

**TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION MEETING  
JANUARY 7, 2012  
4:00 P.M. AT COURTHOUSE**

The meeting of the Colts Neck Township Committee was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Schatzle. At Mayor Schatzle's request, Emma and Charlotte Engel led the salute to the flag. The following statement was read by Township Clerk Bowden: "The notice requirements of the New Jersey Public Meetings Law has been satisfied by forwarding a News Release to the Asbury Park Press on December 14, 2011 stating the reorganization meeting of the Colts Neck Township Committee would be held January 7, 2012 at 4:00 p.m., Colts Neck Courthouse, 124 Cedar Drive, Colts Neck, New Jersey. The notice requirements have been posted on the Township bulletin board and a copy is on file in the Office of the Township Clerk."

Roll call by Mr. Bowden indicated the following:

Present: Mayor James Schatzle; Deputy Mayor Jarrett Engel; Committeemen Edward Eastman, Jr.; Michael Fitzgerald and Russell Macnow

Also Present: Administrator/Municipal Clerk Robert Bowden, Deputy Municipal Clerk Beth Kara, and Township Counsel Sen. John O. Bennett, III, Esq.

Absent: None

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1. **WELCOME BY MAYOR JAMES C. SCHATZLE:** Mayor Schatzle welcomed the many volunteers and their families present today. Mayor Schatzle thanked Freeholder Burry and Assemblywoman Caroline Casagrande for being a part of today's meeting. Mayor Schatzle also thanked the many former Township Mayors present including Kenneth Florek, James Stuart, Benjamin Forester, Thomas Hennessy and Freeholder Lillian Burry.
2. **INVOCATION:** The Reverend Chris Vande Bunte of the Colts Neck Reformed Church performed the invocation.
3. **SWEARING IN OF RE-ELECTED COMMITTEEMAN, JARRETT R. ENGEL:** Mr. Engel was sworn in by Sen. Bennett as his daughters, Charlotte and Emma, held the bible. Mr. Engel received a round of applause and stated his comments would be forthcoming shortly.
4. **SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED COMMITTEEMAN, THOMAS ORGO:** Sen. Bennett spoke of the long history of their two families, which goes back to their grandparents. Sen. Bennett stated he was proud to swear in Mr. Orgo today, and did so while his wife, Dianna, and daughter, Jennifer, held the bible. Mr. Orgo received a round of applause and photographs were taken.

Mr. Orgo thanked all present and stated he was honored to be given the opportunity to serve the community, one in which he has lived his entire life. Mr. Orgo stated he will give his best effort to try and maintain the rural character that makes Colts Neck a great place to live. Mr. Orgo stated his volunteer experience as a life member of the Fire Company, and member of the Planning Board, Long Range Planning Committee, and Fair Committee have provided the experience to effectively meet this new responsibility.

5. **NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR 2012:** Mayor Schatzle opened nominations for the position of Mayor 2012. Mr. Fitzgerald stated he was proud to nominate Mr. Jarrett Engel as Mayor 2012, seconded by Mr. Macnow. Mayor Schatzle closed nominations, and the nomination of Mr. Jarrett Engel was unanimously carried. Mr. Jarrett R. Engel was confirmed as Mayor 2012.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Schatzle			X			
Deputy Mayor Engel			X			
Fitzgerald	M		X			
Macnow	S		X			
Orgo			X			
X - indicates vote    NV - Not Voting    Ab - Absent    M - Moved    S - Seconded						

6. **SWEARING IN OF MAYOR JARRETT R. ENGEL:** Mr. Engel was sworn in by Assemblywoman Caroline Casagrande while his wife, Jennifer, held the bible and their two daughters, Emma and Charlotte observed. Mayor Engel received a round of applause and photographs were taken.

Mayor Engel's remarks are appended.

7. **PRESENTATION OF GAVELS:**

- Mayor Engel was presented with his 2012 Mayor's gavel from former Mayor Schatzle, who stated he was proud to present this gavel to a fellow Committeeman and someone who has grown to be a friend.
- Former Mayor Schatzle was presented with his 2011 Mayor's gavel from Mayor Engel. Mayor Engel thanked former Mayor Schatzle for his leadership through the many challenges that faced the Township in 2011, such as the snowstorms, Hurricane Irene and increased budget constraints.

