

The Township Committee of the Township of Raritan met on November 16, 2015 at the Municipal Building, One Municipal Drive, Flemington, New Jersey

**MEETING
CALLED**

Mayor O'Brien called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 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. Also present was Adm. Jerry Giaimis and Attorney William Robertson.

**MEETING
ADVERTISED**

Mayor O'Brien advised that the meeting was advertised in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act in the January 15, 2015 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat and was posted on the office bulletin board and the Township Website.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor O'Brien 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.

**FINANCIAL
ISSUES**

Payment of Bills as Listed for Raritan Township: **\$ 357,558.09**

Comm. Gilbert asked about a payment in the amount of \$8226.20 to the 3-M Company. Adm. Giaimis will provide the invoices. Comm. Reiner asked about a payment in the amount of \$5,728.00 payable to Assessor Services. Adm. Giaimis said that this was for assessment services.

Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to approve the Bill List.

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

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

Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL
ISSUES
(Con't)**

Payment of Bills as Listed for the Fire Company: **\$ 7,776.14**

Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to approve the bills for the Fire Company.

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

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

Motion carried.

REPORTS

LIAISON REPORTS

Karen Gilbert – Joint Parks & Recreation, Open Space, Public Works
Comm. Gilbert said that she attended the Mobile 311 training at DPW. The employees are learning how to use soft wear which will allow them to do reporting from the field. Residents can also utilize this soft wear for reporting pot holes, light outages and deer carcass removal. The launch will be January 1, 2016. Dude Solutions will have to work out a disclaimer clause. There was no meeting held for the Open Space Committee. There will not be a senior luncheon because there was no date available at Hunterdon Central Regional High School. Comm. Gilbert mentioned that the freightliner for DPW is ready for delivery and is on display at the League of Municipalities.

Michael Mangin – Planning Board, RTMUA, Board of Health – Comm.
Mangin said that the Planning Board met on Wednesday and Eden Holdings was approved for a preliminary site plan. Eden Holdings has met all land use regulations. They still need final approval from NJ DEP. The development will be comprised of 19 homes. RTMUA will meet on Thursday as well as the Board of Health. The Board of Health requested that Mayor O'Brien and Comm. Mangin (Liaison) be present at the meeting on November 19, 2015 to discuss foreclosures and abandoned properties. He also mentioned that the Committee should consider the compensation of the commissioners on the RTMUA.

**REPORTS
(Con't)**

Richard Chen – Public Safety, Finance – Comm. Chen said that there was a meeting with the Safety Team. Some of the panic buttons have been relocated and additional panic buttons were installed.

Louis Reiner – Flemington-Raritan Schools, Hunterdon Central High School, Environmental Commission, Local Historians Committee – The Environmental Committee is currently reviewing a site plan for a warehouse behind the Flemington Department Store. The Historic Committee is going to preserve a slab from the Oak Tree that was cut down near the water pump station near Dayton Road. Ms. Egan from Hunterdon Central High School will let him know when the Superintendent will be able to give a presentation to the Township Committee. There was no report from Flemington-Raritan Regional School District.

Craig O'Brien – Administration, Personnel – Mayor O'Brien said that the Hunterdon County Freeholders want to attend a meeting of the Township Committee to give a presentation on CEDS (County Economic Development System). The new fire truck was delivered. Mayor O'Brien said he attended the Flemington-Raritan School Board Meeting (K-8). Mr. Deegan, a young Eagle Scout, completed a project at Desmares School adding some benches for the children. There was a grand opening for James Kitchens, Starbucks, Buffalo Wild Wings (early April), TGC which is a shooting range.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

RETIREMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS -
Adm. Giaimis said that there will be a replacement for an entry level position. There will also be a new Patrol Officer effective January 1, 2016.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

2015-2016 COOPERATIVE PURCHASING OF SALT FOR SNOW & ICE CONTROL – Adm. Giaimis said that there is a resolution for consideration later in the meeting to purchase salt from the Somerset County Cooperative Purchasing at \$60.93 per ton. This will be an opportunity to fill up the salt dome.

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE #15-18

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN ACCEPTING JURISDICTION OF A PORTION OF PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE FROM THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON.

Meeting opened to the public. No one appeared.

Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance #15-18 on final consideration, same to be published according to law.

