

**RARITAN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING  
RARITAN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2018**

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**MEETING CALLED:** Mayor Mangin called the special meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** The following were present: Mayor, Michael Mangin; Deputy Mayor, Karen Gilbert; Comm. Craig O'Brien (arrived at 6:13 p.m.); Comm. Louis Reiner

**ABSENT:** Comm. Gary Hazard

**ALSO PRESENT:** Administrator, Don Hutchins; Municipal Clerk, Lisa Fania; Police Captain, Kevin Donovan; Township Engineer, Antoine Hajjar; Chief Financial Officer, William Pandos; Public Works Superintendent, Brion Fleming

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**MEETING NOTICED:** Mayor Mangin advised that the meeting was noticed in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 March 14, 2018 with the Courier News and posted on the municipal bulletin board and the Township website.

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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Mayor Mangin 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.

Mayor Mangin invited a Boy Scout that was in attendance to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**AMEND/APPROVE THE AGENDA**

Mayor Mangin asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

Motion by Gilbert, seconded by Reiner

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Gilbert, O'Brien, Reiner, Mayor Mangin

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** Hazard

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## 2018 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Peter Kinsella, member of the Local Historians Committee, reviewed the Committee's budget priorities including the following:

- \*\$2,250.00 for historic trip
- \*\$300.00 for Elder Stateswomen presentation
- \*funding for historic artifacts throughout the building

Mr. Kinsella explained that the Committee was seeking \$2,250 to reserve the bus and eating establishment for its historic trip. He spoke of the limitations regarding reservations and ticket sales. Mr. Kinsella advised that the Township would be reimbursed the \$2,250 following ticket sales. He also informed Committee Members that the request for funding towards the Elder Stateswomen presentation could be eliminated due to donations received.

A brief discussion was held regarding the proper financial protocol for the reimbursement of funds from the historic trip. Mr. Pandos to research and advise accordingly. It was the consensus to budget \$2,750.00 for the Local Historians Committee.

At this time, Public Works Superintendent, Brion Fleming, informed Committee Members of his initial request for additional staffing that was not made part of the proposed budget.

Mr. Hutchins recapped the following amendments from the previous 2018 Municipal Budget discussion:

- \*newsletter moved to Streets and Roads OE
- \*addition of \$18,000 for a third part-time Public Works employee
- \*addition of a \$2,500 stipend for the Deputy OEM Coordinator

Discussion of the 2018 Capital Budget commenced.

At this time, Committee Member O'Brien requested that the Committee advance discussion of the Hampton Corner Road project, as interested parties were in attendance.

Mayor Mangin summarized the overall costs of the project and advised that \$135,000 was already authorized for the study. Mayor Mangin stated that a meeting was scheduled for April 11, 2018 with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

At this time, Mayor Mangin requested that Committee Members deviate from the scheduled agenda and advance Public Comment, as interested parties were present.

Deputy Mayor Gilbert clarified that the reason for meeting with the NJDEP was to express public safety concerns and communicate the urgency of the situation. Deputy Mayor Gilbert continued that the consultant hired by the Township was selected based upon his reputation for working successfully with the NJDEP.

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

**Dennis Loh**, a resident of 29 Country Club Drive, commented on the importance of NJDEP understanding that this is a public safety issue.

**Glen Gould**, a resident of 37 Hampton Corner Road, voiced concern regarding the timeline for the project; commented on erosion of the area; and requested consideration of repair alternatives other than conventional means including rain gardens and permeable asphalts.

**Peter McHale**, a resident of 31 Hampton Corner Road, expressed concern for the safety of the elderly residents of the neighborhood and spoke of his own life-threatening health experiences in regards to the urgency of this matter.

**Karen Sammer**, a resident of 18 Hampton Corner Road, commented on the poor quality of the sound system; asked for clarification as to the funding of the entire project; and stated that the flooding situation is a huge public safety issue.

Discussion was held regarding project phases and timeline including study, design, permit, and repair. It was the consensus to authorize \$135,000 for the Hampton Corner Road project in the 2018 Municipal Budget.

The following 2018 Capital budget items were reviewed:

- \*Fire/Rescue
  - SCBA tanks
  - Ambulance

Mr. Hutchins commented that numbers for the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) tanks reflect replacement of the actual tanks that the Township purchased fifteen (15) years ago. Mayor Mangin advised that the Fire Company applied for a \$250,000 AFG grant in February for use towards the replacement of the SCBA tanks, packs, hoses, and masks. Mayor Mangin continued that the Fire Company is willing to reimburse the Township for some of the funds towards the SCBA tanks, if awarded such grant.

Mayor Mangin voiced opinion regarding the Township's contribution towards the ambulance purchase explaining that approximately seventy percent (70%) of ambulance calls are for the Township and therefore, the Township should only contribute seventy percent (70%) towards the purchase. Deputy Mayor Gilbert commented that the referendum voted by the taxpayers was for a contribution of \$200,000. Committee Member O'Brien commented that the ambulance funding should be bonded separately.

- \*Engineering Department
- \*Sunny Hills Section II

Discussion was held regarding the road program including completion of Sunny Hills Section II in two phases. Township Engineer, Tony Hajjar, advised that the Sunny Hills road project could not be completed in two phases. Mr. Hajjar also commented that residents would be very angry if

the project was not completed this year. It was the consensus to leave the budget for Sunny Hills Section II as is.

\*Chip Seal

Old Croton Road  
Leffler Hill Road

Discussion continued regarding the road program including timeline; the potential for repairing all roads at once; omission of Bridle Path, Laurelton Trail and Belmont Court; and a suggested road tax similar to the open space tax set aside for road improvements only such as chip seal and line striping. It was the consensus that chip seal remain as is.

\*Department of Public Works

Equipment and Vehicles  
Dump truck

Improvements

Overhead door replacement  
Roof repair

\*Park Improvements

Baseball/Softball/Soccer equipment  
Basketball court resurface  
Water fountain replacement

\*Police Department Improvements

Sidewalk replacement  
Chevrolet Tahoe (four-wheel drive sports utility vehicle)  
Two patrol cars

\*Road Maintenance/Drainage/Overlay

Guide rail replacement  
Traffic signal upgrades

Mr. Fleming advised that the traffic signal technology is outdated and advised that the Township needs to repair or upgrade all three signals (Case and Voorhees; Barley Sheaf and Voorhees; Wellington and Yorkshire).

\*Municipal Building

Rear parking lot expansion  
Gutter repair (dormers)

Mayor Mangin recapped that the proposed 2018 Capital Budget is at \$2.2 million, higher than his preference, with an increase in the Hampton Corner Road project (2018 proposed amount of \$135,000) and removal of the Public Work's dump truck.

Discussion continued regarding concern for the amount of long-term debt.

It was the consensus to carry discussion of the 2018 capital budget to the April 2, 2018 budget meeting.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

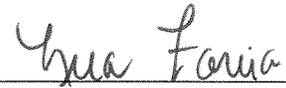
Mayor Mangin asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Reiner, seconded by Gilbert

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Fania, RMC

Township Clerk