

*The Township Committee of the Township of Raritan met on January 19, 2016 at the Municipal Building, One Municipal Drive, Flemington, New Jersey*

**MEETING  
CALLED**

Mayor Gilbert called the regular meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The following were present: Mayor Craig O'Brien, Deputy Mayor Karen Gilbert, Comm. Michael Mangin, Comm. Richard Chen and Comm. Louis Reiner (Arrived at 6:11 p.m. Also present was Adm. Jerry Giaimis and Township Jeffrey Lehrer.

**MEETING  
ADVERTISED**

**Mayor Gilbert announced that the meeting was noticed on January 15, 2016 in 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.**

*Attorney Lehrer read Resolution #16-29 in full.*

**Resolution #16-29 – CLOSED SESSION:**

**Personnel – Appointments: Zoning Inspector;  
Tax Clerk; Assessor's Assistant; Police Desk  
Operator; Assistant Township Engineer;  
Environmental Commission Alt. 2; Board of  
Health Alt. 1; Board of Adjustment Member;  
Deputy Court Administrator; Violations Clerk**  
**Contractual – Contract Negotiations – Link High  
Technologies**

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #16-29.

Motion was made by Comm. Mangin and seconded by Comm. Chen.

Roll Call Vote:      Chen – yes  
                              Mangin – yes  
                              O'Brien – yes  
                              Gilbert – yes

Motion carried.

**CLOSED SESSION**

*Closed Session Minutes are on a separate document.*

**OPEN SESSION:**

*Mayor Gilbert called the public portion meeting at 7:08 p.m.*

**ROLL CALL:**

Present were: Mayor Karen Gilbert, Deputy Mayor Michael Mangin, Comm. Richard Chen, Comm. Craig O'Brien and Comm. Louis Reiner. Also present was Adm. Jerry Giaimis and Township Jeffrey Lehrer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**Mayor Gilbert asked all to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag and to remain standing for a Moment of Silence to remember our Men and Women serving in the Armed Forces and in Particular Those Serving In Troubled Areas Around the World.**

**PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

It is the policy of the Township Committee that all public comments on an issue shall be limited to three minutes per person. Public comment shall be permitted on items of concern regarding the agenda only. In addition, time will be allotted at the end of the meeting for public comment on any issue.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT PERMANENT APPOINTMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

*Scott Phibbs  
Michael Podlaski  
Anthony Moreno*

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to approve the permanent appointment of Scott Phibbs, Michael Podleski and Anthony Moreno.

Motion was made by Comm. Reiner and seconded by Comm. Chen.

Roll Call Vote:      Chen – yes  
                             Mangin – yes  
                             O'Brien – yes  
                             Reiner – yes  
                             Gilbert – yes

Motion carried.

*Township Clerk, Rose Sollena, administered the Oaths of Office to Patrolmen Scott Phibbs, Michael Podleski and Anthony Moreno.*

**POLICE DEPARTMENT PROMOTION FROM PATROLMAN TO  
SERGEANT FOR SCOTT NELSON**

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to approve the promotion for Scott Nelson from Patrolman to Sergeant.

Motion was made by Comm. Chen and seconded by Comm. Mangin.

Roll Call Vote:           Chen – yes  
                                  Mangin – yes  
                                  O’Brien – yes  
                                  Reiner – yes  
                                  Gilbert – yes

Motion carried.

*Township Clerk, Rose Sollena, administered the Oath of Office to Sergeant Scott Nelson.*

**Resolution #16-34 – Appointment of Probationary Patrolman William F. McEnroe, Effective January 20, 2016**

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #16-34.

Motion was made by Comm. Chen and seconded by Comm. Mangin.

Roll Call Vote:           Chen – yes  
                                  Mangin – yes  
                                  O’Brien – yes  
                                  Reiner – yes  
                                  Gilbert – yes

Motion carried.