8. **NOMINATIONS FOR DEPUTY MAYOR:** Mayor Engel opened the nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor. Mr. Macnow stated he was proud to nominate Mr. Michael Fitzgerald as Deputy Mayor 2012, seconded by Mr. Orgo. Mayor Engel closed nominations, and the nomination of Mr. Michael Fitzgerald was unanimously carried. Mr. Michael Fitzgerald was confirmed as Deputy Mayor 2012.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Engel			X			
Fitzgerald			X			
Macnow	M		X			
Schatzle			X			
Orgo	S		X			
X - indicates vote    NV - Not Voting    Ab - Absent    M - Moved    S - Seconded						

9. **SWEARING IN OF DEPUTY MAYOR MICHAEL D. FITZGERALD:** Mr. Fitzgerald was sworn in by Mr. Bowden while his wife, Marguerite, held the bible.

10. **PRESENTATIONS TO FORMER COMMITTEEMAN EDWARD C. EASTMAN, JR.:**

• **REMARKS BY MAYOR JARRETT ENGEL**

Mayor Engel spoke about his experiences with Mr. Eastman through the past years, noting Mr. Eastman's service to the community was part of his life. Mayor Engel acknowledged Mr. Eastman has "the propensity for saying the right thing, knowing what to say and when to say it. It is the perspective he offers that has helped us do the right thing, make the right decisions, when making the right decision is not so clear." Mayor Engel reflected Mr. Eastman's guidance, feedback and knowledge will continue in his decisions as Mayor, and he thanked Mr. Eastman for all he has done and will continue to do for this town.

• **BY FREEHOLDER LILLIAN G. BURRY**

Mrs. Burry stated it was truly a pleasure to present a Proclamation from the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders acknowledging Mr. Eastman as a steadfast individual who gives a great deal of thought to the issues. Mrs. Burry stated the Township has benefitted from having Mr. Eastman on the Township Committee since 2009, and his service on the Planning Board, Long Range Planning, Litigation Steering Committee, Farmland and Open Space Committee and Historic Preservation Committee among others. In addition, he was selected by NJ Monthly Magazine in 2005 and subsequent years thereafter as one of the top 100 Super Lawyers in the State. Mr. Eastman was a member of the NJ DEP Advisory Committee on onsite wastewater management and the NJ Supreme Court's advisory committee on attorney continuing legal education. Mrs. Burry stated in recognition of all he accomplished, the Monmouth County Board of Freeholders proclaimed January 7, 2012 as Edward C. Eastman, Jr. Day within the Township of Colts Neck. Mrs. Burry provided Mr. Eastman with the Proclamation, photographs were taken and Mr. Eastman received a round of applause.

Mrs. Burry then presented a Proclamation from the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders to Mayor Jarrett R. Engel. Mrs. Burry stated in recognition of all he accomplished, the Monmouth County Board of Freeholders proclaimed January 7, 2012 as Jarrett R. Engel Day within the Township of Colts Neck. Mrs. Burry provided Mayor Engel with the Proclamation, photographs were taken and Mayor Eastman received a round of applause.

• **BY ASSEMBLYWOMAN CAROLINE CASAGRANDE**

Ms. Casagrande presented a Proclamation from the legislators of the 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly District thanking him for his uncommon measure of public spiritedness. Ms. Casagrande stated Mr. Eastman is diligent and a lover of history with a love for our Country; a true American patriot. Ms. Casagrande stated it was a privilege and an honor to have Mr. Eastman address her committee and clarify the issues at hand. Ms. Casagrande stated Mr. Eastman sets the standard for excellence in public service, and she is pleased to present him with the Proclamation. Mr. Eastman received a round of applause and photographs were taken.

**11. REMARKS BY FORMER COMMITTEEMAN EDWARD C. EASTMAN, JR.**

Mr. Eastman thanked everyone for their kind words and spoke of the Township's unsung heroes. He noted Mr. Bowden and Ms. Kara as "true professionals who serve all of us with integrity." Mr. Eastman also recognized the Township employees, noting they are "honorable and very hard working." Mr. Eastman then spoke of service to the community, noting people giving of themselves because they want to help others. Mr. Eastman stated he was proud to be standing among the Township volunteers. Mr. Eastman received a standing ovation and photographs were taken.

