

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:40 p.m. Present were Mayor David Wang-Iverson, Deputy Mayor Dart Sageser, and Committee members Charles Van Horn and Peter Miller. Committee member Tim Mathews was absent. Township Administrator Timothy Matheny and Attorney Richard Cushing were also in attendance.

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Municipal Clerk Teresa R. Stahl announced that this is a regularly scheduled meeting, pursuant to the resolution adopted on January 7, 2015, with a meeting notice published in the Hunterdon County Democrat issue of January 15, 2015. A copy of the agenda for this meeting was forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Times of Trenton, Star Ledger, Courier News, posted on the bulletin board, and filed in the Clerk's Office on December 8, 2015.

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

### **AGENDA REVIEW**

Under Consent Agenda, table the Acceptance of the Developer's Agreement for NJ Resources (Everitt Property, Block 3, Lots 1 and 2.02. COAH Updates from Attorney St. Angelo were added as correspondence. FOR THE RECORD, at the end of the regular meeting, the Clerk added the following correspondence: 3 emails on 12/8/15 from Joseph Orvos with pictures regarding a complaint on Back Brook Road.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Municipal Offices will be closed on December 24 and 25 for the Christmas Holiday and December 31 for New Year's Eve.

There will be a second Township Committee meeting this month on December 30, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.

East Amwell Township Committee Reorganization will be on January 4, 2016, at 7:30 p.m.

### **UPDATE FROM THE CFO**

CFO Margaret Pasqua said that she was trying to close out old grants and escrows and get her records as up to date as possible by year's end. She asked if there were any questions on the bill list; there were none.

The Committee thanked Ms. Pasqua for her report.

### **SPECIAL DISCUSSIONS**

COMCAST QUARTERLY PRESENTATION – Rob Clifton, Director of Government Affairs, was present.

Mr. Clifton said that it was a relatively quiet three months, adding that there was a recent issue with the municipality's phone system.

Mayor Wang-Iverson asked about low hanging cables on 107 Lindbergh Road; Mr. Clifton was under the impression that they were addressed, but he will look into the matter again. Mr. Van Horn also noted low hanging wires on Stony Brook Road. Deputy Mayor Sageser also mentioned low hanging wires on South Hill.

The meeting was open to the public for questions.

Frances Gavigan thanked Mr. Clifton for his services, mentioning a phone number not working and wireless connection problems. Mr. Clifton suggested that she email him to assist.

Mr. Van Horn asked about X1 Boxes; Mr. Clifton said that they are available at an additional cost if customers ask for them. The boxes allow for more capability, and the company is still rolling them out.

Mr. Matheny mentioned the recent major issue with the phone services at the municipal building not working, and he was very much appreciative of Mr. Clifton's help. Mr. Clifton reminded the Township officials to reach out to him when items occur rather than being transferred through the Comcast Business office.

The Committee thanked Mr. Clifton for his attendance tonight.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD OF HEALTH – Chair Tracy Carluccio was present for discussion.

Ms. Carluccio said that she would run through some highlights of the year. There have been less septic permits and more alternative treatment systems. The alternative systems require more time on the part of the secretary, i.e., the need to maintain files for annual maintenance programs. The systems are mainly for realty transfers on old houses with smaller lots not big enough for conventional systems. The alternative system reduces the size of the bed and other setbacks may be reduced with effluent treatment at a higher level. In terms of numbers, there were 12 systems this year, one being a request for a renewal of a permit.

Ms. Carluccio continued by saying that soil testing was also down this year, down from 20 to 16 requests this year. There were 3 well permits with 2 replacements due to lack of water. One well required interference testing. Peacock's store put in a new well moving it from the parking area and providing a buffer – there was no interference with neighbors, and the well provided adequate water with about 12 gpm. There was a question about abandoning the old well, and Mayor Wang-Iverson mentioned a water tank in the basement of the property.

There was one new food establishment at Rutgers, a restaurant where only prepared, packaged food is served. The Board of Health is also issuing annual mobile permits to vendors.

Hess has now switched over to Speedway, and there have been a lot of problems with the septic, including two breakouts caught by the County Inspector and another as an anonymous complaint. The situation has been remedied with the company pumping regularly and providing receipts. The company is required to put the system in immediately and they will do it now, even though the store won't be changing for some time. The system is now under 2,000 gpd and in the local jurisdiction so the Board approved the design. There is a standing notice of violation from the County so the intent is to have the company install the system as soon as possible. There is an old well on the property that was contaminated with a leaky fuel tank more than a decade ago; this has been cleaned up with no more monitoring involved. There is a very small lot and with the pumps on the site, even without an expansion of the footprint, the company will be required to put in a new well for a non-residential facility and do interference testing. Ms. Carluccio mentioned several presentations from representatives from Hess before Speedway took over.

