Advisory Committee, and Historic Preservation Committee: Mr. Matheny also prepared a memo outlining the interview process for these positions. A recommendation was made to hire Maria Prendamano as the Recreation Committee secretary; she is currently serving as the Environmental Commission Secretary and the Recycling Coordinator; comments were made that it will “be a great match ... and she is a real asset....” Her salary will be \$15.00 per hour.

Sharon Brighthaupt is the recommendation for the Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Historic Preservation Committee, and her salary will also be \$15.00 per hour.

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RESOLUTION #57-14

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby appoint Maria Prendamano as the Secretary of the Recreation Committee for a one year probationary term, as per policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that they hereby appoint Sharon Brighthaupt as the Secretary to the Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Historic Preservation Committee, also one year probationary appointments, per policy; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the 2013 Salary and Wage Resolution be amended as follows:

Remove, effective May 1, 2014:

Recreation Committee Secretary Bauman	\$16.00/hour
Agricultural Advisory Committee Secretary Bauman	\$16.00/hour
Historic Preservation Committee Secretary Bauman	\$16.00/hour

Add:

Recreation Committee Secretary Prendamano	\$15.00/hour
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Agricultural Advisory Committee Secretary Brighthaupt	\$15.00/hour
Historic Preservation Committee Secretary Brighthaupt	\$15.00/hour

By Order of the Township Committee,

Dart Sageser, Mayor

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 Motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried unanimously.

SETTING BUDGET MEETING DATES

Mayor Sageser wanted to begin working on the budget, and Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson explained his proposal of working up the Excel sheets for line items for each department, using figures generated from the Edmunds program showing “actuals” for year end 2013. He will update the workbook provided in the past by CFO Karen Baldino and plug in 2014 numbers for the budget to get started. He said that there was an Annual Financial Statement (AFS) to show what the revenues will be. He will meet with Ms. Rosikiewicz tomorrow to see what can be retrieved from the Edmunds system. The Assistant Secretary has received some 2014 budget requests from departments, which will also be entered. He didn’t think that it would be a problem to do the work, adding that a CFO would be needed to certify the numbers.

After some comments from members, it was agreed that the budget meeting for initial discussions would be scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on April 24th.

NEW BUSINESS

PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON FUTURE BONDING FOR ROADWORK

Mayor Sageser explained that he and Mr. Van Horn met with Administrator Matheny and DPW Superintendent Jason Silverthorn to discuss the issue. Mr. Silverthorn has many photographs showing road deterioration, especially after the hard winter, listing specific roads such as Zion, Lindbergh, Garboski, Van Lieus, Bowne Station, Cide Mill, Rainbow Hill, North Hill, Stony Brook, and Rocktown. Mr. Silverthorn was asked to triage the list, noting that all have large potholes, some of which were cold-patched. The asphalt facility is open at this time. There is a major project on Van Lieus Road, rebuilding underlay 12 inches; there are no pipes under the driveways, which may cause issues, and pipes are expensive for the Township, whose responsibility it is to purchase.

Engineer O’Neal has been asked for assistance in identifying road work, noting that a grant application was submitted with no word of award given yet.

Mayor Sageser said that there is a long list of road items, the Township does not own a paver to do full road width work, and equipment would have to be rented. As an example, he stated that Garboski Road was done with an under-sized paver causing a “cold joint” or weak point. Zion and Lindbergh Roads were mentioned as “being in bad shape.” There are sections of road that the DPW could do, but he believed that the Township should consider bonding for paving. The previous DPW Superintendent advised that there used to be a five year plan to repair roads on rotation, but the budget was not properly funded to do the work, and road improvements are “slipping.” He would like to recommend that the engineer come to a budget meeting with an assessment from an engineering standpoint indicating “what it would take to do the repairs and work backwards from that to repair.” Mr. Mathews agreed that there were a lot of problems on the roads.

Mayor Sageser commented that the Township could not expect the DPW to patch the biggest problem area on Zion Road, stating it would take the DPW a month using five men and rented equipment and taking them away from other work.

Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson asked about the total mileage on the list of roads to be repaired and an estimate of contractor costs per mile.

Mayor Sageser said that Mr. Silverthorn spoke about grants for segments of roads, where the DPW crew did the prep work, which would allow for “more bang for the buck.” He added, however, that there was a limit of what could be done with cold patch asphalt.

Mr. Miller noted that material costs were going up. Mr. Mathews asked how long it would take to receive the engineer’s plan. Mayor Sageser tried to reach the engineer today but was not able to do so. Additionally, Mr. Silverthorn thought that the engineer has background material already.