*Township Clerk, Rose Sollena, administered the Oath of Office to Patrolman William F. McEnroe.*

## **ENERGY AGGREGATION**

\*\*\* Bob Chilton, Executive Vice President of Gabel Associates, said that this energy aggregation is a joint effort between the Township of Raritan and the Borough of Flemington. An ordinance was adopted by both municipalities and approved by the Department of Community Affairs in accordance with the Local Contract Laws. Gabel Associates conducted the bidding process in accordance with the rules promulgated by the Board of Public Utilities. Five bids were received in October, 2015 and TriEagle Energy was the lowest bid for a twenty-one (21) month period. The program will be launched in March, 2016 through December, 2017. A letter was sent out to the residents with a postage paid post card to opt out of the program if they wished to do so. If they did not do that initially, the residents could opt out after a thirty (30) day period. He said that the savings will be approximately 15% over the JCP&L bill. Customers will save an average of \$13 per month, about \$270 over the twenty-one (21) month period. People with a third party billing and people with solar systems were pulled from the initial mailing list. However, these residents can opt in if they so desired.

Mayor Gilbert said that the letter indicated that the opt out process was due within (30) days from the post mark. Neither the letter nor the post card was post marked. She also wanted to know why it was opt out verses opt in.

\*\*\* Mr. Chilton said that because it was a bulk mail rate, the envelope or the postcard was not postmarked. The date to opt out is February 5, 2016. The reason for one to opt out instead of to opt in is because that is the process under which the State rules apply. This is the only way it can be done.

Comm. Reiner said that he did not agree that energy aggregation is the appropriate role of government. He felt that this was another example of government assuming the role in a nanny state, embracing the notion that the folks know what is good for them but government knows what's better. He believed in the inherent good sense of the people to make their own decisions. It's time to get government out of the lives of people. Mayor Gilbert said that Comm. Reiner was not on the Committee when the Township adopted the resolution to move forward with the program. Comm. O'Brien wanted to know who sets the electric rates for the State of New Jersey.

**ENERGY AGGREGATION: (Con't)**

\*\*\* Mr. Chilton said that the Board of Public Utilities regulates the delivery rates and the power supply component, JCP&L is the supplier. JCP&L purchases their power in the market place under an auction process that is mandated by the Board of Public Utilities. The State mandates how JCP&L and the other utilities buy their power which is through an annual auction process.

Comm. Mangin said that JCP&L will still be responsible for the power lines, poles and meters. Comm. Chen wanted to know about peak and off peak meters and also what happens if a customer is on a budget plan.

\*\*\* Mr. Chilton said that the customer would pay even less than the typical 15%. If an individual customer is on that tariff and uses most of their power during off peak hours, then their price would be a little less than 10.1 cents. It would be beneficial to opt in the program. For the people who are on an equal payment plan, those customers are automatically enrolled in a budget plan with TriEagle.

*Mayor Gilbert opened up the meeting for public comments:*

\*\*\* Ann Marie Silvia, 5 Young's Drive, Flemington, NJ, wanted to know what will happen after the twenty-one (21) months when the contract is terminated.

\*\*\* Mr. Chilton said that the contract is a firm twenty-one months. There is no automatic roll over period. If a contract is secured privately and it expires, the contract continues at the market rate indefinitely until the customer terminates the contract. With this program at the end of the twenty-one (21) month period, the contract ends and the people will be returned to JCP&L. If the Township decides it wants to continue the energy aggregation program, it would have to go through another bid process.

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to remove resolution #16-27 from the Consent Agenda and listed separately.

Motion was made by Comm. O'Brien and seconded by Comm. Mangin.

Vote: 5 – 0 motion carried.

*Mayor Gilbert read Resolution #16-27 in full.*

**Resolution #16-27 – Authorizing the Renewal of Junk Yard License to  
Lentini Auto Salvage**

Comm. Reiner said that this is the cleanest business in Raritan Township.  
Mayor Gilbert said she visited the yard and agreed.

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #16-27.

Motion was made by Comm. Reiner and seconded by Comm. O'Brien.

Roll Call Vote:       Chen – yes  
                          Mangin – yes  
                          O'Brien – yes  
                          Reiner – yes  
                          Gilbert – yes

Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL  
ISSUES**

Payment of Bills as Listed for Raritan Township:    **\$ 216,104.49**

Mayor Gilbert asked about Check # 4328 payable to DLT Solutions in the amount of \$1,950.66. Adm. Giaimis was not sure. It may have been a duplicate and was not supposed to be mailed out.

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to approve the Bill List.

Motion was made by Comm. Mangin and seconded by Comm. Reiner.

Roll Call Vote:       Chen – yes  
                          Mangin - yes  
                          O'Brien - yes  
                          Reiner – yes  
                          Gilbert – yes

Motion carried.