The Board of Health also does an annual sodium chloride monitoring program. The Township uses salt now although they never used to do so. There is a best management procedure for the application, and the results show no upper trend in the sampled wells. One well is next to the grittyard, and the Board would like to see monitoring of that well although they have not yet been able to contact the property owners. The DPW does have standard operating procedures for storing the salt, and the Board of Health just wants to make sure that everything is working properly. Ms. Carluccio mentioned that the state and county used calcium chloride, not sodium chloride, and seeing sample results helps the Board make sure that the state and county are being careful in their applications. She spoke about specific state and county roads running through Ringoes.

At the annual rabies clinic, there were 115 dogs and 30 cats vaccinated.

On a question about the pipeline, Ms. Carluccio noted that the intervention period is closed. FERC will get further information from PennEast and in 2016, there will be a time line established to continue, e.g., doing an environmental impact statement, etc. The major concern by so many is the possibility of environmental degradation caused by the pipeline. Ms. Carluccio spoke about the possibility of the company backing out of the installation because gas prices are down, causing a slowdown in the production of gas. She said that some companies are struggling, adding that shale gas runs out quicker than conventional gas reservoirs. She mentioned that opposition is popular, with state legislators passing opposition resolutions; she concluded that "we are hopeful that we can stop the pipeline, showing that it is something that is not needed at this time." When asked by the Mayor what the Township could do, Ms. Carluccio suggested that it was important for East Amwell to weigh in at FERC when the opportunity arises, with possible opportunities to do so in the coming months.

The Committee thanked Ms. Carluccio for her presentation.

PLANNING BOARD UPDATE – Since Mr. Reilly was not present, Mr. Cushing was asked to provide an update on COAH.

Mr. Cushing said that there was a lot going on, and there was a motion granted by Judge Miller to extend the Township's immunity until March 31, 2016. There have been a number of conditions imposed on the municipalities, and a Special Master is appointed with specific knowledge to assist with the day-to-day activities. There is a scheduled meeting with the Masters and the municipalities, and a summary matrix was developed to show where the municipalities stand with their obligations. Attorney St. Angelo worked with Planner Joanna Slagle on this and there was a conference with Special Master Judge Coyle today, and the township will submit a brief overview of where it stands with fulfilling its COAH obligations. The Planning Board has been working on evaluating the Township's situation and how to implement the requirements. Mr. Cushing said that "he could not say enough about how much work the volunteers are doing on this."

Mr. Cushing thought that the schedule would be that the Planning Board would be working on the plan in January and February with a meeting with the Special Master in late February. The Planning Board may adopt the plan at their March 9, 2016, meeting. Mr. Cushing mentioned a "blind plan," i.e., there are no final numbers until "all the battles have been fought." He said that Econsult has a draft document, which was circulated at the meeting of the municipal defense counsel. He believed that the report would be beneficial with logical and sensible statements that could have some impact in convincing the court about the local numbers. Mr. Cushing mentioned that Attorney Richard Reading is involved in attacking certain assumptions, and the municipalities are doing a good job in responding to attacks. He felt that there is a lot of good work being done, and he felt that East Amwell Township had a fair plan and did not have have an extraordinary alteration to the existing character of the town.

Mayor Wang-Iverson asked if once the plan is submitted, will the Township have to wait for the Judge's response. Mr. Cushing spoke about meeting with the Master in February, who is retired Judge Coyle. Mr. Cushing suggested, if the Township agreed, that the Township alert Fair Share Housing and get input from them to let them see what they liked or not and address their concerns. He felt that if Fair Share Housing had proforma objections, the Township can develop a staged plan, subject to number, and he did not believe that there was a lot to dispute.

Mr. Cushing commented that it could take years for resolution, adding that there will be complicated trials with lots of economic theory discussed and determination of how the calculations were derived. He spoke about many municipalities and a series of judges involved and the need to hear the whole case. Mr. Cushing speculated that it may take 30 years to solve, then go to the Appellate Court for a year, and onto the Supreme Court thereafter.

Mayor Wang-Iverson asked if it was possible that the plan could be submitted in March and the Township may not hear for a couple of years. Mr. Cushing said yes, adding that COAH changes weekly. Mayor Wang-Iverson asked if Judge Miller would not make a decision on the Township's plan until everyone had submitted one. Mr. Cushing believed that Judge Coyle would look at the plan and assume that the numbers are correct and see that the submitted plan meets them. There may be a fairness hearing and the Master would testify. Objectors would have the right to present their objections and negotiations would take place, if the Judge decided

to allow them. If the Judge says that the plan is acceptable, he would give his recommendation to Judge Miller to assert that the Township is covered until 2025. Mr. Cushing believed that Judge Miller will look for information from Judge Coyle and give a statement, but he will wait until other judges have made their decisions also.

