

**TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 29, 2015  
7:30 P.M. AT TOWN HALL**

The meeting of the Colts Neck Township Committee was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Schatzle followed by a salute to the flag. The following statement was read by Township Clerk, Mr. Bowden: "The notice requirements of the New Jersey Public Meetings Law have been satisfied by forwarding a News Release to the Asbury Park Press on December 20, 2014 stating that a regular meeting of the Colts Neck Township Committee would be held April 29, 2015 at 7:30 p.m., Colts Neck Town Hall, 124 Cedar Drive, Colts Neck, New Jersey. The notice requirements have been posted on the Township website 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 Thomas Orgo; Committeemen Jarrett Engel, Michael Fitzgerald and Russell Macnow

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

Absent: None

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Meeting of April 8, 2015. Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Macnow and carried by Messrs. Schatzle, Orgo, Fitzgerald and Macnow; Mr. Engel abstained.

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

2. **MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION: MENTAL HEALTH MONTH – MAY 2015.** Mayor Schatzle read the proclamation in full, which states the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs and the National Alliance on Mental Illness of New Jersey are working together to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and to advance treatment opportunities for individuals with mental illness. By this proclamation, May 2015 was proclaimed Mental Health Month within the Township. Ms. Joanna Vroman, President of the Colts Neck Woman's Club and fellow members accepted the Proclamation, received a round of applause, and photographs were taken.
  
3. **MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION: MUNICIPAL CLERK'S WEEK, MAY 3 THROUGH MAY 9, 2015.** Mayor Schatzle read the Proclamation in full, which recognizes the Office of the Municipal Clerk and its importance in municipal government. The Mayor and Township Committee recognized Municipal Clerk's Week, and extended appreciation to retiring Municipal Clerk, Mr. Robert Bowden, for his many years of service to the Township as Municipal Clerk, and to Deputy Municipal Clerk, Ms. Beth Kara, and to all Municipal Clerks and Deputy Clerks for the vital services they perform the their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent. Mayor Schatzle presented the Proclamation and Mr. Bowden and Ms. Kara received a round of applause; photographs were taken.

4. **MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION:** POLICE WEEK, MAY 10 THROUGH MAY 16, 2015. Mayor Schatzle read the Proclamation in full, which recognizes the essential role the members of the Colts Neck Police Department play in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of the Township of Colts Neck. The week of May 10 through 16, 2015 was designated as Police Week within the Township and all citizens and patriotic, civic and educational organizations were called upon to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and observances to commemorate law enforcement officers, past and present, who, by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities, have rendered a dedicated service to their communities and have established an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens. A round of applause followed the proclamation.

5. **MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION:** HONORING ROBERT BOWDEN. Mayor Schatzle stated it gives him great pleasure to read this proclamation in full, which summarized Mr. Bowden's 37 year career in municipal government, 25 of which were in the Township of Colts Neck as Administrator/Municipal Clerk, and noted Mr. Bowden served 17 Mayors, presided over 55 elections and attended 660 Township Committee meetings, never missing a single election or meeting. Mayor Schatzle, together with the Township Committee, proclaimed April 30, 2015 as "Robert Bowden Day" within the Township of Colts Neck honoring Mr. Bowden on his retirement and thanking him for his contributions to the Colts Neck community these past 25 years. Mayor Schatzle presented Mr. Bowden with the Proclamation, Mr. Bowden received a standing ovation and photographs were taken. Mr. Bowden stated he enjoyed a breakfast this morning with staff, the Township Committee, and long-time associates. Mr. Bowden thanked the taxpayers of this wonderful town and he thanked this Governing Body for working with him in planning his retirement and for supporting him in achieving perfect attendance these past 25 years.

6. **2015 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

- **COMMENTS OF MAYOR SCHATZLE:** Mayor Schatzle's comments are appended. Mayor Schatzle stated 2011 was a very difficult year and one in which the school tax deferral was utilized to meet the budget needs; however, this mechanism has not been utilized since then. Mr. Macnow urged residents to review the budget newsletter, which projects the municipal portion of the estimated 2015 property tax at 13.68 percent. Mr. Fitzgerald commented Mr. Bowden chose to retire this week to make sure the budget was finalized, and this year's budget process was completed on time because of him.
- **OPEN PUBLIC HEARING:** Hearing no further comments, Mayor Schatzle opened the public hearing.