**12. REMARKS BY HONORABLE ASSEMBLYWOMAN CAROLINE CASAGRANDE**

Ms. Casagrande spoke of the significant challenges faced in 2011, noting Colts Neck's leadership made it look a little easier to handle. Ms. Casagrande spoke of the 2011 historic benefits and pension reforms enacted and the Legislature's hard work to balance the budget. Ms. Casagrande indicated the positive changes made may make 2012 a little easier within the State. Ms. Casagrande spoke of the community coming together and responding to Hurricane Irene, noting Mayor Schatzle did an outstanding job in leadership to meet the needs of the Township. Ms. Casagrande spoke of the need for JCP&L to understand towns on well and septic need priority for power restoration. Ms. Casagrande spoke about the Township Committeemembers and thanked everyone for her re-election to the General Assembly.

**13. REMARKS BY HONORABLE FREEHOLDER LILLIAN G. BURRY**

Mrs. Burry spoke of her time on the Township Committee as preparing her for her role as Freeholder, and for being the first female Freeholder Director. Mrs. Burry spoke of the many accomplishments of Monmouth County which impact the quality of life of Township residents, including the 400 acre Dorbrook Park, Hominy Hill Golf Course, and the Monmouth County Library, which is the largest circulating library system in the State. Mrs. Burry noted the County took the lead followed by the State to realign Routes 537 and 34 at no cost to Colts Neck. Mrs. Burry stated while we look to the past with justifiable pride, we must also focus on creating an even better future.

**14. ANNOUNCEMENT: ANNOUNCEMENT OF TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2012 BY MAYOR ENGEL**

MAYOR ENGEL

Planning Board Class I  
Shade Tree Commission  
Colts Neck Website  
Colts Neck Fair  
Pop Warner Football  
Colts Neck Sports Foundation  
Recreation and Parks Committee  
Historic Preservation Committee  
Horse/Multi-Use Trails

DEPUTY MAYOR FITZGERALD

Finance  
Affordable Housing  
Litigation Steering Committee  
County/State Government  
Architectural Review Committee  
Environmental Commission  
Recycling  
Local/Regional Schools

COMMITTEEMAN MACNOW

Fire Department  
The Grande Association  
Local/Regional Schools  
Friends of the Library  
County/State Government  
Long Range Planning  
Drug/Alcohol Alliance  
Litigation Steering Committee

COMMITTEEMAN SCHATZLE

Finance  
Police Department  
Public Works  
Board of Health  
Earle Naval Base  
Emergency Planning Committee  
Shared Services  
Student Government Day  
First Aid Squad  
Colts Neck Polo

COMMITTEEMAN ORGO

Planning Board Class III  
Long Range Planning  
Affordable Housing  
Farmland/Open Space Committee  
Colts Neck Business Association  
Senior Citizens  
Buildings and Grounds

15. **MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS:** Mayor Engel announced the following appointments:

**PLANNING BOARD**

CLASS I – JARRETT R. ENGEL (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/12)  
CLASS II – THOMAS HENNESSY, JR. (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/12)  
CLASS III – THOMAS ORGO (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/12)  
CLASS IV – JOSEPH POWELL (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)  
ALTERNATE NO. 1 LISA SINGER-FITZPATRICK (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/13)  
ALTERNATE NO. 2 ROBERT LUTKEWITTE (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/12)

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

BRUCE BENNETT (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/15)  
KENNETH FLOREK (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/15)  
ROBERT FARRELL (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/13)  
ALTERNATE NO. 1 – BRYAN LEWIS (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/13)  
ALTERNATE NO. 2 – CHARLES KARCHER (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/12)

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MAYOR APPOINTS DAVID KOSTKA AS CHAIRMAN FOR 2012

SASHE ANNETE (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)  
RICHARD ECKLORD (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)  
JENNIFER BARBIERI (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)

**SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

JAMES NICOLETTI (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/16)

16. **RESOLUTION 2012-1:** CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF CLASS III PLANNING BOARD MEMBER (COMMITTEEMAN ORGO) was read by title by Mayor Engel. Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Macnow and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Engel			X			
Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald	M		X			
Macnow	S		X			
Schatzle			X			
Orgo			X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded						

17. **RESOLUTION 2012-2:** CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF TOWNSHIP PROFESSIONALS was read by title by Mayor Engel. Mayor Engel then read the following professionals for the year 2012:

1. John O. Bennett, III, Esq., Township Attorney;
2. John O. Bennett, III, Esq., Township Prosecutor;
3. Dilworth Paxson, LLC, Bond Counsel;
4. Glenn Gerken, P.E., Township Engineer;
5. Robert Allison, Auditor;
6. Peter Avakian, P.E., Conflict Engineer;
7. Jaime Plosia, Esq., Labor Counsel;
8. Michael Steib, Esq., Special Counsel;
9. Visiting Nurse Association, Home Health Services;
10. Associated Humane, Animal Control Services;
11. Dominick Manco, Esq., Special Counsel – Affordable Housing;
12. Julie McGowan, Landscape Architect – Inspection Escrows; and
13. Thomas A. Thomas, P.P. – Affordable Housing.

Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Schatzle and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Engel			X			
Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald	M		X			
Macnow			X			
Schatzle	S		X			
Orgo			X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded						

18. **RESOLUTION 2012-3:** CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE was read by title by Mayor Engel. Mayor Engel then read the following appointments and term expirations:

ADELE SESSA	(TERM EXPIRES 12/31/12)
ALBERT YODAKIS	(TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)
JAMES STUART	(TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)
BRIAN GRANT	(TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)

Mr. Orgo made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Schatzle and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Engel			X			
Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald			X			
Macnow			X			
Schatzle	S		X			
Orgo	M		X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded						

19. RECREATION COMMITTEE was read by title by Mayor Engel. Mayor Engel then read the following appointments and term expirations:

EDWARD PIOTROWSKI (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)  
 JAMES VALENTI (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)  
 FRANK BAKER (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)  
 PHILIP MAIDA (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)

MAYOR RECOMMENDS JAMES VALENTI AS CHAIRMAN FOR 2012

Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Macnow and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Engel			X			
Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald	M		X			
Macnow		S	X			
Schatzle			X			
Orgo			X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded						

20. **RESOLUTION 2012-5:** CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE was read by title by Mayor Engel. Mayor Engel then read the following appointments and term expirations:

PAUL GASSERT (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/13)  
 CINDY FEURY (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)  
 LISA MC INERNEY (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)  
 MICHAEL TAESCHLER (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)

Mr. Schatzle made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Engel			X			
Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald		S	X			
Macnow			X			
Schatzle	M		X			
Orgo			X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded						

21. **RESOLUTION 2012-6:** CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE was read by title by Mayor Engel. Mayor Engel then read the following appointments and term expirations:

BUD WHEELER (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/12)  
 SUSAN BAKER (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/13)  
 JANE DAVIS (TERM EXPIRES 12/13/14)  
 JENNIFER ENGEL (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)  
 MARY FOURNIER (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)  
 ANN RIPPA (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)

Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Macnow and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Engel			X			
Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald	M		X			
Macnow	S		X			
Schatzle			X			
Orgo			X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded						

22. **RESOLUTION 2012-7: CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH** was read by title by Mayor Engel. Mayor Engel then read the following appointments and term expirations:

ALTERNATE NO. 1 – PATRICK GILMORE (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/13)

Mr. Schatzle made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Macnow and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Engel			X			
Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald	S		X			
Macnow			X			
Schatzle	M		X			
Orgo			X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded						

23. **RESOLUTION 2012-8: CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE** was read by title by Mayor Engel. Mayor Engel then read the following appointments and term expirations:

MICHAEL BURKE (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)  
FRANK VALENTINO (TERM EXPIRES 12/31/14)

Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Schatzle and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Engel			X			
Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald	M		X			
Macnow			X			
Schatzle	S		X			
Orgo			X			
X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent M - Moved S - Seconded						

24. **RECOGNITION OF COLTS NECK VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF, RICHARD GALINSKI, AND DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF, MICHAEL BURKE.**
25. **RECOGNITION OF COLTS NECK VOLUNTEER FIRST AID CAPTAIN, FRANK VALENTINO, AND PRESIDENT, JAMES LEBER.**

Mayor Engel thanked these volunteers for being here today and for their service and the service of their emergency responders to the Township.

