

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mayor David Wang-Iverson, Deputy Mayor Dart Sageser, 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 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 October 6, 2015.

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

AGENDA REVIEW

Bill List Change tonight, removing Sheraton Hotel and replacing with Bally's Atlantic City for a total bill list of \$864,598.05 (reduction of \$6.00).

Additional Item of correspondence: 10/6 Email from Barton Thompson re: SADC and ABC 8/1/15 correspondence regarding the Barn Party.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Municipal Offices will be closed on Monday, October 12, 2015, in observance of Columbus Day.

The East Amwell Historical Society will hold an open house at Clawson House, 1053 Old York Road, on Saturday and Sunday, October 24 & 25, 2015, from 12 Noon – 3 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

The Township Committee will hold a special meeting on Thursday, October 29, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. to review a proposed COAH plan with the Planning Board. An executive session with the Planning Board to discuss COAH an item of litigation will be held at 7 p.m., prior to this special meeting.

General Election Day will be held on Tuesday, November 3, from 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. with all East Amwell polls located at the municipal building. Last date to register to vote is October 13 – contact the clerk for details.

Hunterdon County will have an electronics collection day on Saturday, October 10th and a hazardous waste collection day on Saturday, November 14th - Both will be held at the Route 12 County Complex from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Contact 908-788-1110 for details.

Mayor Wang-Iverson added that the Ringoes Grange will hold a pumpkin festival on Sunday, October 11. The time is from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

UPDATE FROM THE CFO

PRESENTATION BY SHERRY TRACEY, PHOENIX ADVISORS, LLC

Mayor Wang-Iverson spoke about sitting in on a bond rating meeting with CFO Margaret Pasqua in preparation for the sale of a general obligation bond. He thought that it would be useful to hear a presentation tonight.

Ms. Tracey is a senior managing director for this financial advisory firm. She assisted Ms. Pasqua last year with the mandatory annual obligation to post items with the Securities Exchange Commission Board. She was happy to have the opportunity to work on refinancing the 2003

bonds with the bond sale scheduled for next Thursday and she believed that there would “be a \$75,000 total savings on the debt for each year of the life of the bonds.”

Ms. Tracey handed out a revised PowerPoint presentation to the governing body members. On a question from the Clerk, she advised that there was additional sheet to the version that was previously copied for the governing body and made available to the audience.

Ms. Tracey explained that East Amwell received a very strong Aa2 rating. Moody’s rating criteria includes 30% for economy and tax base, looking at market value per capita, median family income, and full market value of taxable property. They look at management as 20% of the criteria, i.e., management at the state/institutional framework and a 5 year financial history. Another 30% of the criteria is the Township’s finances, i.e., fund and cash balances, five year changes in balances. And the last 20% is the net and overlapping debt along with pension liability and post employment benefits.

Ms. Tracey referred to the page regarding proposed bond issue, stating the proposed bonds would be \$1,515,000 with the same maturity as the refunding bonds issued in 2003 in the amount of \$1,435,000. The projected savings would be about \$68,000 or a total of \$75,000 over the same maturation period, at a net savings of 4.75%, based on a lower interest rate. The character of the township also makes up part of the rating, such as size of the municipality, roadways, where the residents work and easy access to major roadways for employment, including proximity to larger cities. The wealth and income sheet showed socio-economic data, with higher than Hunterdon County, the State of NJ, and across the nation in wealth and income levels in East Amwell, and unemployment rate in the Township was below the County, State and federal levels in 2014.

Another factor includes the make up of the tax base, with anything less than a 15-20% base make up by the top ten taxpayers is “a strength” with East Amwell’s top ten making up 10.27% of the base. Ms. Tracey explained that Moody’s would not look so favorably on a town with one entity, such as an oil refinery, making up 50% of the base. Moody’s also likes to see individuals in part of the top 10 taxpayers, and East Amwell has three individuals. Moody’s likes to see a stable base; Ms. Tracey referenced the sheet showing the assessed and equalized valuations being consistent in 2013, 2014, and 2015 since the revaluation. She pointed out the \$180,967 market value per capita as a positive factor. Ms. Tracey referenced the property classification sheet showing \$4,500,000 as the residential value of the municipality, adding that Moody’s looks at the diversity of the municipality, including farms and some commercial use as a strength. They look at the tax rates with not a lot of fluctuation, and they appreciate the stability and consistency.

