

**EAST AMWELL
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MINUTES
Municipal Building – 7:30 PM
September 13, 2016**

Call to order and compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Adjustment was called to order at 7:30 PM on September 13, 2016 in the Main Meeting Room of the Municipal Building, 1070 Route 202/31, Ringoes, NJ by Administrative Officer Andrews.

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the Administrative Officer announced this was a regularly scheduled meeting as published in the January 28, 2016 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat, filed in the Township Clerk's Office, and posted on the Bulletin Board on September 9, 2016.

Roll Call and Agenda Review

Present: Nancy Cunningham
Gael Gardner
Diana Garrett – *(arrived at 7:36 PM)*
Paul Gavzy
Kendra Schroeder – *(arrived at 7:33 PM)*
Anne Williams – *Chair*

Absent: Sherrie Binder
Jamie Atkeson – *Alt. #1*
Michele Doherty – *Alt. #2*

Presentation of Minutes

A motion by Gael Gardner, seconded by Anne Williams to approve the Board's 8/9/16 minutes with no revisions noted was approved with Ms. Cunningham and Mr. Gavzy abstaining.

Presentation of Bills for Payment

It was noted for the record that no comments were made regarding any of the vouchers listed on the agenda.

Correspondence

It was noted for the record that no comments were made regarding any of the correspondence listed on the agenda.

Applications to be Deemed Complete or Incomplete

It was noted for the record that there were no applications listed on the agenda for completeness.

Applications for Public Hearing

It was noted for the record that there were no applications listed on the agenda for public hearing.

Old Business

It was noted for the record that no old business matters were listed on the agenda.

New Business

Discussion – Board of Adjustment Budget

The status of the Board’s 2016 budget is of concern due to the limited remaining funding left to get the Board through to the end of the year or at least to November when funds can be transferred. It was noted that this year’s budget has taken a severe hit due to the Zoning Officer seeking input from the board’s professionals on several complicated zoning issues that have come up. Additionally, it was noted that the Township Committee cut the Board’s budget by \$3000 this year.

After some discussion, the following recommendations were made by the Board for consideration when the Township Committee works on the 2017 budget:

1. Separate budgets for the Zoning Board and the Zoning Officer
2. Specific line items for: Litigation, General Legal and Planner
3. It was suggested that the Zoning Officer could direct his questions to the Township Attorney for the time being

It was noted that Mr. Gavzy specifically recommended the Township Committee fund the Board’s 2017 legal budget back to at least \$8000 which is what it has been for the past several years.

Comments of the Board Members

It was noted for the record that no comments were made by any of the Board Members.

Attorney Comments

It was noted for the record that Attorney Cecil was not present at the meeting.

Open to the Public

A motion by Gael Gardner, seconded by Anne Williams to open to the public was unanimously approved. Seeing no members of the public come forward, a motion by Nancy Cunningham, seconded by Kendra Schroeder to close to the public was unanimously approved.

Adjournment

A motion by Paul Gavzy, seconded by Gael Gardner to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Maria Andrews, Administrative Officer