Mr. Stuart Flamberg, a resident, commented on the deterioration of the Township's roads, stating the trash trucks are a big cause for the destruction of these roadways and suggested taxing the cartage companies operating within the Township. Mayor Schatzle stated government's two main responsibilities are safety and infrastructure. Paving one mile of roadway is very expensive, and the harsh winters damage the Township's aging roadways. Mayor Schatzle stated due to budget constraints, there were several years when no paving was done. Mayor Schatzle noted the next Township Committee meeting will include a presentation by the Township's Engineer and the Public Works Director with recommendations on which roads to pave. Mr. Flamberg

volunteered his services as an attorney and CPA to assess a fee to trash haulers operating within the Township.

Ms. Elaine Mann, a resident, questioned the preliminary review of roadways by the Township Engineer prior to paving determinations. She suggested developing standards for the roadways and having the vendor meet those standards. Mr. Orgo responded noting the Township Engineer's input is required when applying for grant funding.

Ms. Debbie Evankow, a resident and member of the Colts Neck First Aid Squad, spoke of the timing of the First Aid Squad's annual fund drive and requested the written budget materials include separate figures for the First Aid Squad and the Fire Department. The First Aid Squad relies 100% on donations from individuals and businesses, and the future written presentation will break out the figures for each in the narrative. Ms. Evankow suggested aggregating trash collection services for the Township. Mr. Macnow stated by aggregate bidding, residents could be faced with higher collection fees for the duration of the contract. Mr. Macnow stated the trash collection industry has gotten fuller and there are many companies on the same roadways. Mr. Fitzgerald reported Manalapan bid trash collection services and could not beat the prices quoted for individuals contracting services directly with vendors. Each household has different volumes of trash collected and numbers of weekly collections, and under aggregation, all would pay the same rate regardless of generated volume. Manalapan placed the cost of trash collection on the tax bills, which adversely impacts the 2% budget CAP.

Mr. Stuart Flamberg questioned why the school budgets are not being discussed, as they are a major component of the tax rate. Mr. Fitzgerald responded the schools are statutorily separate taxing entities (local and regional schools), as are the county and the municipality. Mayor Schatzle stated school budget information is available on the respective websites.

Mr. Jeffrey Sauter, a resident, stated road repaving is a major problem and requested a good capital project be developed.

Ms. Judy Laufer, a resident, stated if trash collection is bid, it would be included in the budget, added to the tax bill and would result in exceeding the 2% budget CAP.

Mr. Chuck Camarata, a resident, stated the local school board is having a public hearing on its budget May 6, as advertised in the Asbury Park Press. Mr. Camarata questioned the increase in debt. Mr. Camarata stated the chart provided by Mr. Hennessey at the budget workshop shows an excess in revenue but excluded staff costs. Mr. Macnow advised \$20,000 was redirected during the workshop meeting for a needed well. Mayor Schatzle stated needs are prioritized within the annual budget. Mayor Schatzle stated the chart was utilized to illustrate an increase in revenue for recreation programs. Mr. Fitzgerald clarified what he said during the recreation budget workshop presentation in questioning if it would be possible to divert \$20,000 for the well if there is a surplus from increased recreation program revenues. Mr. Fitzgerald noted recreation is one of the few areas that generate revenue, noting Pages 15a and 4 of the 2015 budget show the actual revenue figures. Mr. Antonides responded to the increase in debt noting at the end of 2013, Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs) were consolidated for roads. Mr. Camarata questioned how far out the bonds can go, to which Mr. Antonides responded it depends on useful life.

Ms. Elaine Mann questioned if Mr. Hennessey exceeded his budget last year, to which Mr. Bowden responded he was one of others that exceeded

their budgets. Ms. Mann spoke of the purchase of turf mix and the benefit of using of shared services to transport.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Schatzle closed the public hearing.

7. **RESOLUTION 2015-55:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF 2015 MUNICIPAL BUDGET was read by title by Mayor Schatzle. This resolution authorizes the following: General Appropriations: \$11,816,629.26; Dedicated Open Space, \$357,014.00, totaling \$12,173,643.26, of which \$6,784,534.00 will be raised by property taxes to support the 2015 budget. Mr. Engel made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald and unanimously carried. Mayor Schatzle commended Administrator, Robert Bowden, and Chief Financial Officer, John Antonides, for an excellent job.