Deputy Mayor Sageser asked about the rate for Special Masters; Mr. Cushing said that it was \$500 per hour, and the Township is responsible for this cost. Some comments were made about the Council for Unfunded Mandates, with Mr. Cushing saying that this is a constitutional issue, not a statutory one, and the Council has no jurisdiction over COAH. Deputy Mayor Sageser commented on being less efficient in spending until bigger issues were adjudicated; Mr. Cushing said that proceeding now gives the Township more control in the process. He added that if a developer came in and saw a constitutional violation, the Township would have more difficulties.

FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE Pam Thier and Glorianne Robbi were present at this time. The representatives spoke about the award of \$310,000 toward the purchase of open space, and a resolution was required to enable the Mayor to sign.

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**RESOLUTION #155-15**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
GREEN ACRES PROGRAM**

**ENABLING RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program ("State"), provides loans and/or grants to municipal and county governments and grants to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the acquisition and development of lands for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Township of East Amwell has previously obtained a grant of \$1,425,000 from the State to fund the following project(s):

**#1008-00-075 Open Space and Recreation Plan**

WHEREAS, the State and the Township of East Amwell intends to increase Green Acres funding by \$310,000 ; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is willing to use the State's funds in accordance with its rules, regulations and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an Amendment of the Agreement with the State for the above-named project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL THAT:

1. The Mayor of the above named body or board is hereby authorized to execute an agreement and any amendment thereto with the State known as Open Space and Recreation Plan and;
2. The applicant shall provide its matching share of the project, in the amount of \$310,000.
3. The applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

By Order of the Township Committee,

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David Wang-Iverson, Mayor

+++++ Motion by Mr. Van Horn and seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser to approve the resolution.

Mayor Wang-Iverson asked Ms. Thier to speak about the obligations under Green Acres. Ms Thier explained that properties taking money from Green Acres have to be on the ROSI list, i.e.,

the Recreation and Open Space Inventory. The properties must remain as open space and must adhere to the agreement signed with Green Acres. Additionally, for every dollar used, the entity must bring in a dollar from another source, e.g., state funding, non-profits, private sector, or donation value.

Mayor Wang-Iverson was specifically interested in the municipal fields, which were on the ROSI list. Deputy Mayor Sageser explained that the Township Officials were trying to find ways to have the Hunterdon County Library return to the Township, and one idea was using some of the recreational fields where the trailer was located on the land. Ms. Thier agreed to make a call to the Green Acres Office, but she believed that it may be a non-compliant use to have a library on the site. The funds are primarily for parks and recreation, historically used for ballfields; she added that no indoor activities are funded and that outdoor recreation is supported.

Deputy Mayor Sageser appreciated Ms. Thier's efforts in making a call, adding that the Township is looking for 2500 square feet of space. Specifics were discussed about the ratio of replacement land in Green Acres, with Ms. Thier once again stating that the awards are for outdoor activities for a broader public benefit, and libraries and new schools are not considered.

Mrs. Robbi reminded the Township Committee that years ago, the County looked at Green Acres property near the current 4H fairgrounds with the hopes of building the County Library, and progress came to a halt.

The motion on the floor was approved unanimously.

#### LOCAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

1) Resignation of Member Amy Atzert: Ms. Atzert provided an email stating that she was resigning from this committee due to her work schedule. Motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously to accept her resignation with regret.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 12, 2015, Special Minutes (Executive Session Resolution) were approved on a motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously.

November 12, 2015, Executive Minutes (Atty. Advice/Personnel) were approved on a motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously.

November 12, 2015, Regular Minutes were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mr. Van Horn, and carried unanimously.

December 3, 2015, Special Minutes (Interviews) were approved on a motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously.

#### OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Andrea Bonette, 17 Ridge Road, read a prepared statement into the record.

"I would like to declare my extreme annoyance at being "disappeared" by the East Amwell Democratic Association. This all began exactly eleven years ago when I ended my eight years on the Township Committee. Every other Committee retiree in living history has been granted their request to serve on a Township Board- Planning Board, Board of Health, or Zoning Board. For reasons which I still have not been able to uncover up to this day, I was refused, not once but FOUR TIMES, to be appointed to our Zoning Board of Adjustment. Every request for an explanation was met with lies. And over the ensuing years I have been treated with public disrespect by two former EADA mayors.

“Now I read in the mayor’s letter to this month’s VIP that it is former mayor Larry Tatsch who deserves the credit for the cleanup of 100,000 tires from Meszaros junkyard. Given the facts: (1) that I on behalf of the Township Committee worked on this for at least four years; (2) that I got a state grant of \$283,000 to clean up the tires, and (3) that I got an additional \$202,000 grant for an environmental assessment of the same property, it is very hurtful that my involvement in this project seems to have been obliterated from the historical record. If anyone has any doubts whatsoever as to the truth of these statements, if you are willing to make a small wager I will then provide ample documentation.