Ms. Tracey outlined other items that Moody reviews, as follows: there is a very strong tax collection in East Amwell to fund the budget – it is near 100% every year, which “was fantastic”; Moody’s looks at fund balance, i.e., what is in the savings account in case of an emergency; they look at all the bonds to see how stable is the credit; they looked at the small growth in the fund balance last year, with Ms. Tracey reminding the Township Committee that their budget is smaller than other, larger municipalities may have, and the Township could not save millions with a small budget. Moody’s does like to see \$400,000-500,000 as “a nominal level to weather a storm and they like what the township does ... appropriating it to the next year to regenerate funds.”

There was also a sheet with a comparison of budgets from 2011 – 2015 with stability and strength during the last couple of years. Ms. Tracey spoke about net debt with municipalities being able to borrow 3.5% of the average equalized valuation for three years, which would be \$25,000,000 for East Amwell. The Township’s debt is \$4,600,000 or .63%, showing that the Township maintains its community’s roads and capital items with minimal debt.

Mr. Mathews about remaining borrowing power and a direct effect if the Township borrowed now. Ms. Tracey said that Moody’s would look at the percentage of debt service to the budget and if it were a large number, i.e., if it would be hard to maintain – that would be a concern. Moody’s also looks at debt pay down and how fast amortization occurs. They look at rapid repayment of debt, i.e., bonds are paid in 8 years, and there is a bonus in the rating; 75% of debt paid in ten years is a “strong positive.” The municipality received a good score on the debt

component, but there is an expectation that the municipality will take on more debt, and future plans are factored in.

Ms. Tracey referenced the next sheet in the handout regarding debt service as a percentage of general fund expenditures, noting that the township has a heavier percentage of debt than a bigger budgeted town, but it is nominal and the percentage is manageable and consistent. She said that there was a “nice trend with debt moving lower without much impact to the tax base.”

The sheet entitled overlapping debt factored in debt from the local school, regional school, and county in addition to municipal debt. Ms. Tracey said that “numbers are manageable, and you are on the lower side of New Jersey communities and nationally.”

The summary sheet showed the Township to be a primarily residential community with agriculture and some commercial support. Unemployment rate is below county, state, and national levels. There is a very strong tax collection, and the Township maintains “a low debt burden with rapid repayment of outstanding debt.” Ms. Tracey commented on a report that was “very complimentary” of the Township, commending the work that Ms. Pasqua has done in the last year with some stability in the position and procedures in place. Ms. Tracey also mentioned a report that was published by Moody’s that is available on their website and wired to the financial community to help the institutions decide to purchase the bonds or not.

Ms Tracey hoped that the Township was pleased with the Aa2 rating, adding that it “was fantastic and in the top tier in the state and national level.” She added that the higher ratings of AAA and Aa1 are limited in number, and being a Aa2 was beneficial in the sale of the bond.

Mr. Mathews asked about the Moody’s report on the socio-economic indices that would make a rating go up or down. Ms. Tracey said that Moody’s looks at the main factors, such as median housing income, market value per capita, and full market value, and property value maintenance.

Mr. Miller asked about challenges with elevated fixed costs. Ms. Tracey spoke about fixed costs, such as health insurance and labor contracts. She mentioned bargaining units are tough on a budget, but the 2% cap reigns this in, and without bargaining units in East Amwell, it is a strength for the municipality. She added that the fixed costs for the Township employee health benefits and pensions are not that much, and having a lower number of employees is a positive.

Deputy Mayor Sageser asked about tax appeals. Ms. Tracey said as long as the appeals are not in the top ten taxpayers, it was not a burden. She also mentioned that because of the diversity of the tax base, they would not be a big concern. If, however, there were a high percentage of tax appeals, there would be a concern, adding, “tax appeals are factored in.”

Ms. Tracey said that Moody’s might do a review of the Township, perhaps in 3 years, to determine the continuance of the Aa2 rating by the municipality. The review may just be a phone call to the CFO, referencing the Dodd-Frank Act as a reason for the monitoring. Deputy Mayor Sageser asked if Ms. Tracey assisted the Township with the last bonding; she said no, that her relationship with the Township began with the disclosure information needed for the SEC last year.