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

8. **CAPITAL ORDINANCE 2015-7:** CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE PURCHASE OF VARIOUS CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, AND APPROPRIATING \$304,975.00 THEREFOR, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY was read by title at first reading by Mayor Schatzle. Mayor Schatzle noted this year's capital program was included in his previous remarks. Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Macnow and unanimously carried. Mayor Schatzle set the public hearing May 13, 2015.

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

9. **ORDINANCE 2015-8:** AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED THE 2015 SALARY ORDINANCE FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK was read by title at first reading by Mayor Schatzle. This ordinance includes Township positions not covered by collective bargaining agreements. Mr. Macnow made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald and unanimously carried. Mayor Schatzle set the public hearing May 13, 2015.

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

Mr. Antonides left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

10. **RESOLUTION 2015-56:** RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR, MR. THOMAS E. ANTUS, was read by title by Mayor Schatzle. Mayor Schatzle stated the interim appointment is being made to provide the Township Committee with the time needed to find a replacement for Mr. Bowden. Mayor Schatzle stated many resumes were reviewed and first round interviews were conducted by the sub-committee comprised of himself, Mr. Macnow and Mr. Bowden. Second round interviews were held with the full Township Committee and Mr. Bowden; however, additional time is needed before a selection can be made. Mr. Bowden recommended Mr. Antus as Interim Administrator, noting he has 20+ years of experience as the Administrator in Freehold Township and as an Interim Administrator in Millstone Township. Mr. Antus stated there are only a few communities he would consider coming out of retirement for and Colts Neck is one of them. Mr. Antus noted he has known Mr. Bowden for 25 years, and while he enjoys his retirement, he thanked the Township Committee for this opportunity. Mr. Fitzgerald requested the resolution be amended to include Mr. Antus will be working a four-day work week for which he will be paid \$2,000 per week, including Township Committee meetings, and shall be paid as a consultant by Form 1099, effective May 4, 2015. Mr. Engel made a motion to approve, as amended, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald and unanimously carried.

RECORD OF VOTE						
Committeeman	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Schatzle			X			
Deputy Mayor Orgo			X			
Engel	M		X			
Fitzgerald		S	X			
Macnow			X			

M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent

11. **RESOLUTION 2015-57:** RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT TO FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE, MR. MICHAEL STIVALA, was read by title by Mayor Schatzle. The term appointment of this position expires December 31, 2017. 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 Schatzle			X			
Deputy Mayor Orgo			X			
Engel			X			
Fitzgerald	M		X			
Macnow		S	X			

M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent

12. **RESOLUTION 2015-58:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE FEDERAL 1033 PROGRAM (SURPLUS FEDERAL PROPERTY) was read by title by Mayor Schatzle. Mayor Schatzle advised if the Township wants to continue participating in this program to obtain surplus Federal property, a resolution is required. 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 Schatzle			X			
Deputy Mayor Orgo			X			
Engel			X			
Fitzgerald	M		X			
Macnow		S	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent						

13. **RESOLUTION 2015-59:** RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT OF ERIC L. WAGNER, AIA, AND THE FIRM OF KELLENYI, JOHNSON AND WAGNER, ARCHITECTS (POLICE/COURT BUILDING FEASIBILITY STUDY) was read by title by Mayor Schatzle. Mayor Schatzle advised the original building was once the State Police barracks, and an addition was made in later years. Requests for Proposals were solicited to provide architectural services for the feasibility study to provide handicapped access and for the potential expansion and alterations to the building. Discussion ensued and at Mr. Fitzgerald's recommendation, the resolution was amended to include a not to exceed cap of \$8,000 inclusive of reimbursable expenses (\$7,500 plus a maximum of \$500 reimbursable expenses) without further authorization from the Township Committee. Funds for this purpose are included in the 2015 municipal budget, Account No. 5-01-001-298. Mr. Engel made a motion to approve, as amended, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald and unanimously carried.

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

14. **RESOLUTION 2015-60:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID, ROLL-OFF CONTAINERS FOR CLEAN UP DAY (MAZZA AND SONS, INC., \$9,500.00) was read by title by Mayor Schatzle. Mayor Schatzle advised three bids were received and this was the low bidder. Funds for this purpose were appropriated in the 2015 municipal budget and the clean communities and recycling grants. Clean up Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 30, from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Public Works yard. Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Engel and unanimously carried.