Payment of Bills as Listed for the Fire Company:    **\$ 10,966.87**

Comm. O'Brien asked what kind of equipment was purchased. Adm. Giaimis said he was not sure. Comm. Reiner asked for a detailed list. Comm. Mangin explained what the equipment was for that was purchased.

**FINANCIAL  
ISSUES  
(Con't)**

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to approve the Bill List for the Fire Company.

Motion was made by Comm. Reiner and seconded by Comm. O'Brien.

Roll Call Vote:       Chen – yes  
                          Mangin – recuse  
                          O'Brien – yes  
                          Reiner – yes  
                          Gilbert – yes.

Motion carried.

**REPORTS**

**LIAISON REPORTS**

*Mayor Gilbert said that the liaisons to the various Board and Committees have been recently assigned. She suggested that the reports be tabled.*

Karen Gilbert – Administration, Personnel, Planning Board (Class I – Mayor)

Michael Mangin – Planning Board (Class II – Governing Body), Police,  
Finance & Business

Louis Reiner – Public Works, Fire/Rescue/OEM, Local Historians

Richard Chen – Open Space, Parks & Recreation, RTMUA

Craig O'Brien – Board of Health, Green Team, Environmental Commission

**UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS**

**OPERATION BLUE ANGEL** – Comm. Chen said that Operation Blue Angel is open to Senior Citizens who live alone and are age 55 and older. The person needs to register with the police and the police must be able to have access to the home. The family can call the police if they feel that there is a problem. The police will go to the home and report back to the family. The information is on the Raritan Township Web Site and in the newspapers and NJ.com as well. Comm. Reiner mentioned that the Fire Company bills previously discussed were all in the budget.

**NEW  
BUSINESS**

**PERSON-TO-PERSON, PLACE-TO-PLACE LIQUOR LICENSE  
TRANSFER FROM DALLAS ACQUISITION, LLC TO C.R.I.**

**FLEMINGTON, INC. (CHIMNEY ROCK INN)** – Adm. Giaimis said that this is a transfer and all paperwork has been completed, a background check has been conducted by the police and the clerk has received no objections. A resolution was adopted later in the meeting.

**NEW  
BUSINESS  
(Con't)**

**AWARD OF COMPETITIVE CONTRACT TO LINK HIGH**

**TECHNOLOGIES** – Adm. Giaimis said that this is consistent with the Local Public Contracts Law. Bids went out to solicit 5-6 companies. There were three responses and Adm. Giaimis recommended that the contract be awarded to Link High Technologies. After a discussion by the Township Committee in Executive Session, it was the consensus of the Committee to insert a 30-day termination clause in the resolution. The resolution was modified and adopted later in the meeting.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE**

E-Waste Update

Superintendent of Public Works, Don Hutchins, said that the Township now has to pay a fee to dispose of E-Waste. The current cost is 28 cents per ton at an approximate annual cost of \$14,400. To date, approximately 30,000 lbs. of E-Waste has been collected. Several options were mentioned. If the Township discontinues E-Waste, the residents will be forced to go to the County twice a year. Mr. Hutchins was not sure if the County will continue this because it has to pay to dispose of the E-Waste as well. He said that the 2015 Tonnage Grant was \$54,000. Based on the increased figures for recycling, Mr. Hutchins said that the Township should be receiving about \$70,000 for Tonnage Grant in 2017. The E-Waste recycling gives one of the lowest reimbursement rates. Comm. Mangin said that he is not in favor of raising the rates for recycling. He suggested that perhaps a special permit could be issued just for E-Waste. Mr. Hutchins will figure out the cost. There was no decision from the Committee.

Wood Mulch for Sale & Delivery

Sup't Hutchins said that beginning on April 15, 2016, the Public Works Department can accept orders for wood mulch, leaves and tree debris. Up until this past year, the Public Works Department has brought all brush and debris to Raritan Valley Disposal of which RVD charged a fee. The cost to the Township for this was over \$20,000. Mr. Hutchins did not have enough room in the facility to handle the amount of leaves that are collected. Also, this year, the Public Works Department began grinding its own mulch on site. This past year, the Township this year spent only \$8,000 to grind them on site. The price that would be charged is as follows:

Wood Mulch - \$150 full truckload, \$75 for ½ truckload  
Leaf Compost - \$50 full truckload, \$25 for 1/2/truckload

**NEW  
BUSINESS  
(Con't)**

Mr. Hutchins felt that this would be accepted by the residents. He felt that this would be a win-win situation for the Township. He hoped to at least break even. He informed the Committee that there is enough manpower to make the deliveries on Friday of each week. Comm. O'Brien wanted to know how the sale of these items would affect the businesses in town that sell these items as well. Sup't Hutchins said that there would not be an exorbitant amount of mulch. It is a very small amount of mulch and would not affect the business owners.