Ms. Pasqua said that the company was “great to work with, they are very helpful, and I feel comfortable working with them.”

Mayor Wang-Iverson commented favorably on the Aa2 rating but added that rates are too low. The Mayor thanked Ms. Tracey for appearing this evening.

BEST PRACTICES CHECK LIST

Ms. Pasqua commented on submission of the checklist of 50 questions, with a score of 42; this equated to 84%, and the Township qualifies for its full grant funding from the state with that score.

Deputy Mayor Sageser referenced the recent Township Committee discussions on the capital budget and addressing future exposures. Ms. Pasqua mentioned going out for bonds in 2017 or

2018 for \$1,500,000 to address future debt. Mayor Wang-Iverson said that the Township Committee would not be able to comment on this right now, and he thanked Ms. Pasqua for her presentation.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

1) Appointment of Alternate II Member: Mayor Wang-Iverson said that earlier in the evening Frances Lippincott was interviewed for a position on the Environmental Commission. Motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously to appoint Ms. Lippincott to the Commission for the vacant position.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 10, 2015, Special Minutes (Resolution for Executive Session) were approved on a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Van Horn, and carried unanimously.

September 10, 2015, Executive Minutes (COAH, Contracts, Hiring) were approved on a motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously.

September 10, 2015, Regular Minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sageser, and carried unanimously with one correction on page 4, paragraph 3, first sentence to read, "Mr. Mathews asked about the impact if Comcast did not have a franchise."

September 30, 2015, Special Minutes (Clawson House Basement Award, Budget) were approved on a motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried with one abstention, Mr. Mathews, with corrections on page 6: second paragraph, last line, Mr. Van Horn asked tonight to change the figure from two cents to one cent; paragraph five, change fourth line to read, "issues with the employee being in the DCRP program as part-time, going into PERS, then having to leave PERS when she went back to part-time again"; paragraph 6, change line 6 from \$500 to \$5,000.

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

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, asked about any resolution to the pension issue mentioned at the last Township Committee meeting. Mayor Wang-Iverson said no, that the State has advised that it will be resolved in January 2016. The Mayor has been in contact with Senator Turner's Chief of Staff, who will be drafting a letter to the state. The Mayor also said that this was a personnel issue that should not be discussed.

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

SPECIAL DISCUSSIONS

PRESENTATION BY EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE DAVID BAUSMITH ON HIS PROJECT AT CLAWSON PARK

David Bausmith, a current Life Scout in Troop 65 in Ringoes was present at this time. He explained that he came to this Committee two years to ask about constructing fitness stations at Clawson Park and obtaining approval six months afterwards to move ahead. Now, after deliberation and design, he was here to officially announce the completion of the project, and he provided final copies of the report. David completed three fitness stations around the trails at the park, including areas for sit-ups, push-ups, and pull-ups.

Deputy Mayor Sageser quipped about coming in .38 cents over budget.

Mr. Mathews congratulated David on his achievement, asking if there were any challenges. David explained the problem coordinating with the mulch vendor, i.e., setting up the delivery for the specific type of mulch, lining up volunteers to spread the material, the delivery man not showing up, and rescheduling of the material.

Mr. Van Horn said that the project was worthwhile. The Clawson Park Advisory Committee met with David, and the Committee was very pleased with the project. Mr. Van Horn and Peg Sullivan were liaisons throughout the project. He believed that this was a very valuable learning experience for David, who learned about rules and regulations. He commended David for a job well done in completing the project and achieving his goals.

The Committee thanked David for his work, and there was a sincere round of applause of appreciation.

PRESENTATION ON 319H GRANT AND PROJECT TO BE DONE AT CLAWSON PARK – UPDATE FROM STEVE SOUZA OF PRINCETON HYDRO

Mr. Souza commented on taking advantage of the new exercise stations at Clawson Park and also offered his thanks to David Bausmith for creating them. Mr. Souza is a 33 year resident of East Amwell and lives in the vicinity of Clawson Park. He is a past member of the Planning Board, Board of Health, and Environmental Commission.