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

**15. MOTION TO ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA:**

**\*RESOLUTION 2015-61:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF TONNAGE GRANT APPLICATION

**\*RESOLUTION 2015-62:** RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE, THOMAS E. ANTUS

**\*RESOLUTION 2015-63:** RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC AGENCY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMPLIANCE OFFICER, THOMAS E. ANTUS

**\*RESOLUTION 2015-64:** RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF MID JERSEY JOINT INSURANCE FUND COMMISSIONER, THOMAS E. ANTUS

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 Schatzle			X			
Deputy Mayor Orgo			X			
Engel			X			
Fitzgerald	M		X			
Macnow		S	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent						

**16. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Mr. Bowden stated he had nothing to add to his Administrative Report.**

Mr. Bowden advised about six months ago, there was discussion during a Township Committee meeting regarding the disrepair of some of the Township's historic cemeteries. As a result, Mr. William Rott, President of the Society of Archaeological Research (SOAR), and members of this group visited with Mr. Bowden requesting they be granted the authority to clean up the Polhemus family cemetery, which would be done at no charge to the Township. Mr. Bowden stated SOAR is seeking a letter of authorization from the Township to proceed and would require minimal assistance from Public Works. Mr. Fitzgerald commented the Historic Preservation Committee should be made aware of SOAR's intentions in the event anything of value is discovered. Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Engel and unanimously carried by voice vote.

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

17. **MOTION TO APPROVE VOUCHERS:** Mr. Fitzgerald stated he has reviewed the vouchers and recommends approval as follows:

Animal Control	\$171.04
Capital Fund	\$34,070.15
COAH	\$3,520.00
Construction Trust	\$22,741.16
Current Fund	\$3,480,414.18
Escrow	\$15,624.99
Tax Collectors Trust	\$159,549.23
Trust Fund	<u>\$45,473.11</u>
TOTAL:	<u>\$3,761,563.86</u>

Mr. Fitzgerald stated most payments would be disbursed to other entities (Colts Neck Board of Education, Freehold Regional High School District, PERS and PFRS). Mr. Bowden noted there was one additional bill he is requesting be added to the approval of tonight's bills for Atlantic Printing and Graphics in the amount of \$624.95 for the printing, folding and sorting of the 2015 Clean up Day Newsletter, which was completed on an emergent basis to meet the distribution deadline to the Township's residents. Mr. Engel made a motion to approve, as amended, seconded by Mr. Macnow and unanimously carried. Mr. Macnow abstained from approving payment to Sakoutis Brothers Disposal Incorporated\*.

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

18. **TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Fitzgerald had no report this evening.

Mr. Macnow reported he and Mayor Schatzle are working with NJ DEP staff to ensure this year's Clean up Day continues. They have been in contact with NJ DEP representatives for the past several months to resolve the issues, and the Township is proceeding as planned for the one-day event scheduled May 30, 2015.

Mr. Engel spoke of the volumes of paper utilized in preparation for various committee meetings, and he noted the Architectural Review Committee is starting to utilize drop box, google docs, etc. and electronic devices to reduce the amount of paper generated for each meeting. Mr. Engel will advise on the progress and success of the paperless initiative.

Mr. Orgo reported there may be a new farmland preservation application forthcoming.

Mayor Schatzle reported National Emergency Services Week is being commemorated this year May 17 through 23, 2015.

**19. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Schatzle opened the meeting to public comment.

Mr. Michael Viola, a resident, reported there is a lot of sand on his street resulting from road treatments during winter snows, and requested the Public Works sweeper come to collect it. Mr. Viola stated the recycling truck is leaving a large quantity of recyclables in the streets on collection day, and he asked the vendor be made aware of this issue.

Mr. Stuart Flamborg, questioned the availability of curbside pickup of large items by a vendor rather than having residents bring their items to the DPW yard on Clean up Day. Discussion ensued, and Mr. Flamborg was asked to contact the Administrator to discuss his personal situation further. Mr. Antus discussed Freehold Township's experience with going out to bid this service and noted not everyone utilizes this service, yet all taxpayers would bear its cost. Mr. Engel noted two years ago canceling Clean up Day was discussed; however this one-day drop off service meets the needs of the Township's residents without traveling to the municipal dump or paying their trash haulers to dispose of unwanted items.

Mr. Jeffrey Sauter, congratulated Mr. Bowden on his retirement.