26. **MOTION TO ADOPT A CONSENT AGENDA**
27. **\*RESOLUTION 2012-9:** CONFIRMING DESIGNATION OF MUNICIPAL DEPOSITORIES
28. **\*RESOLUTION 2012-10:** AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF 2012 TEMPORARY BUDGET
29. **\*RESOLUTION 2012-11:** AUTHORIZING ESTABLISHMENT OF FEES, PENALTIES AND INTEREST RATES FOR 2012
30. **\*RESOLUTION 2012-12:** AUTHORIZING PRE-PAYMENT OF CERTAIN ITEMS
31. **\*RESOLUTION 2012-13:** AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN
32. **\*RESOLUTION 2012-14:** CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE (MR. ROBERT BOWDEN)
33. **\*RESOLUTION 2012-15:** CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC AGENCY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMPLIANCE OFFICER (MR. ROBERT BOWDEN)
34. **\*RESOLUTION 2012-16:** CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF MID JERSEY JOINT INSURANCE FUND COMMISSIONER (MR. ROBERT BOWDEN)
35. **\*RESOLUTION 2012-17:** DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL TOWNSHIP NEWSPAPER (ASBURY PARK PRESS)
36. **\*RESOLUTION 2012-18:** APPROVING USE OF ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER FOR TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mr. Macnow made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Orgo and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Engel			X			
Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald			X			
Macnow	M		X			
Schatzle			X			
Orgo		S	X			
X - indicates vote    NV - Not Voting    Ab - Absent    M - Moved    S - Seconded						

37. **GROUP SWEARING IN OF DULY APPOINTED VOLUNTEERS AND MEMBERS:** Mr. Bowden administered the Oath of Office to all duly appointed volunteers and members. All received a round of applause and photographs were taken.
38. **ANNOUNCEMENT:** Mayor Engel announced the next regularly scheduled Township Committee meeting will be held on January 11, 2012, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 124 Cedar Drive, Colts Neck, New Jersey.

39. **MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Orgo and unanimously carried by voice vote.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Engel			X			
Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald	M		X			
Macnow			X			
Schatzle			X			
Orgo		S	X			
X - indicates vote   NV - Not Voting   Ab - Absent   M - Moved   S - Seconded						

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.



Robert Bowden, Administrator/Municipal Clerk

Attachment

Friends, neighbors, family, colleagues and fellow volunteers, I stand here before you today a very happy, proud, and excited Mayor of this great town of Colts Neck. As Colts Neck residents, we have a lot to be proud of. You see, for the past three years, I have had a very close relationship with the Township of Colts Neck. And interestingly enough, I grew up in this town, and thought before I took office three years ago that I knew as much as there was to know about our town. As a child, I grew up searching for sharks teeth in its streams, playing flag football in what is now green acres, worked the high striker as a First Aid cadet at the fireman's fair. And then as I courted my wife Jennifer, I took her to the Memorial Day parade, the fireworks, Polo matches, we even delivered a child together on a First Aid call. And what do you know, it worked!

My wife Jennifer and I made the decision to raise a family here, Emma found her first shark's tooth behind our house and got to ride in a stroller at the Memorial Day parade. And Charlotte got to experience her first cotton candy at the Country Fair. Emma and Charlotte even got to watch their dad in action on a First Aid call. Looking back, we were so blessed to have these experiences; experiences that have given us memories to last a life time. And getting back to my close relationship with Colts Neck, I have learned that over the past three years, that my family and your family have an incredible future in this town, with many more wonderful memories to be made.

I am happy to report that Colts Neck as a township, is very well positioned. Even in this very difficult economy, where we have lost State Aid, have had declining revenues and have had changes to municipal budget laws that have caused the Township to make difficult decisions over the last three years, our tax collection rate is now just over 99% which is the highest since 2007. Our debt ratio is one of the lowest in Monmouth County and is lower than all our surrounding communities and similar towns in the County; even lower than the County itself. Also our total debt, even with the new issue is still lower than it was in 2008. Our bond rating is at Aa3 according to Moody's which is considered high quality. Moody's told our finance officer last year that our rating was staying the same despite several towns and the State being downgraded.

I mentioned difficult decisions . . . the Township now has ten less full-time employees than it did just three years ago when I took office. And as we all know, overall budget reductions and reductions in personnel do have their consequences, and the delivery of some basic public services has slowed as a result. The Colts Neck Police Department has three less Officers than two years ago. Despite this, Township residents should take great pride in the Police Department. Colts Neck Police Officers have continued to work hard and always go the extra mile to keep all Colts Neck residents and businesses safe. Did you know that on the first day of school, year after year our Chief has made it his directive to have our officers follow our children on school buses to assure their safety as traffic patterns change?

The Colts Neck Public Works Department has six less employees than two years ago. Despite this, remaining employees have continued to work hard to maintain Township roads, parks and facilities in the best possible condition. And I have seen this first hand as they have worked to keep our town safe during the many weather challenges we have had in just last year alone.