Mr. Miller would like to know the cost per square foot or mile. Mayor Sageser mentioned a five year road plan created by the engineer, which was used for grant applications; Mr. Mathews thought that there would be a problem if the Township waited for grants. Mayor Sageser also commented on the engineer’s knowledge of what the State looks for in terms of projects, e.g., larger segments, connecting roads, etc. Some comments were exchanged about road improvements, which may increase traffic. Mr. Mathews commented on the engineer being graphic with what was best for outside and what works internally. Mr. Van Horn mentioned concern for safety issues, based on Mr. Silverthorn’s photos. Mayor Sageser mentioned an economy of doing two or three roads. Mr. Miller and the Mayor commented on work done on Manners Road last year, with Mr. Miller suggesting working in a regional area or a contiguous piece.

Mayor Sageser will speak with Engineer O’Neal and get back to the Township Committee as soon as possible.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sue Posselt, Cider Mill Road, asked if there was any way to hold the people who driving equipment that is destroying the road responsible, including potholes, etc. Mayor Sageser spoke about pursuing this, adding that if it was a development, they could have gotten a bond.

Ms. Posselt also recalled a previous Eagle Scout Project by Gary Myers’s son, asking about benches he built. She was told that the benches are located at the park, and one of the whiteboards is in the Township’s lobby. The original intent was to have a barn at Clawson Park where these items would be housed and brought outside when needed; a barn was never erected, and a decision was made to keep the benches outside year round.

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, referred to using her smart phone to look on the NJ Department of Transportation (DOT) website for various grants available, listing the local aid grant, a safe school use grant, etc., all of which are due in May. She also mentioned two other programs, adding that she would send the link to the applications.

Mayor Sageser mentioned that the engineer does applications for a number of towns and is familiar with the applications applicable for the municipality.

Ms. Gavigan suggested asking Mr. Matheny to look at the 2014 safe routes and TAFF applications, mentioning that Hunterdon County only gets one half of the funding that Mercer County receives. Mayor Sageser mentioned that this is based on population. Ms. Gavigan suggested sharing services with neighbors to do roadwork, share equipment, etc.

Motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried unanimously to close to the public.

Mr. Matheny will be asked to get an update on the grant application for safe schools.

There was a brief recess at 9:05 p.m. before the Township Committee went into executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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RESOLUTION #58-14

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 potential litigation, receive attorney advice, and discuss personnel/CFO/Treasurer Position; 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.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Dart Sageser, Mayor

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

Executive session began at 9:09 p.m. For the record, Mr. Cushing left the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

The regular meeting resumed at 9:46 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Treasurer’s 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.

Treasurer’s Office Resolutions:

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RESOLUTION #59-14

WHEREAS, the Public Works Supervisor of the Township of East Township has approved the refund of the following driveway bond,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of East Amwell that the Treasurer is authorized to issue a refund check to following applicant:

Applicant	Amount of Refund
Helen Rynearson	\$2,500.00

By Order of the Township Committee,

Dart Sageser, Mayor

+++++

RESOLUTION #60-14

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of East Township has approved the refund of the following payroll pension deduction,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of East Amwell that the Treasurer is authorized to issue a refund check to following retired employee:

Employee	Amount of Refund
Joyce Corboy	\$1.41

By Order of the Township Committee,

Dart Sageser, Mayor

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RESOLUTION # 61-14

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the Board of Health of the Township of East Amwell that the following witness fees can be refunded,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund the following amounts to the applicant:

Applicant	Amount Refunded
Charles Soos	\$60.00
Bayer-Risse Engineering, Inc.	\$700.00
Mr. William Godley	\$60.00
East Amwell Township Board of Education	\$220.00

By order of the Township Committee,

Dart Sageser, Mayor

+++++ Motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried unanimously to approve the resolutions.

TAX COLLECTOR HYLAND presented her monthly report for March 2014.

Tax Collector's Resolution:

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RESOLUTION #62-14

WHEREAS there has been a redemption made for Tax Sale Certificate #201101, Block 6.01, lot 18, 8 Harvest Hill Road, sold on October 27th 2011 to US Bank Cust for MD Sass Muni VI and,

WHEREAS the amount of \$59,574.38 has been collected from the owner, Patricia LaHov for the redemption of this Tax Sale Certificate #201101,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a check in the amount of \$59,574.38 be prepared by the Treasurer and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a check in the amount of \$25,000.00 be prepared by the Treasurer for the return of the Premium paid for Certificate #201101 and that these checks be mailed to US Bank Cust fir MD Sass Muni VI.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Dart Sageser, Mayor

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

MUNICIPAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR HOOVEN provided her March 2014 report without comment.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT SILVERTHORN presented the March 2014 Road Activities Report. Committee members agreed that the report is very helpful and detailed. Mr. Van Horn commented on their “extraordinary and thankless job, ... and always hearing complaints....”

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Sageser commented on information from the League of Municipalities regarding arbitration cap at 2%; Mr. Mathews agreed, adding, however, that it was not germane to East Amwell Township, and no action would be required.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