Mr. Souza explained that a very difficult grant to secure from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was obtained. These are Environmental Protection Agency funds for stormwater improvement projects, passed through the DEP. While it was thought that the grant was received in April, the DEP had to send the contract through the Attorney General's office for final review and was finalized in late August or early September. In the interim, GIS data files were completed. The total amount of the grant is \$446,000, and there is no cash contribution from the municipality, although there is a \$29,000 in-kind match over the course of the 36 month grant. If there are meetings such as this one or the DPW does any general maintenance that can be accredited to stormwater maintenance at the park, this is all qualified work to be calculated to the match. There is also \$21,000 included in the funding for administration of the grant.

Mr. Souza noted that the intent of the grant is for stormwater improvements, not flood control, although some of the work might help with flooding. The grant is primarily for the water quality enhancement for Back Brook, with the DEP recognizing the improvements to Back Brook. He spoke about the realm of stormwater quality and green infrastructure techniques, such as vegetative engineering. As example, he spoke about creating a meadow with an underground collection and infiltration system for the removal of sediment and bacteria loading pathogens, but not necessarily heavy metals. The work is primarily for a project at Clawson Park, although it is not designed yet, and it will be created to benefit the municipality and meet the grant requirements.

Mr. Souza hoped to develop concepts for stormwater improvement for Clawson Park and submit them to DEP by March 2016 and if there was a quick turnaround at the DEP, to start work as early as May and no later than July. He spoke about the DEP Project Manager, Nick Zripko, who managed the original regional stormwater grant East Amwell led in 2008, saying, "he knows us well." Mr. Souza perceived a game plan of working together with the municipality as a unit on input in the development of the concept and finalized drawings, hiring a qualified contractor to do the work next spring or summer at the park, and if there was money left over create a rain garden on the municipality property here. Originally, there was an intent to create the garden at the school, but that was not feasible. Another option was to look at draining the recreational fields on the municipal property, although the primary project area is Clawson Park.

Mr. Van Horn said that the Clawson Park Advisory Committee is anxious to know more about the work and asked to meet with Mr. Souza when he was ready to speak about ideas. Mr. Souza believed that this would be late November or in December. Ideas being considered are creating tree boxes with collection systems underground to address run off onto the parking areas and looking at ways to address run off primarily on the northern slope where walking paths wash

out. Mr. Souza said that he was familiar with the park since he uses it every day, and he cautioned that since it is a Green Acres property, managing the hillside run off cannot impact the use of the park and must use the features that are currently there. Mr. Souza concluded that he might be able to meet with the Clawson Park Advisory Committee in December.

Mr. Mathews appreciated the consideration to do some work on the ballfields, specifically T-3 at the lower edge of the municipal property. He explained that this is the field used by the youngest members of the ball team, and that the third yard line is always wet with a creek right next to it. Mr. Souza will get a better idea of the issue, i.e., flooding, poor soils, recharge, etc. and consider the possibility of including the work in the grant; he cautioned again that the grant was primarily for Clawson Park. Mr. Mathews will have Amwell Valley Little Baseball League President Chris Thompson call Mr. Souza. Mr. Souza agreed to look into the site with a potential to consider the work if funds were available; he will obtain more information.

Mr. Souza spoke about the need to document in-kind hours, such as appearing before the governing body or Clawson Park Advisory Committee. He mentioned quarterly reports to be made to DEP to ensure community engagement. Mayor Wang-Iverson said that he will put the item on the agenda for quarterly reports to the Township Committee.

The Committee thanked Mr. Souza for his presentation, and he provided business cards to the governing body, asking that they contact him if they had any questions.

COAH UPDATE

The Township signed an amendment to the Municipal Shared Services Defense Agreement Hiring Econsult Solutions, Inc. in place of Rutgers University and Dr. Burchell. Mayor Wang-Iverson said that this was the only report at this time since the item will be on the October 29th agenda, when there will hopefully be a plan to review.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – None

INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC HEARINGS OF ORDINANCES

Public Hearing:

ORDINANCE 15-15: ORDINANCE ADDING A CHAPTER ENTITLED “ABANDONED/VACANT PROPERTIES” TO THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, AND THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

As proof of publication, the clerk showed the copy of the Hunterdon County Democrat legal notice from the September 17, 2015, issue. The ordinance was posted and available to the public since introduction on September 10, 2015.

The meeting was open to the public for comments.

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, asked about the definition of vacant property, reading specifics from the ordinance. She asked if farm buildings in use or being rented were considered vacant properties. Mr. Mathews answered that he believed the attorney previously said no, and these are managed under the unfit building ordinance.