Mr. Vince Domidion, a resident and Chair of the Monmouth County Planning Board, stated Mr. Bowden was a gentleman with class that cares about this community. Mr. Domidion thanked Mr. Bowden.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Schatzle closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

- 20. RESOLUTION 2015-65: EXECUTIVE SESSION was read by title by Mayor Schatzle. Mr. Engel made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Macnow and unanimously carried by voice vote. Mr. Bowden stated it was not anticipated the Township Committee would return in Open Session this evening.**

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

Mayor Schatzle brought the gavel to Mr. Bowden and requested he gavel the meeting closed. Mr. Bowden closed the meeting, which was his 660<sup>th</sup> Township Committee Meeting. Mr. Bowden achieved a record of perfect attendance at Township Committee meetings during the past 25 years in Colts Neck.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

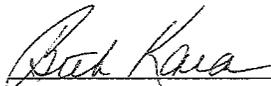
Motion by Mr. Engel, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald and unanimously carried to adjourn Closed Session.

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

Motion by Mr. Engel, seconded by Mr. Orgo and unanimously carried to reconvene in public session and adjourn meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.



Beth Kara, Registered Municipal Clerk

Attachment

2015 MUNICIPAL BUDGET  
APRIL 29, 2015

MAYOR JAMES C. SCHATZLE

I would just like to make a few comments prior to opening the public hearing for the 2015 budget:

- The total 2015 municipal budget is \$12,173,643.  
This amount is inclusive of the \$357,014 that will be raised by the dedicated open space tax of 1.2 cents.
- The budget is \$459,638 higher than the 2014 budget of \$11,714,005.
- The municipal purpose tax rate will increase by 1.4 cents this year from 21.4 cents to 22.8 cents.
- For a home assessed at \$800,000, this represents an increase of \$112 in property taxes for the year, or a total increase from \$1,712 to \$1,824.
- The budget is \$92,851 under the 2% tax levy CAP and \$104,002 under the appropriation CAP.
- \$1,126,226 of surplus funds have been utilized to offset the budget, leaving just over \$565,000 for next year or the future.
- No school tax deferral has been used to offset the tax rate.
- State Aid remains the same as last year and totals \$1,980,938.
- \$6,784,532 will be raised in property taxes to support the budget compared to \$6,447,804 last year.
- Most operating budgets remained roughly the same as last year.
- Major expenses within the budget include the following:
  - Snow removal costs remain at roughly the same high level as last year. Operational costs have been set at \$430,500, with an additional \$60,000 appropriated for snow control overtime.

- The Township borrowed \$2.2 million for clean-up costs associated with Superstorm Sandy and has thus far been reimbursed just under \$1.8 million from FEMA. The difference must now be paid back by the Township over the next three years. As such, the budget includes an appropriation fo \$139,000 for this purpose.
- Pension costs have increased by some \$81,000.
- The budget includes a very aggressive “pay as you go” capital program in the amount of \$304,975 that includes the following:
  - \$30,000 for recreational field improvements;
  - \$26,000 to replace the First Aid Squad heating system;
  - \$18,000 for Fire Department turn-out gear and a thermal imaging camera;
  - \$34,500 for a marked Police four wheel drive vehicle;
  - \$40,475 for Police vehicle computers, radar units and in-car cameras now required by law;
  - \$45,000 for a Public Works F-350 truck with plow;
  - \$57,000 for Town Hall and building improvements including the cupola and Court House/Police roof repairs;
  - \$20,000 for a new well for the Bucks Mill Park Community Center;
  - \$20,000 for computer upgrades for all departments;
  - \$8,000 for a Court recording system and portable sound system; and
  - \$6,000 for continued underground storage tank removal and monitoring.
- No new or additional employees are contained in the budget.
- It is important to note that of the total projected tax rate, the municipal portion is 13.68 percent, local schools 42.68 percent, regional schools 25.75 percent, with the County at 17.89 percent.
- The Township Committee thanks those residents that attended all or some of the budget review sessions. Your comments are always welcomed and appreciated.
- I would also like to introduce the Township’s Auditor, Mr. Robert Allison, and Chief Financial Officer, Mr. John Antonides, both of whom are here tonight to answer any questions, if needed.
- Unless there are additional comments from members of the Township Committee, I would now like to open the public hearing for the 2015 Municipal Budget.