“I do not blame Larry Tatsch for this error- he was tremendously supportive throughout the Meszaros project and he has been quick to correct the record when this came up a year or two ago. And I don’t think Mayor Wang-Iverson, for whom I voted last month, is deliberately misrepresenting the facts; someone else provided him with that misinformation.

“There are many wonderful Township residents who have supported by their votes, their taxes, and their volunteer hours, all the things that make East Amwell such a special place.

“But I feel, along with three of my good friends, that I have been systematically marginalized into nonexistence by the powers that be of the EADA. Take this as a warning: if you cross the inner power structure of the EADA they will have no compunction in doing this to you as well.”

Mayor Wang-Iverson apologized to Mrs. Bonette, saying that he was only aware of the situation through the Board of Health, and it was his over-sight. Mr. Van Horn also commented about attending Board of Health meetings and not being involved when Mrs. Bonette was on Township Committee. Mrs. Bonette commented on being very involved in submitting the applications to the state, and she concluded by accepting the Mayor’s apology.

Iona English 9 Runyon Mill Road, expressed her sympathy to Mrs. Bonette, adding that she had the same thing done to her. She mentioned all her hard work, along with Jack Balint, and at the recent Clawson House opening, no one knew her name. She commented that there would not have been a Clawson Park if it weren’t for the work that she and Jack Balint did. She said that “she was treated horribly by the E.A.D.A.” She said that the Quick Collection was damaged when Administrator Matheny (referring to him as “this man”) moved the Collection, “broke a trust,” and lost maps that can never be replaced. She believed that someone told him not to work with her. Mrs. English said that when she was with the Historic Preservation group, they made a deal with the Quick family to keep the material locally and not send it to the County to store historic documents. She commented negatively about the E.A.D.A.

Mrs. English again commented that Clawson Park would not have happened without she and Mr. Balint talking Mr. Clawson into letting the Township have the farm. She applied for a large Green Acres grant to make such a great facility, and she did not understand, for historical correctness, why the Township does not acknowledge what is deserved. She felt that it is “we and them all the time, and it does not benefit anyone.”

Mrs. English mentioned a small tack shop in the village that had to go before the Board of Adjustment. She commented, “Ringoes is horrible with imploding historic buildings, and when they fall in, Ringoes won’t look the same.” She commented on once having intentions to buy some of the historic buildings, but she believed some are passed the point of recovery, should be demolished and something new built. She was sad that while trying to preserve so many houses in a historic area of the Township, it looked like “West Virginia in depression.”

Mrs. English said that it shouldn’t be a matter of who is Democrat and who is Republican, and they should work together. She asked for an apology from Mr. Matheny for lying to her and for losing half of the Quick Collection. She said that there was a standard operating procedure and Mr. Matheny purposely did not call her; the items were packed up and stored without her involvement; and she did not understand it.

Mrs. English continued that there is supposed to be a file with specific documents for the Green Acres application that should be made available to the public; both Barbara Sageser and Jim Davidson said that they didn’t know where it was. The Clerk said that there is a specific file with information.

Deputy Mayor Sageser and Mrs. English exchanged comments on the Quick Collection, with Mrs. English saying that the materials should have been stored in archival boxes with a list for each box. When the Historic Preservation Committee was working on the Collection, they were diligent about the handling of the items. When the Administrator said that everything had to be moved from the basement, a company was hired to move materials, along with the road crew, and materials were lost. Mrs. English expressed her embarrassment, saying that Mr. Balint would have been too, about the handling of the materials, with some of them ending up in a Dumpster.

Deputy Mayor Sageser commented that the Township owed Mrs. English a debt of gratitude for all her work in identifying East Amwell areas for Historic Registers. Mrs. English commented that she did all the nominations, including having Highfields listed on State and National Registers. She found blue prints through an association in Columbia University’s library. She said that it upsets her that residents like she and Andrea Bonette are not given credit for their efforts, mentioning her work with Clawson Park and the Quick Collection.

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, spoke about the budget meeting earlier tonight, covering an item about an employee in the proper pension system and back payments of a “chunk of money,” with questions about where to find \$20,000 for a fine and trying to reduce it to \$7,000-10,000. She felt that this item fell through administrative cracks and landed on the backs of taxpayers.

Ms. Gavigan also asked a question about a \$816.00 bill for Clawson House from Gebhardt and Kiefer; Mr. Cushing said that it dealt with a bidding issue. Ms. Gavigan commented on spending “a chunk of change” for additional work with the basement and in various phases and coming as a surprise.

There being no further comments, motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously to close to the public.

Mr. Miller returned to the meeting around 8:30 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**HUNTERDON COUNTY MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR 2016-2017**

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**RESOLUTION #156-15**

**FORM 1B**

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Hunterdon;

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

1. The Township Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Central Hunterdon Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2017 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$ <u>31,844.00</u>
Cash Match	\$ <u>7,961.00</u>
In-Kind	\$ <u>23,883.00</u>

2. The Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

By the Township Committee,

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David Wang-Iverson, Mayor

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**Public Hearings:**

ORDINANCE 15-17 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 92 (LAND MANAGEMENT) OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL REGARDING THE EXPIRATION OF VARIANCES

As proof of publication, the Clerk provided the legal notice from the October 15, 2015, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. The ordinance has been posted and available to the public accordingly to law since introduction on October 8, 2015.

The meeting was open to the public for comments on Ordinance 15-17.

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, spoke about the ordinance with respect to expiration of variances. She mentioned earlier discussions about the former Hess turning into a Speedway with a time lapse before plans to change are realized. She asked if the five year clock would apply to them too, adding that they are two years into the approval. Mr. Cushing asked the Mayor about the ordinance being prospective and applying to past approvals too; the Mayor confirmed this.

There being no further comments, motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously to close to the public.

Ordinance 15-17 was approved for adoption on a motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mr. Van Horn, and carried unanimously by roll call vote: Mr. Van Horn, yes; Mr. Miller, yes; Mr. Sageser, yes; Mr. Wang-Iverson, yes.

**Introduction of Ordinances:** None

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS** – None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR’S UPDATE**

1) Animal Control Officer (ACO) Contract for 2016 (See Jan.-Sept. 2015 Call Out Report): Mr. Matheny explained that a new agreement was received from Nate Barson. On an aside, the County provided a letter indicating that they would not be offering this service in the

new year. He stated that the Township’s contract was at a better price and had additional services not provided by the County. A question was raised about the copy of the agreement with an exception clause; the insurance agent was contacted, and the Township will receive a certificate as an added insured from Mr. Barson’s insurance agency.

2) Repeal of Dog Canvass Statute: Mr. Matheny explained that the Township does a canvass every other year, having done one this year. New regulations indicate that the statute has been repealed. The idea for the canvass is to make sure that all dogs are vaccinated against rabies, so the Board of Health will have to decide if they wish to continue doing canvasses or not.

3) West Amwell Police Contract: Mr. Matheny said that this was discussed at the budget meeting with the suggestion to keep the hours the same as last year. He asked for clarification so that patrol would continue on January 1. Mayor Wang-Iverson commented on not knowing if the Township could afford the extra hours, but he recommended continuing coverage as is done now.

4) January 1, 2016 – Employee Holiday: Motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously to approve the holiday.

5) Clawson House Update: Mr. Matheny said that Jim Davidson is keeping him informed, highlighting the following work: the basement floor was excavated by hand; the slab was poured; under the stone walls, a cement curb was installed, which changed the scope of the project; the work was quoted under the bid threshold and making the changes, the work was still kept under this threshold; further concrete work will have to be done at a later date; there is a new place for the well pump in progress; windows in the basement have not been installed; etc. Mr. Matheny commented on a “great job on the stone work.” Deputy Mayor Sageser added that the contractor did some improvements that were clearly not in the contract, taking stone from the basement and putting in the back. He felt that the contractor was “a fantastic find ... doing over and above what his price is....” Mr. Matheny concluded that good progress is being made.

6) Installation of Additional Radar Speed Equipment: The State would not give permission for installation in the previously located area, but the County agreed to allow it to be placed near the grit-yard, behind the 35 mph sign coming into town. Concrete was poured and the unit was installed today although it still needs to be programmed. Deputy Mayor Sageser commented on traffic in the village area, suggesting contacting West Amwell to put a manned or empty police car in the area to control traffic.

7) Meszaros Dumping (11-9-15 Hunterdon County Health Dept. Notice of Violation): There has been some new dumping on site, include two tractor trailers full of tires. Hunterdon County Health Department has issued a notice of violation, and Mr. Cushing has been helpful in making a connection with another municipality to use “bin blocks” to cut off access to the site. There may be some cost associated with the use of the blocks, and the Township has permission from the property owners to install them. The DPW will help bring the tires to the County for disposal.

Further discussion took place, including the following highlights: installing surveillance cameras is one suggestion; Deputy Mayor Sageser recommended having West Amwell Construction red flag the barn; Mr. Matheny said that it was the owner’s responsibility to monitor dumping activity; Mr. Van Horn recommended having the Construction Official look at the property under the abandoned property ordinance; Mr. Cushing explained that abandoning the septic and well and checking for asbestos on private property would be part of the abandonment process, and he wanted to alert the Township Committee to this. Deputy Mayor Sageser felt that checking with Code Enforcement would be the next step.

8) Resolution to Change CFO Salary in 2016 as Shared Service with Holland Township for January 1, 2016:

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**RESOLUTION #157-15**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby amend the 2015 Salary and Wage Resolution as follows, effective January 1, 2016:

Remove:

Treasurer/CFO Pasqua \$65,000.00 per year

Replace with:

Treasurer/CFO Pasqua \$77,000.00 per year (Shared Service)

By Order of the Township Committee,

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David Wang-Iverson, Mayor

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

9) Use of Municipal Trail by Amwell Valley Little Baseball League: Since Mr. Mathews was not present tonight, he sent an email to Mr. Matheny asking to table this discussion until another time. Mr. Matheny explained that the insurance inspector does a walk through on the property, and DPW Superintendent Silverthorn went with him. There were a number of issues with the trailer, including buckled siding, broken windows, spongy deck, and other disrepair that went beyond painting and flashing. Mr. Matheny reached out to the baseball league to see if they wanted to fix the trailer; another option is to get rid of the building.

Chris Thompson, Keith Osborne, and Chris Kellogg, representing the Little League, were present at this time.

Mr. Thompson read an excerpt of the letter from Mr. Matheny about conditions of the trailer being in poor shape and the deck issues. Mr. Thompson agreed that the handrail was loose with a few rotten boards, but the deck is stable and able to hold adults. He agreed that some of the shrubs could be trimmed back. He mentioned broken windows and some water damage, but he did not see the place as a liability. He said that he would have a hard time believing that the trailer was in pristine condition when owned by the County and used as a library. He stated that the League was not inclined to pay for repairs since they are a non-profit with limited funds which are used for the children participating in the league. He felt that the repairs would equate to an entire year of registration fees, and the trailer did not belong to the league.

Mr. Thompson pointed out that the League has not accepted a dollar from the Township for some time, adding that 3 or 4 years ago, they received up to \$3,000 for lawn maintenance beyond once a week. The last time these funds were received was in 2013, and since then the League fully funds itself. Mr. Thompson spoke about asking volunteers, with about 60-75 families participating in the League. They offer their assistance in many ways, including preseason work, in season work, tournament hosting, concession stand operation, administration, finance, coaching, scheduling, etc. He said that the League has difficulty finding coaches and financial resources, with many of the responsibilities falling on a limited number of leaders.

Mr. Thompson was not saying that they would not assist or that the government should fund. He agreed that the League would help with trimming and deck repairs, but the trailer belonged to the Township. On a question, Mr. Thompson said that the trailer is used for equipment storage, board meetings in better weather, and for housing league files.

Deputy Mayor Sageser said that having this dialogue was helpful with the goal being the recognition of a deteriorating trailer and how heavily it was used. The question is whether it is worth fixing or if there is less expensive storage, adding that meetings could be scheduled in the municipal building. Mr. Thompson said that the League does not have the volunteers to take on the work, and they don't have the funds to make the repairs. All were in agreement that working on a decision together would be appropriate. Finding storage location rather than occupancy was also something to discuss.

Reference was made to working out something with Flemington; Mr. Thompson commented on partnering with Flemington not being set in stone, and he did not want to give up storage.

Replacement of the trailer with a shed was one suggestion, but Mr. Thompson commented on having lots of files in the trailer. Scanning the files would be one possibility, although Mr. Thompson did not see this happening soon. Mr. Thompson also commented that the League did not want to pay for new decking.

Further comments were exchanged by the Township Committee and Little League representatives, with the following highlights: it was doubtful that there would be any monetary value if the trailer was demolished; meetings could be arranged at the municipal building if storage space was found; Mr. Van Horn was concerned with higher insurance rates if the Inspector re-inspects – he was in favor of holding meetings at the municipal building and finding alternate storage.

Mike Petrus, a member of the Recycling Committee, was in the audience, stating that their Committee was looking for a storage area for Styrofoam and Terracycle materials – the current recycling shed is not large enough. He proposed keeping the trailer and sharing ½ and ½ with baseball and recycling. He suggested removing the decking and caulking the windows to secure the trailer, adding that it could possibly be used for shelter during the winter recycling depot days. Mr. Petrus mentioned that there is grant funding up to \$20,000 through Sustainable New Jersey, and this may be an option for the Township.

On a question, it was noted that the current recycling shed is about 10 x 12 feet. Mr. Matheny reminded the Township Committee that currently, the Little League pays for electric and air conditioning for the trailer, which would have to be worked out in a shared arrangement. Mayor Wang-Iverson thought that a new shed may be a better idea in the same location. Mr. Van Horn suggested applying for a grant.

Mayor Wang-Iverson concluded that no decisions would be made tonight, and he suggested that the Township Committee and Little League think about replacing the trailer with one or two sheds and have the Little League meetings in the municipal building. This item will be further discussed at another time, and the Little League was thanked for attending tonight’s meeting.

Mr. Cushing left the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

MAYOR’S UPDATE - None

**NEW BUSINESS**

REVIEW DRAFT 1/4/16 REORGANIZATION MINUTES AND AGENDA The Clerk said that these materials, including contracts, were in the share file for review. She asked that any comments be sent to her before Christmas so that they could be finalized.

**TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR’S 2016 CONTRACT**

Mr. Van Horn said that he was appointed by the Mayor to meet with Mr. Matheny to discuss his accomplishments and duties in 2015. Mr. Matheny prepared a document, which was reviewed with him and placed in his employee folder. Mr. Van Horn was fully in favor of approving the contract for 2016 and granting Mr. Matheny any increase given to staff. He said that this would be his motion.

+++++  
**RESOLUTION #158-15**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby approve the 2016 contract for Township Administrator Timothy L. Matheny, as presented, and grant Mr. Matheny any increase in salary given to staff.

By Order of the Township Committee,

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Wang-Iverson, Mayor

+++++  
Motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried with one no vote by Mr. Miller.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, said that in light of the \$20,000 owed for seven years penalty for the pension enrollment of an employee, she believed that lack of accountability was a problem. She commented on a bill for \$65.00 for FBI quarterly dues and trips to Atlantic City, and she didn't know of any benefit to taxpayers. She spoke about superfluous add-ons and taking out items in the budget and giving nothing to seniors while paying \$260 for dues and attendance and time out of the office. She commented on not requiring any presentations brought back from the meetings that added value. She hoped that there would have been more discussion and investigation to negotiate a better contract rather than the same old one. Ms. Gavigan stated that she expected this but found it disappointing after having a budget meeting from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. and having departments live within their means while there are add-ons in the contract. Ms. Gavigan concluded that the Administrator makes more than others; she spoke about getting “bang for a buck,” and suggested that the governing body pay attention to the contract. She did not believe that she would be the only one commenting on this topic.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

CFO/TREASURER PASQUA presented three resolutions.

+++++  
**RESOLUTION # 159-15**

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:4-58 permits appropriation transfers during the last two months of the current fiscal year between line items of the municipal budget; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that certain line items are in excess of the sums needed and certain line items have insufficient funds to complete the operations of the fiscal year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the following sums be transferred as follows:

		Transfer to:	Transfer From:
5-01-20-155-227-001	Legal Services O & E	\$6,000.00	
5-01-43-490-102-002	Part time Deputy Court Admin.	\$ 500.00	
5-01-20-150-228-002	Tax Assessor-Appeals	\$2,500.00	
5-01-20-100-299-000	Administrator-Misc.	\$2,869.00	
5-01-23-220-292-001	Health Insurance O&E		\$10,000.00
5-01-23-211-290-000	Public Officials Surety Bond		\$ 1,501.00
5-01-25-265-102-000	Fire Prevention Bureau		\$ 368.00
		\$11,869.00	\$11,869.00

By Order of the Township Committee,

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Wang-Iverson, Mayor

+++++

**RESOLUTION #160-15**

WHEREAS, certain Grant Appropriations have funding that are no longer necessary;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon , State of New Jersey, that the following unexpended balances be cancelled:

	Amount	Cancel to
DOT FY 2011 Pedestrian Improvement Grant		
-Ringoos	\$57,449.00	Grants Receivable

By Order of the Township Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Wang Iverson, Mayor

+++++

**RESOLUTION #161-15**

WHEREAS, certain Capital appropriation ordinances have funding that are no longer necessary;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the following unexpended balances be cancelled:

	Amount	Cancel to:
Ordinance # 2015-03 Solar Powered Radar Signs	\$14.00	Capital Surplus
Ordinance # 2015-10 Acquisition Asphalt Roller	\$5,000.00	Capital Surplus
Ordinance # 2015-12 Acquisition of Mower	\$650.00	Capital Surplus
Ordinance # 2015-13 Refunding Bond	\$9,694.87	Reserve for Debt Service

By Order of the Township Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Wang-Iverson, Mayor

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

Bills of the evening were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried unanimously.

TAX COLLECTOR HYLAND presented her November 2015 report and some resolutions.

+++++

**RESOLUTION #162-15**

WHEREAS there has been a redemption made for Tax Sale Certificate #201407, Block 38, LOT 16, 1 Ridge Road, sold on October 9<sup>th</sup> 2014 to US Bank Cust for Pro Cap 4 Firstrust and,

WHEREAS the amount of \$11,068.58 has been collected from William King, owner of this property for the redemption of this Tax Sale Certificate #201407,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a check in the amount of \$11,068.58 be prepared and the Mayor, Treasurer and Clerk be authorized to sign this check and that it be mailed to US Bank Cust for Pro Cap 4 Firstrust, and,

US Bank Cust for PC 4 Firstrust  
50 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street – Suite 1950  
Philadelphia PA 19102

By Order of the Township Committee,

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Wang-Iverson, Mayor

+++++  
**RESOLUTION #163-15**

WHEREAS there had been an overpayment for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2015 omitted taxes for Block 40, lot 51.06, assessed to Thomas Manzo and,

WHEREAS this amount of \$2,009.58 has been requested for refund by Provident Bank,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer is authorized to prepare and mail a check in the amount of \$2,009.58 to:

The Provident Bank  
Escrow Department  
100 Wood Ave South – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Iselin NJ 08830

By Order of the Township Committee,

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Wang-Iverson, Mayor

+++++  
**RESOLUTION #164-15**

WHEREAS N.J.S.A.40A:5-17.1 allows for amounts of \$5.00 or less of delinquent taxes to be canceled, and

WHEREAS the following amounts have been underpaid for 2015 taxes, and

WHEREAS it is the desire of the Tax Collector to clear these small delinquencies before the New Year,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following debit amounts be canceled:

Block/Lot	Amount
3/4.01	.72
6/2.05	.04
12/13	.01

14/16.02	.40
14/26	.01
17/23.06	.20
18/19	.02
20/16	.04
21/16.04	.20
24/9	.53
25/3.03	.70
25/7.09	.01
27/7	.24
27/33	.01
27/33.02	.01
33/1.04	.01
33/32	.18
34/2	.02
35/49	.14
35.01/26	.60
38/48.01	.50
40/41.06	.01
40.01/1.04	.15
41/43.02	.01
42/1	.07

TOTAL: 4.83

By Order of the Township Committee,

\_\_\_\_\_  
 David Wang-Iverson, Mayor

+++++  
**RESOLUTION #165-15**

WHEREAS N.J.S.A.40A:5-17.1 allows for amounts of \$5.00 or less of overpaid taxes to be canceled, and

WHEREAS the following amounts have been overpaid for 2015 taxes, and

WHEREAS it is the desire of the Tax Collector to clear these small overpayments before the New Year,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following credit amounts be canceled and applied to Surplus.

Block/Lot	Amount
35.01/2	.02
40/37	.01
40.03/13	.85
6/21.01	.11
6/30	.01
17/23.07	.11
21/19	.01
26/7	.01
5/1.01	.01
27/34	1.00

TOTAL: 2.14

By Order of the Township Committee,

\_\_\_\_\_  
 David Wang-Iverson, Mayor

++++  
Motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried unanimously to approve the Tax Collector’s resolutions.

All other reports were accepted with the following comments:

DPW Report – Mayor Wang-Iverson commended the DPW for the great work on the grading on North Hill Road. He commented on a super job by the Department in 2015, and he hoped that they would have a mild winter this year. He congratulated the Department for their efforts.

Traffic Enforcement – Mayor Wang-Iverson commented on having Hunterdon Area Rural Transportation (HART) doing a speed study on Lindbergh Road, and someone suggested painting speeds on the road as was done in the Village area. HART will provide some data after doing the speed study. The Mayor mentioned a lot of comments about speeding in the area. Deputy Mayor Sageser suggested considering speed bumps. Mr. Miller said that the area is not flat, and the roads are very narrow in the mountain area with sight lines hard to see. Mr. Van Horn suggested painting the numbers first and if they don’t work, go ahead with speed bumps. Deputy Mayor Sageser proposed locations near Peacock’s, one by Ridge Road, and one by Zion Road. Mr. Matheny said that the DPW would not be happy with humps on the plateaus, and in residential areas, neighbors do not like them; Mr. Van Horn added that they would be a liability. Deputy Mayor Sageser suggested that they think about installing them. Mr. Miller suggested that HART give guidance on reducing speeds rather than checking with the engineer; he was concerned with installations on inclines and traveling on narrow, dark roads. Mayor Wang-Iverson concluded that HART would do the speed study first, and recommendations will be solicited afterwards.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The letter of appreciation from the resident on North Hill Road regarding DPW service was noted.

The resolution from the Town of Clinton regarding preservation of the pension system was noted with Clinton’s concern that the state will take over the local pension system.

Mr. Miller asked that the emails from Joseph Orvos be added to this agenda; the Clerk noted that the emails came in after the agenda was completed and posted but will be added at this time.

The letter from Mr. Miller on Fox Hunt Road regarding the fire sirens was discussed briefly. A phone call to the fire company indicated that sometimes an electronic system (pagers) for response may not carry over the mountain area. Mr. Miller commented that most fire companies do have electronic systems at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

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