The Volunteer Fire Department and First Aid Squad have also faced budget reductions and other challenges in recent years. These lifesaving volunteers have none the less continued to meet their core objectives and deserve the respect and a thank you from every resident and business owner. I consider our emergency services departments and the men and women who serve as their volunteers as the finest in the county.

And as we have all tightened our economic belts, the Department of Recreation has provided some 60 different programs and is responsible for 11 parks or preserves, enhancing our quality of life during these very difficult times. This two-person department continues to operate effectively and efficiently.

In a few short weeks, the Township Committee will begin work on the 2012 municipal budget. The time has come for the Township Committee to begin the process of rebuilding some departments wherever possible and also continue to look for the creative ways to provide all public services.

And from a planning perspective, we, as a township, have remained true to our town's basic planning goal, which is to preserve the combination of open space, agriculture and well buffered low density housing that is the cornerstone of Colts Neck's rural and scenic character. To maintain low density zoning and when development occurs maximize the appearance of open space by establishing buffers between neighborhoods through clustering and lot size averaging developments. And past Colts Neck's borders, to preserve the water quality of the Swimming River Reservoir which is a potable water supply for Eastern Monmouth County. This is why open space preservation and stream corridor protection is important not just to Colts neck but the County as a whole.

And now that COAH has been abolished and the DCA is preparing new third round regulations, we need to continue to monitor pending legislation to ensure Colts Neck can fulfill its obligation without an influx of new residential growth. We need to maximize the under developed business zone by being "business friendly" without expansion to its boundaries. When development occurs it should maintain a neighborhood commercial form and not a standard strip commercial form that is found in neighboring towns. And when development occurs, we obtain this through the use of colonial architecture, high quality materials, small building footprints and multiple buildings instead of one large building and by interconnecting parking and pedestrian activities.

We need to maintain a critical mass of agricultural activities that in turn will maintain agriculture as a viable industry in the Township. If agriculture is not a profitable industry in Colts Neck, farms will be lost to residential developments. Once farms are developed, the likelihood that they will be returned to an agricultural use is negligible. This is why farmland preservation is so important.

But I can tell you, that keeping this balance is not easy. And we owe the creation and adherence to these guiding principles to not only the men who sit before you today, but your township administration, countless volunteers, and past committee people and Mayors who have served this town to date. You see, as I mentioned earlier, I thought I knew this town before I took office. But I didn't know all this behind the scenes stuff. And you know what else I learned, that there a lot of folks in this town, volunteering on the nearly 15 committees, who not only know this, but fight for it. Spend time away from their families, to make sure that we can continue to preserve our quality of life for their

families and your families. And I am so humbled to have gotten to know them over the past three years. And I am so happy and proud for those of you I am about to swear in who are stepping up to continue this tradition through a new appointment or reappointment to a particular committee.

Because as many of you know and have heard me say before, a community is made up of more than its roads and buildings, it is made up of people. Like the people I stand before today. It's the person I learned about just a few weeks ago that has been making the hot chocolate for this town's holiday tree lighting for decades. It's the grandfather mowing the ball field at 6am so that his grandson gets a good bounce on game day. It's the parents working together with their children to make this year's fair the best this town has ever seen. It's the father that risks his life running into a burning house to make sure that no one is left inside. And it's the mother leaving her children at home for a few hours in the middle of the night to help take care of someone's spouse. And if these single heroic and selfless acts are not impressive enough, it's when they are done in synergy. Nothing is more impressive as seeing this town's citizens run this town's many organizations. From the meals prepared for weeks on end to families who have lost a loved one to the building of a library. That's right, you heard me correct, I said "run this town" followed by these examples. Because what has become most clear to me over these past 3 years in office is that running Colts Neck is not solely about government. It is about community.

What I have learned over the past three years is that what I have experienced in this town throughout my entire life was due in part, to what others have done to create and continue this experience. Those behind the scenes people who are the foundation of our community. What I grew to realize, is that what makes this town so special is the people. So with that, I say thank you. Thank you for continuing the quality of life that we know as Colts Neck. And thank you to your families who, many are here today, have supported you in your volunteer efforts; as I would like to close by thanking my mother, father and brothers who have supported and encouraged my volunteer efforts since my early teenage years on First Aid, my wife Jennifer, my love, my rock, and my world, and my children who have endured late evenings without Dad and my friends and supporters who without their advice and encouragement this day would not be possible for me. Friends, neighbors, family, colleagues and fellow volunteers, you can count on me to do my part as your Mayor to continue to protect and preserve our Colts Neck experience.