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to authorize the sale of wood mulch and leaf compost.

Comm. Mangin commented that if this does not work out, can the program be rescinded. Sup't Hutchins said yes.

Motion was made by Comm. Mangin and seconded by Comm. Chen.

Vote: 4 – 1, Comm. O'Brien abstained from voting.

Motion carried.

Citizen Account – Mobile 311

Sup't Hutchins said that Mobile 311 is up and running. This will track everything that is done at Public Works. It tracks fleet maintenance, facility maintenance, leaf cleanup and snow removal. At this time, the employees have tablets which can keep track of work that has been completed such as snow removal and leaf collections. The employees don't have to communicate via radio. They can look at the map on their tablets and see which roads have been cleaned. He mentioned that Adm. Giaimis was the one that helped implement this program. Residents can access the link through Mobile 311 and create an account. This will enable citizens to report non-emergency issues, with a disclaimer attached, for pothole repair, inlet repair, street light outage, problems with signs, tree trimming, mowing and deer carcass removal. Citizens can then log into their account and check on any past requests for an update. This information will be placed on the Township's Web Site.

Recycling Hours

Sup't Hutchins said that, previously, the Recycling Facility was closed on a Saturday preceding a holiday and the Saturday after the holiday. He proposed that the facility be opened on those days instead of closing. There are seven (7) Saturdays in question. There will be a cost of approximately \$1,500 per year to stay open on those Saturdays or lower if compensatory time is taken.

**NEW  
BUSINESS  
(Con't)**

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to approve the opening of Saturdays following and preceding a holiday.

Motion was made by Comm. Mangin and seconded by Comm. Reiner.

Roll Call Vote:      Chen – yes  
                            Mangin – yes  
                            O'Brien – yes  
                            Reiner – yes  
                            Gilbert – yes

Motion carried.

**JP CASE MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO RE: 5K RUN ON APRIL 10, 2016**

Adm. Giaimis said that all the paperwork in in order and insurance certificate was received. The Township will be assisting in the 5K Run, including the Police Department and Department of Public Works.

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to approve the 5K Run on April 10, 2016

Comm. Reiner asked about this 5K Run and if it is going to cost the Township any money. Adm. Giaimis said that the Police that are already on duty will be assisting. They provide cones and the Fire Department provides the fire truck.

Motion was made by Comm. Mangin and seconded by Comm. Reiner.

Roll Call Vote:      Chen – yes  
                            Mangin – yes  
                            O'Brien – yes  
                            Reiner – yes  
                            Gilbert – yes

Motion carried.

**ORDINANCES:** *There were no ordinances.*

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. League of Municipalities: (All Information is on File in the Clerk's Office):  
Governor Taxes Action on Numerous Bills; Bills Awaiting Governor's Action; Governor Delivers 2016 State of the State;
- b. Board of Chosen Freeholders Ordinance re: Land Development Standards `Eliminating Fees for Subdivision and Site Plan Review
- c. JCP&L 1) 230kv Aerial Patrols in January, 2016  
2) Tour of the JCP&L Northern NJ Distribution Control Center
- d. NJ DEP re: Christie Administration Recognizes New Jersey Environmental Leaders at Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards
- e. Delaware Township Resolution re: Requesting the Delaware River Basin Commission to Hold Independent Hearings Related to the Proposed Penneast Pipeline
- f. Thank you letter to Sam Lavoie of the Public Works Department – *Adm. Giaimis said that this is a complementary to Sam Lavoie from a resident who lost papers along the road. Mr. Lavoie found them and brought them to his place of residence. Mayor Gilbert thanked Mr. Lavoie for going above and beyond.*

**NON CONSENT AGENDA:**

*Adm. Giaimis said that these are replacements with a net decrease in salary.*

**Resolution #16-14 – Appointment of Zoning Inspector – Michael Pessolano**

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #16-14.

Comm. Reiner understood that Township employees need to receive a Rice Notice before the person can be discussed. He had an issue with one individual in the Zoning Office and until it is remediated, he could not support any additional staff in the office.