Ms. Gavigan gave the example of the Odd Fellows building or others that are not up to code or rented. While owned and not being used, she asked about specific insurance liability information, also likening a farm building to a commercial use. Mr. Cushing answered that a farm is not a commercial use. His interpretation is that a farm is a farm, although there is a right to farm regulation defining a commercial farm; there are specific guidelines for determining commercial enterprises, and he did not believe farms were commercial.

Ms. Gavigan spoke about property owner finances which might cause a hardship and under this ordinance, the Township would get insurance and impose liens. Mr. Cushing commented on the ordinance being for residential or commercial, a difference between farm and commercial, and if a farm building was storing farm equipment, he would argue that it was not abandoned.

Ms. Gavigan commented on "being careful not to govern to death or cause bankruptcy."

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

Motion by Mr. Mathews, seconded by Mr. Van Horn, and carried unanimously by roll call vote to adopt Ordinance 15-15: Mr. Van Horn, yes; Mr. Miller, yes; Mr. Sageser, yes; Mr. Mathews, yes; Mr. Wang-Iverson, yes.

Introduction of Ordinance

Ordinance 15-16: AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR LEVELING AND SUBGRADE RECONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS TOWNSHIP ROADS AS GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$75,000 FROM THE CAPITAL SURPLUS

Ms. Pasqua prepared this ordinance for the Department of Public Works so that they would be able to continue their repair work using funds from the capital surplus.

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**TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL
ORDINANCE 15-16**

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

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

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

Section 2. The Township of East Amwell is hereby authorized to provide funding for the leveling and subgrade reconstruction of various Township roads and engineering costs.

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

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

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

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

By Order of the Township Committee,

David Wang-Iverson, Mayor

Attest: _____
Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Introduced: October 8, 2015
Adopted:

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Motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Mr. Mathews, and carried unanimously to introduce Ordinance 15-16.

The ordinance will be published in the October 15, 2015, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the public hearing will be held at the regular Township Committee meeting on November 12, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. at the municipal building.

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR’S UPDATE

1) Update on Shared Service Agreement with Holland Township: Mayor Wang-Iverson and Margaret Pasqua went to the meeting in Holland Township on Tuesday, and there was a pro forma vote to adopt the shared service agreement with a small change in the language. Holland Township’s Attorney added a termination clause to allow either party to get out of the agreement within 90 days in writing, with or without cause to allow more flexibility. The financials are the same in the contract reviewed previously. Attorney Chris Norman reviewed the language for East Amwell Township since Mr. Cushing had a conflict; he found no concerns. A memorandum of understanding has been discussed with Ms. Pasqua, and she is aware that the salary would revert back to what it is now, should the arrangement not work out. The memorandum will be prepared. Signed hard copies of the agreement are in the mail from Holland Township, and the shared service will take effect on January 1. Holland Township’s CFO is not retiring until March, so this will allow a good transition. Mayor Wang-Iverson described it as a “win-win,” i.e., a reduction in administrative costs for the Township; Holland Township will pay less than what they are paying for a CFO now, and the commute for Ms. Pasqua is 3 minutes from her home.

Deputy Mayor Sageser commented on the use of a different software program in Holland Township. They use MSI and also have a different payroll system. Mayor Wang-Iverson commented on hearing “good things” about the MSI program, adding that this would be good experience for the Township, and the Township may consider making the change to that software sometime. Mr. Matheny also noted that Holland Township would be getting “a good CFO” out of this arrangement.

2) Wertsville Road Speed Update (Email to bus company on 9/17): Mr. Matheny met with East Amwell Township School Superintendent Ed Stoloski, and he also talked with Glen Barry in Transportation. Mr. Barry reported to Mr. Matheny that there are some residents parking on the sidewalk, and he was advised to contact the State Police about this concern. Mr. Van Horn asked whether the radar sign showed speed limits; Mr. Matheny mentioned the sign in need of a \$400 module, which the DPW was trying to find. Mayor Wang-Iverson said that the County painted the number “25” in both directions of the road. Mr. Mathews also pointed out that Mr. Stoloski sent an email blast to parents. Mr. Matheny also spoke with West Amwell Township Police about extra patrol effort on the road.

