

*The Township Committee of the Township of Raritan met on December 1, 2016 at the Municipal Building, One Municipal Drive, Flemington, New Jersey*

**MEETING  
CALLED**

Mayor Gilbert called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The following were present: Mayor Karen Gilbert, Deputy Mayor Michael Mangin Comm. Richard Chen, Comm. Craig O'Brien and Comm. Louis Reiner. Also present were Acting Township Administrator Don Hutchins, and Acting Township Clerk William Bray.

**MEETING  
ADVERTISED**

Mayor Gilbert advised that the meeting was noticed on Thursday, Nov. 22, 2016 by providing notice to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Star Ledger, Courier-News, Trenton Times and Express Times in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and posted on the office bulletin board and the Township Website.

Comm. O'Brien said as per Roberts Rules the Committee should vote on and approve the agenda. Comm. Reiner made a motion to approve the agenda, Seconded by Comm. O'Brien. Voice vote, 5-Yea, 0-No, Motion approved.

Mayor Gilbert told the Committee there was no need to enter into Executive Session.

2017 Board and Committee Appointments Mayor Gilbert told the Committee that Mr. Bray distributed a list of individuals who would require reappointment or replacement.

**Professional Appointments-**

Municipal Prosecutor – Robert Ballard – Mayor Gilbert told the Committee that Mr. Ballard has resigned and the Committee is expected to appoint Katie Wong-Taylor as temporary Prosecutor at its next meeting. Comm. O'Brien said he had reservations and wanted to share them with her. Mayor Gilbert asked that he share them in open session. Comm. O'Brien said he did not want to discuss it in Open Session and is not comfortable voting yes at this time. Mayor Gilbert said the interview process was also to select the 2017 Prosecutor appointment which will also be Ms. Wong-Taylor. Mayor Gilbert told the Committee there is also an Alternate Prosecutor to appoint. Mayor Gilbert told the Committee the existing Alternate had several conflicts and could not fill in when needed. Mayor Gilbert asked if the Committee would like to select a new alternate Prosecutor from among the individuals who applied for the Prosecutor position.

Mayor Gilbert asked if anyone had any issue with the existing professional appointments. Comm. Mangin said he supported everyone for reappointment. Mayor Gilbert asked Mr. Bray to see if Mr. Bowlby wants to stay on the Agriculture Advisory Board or step down due to a potential conflict of interest next year.

Municipal Attorney - Comm. Reiner said he would suggest the law firm of Eric Peterson for Township Attorney. Comm. Reiner said Mr. Peterson expressed an interest in the position. Mayor Gilbert polled the Committee to determine if there is an interested in exploring a change. Comm. Chen said either way is ok. Comm. Mangin said he had no need to replace Att. Lehrer. Comm. O'Brien said interviews would be a good idea. Mayor Gilbert directed Mr. Bray to post to Township Attorney position and distribute resumes to the Committee for consideration.

Board of Adjustment Comm. Reiner told the Committee he was not familiar with the members. Comm. Reiner said he wanted to be sure any member appoint to the board were respectful of property rights. Mayor Gilbert said she spoke with the board chairperson and he recommended everyone for reappointment. Mayor Gilbert told the Committee Arthur Teatzner does not want to be reappointed. Mayor Gilbert said Randy Block would be elevated from alternate to regular member. Comm. O'Brien suggested Maryann Schlagle as a replacement for the alternate position.

Board of Health Comm. Mangin told the Committee that he spoke with Mark Petters and Carolee Zak and they both would like to be reappointed. Mr. Bray told the Committee that all of the members are involved and dedicated to the Committee. Mayor Gilbert asked Mr. Bray to ask Rose Sollena if she'd serve as an alternate to the board.

Environmental Commission Mayor Gilbert told the Committee these were mayoral appointment without the need for advice and consent of the governing body. Mayor Gilbert told the Committee that Kathleen Hale would like to become alternate member. Mayor Gilbert said Harold Quinn would become alternate #1 and Robert Ivanoff would be appointed to Ms. Hale's seat. Comm. Chen suggested Steve Della Vella for Alternate #2.

Local Historians Committee Mayor Gilbert said Susan Miller would like to be reappointed and Board Chairman Pete Kinsella is in support of her reappointment.

Open Space Trust Advisory Committee Mayor Gilbert told the Committee that Gary Hazard is stepping down. Comm. O'Brien suggested Ryan Edge for the position. Comm. Chen suggested Virginia Johns. Mayor Gilbert ask Comm. O'Brien and Chen to submit resumes for both nominees.

Planning Board Mayor Gilbert said Jeff Kuhl would accept reappointment but is looking to step down in the future.

RTMUA Mayor Gilbert told the Committee that Dr. Edward Dougherty is stepping down. Mayor Gilbert said Ryan Lettieri has expressed an interested in the RTMUA. Comm. Reiner said Tom Smith is also interested in a seat on the RTMUA.

Flemington-Raritan Parks & Recreation Mayor Gilbert said the Committee need to

fill three openings, Andrew Fitzsimmonds, Brian Macedon and James Casey who is stepping down. Mayor Gilbert told the Committee that Joseph McNulty the citizen representative can become a trustee. Mayor Gilbert said she asked Tim McCarthy about serving and he is willing to join. Mayor Gilbert said he is an active member of the Open Space Committee. Comm. Mangin said Megan Hunter is also interested in joining.

Hunterdon County Senior Services Mayor Gilbert said Jayne Gilbert has been a long time coordinator. Mayor Gilbert asked Mr. Bray to reach out to see if she wants to serve.

Solid Waste Advisory Council Mayor Gilbert said Ray Simmonds is still interested in serving on the Council.

Senior Protected Tenancy Mayor Gilbert asked Mr. Bray to look into this appointment and report back to the Committee.

Somerset County Joint Insurance Fund Mayor Gilbert said Carol Barbati is serving and there is a vacancy. Comm. Reiner asked if Mr. Hutchins should be appointed. Mr. Hutchins told the Committee it should wait and appoint the permanent administrator when selected. Mayor Gilbert asked if anyone objected to Ms. Barbati's reappointment. There were no objections.

Public Agency Compliance Officer Mr. Bray told the Committee that Ms. Barbati was appointed to the position earlier this year but has been fulfilling its obligations for many years. Mayor Gilbert asked if there any objections to her reappointment. There were no objections.

Green Team Mayor Gilbert told the Committee she did not know if anyone is interested in reappointment. Comm. Reiner asked what was the purpose of the Green Team. Mr. Hutchins said the Team has not met in at least 8 months and it is not an active Committee. Comm. Chen said the Team has tried a few things but nothing panned out. M. Hutchins said a lot of things require money and funding and grants ran out. Comm. Reiner said he was not in favor of Sustainable New Jersey initiative because they often encroach upon local control and autonomy.

Mayor Gilbert asked the Committee to go back to the beginning of the list to review.

Labor Attorney Comm. Reiner said he is concerned with the fees Richard Flaum charges for labor issues. Comm. Mangin said the attorney was asked to review several union contracts. Mayor Gilbert polled the Committee to see if there was any interest in replacing Richard Flaum. Comm. Chen said he had no interest. Comm. Mangin said he had no interest. Comm. O'Brien said interviews are fine the Township should get the best deal it can. Comm. Mayor Gilbert said she was fine with Richard Flaum.

**Summary**

Mayor Gilbert summed up the meeting:

Township Attorney – solicit resumes and form sub-committee to review and interview. Comm. O’Brien said he would like to participate and the entire Committee should participate. Mr. Hutchins told the Committee that they don’t need to advertise. Mr. Hutchins said Committee members could solicit resumes individually. Comm. Chen said he’d like to advertise. Mr. Hutchins said the easiest process would be to post on the NJLoM website.

Alternate Prosecutor – Review resumes from prosecutor search

Board of Adjustment – Comm. O’Brien is going to solicit a resume from Maryann Schlagle.

Board of Health – Mr. Bray is going to ask Rose Sollena.

Environmental Commission – Comm. Chen is going to get Mr. Della Vella’s resume

Open Space – Solicit resumes for Ryan Edge (Comm. O’Brien) and Virginia Johns (Comm. Chen)

RTMUA – Mayor Gilbert is going to solicit and resume from Ryan Lettieri and Tom Smith.

Parks and Rec – Tim McCarthy, Megan Hunter

Senior Protected Tenancy – Mr. Bray will see if we still need it.1

Green Team – Mr. Hutchins will see if we still need it.

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adjourn. The Motion was made by Comm. Reiner, Seconded by Comm. O’Brien. Voice vote 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

William Bray  
Acting Township Clerk