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

ORDINANCES: Roll Call Vote: Chen – yes
(Con't) Gilbert – yes
Mangin – yes
Reiner – yes
O'Brien – yes

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #15-19

AN ORDINANCE RENAMING WEATHERBURN COURT TO
WETHERBURN COURT LOCATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN.
Meeting opened to the public. No one showed.

Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance #15-19 on final consideration, same to be published according to law.

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

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

Motion carried.

**CORRES-
PONDENCE**

- a. League of Municipalities: (All Information is on File in the Clerk's Office):
Improving Healthcare to Veterans Grant; November Grant Page Posted; Weekly Policy Update; Assembly Returns on November 9th, Bills on governor's Desk; governor Seeks Disaster Declaration in Response to Early October Nor'easter; Progress in Washington on Transportation Funding; NEW for the Annual League Conference – Consulting Meetings Replace the consulting Period; One source of Data for Your Municipality – Now Available Free from Rutgers; Wastewater Quality Management Rules; League Activities; Governor Takes Action on Various Bills of Interest; Gateway Project Progress Noted;
- b. Delaware Township Ordinance re: Land Use (On File in the Clerk's Office)

**CORRESPONDENCE
(Con't)**

- c. Borough of Glen Gardner & Township of Bethlehem Resolutions re: Urging Governor Christie to Protect Local Property Taxpayers by Respecting the Structure and Preserving the Integrity of Local Pension Systems
- d. Hunterdon Drug Awareness Program, Inc. re: Request for Donation
- e. Franklin Township Ordinance re: Land Use (On File in the Clerk's Office)

12. **NON CONSENT AGENDA:**

Resolution #15-241 – Authorizing the Appointment of Scott A. Williamson as Fire Prevention Inspector from December 7, 2015 Until December 31, 2016

Comm. Gilbert said that this is a full time position that will be temporary for one year. Comm. Gilbert and Comm. Chen said that this person is needed in the Fire Marshal's Office to clear up the backlog. Comm. Reiner agreed. It was Adm. Giaimis' recommendation that only one person be hired instead of two as requested by Fire Marshal Thomas Abramson. Fire Marshal Thomas Abrahamson said that Mr. Milne is the inspector that replaced Mr. Davis. He is also clearing any backlog with housing inspections. Mr. Williamson is a licensed fire inspector. His salary will be \$52,000. Adm. Giaimis said that the money is available this year from the person that left the office.

Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #15-241.

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

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

Motion carried.

NON-CONSENT AGENDA: (Con't)

**Resolution #15-242 – Authorizing the Township Attorney to File
Tax Appeals with the Hunterdon County
Board of Taxation and the New Jersey Tax
Court with Respect to Certain Tax
Exemption Claims**

Attorney Robertson said that this resolution authorizes the Township Attorney to file tax appeals with Hunterdon County Board of Taxation. This is a result of an appeal that was won that determined that certain non-exempt properties, such as hospitals, are not all tax exempt. There is certain criteria that can be taxed. This would authorize the Tax Assessor to file appeals for added and omitted assessments for 2014-2015.

Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #15-242.

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

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

Motion carried. .

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

Township Committee Minutes: November 4, 2015

Resolutions:

**Resolution #15-239 – Authorizing the Purchase of Salt for Snow and Ice
Control from the Somerset County Cooperative
Pricing Council**

**Resolution #15-240 - Authorizing Municipal Grant Application re:
Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Fund**

**CONSENT
AGENDA
(Con't)**

Resolution #15-244 – Budget Transfers

Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda with the removal of Resolution #15-244 – Budget Transfers.

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

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

Motion carried.

Resolution #15-244 – Budget Transfers

Adm. Giaimis said that at the end of each year, resolutions are adopted to transfer funds from one department to another. Transfers can be made up to three months into the new year.

Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #15-244.

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

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

Motion carried.

**PRIVILEGE
OF THE
FLOOR**

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

No one appeared.

Resolution #15-243 - CLOSED SESSION:

**Contractual – Contract Negotiations: Financial
Reporting Services – Pheonix**

Advisors, LLC;

**Contract Negotiations: GASB 45 Actuarial
Services for Postretirement Benefits;**

**Contract Negotiations: PBA Union Contract
Negotiations Update;**

Potential Litigation - Tax Appeal

Resolution #15-244 was not needed. All items were discussed at the Special Meeting.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting

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

Vote: 5 – 0 motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Sollena, RMC/CMC
Township Clerk