Motion was made by Comm. Mangin and seconded by Comm. O'Brien.

**NON-CONSENT AGENDA: (Con't)**

Roll Call Vote:           Chen – abstain  
                                  Mangin – yes  
                                  O'Brien – yes – His concern was from a budget  
  perspective. At this time, the initial  
  budget numbers show an increase of  
  \$480,000 or a 3% spending increase.  
  He wanted to know how the Township  
  will be able to pay for these new hires.  
  
                                  Reiner – no  
                                  Gilbert – yes

Motion carried.

**Resolution #16-15 – Appointment of Tax Clerk – Ann Marie Silvia**

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #16-15.

Motion was made by Comm. Reiner and seconded by Comm. Mangin.

Roll Call Vote:           Chen – yes  
                                  Mangin – yes  
                                  O'Brien – no – For the reasons stated previously.  
                                  Reiner – yes  
                                  Gilbert – yes

Motion carried.

*Mayor Gilbert reminded the Committee that these are all replacements for people who have left the employ. They are not new positions. Most of them are coming in at a lower salary because they are new to the Township's employ.*

**Resolution #16-17 – Appointment of Assistant Assessor – Amy Fleming**

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #16-17.

Motion was made by Comm. Reiner and seconded by Comm. Mangin.

**NON-CONSENT AGENDA: (Con't)**

Roll Call Vote:       Chen – yes  
                          Mangin – yes  
                          O'Brien – no  
                          Reiner – yes  
                          Gilbert – yes

Motion carried.

**Resolution #16-18 – Appointment of Police Desk Operator – Daniel Campbell**

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #16-18.

Motion was made by Comm. Mangin and seconded by Comm. Chen.

Roll Call Vote:       Chen – yes  
                          Mangin – yes  
                          O'Brien – yes  
                          Reiner – yes  
                          Gilbert – yes

Motion carried.

**Resolution #16-28 – Appointment of Assistant Township Engineer – Laura Tessieri**

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #16-28.

Motion was made by Comm. Reiner and seconded by Comm. Mangin.

Roll Call Vote:       Chen – abstain  
                          Mangin – yes  
                          O'Brien – no  
                          Reiner – yes  
                          Gilbert – yes

Motion carried.

**Resolution #16-31 – Appointment of Arleen Kazimir – Deputy Court Administrator**

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #16-31.



CONSENT  
AGENDA  
(Con't)

**Resolution #16-22 – Person-to-Person, Place-to-Place Transfer of a Plenary Retail Consumption License from Dallas Acquisitions, LLC to C.R.I. Flemington, Inc. (Chimney Rock Inn)**

**Resolution #16-23 – Tax Refunds**

**Resolution #16-24 – Chapter 159 – 2013 Recycling Tonnage Grant in the Amount of \$53,071.65**

**Resolution #16-25 – Authorizing the Release of a Driveway Bond to George Virtue - \$450.00**

**Resolution #16-26 – Authorizing the Release of a Performance Guarantee to Penns Raritan, Inc. - \$722.88**

**Resolution #16-27 – Authorizing the Renewal of Junk Yard License to Lentini Auto Salvage**

**Resolution #16-35 - Awarding a Contract for the Operation, Management or Administration of Data Processing Services to Link High Technologies**

**Resolution #16-36 - Resolution Ratifying and Confirming Energy Aggregation Award to TriEagle Energy**

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda with the removal of Resolution #16-27 and #16-36.

Motion was made by Comm. Mangin and seconded by Comm. Reiner.

Roll Call Vote:       Chen – yes  
                              Mangin – yes  
                              O'Brien – yes  
                              Reiner – yes  
                              Gilbert – yes

Motion carried.

**Resolution #16-27 – Authorizing the Renewal of Junk Yard License to Lentini Auto Salvage**

This resolution was adopted earlier in the meeting.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA  
(Con't)**

Resolution #16-36 - Ratifying and Confirming Energy Aggregation Award  
to TriEagle Energy

*Mayor Gilbert said that this was placed on the Agenda due to an error in the number of months for the term of the contract. Attorney Lehrer said that in one place the number was for nine months and in another place, the number was twenty-one months. Attorney Lehrer said that twenty-one months is the correct number for the term of the contract. The resolution was previously approved by the Township Committee. Resolution #16-36 is just to correct the number of months for the term of the contract from nine to twenty-one months. .*

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #16-36.

Motion was made by Comm. Reiner and seconded by Comm. Mangin.

Roll Call Vote:           Chen – yes  
                                  Mangin – yes  
                                  O'Brien – yes  
                                  Reiner – abstain  
                                  Gilbert – yes

Motion carried.

**PRIVILEGE  
OF THE  
FLOOR**

Anyone may address the Committee on any issue for three (3) minutes

\*\*\* Michael Varis, 7 Decatur Court, Ringoes, NJ, a 16-year volunteer at the Hunterdon County 9-1-1 Center, was concerned how the public would receive notification when certain issues are being considered.

Mayor Gilbert said that items are placed on the Agenda and the public can attend the meeting. Comm. Chen said that the Rescue Squad will send out notices if any changes are approved by the Committee.

\*\*\* Mr. Varas said that about one month ago, he called the Amwell Valley Rescue Squad who picked up his mother in law and brought her to the hospital. The doctor at the hospital did not catch the problem she was having. She was discharged and sent home. About two hours later, she was screaming in pain. He called 9-1-1 and requested the 49 Squad, Flemington-Raritan Squad, and asked for the MICU so they could provide her with some pain medication to help with the transport. He said that the 49 Squad may have taken a little longer. The squad came along with the MICU to his home. No sooner after they touched his mother in law, she passed out. His mother in law died one week later. Both squads were identically equipped. He mentioned that when

**PRIVILEGE  
OF THE  
FLOOR  
(Con't)**

Flemington-Raritan receives a night call they are backed up by several other communities because their paid squad is already occupied and their volunteer squad may not get to the house on time. It is very hard for the volunteer to show up, especially at night. He would be reluctant to extend Flemington-Raritan Rescue Squad's reach without knowing if this is going to help the public. He is not complaining, he is only asking that in the decision process to use tangible evidence and find out how many times either squad was backed up by a second squad because their response time was going to be delayed. He realized that the majority of the calls are not life threatening, however, for the few that are, the rescue squad needs to be there quickly and responsibly.

\*\*\* Thomas Hart, 13 Bluebird Court, 25 year resident of Raritan Township, said that he wanted to resolve an issue and has been unresolved for the last six months. He and his wife have spent many hours in the Municipal Offices. He has also spent numerous hours writing emails and making phone calls to Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Reiner, the Mayor and the Township Zoning Officer. A resident who resides at 9 Bluebird Court for the past five years has kept an inoperable automobile on his front lawn covered with a blue tarp. Has also housed a 20-foot metal shipping container and a 30 cubic yard dumpster in his driveway. Not only is this an eyesore, but he is unable to park his cars in the garage, so they are kept on the street. The only answer Mr. Hart received from the officials is that they will look into the matter. The Township's Zoning Officer was able to find an ordinance about abandoned automobiles but nothing was done. He wanted to know if there were any ordinances regarding shipping containers and dumpsters. If there are, why are the laws not being enforced. He wanted to know why the Township is not doing anything about this situation. He wanted an apology for all the time he wasted and an answer about what is going to be done.

Comm. Reiner said that the Township has a dumpster cover ordinance and there is an ordinance that regulates dumpsters for commercial entities, but not sure about residential. Comm. Reiner said that this is why he is not supporting any additional staff in the Zoning Office. Mayor Gilbert said that the Zoning Officer or the Zoning Inspector were not present at this meeting. The Township just recently adopted an ordinance regarding abandoned and foreclosed properties. There is no ordinance specific to properties that people are living in. Adm. Giannis said that the last update from the Zoning Officer was that there are no permits for temporary type structures. Attorney Lehrer said he did not have an answer for him at that time.

**PRIVILEGE  
OF THE  
FLOOR**

- \*\*\* Mr. Hart said that Bridgewater and Readington Townships have ordinances regarding abandoned vehicles, dumpsters and shipping containers. It's an eyesore and property values are diminishing.
- \*\*\* Sue Lewis, 7 Bluebird Court, said she was appalled about the issue of two dumpsters, a pod and a car that have been sitting on the property for five years. Fortunately she planted eight pine trees that are now thirty feet high. Her living room, dining room and family room face 9 Bluebird Court. She presented pictures to the Committee. She spoke with Zoning Officer, Jamie Sunyak, and she received no help. She felt that the Township needs ordinances for this matter. There are rodent and insect issues. There is also a safety concern for children that may climb into the dumpster.

Attorney Lehrer and Adm. Giaimis will look into this matter.

- \*\*\* Tracey Coulson, 5 Alles Court, said that she also had an issue with the Zoning Office. The property at 326 Old York Road is zoned residential and sits on 1.2 acres with a six-foot stockade fence surrounding the property. He has a wide array of commercial construction vehicles on the property. He is operating a large construction business out of his residential property. Dump trucks, backhoes and bucket loaders. These trucks operate six days a week, sometimes seven days a week. On New Year's Day, he was operating until 6:00 p.m. at night. She sees this operation from her living room window. He has not applied for a variance to date. She did not know if he was fined. Ms. Coulson said she has lived there for eighteen years. Her property is losing value because of this commercial business operating across from her property. These are large construction vehicles. He is also storing salt for snow removal. She felt that someone from the NJ DEP needs to look into this. Trucks are firing up at 6:00 a.m. on a Saturday morning.

Attorney Lehrer said you cannot conduct commercial business on residential property. He will discuss this with Adm. Giaimis and look into it

- \*\*\* Frances Gavigan, East Amwell Township, said that she was present in December, 2015 when the Township began speaking about the request to change the designations for the Amwell Valley Rescue Squad from primary to secondary. She asked that there be an opportunity given to the Amwell Valley Rescue Squad to present some information and evidence because, not only on the calls on what the relationship with the community is, but also about the financial consequences when it goes from a volunteer squad to a paid squad. The gentleman who spoke earlier said that with a paid squad situation, especially with advanced life support, insurance companies would receive a very high bill. There is also a statement by Freeholder Walton wanting to eliminate the volunteers and go to an all paid squad. That has significant

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FLOOR**

consequences for everyone. She was recently on a site when a severe event occurred not far from Raritan Township. The Amwell Valley Rescue Squad followed by the ambulances. CPR was administered to the woman who was in cardiac arrest. It was quite some time when the life support people arrived. The woman is alive and recovering because there were volunteers who came out of the woodwork on a Sunday afternoon.

\*\*\* Jose Sanchez, Latino Taxi, 2 Junction Road, asked the Township for help with his taxi company. Last year there were about 2 to 3 illegal taxis picking up and dropping off people. At this time, he noted at least 17 illegal taxis. He is licensed in Raritan Township and in Flemington Borough. While other taxis do not have the insurance and licensing bills, they can undercut the charge. He is now losing customers. He has asked the Borough Police for help. Chief Baker told him that they do not have the manpower to go after the illegal taxis. He felt that it was not fair that he had to pay for license fees and taxi insurance when the others are driving around without being licensed. Mr. Sanchez also stated that these illegal taxis buy up cases of beer and sell to the others. No one will help him. He handed a list of license plate numbers to the Clerk who will then submit it to the Raritan Township Police Department.

Attorney Lehrer said that Raritan Township has a licensing requirement in town for taxicabs. The taxicab company must be licensed in the municipality from it is based.

\*\*\* Mr. Sanchez said he pays for a license in Raritan Township and a license in Flemington Borough for two vehicles. He spoke with Detective Camporeale who told him that the taxis are situated in Flemington Borough.

Clerk Sollena said that a few years ago, the Township licensed about 16 taxi licenses. Over the last two years, the list has diminished to about 3 licenses.

\*\*\* Mr. Sanchez said that this will not stop because there is no enforcement for illegal taxis.

Adm. Giaimis said that if they are located in Flemington Borough, they do not need a license to come into Raritan Township. They only need a license where the business is based. Attorney Lehrer said that if Mr. Sanchez believed they were not licensed in Flemington Borough, and they are operating out of Flemington Borough, then the Flemington Borough Police needs to be apprised of that.

**Resolution #16-30 – CLOSED SESSION:**

**Personnel – Appointments: Zoning Inspector;**

**Tax Clerk; Assessor's Assistant;**

**Police Desk Operator; Assistant**

**Township Engineer;**

**Environmental Commission Alt. 2;**

**Board of Health Alt. 1;**

**Board of Adjustment Member;**

**Deputy Court Administrator;**

**Violations Clerk;**

**Contractual – Contract Negotiations – Link High  
Technologies**

*This resolution was not adopted.*

**ADJOURN-  
MENT**

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion was made by Comm. Mangin and seconded by Comm. Reiner.

Vote: 5 – 0 motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at: 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Sollena, RMC/CMC  
Township Clerk