3) Complaint Regarding Stony Brook Road: Mayor Wang-Iverson mentioned an inquiry from a resident on the unpaved section, being unable to get back in person with him. The Mayor spoke with Engineer O’Neal about this and to redo a ¼ mile stretch of road (rebuild, reclaim, and apply Portland cement with an overlay of asphalt) would run about \$90,000. Liability was briefly discussed, noting that there were two giant boulders on the narrow roadway – i.e., improving the road may enable motorists to drive more recklessly.

Mr. Cushing noted the intent to improve a road with a dangerous condition. He added that the Township Committee was on notice and the Committee is discussing it. He spoke about getting a recommendation from the engineer and whether the Township would have to spend public

funds immediately. He mentioned the Township prioritizing road improvements, and under a torte claim, it is recognized that the Township doesn't have unending funds for all conditions. He added that the engineer should schedule the problem areas; understanding that there is only a certain amount of money available, the road should be on the list, but it may be that the Township cannot get to it for some time.

Mayor Wang-Iverson said that the engineer advised that if the road is improved, the Township's liability is increased. Mr. Cushing said that the Township Committee should ask the engineer for advice, and based on his engineering standards, have the road on a list to be addressed. Comments were exchanged by the governing body members about the boulders on the road and whether they should be marked somehow or removed; it was noted that there are similar boulders on Zion Road.

Mr. Mathews said that residents may feel differently about paving, i.e., some like it and some want no changes on the road. He also thought that there was some lore about why both Stony Brook and Rocktown have remained dirt roads. Deputy Mayor Sageser felt that people objecting to the paving would do so to control highspeed traffic and using the road as a short cut; he also felt that some people on the unpaved section are trying to sell their houses and want to have the improvement.

Mayor Wang-Iverson did not believe that the road could be repaired this year, but he liked Mr. Cushing's suggestion. He will speak with the engineer and the DPW Superintendent about updating the road project list.

Mr. Van Horn asked about liability now with someone putting up signs. He spoke about potential for fatal accidents. Deputy Mayor Sageser said that the road is materially different than Rocktown Road; he added that there have been no complaints about that road.

Mayor Wang-Iverson agreed that Stony Brook Road "is on our radar." He mentioned looking into alternative methods of reclamation, adding polymers into the road surface as a substitute for Portland cement and eliminating the need for overlay. He will forward the link with the information.

4) Status of Speed Sign for Village of Ringoes: Mr. Matheny said that the installation is on DPW Superintendent Silverthorn's list and its location has been marked out for One Call. The foundation will be poured tomorrow, and the sign installed on Tuesday.

5) Resolution for Submission of NJ DOT Municipal Aid Program Application for Ridge Road: Mr. Matheny reminded the Township Committee that this is the application that the Township applies for each year, adding that the road project is Ridge Road. The Clerk noted that she submitted the application already, and this resolution must be adopted within 30 days of submission.

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RESOLUTION #141-15

TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as #00173 from the NJ DOT SAGE system to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of East Amwell.

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

By Order of the Township Committee,

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.

Deputy Mayor Sageser asked about the status of the Zion Road grant from NJ DOT. Mr. Matheny said that the intent is to go out for bid in January or February 2016 when it is a good time for contractors looking to line up jobs. Part of the project may also include doing some work on Linvale Road, and engineering work is being done.

MAYOR’S UPDATE

Mayor Wang-Iverson said that there have been some discussions with Hunterdon County Library Commission, adding that he, Mr. Mathews, and Mr. Reilly met with them on September 11 to express the Township’s interest in getting the library back in East Amwell. He believed the discussions to be “very productive,” and a letter was received from Hunterdon County that they do have a long-term interest in South County and will entertain the Township’s proposals for Ringoes. Mr. Mathews felt that it was a very positive meeting, adding that he heard the County suggest that the Township take the lead. He felt that the next step would be to draft a proposal and get it to the County.

The Mayor said that he, Deputy Mayor Sageser, and Mr. Reilly toured Dilts House and feel that it has potential. Work on the outside of the house is finished, but the inside is unfinished. The Library had originally ruled out the property when relocating; the Library still has two years on their existing lease. Mayor Wang-Iverson agreed with Mr. Mathews that the Township should put a plan together, and he suggested asking Deputy Mayor Sageser to help with a floor plan for Dilts House that the Library Commission might accept or if necessary, also look at other alternatives that the Library might accept. Mr. Mathews thought the Township should also probe into why the County objected to the Dilts House. Further comments were exchanged with Deputy Mayor Sageser saying that he has seen the plans for the house and 65% of the ground floor is still open; he believed getting more information from the Library was important. Mayor Wang-Iverson hoped that the Library Commission would consider the property, highlighting the historic nature of the site.

NEW BUSINESS

D & R DEER MANAGEMENT PROCESS AND IMPROVED LOCAL PARTICIPATION – Update from Committee Member Mathews

Mr. Mathews had a recent conversation with the woman who is running the deer management program at D & R Greenways Land Trust because of his concern about allowing East Amwell Township residents the right to hunt on preserved land in the municipality. He inquired about how they managed the rights to hunt, and there was no affinity between hunters and where they live or pay taxes, i.e., the hunters are just added to a list. Mr. Mathews believed that if taxpayers are paying to preserve land, they should be given an opportunity. He said that D & R Greenways listened to his request and adjusted their procedure. They will now record where a hunter resides, and if there is an opening on a property in the municipality, the resident will have a priority. He mentioned pretty stringent requirements for hunters, adding that it was a benefit to get on the list to be able to have priority consideration if a property is under deer management. Mr. Mathews commented on D & R Greenways “being very accommodating,” and he said that the procedures are listed on their website.

CONTRACT FOR SERVICES FROM VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING FOR THOMAS DECKER, P.E. TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF B. 3, L. 1 AND 2.02

The property in question is Everitt property where a solar panel development will be built. During the development hearings, there was a conflict with the Township Engineer, Dennis O’Neal, and Engineer Thomas Decker became involved. He also signed off on the site plans. The Clerk added that Mr. Decker’s fees were the same as they were when he served as Conflict Engineer a few years ago.

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RESOLUTION #142-15

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby authorize the following professional services agreement for services:

Van Cleef Engineering Associates
1128 Route 31
Lebanon, NJ 08833

Term: Calendar Year 2015-2016
\$135.00 per hour for services needed

Conflict Review Engineer – Planning Board/Township Committee

By Order of the Township Committee,

David Wang-Iverson, Mayor

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

Mr. Cushing left the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Frances Gavigan said that the County did not paint numbers on Wertsville Road, but they did replace some signs on the road. Committee members said that the painted “25” number is on the West side of Route 202.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

TREASURER/CFO PASQUA provided resolutions prior to the bill list.

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RESOLUTION #143-15

WHEREAS, certain Escrow Accounts are no longer active or valid:

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:
#7200036938 Assadi, Basher	\$ 23.00	MRNA
#7200036941 Thompson Realty	\$156.17	MRNA
#7200037080 Davis, James	\$ 10.26	MRNA

By Order of the Township Committee,

David Wang-Iverson, Mayor

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RESOLUTION #144-15

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell that they hereby agree to release \$187.39 in remaining inspection fees, held in an account for Mid-Atlantic Equine Center, Block 8, Lot 26.01, based upon completion of the project and no outstanding bills.

By Order of the Township Committee,

David Wang-Iverson, Mayor

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

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

TAX COLLECTOR HYLAND provided her September 2015 report.

Tax Collector's Resolution:

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RESOLUTION #145-15

WHEREAS there has been a redemption made for Tax Sale Certificate #201304, Block 35, LOT 18.01, 18 South Hill Road, sold on October 3rd 2013 to East Amwell Township and,

WHEREAS the amount of \$9,816.36 has been collected from First American Title Insurance Company for D & R Greenway for the redemption of this Tax Sale Certificate #201304,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a check in the amount of \$9,816.36 be prepared and the Mayor, Treasurer and Clerk be authorized to sign this check and that this check be delivered to East Amwell Township.

By Order of the Township Committee,

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. The refund goes directly into the Township's funds.

There was no DPW report for this meeting.

All other reports were noted for filing. A request was made to ask the Webmaster to change the heading for West Amwell Township Police to Traffic Report, not Radar.

CORRESPONDENCE

The email from Bart Thompson regarding the barn property and SADC was announced during the agenda review and noted for filing as correspondence.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Van Horn, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk