

**RARITAN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
RARITAN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2017**

MEETING CALLED: Mayor Gilbert called the special meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

ROLL CALL: The following were present: Comm. Richard Chen; Comm. Michael Mangin; Comm. Craig O'Brien; Comm. Lou Reiner; and Mayor Karen Gilbert. Also present were Administrator, Don Hutchins; Chief Financial Officer, William Pandos; Municipal Clerk, Lisa Fania; and Township Attorney, Jeff Lehrer.

MEETING ADVERTISED: Mayor Gilbert advised that the meeting was noticed on June 22, 2017 in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by providing notice to the Courier News, Star Ledger, Trenton Times, Express Times and Hunterdon County Democrat and was posted on the municipal bulletin board and the Township Website.

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.

AMEND/APPROVE THE AGENDA

Mayor Gilbert asked for any amendments to the Agenda.

Committee Member Chen requested the removal of New Business Item 17b. Resident Deer Survey and the addition of a liaison report after public comment.

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to approve the Agenda as amended with the removal of the resident deer survey and addition of a liaison report by Committee Member Chen.

Motion by Reiner, seconded by O'Brien to approve the Agenda as amended.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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.

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

Barbara Sachau, a resident of 2 Glenway Drive, expressed opposition to proposed ordinance #17-15 authorizing the reappropriation of \$20,000 for the acquisition of and installation of fencing on open space property; and commented on the proposed resident deer survey and actions of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife with respect to deer killing.

LIAISON REPORTS

Committee Member Chen clarified that the reappropriation of funds authorized in Ordinance #17-15 is the first step to establishing a nature preserve on one of the Township's open space properties. Mr. Chen continued to explain that he would like to model after the New Jersey Great Swamp's nature preserve where fencing has been installed for 35 acres used for environmental and educational programs.

Committee Member Chen added that he would also like to pursue getting Dr. Jay Kelly of the Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) Foundation as the Township's land steward. Committee Member Chen continued to explain that RVCC partners with Rutgers ecology and evolution departments and perhaps the Township could develop ecological projects for high school juniors, scouts and senior residents.

Mayor Gilbert reported that Deputy Mayor Mangin and she attended the Planning Board meeting and advised that the WAWA application for a new store and fueling station on 202 was unanimously denied as Township ordinance does not permit 24-hour operation in locations adjacent to residential zones.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Resolution #17-168 – Appointment of Roger Ahrens as Board of Adjustment Alternate #2 Member for an Unexpired Term to 12/31/2017

Mayor Gilbert recapped that at the previous Township Committee meeting, the appointment of Mr. Ahrens to fill an unexpired vacancy was discussed but carried as additional information was required regarding terms. Mayor Gilbert clarified that Mr. Ahrens is being appointed as Alternate #2 Member, replacing Jeff Donaldson for the unexpired term through the end of the year.

Mayor Gilbert read Resolution #17-168 by title.

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #17-168.

Motion by Reiner, seconded by O'Brien

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #17-168

WHEREAS, there exists a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Adjustment for Alternate # 2 for an unexpired term terminating December 31, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Raritan desire to fill this position.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Raritan, in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the following appointment is approved:

Roger G. Ahrens
Alternate #2 Member
Zoning Board of Adjustment
6/29/2017 to 12/31/2018

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Interview Committee for Fire Prevention Official** – Mayor Gilbert advised that the Fire Marshal had resigned and that she and Deputy Mayor Mangin would like to participate in the interview process along with Administrator, Don Hutchins. Mayor Gilbert continued that recommendations will be submitted to the Township Committee for final review and decision.
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ORDINANCES (FINAL ADOPTION, PUBLIC HEARING)

Mayor Gilbert read by title Ordinance #17-10.

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$456,361.16 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$432,623.10 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to open public hearing.

Motion by Mangin, seconded by Chen

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

No public comment.

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance #17-10 on final consideration, same to be published according to law.

Motion by O'Brien, seconded by Mangin

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NOES: O'Brien, Reiner

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE DEFEATED

Mayor Gilbert read by title Ordinance #17-12.

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$527,000.00 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$501,570.00 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to open public hearing.

Motion by Chen, seconded by O'Brien

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

No public comment.

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance #17-12 on final consideration, same to be published according to law.

Motion by Reiner, seconded by Chen

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Chen, Mangin, Mayor Gilbert

NOES: O'Brien, Reiner

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE DEFEATED

During the vote, Committee Member Chen commented in favor of the Township appropriating a minimum of \$500,000 for road construction annually. Committee Member Chen continued that Township roads are in disarray, not enough funding is allocated, and there are many resident complaints.

Deputy Mayor Mangin also commented in favor of the proposed bond ordinances.

Mayor Gilbert read by title Ordinance #17-15.

ORDINANCE REAPPROPRIATING \$20,000.00 PROCEEDS OF OBLIGATIONS NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF AND INSTALLATION OF FENCING ON OPEN SPACE PROPERTY IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to open public hearing.

Motion by Chen, seconded by O'Brien

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

No public comment.

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance #17-15 on final consideration, same to be published according to law.

Motion by Chen, seconded by O'Brien

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Chen, Mangin, Mayor Gilbert

NOES: O'Brien, Reiner

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE DEFEATED

ORDINANCES (INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING)

Mayor Gilbert read by title Ordinance #17-21.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING A SALARY AND WAGE PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES IN CWA LOCAL 1040 SUPERVISOR AND HIGHER-LEVEL SUPERVISOR BARGAINING UNITS FOR THE YEARS 2017-2019

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance #17-21 on first consideration.

Motion by Reiner, seconded by O'Brien

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE INTRODUCED

Second reading and public hearing date scheduled for July 18, 2017.

Mayor Gilbert read by title Ordinance #17-16.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING A SALARY, WAGE AND COMPENSATION PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2017-2019 FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE CWA LOCAL 1040 WHITE COLLAR BARGAINING UNIT AND PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION THEREOF

Mr. Lehrer explained that Ordinance #17-16 and #17-20 were introduced at the previous meeting, however in an abundance of caution due to changes in each, Mr. Lehrer asked Mr. Hutchins to re-introduce them.

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance #17-16 on first consideration.

Motion by Mangin, seconded by O'Brien

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE INTRODUCED

Second reading and public hearing date scheduled for July 18, 2017.

Mayor Gilbert read by title Ordinance #17-20.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING A SALARY AND WAGE PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES NOT COVERED BY A BARGAINING AGREEMENT AND PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION THEREOF

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion reintroduce Ordinance #17-20 on first consideration.

Motion by Reiner, seconded by Chen

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE INTRODUCED

Second reading and public hearing date scheduled for July 18, 2017.

NON-CONSENT AGENDA

Raritan Township Fire Company Applications

Deputy Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to approve the application for Justin Brown.

Motion by Reiner, seconded by Chen

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Chen, O'Brien, Reiner, Mayor Gilbert

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RECUSE: Mangin

Deputy Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to approve the application for Michael Carman.

Motion by Reiner, seconded by O'Brien

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Chen, O'Brien, Reiner, Mayor Gilbert

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RECUSE: Mangin

Deputy Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to approve the application for Jeremy Hacker.

Motion by Reiner, seconded by O'Brien

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Chen, O'Brien, Reiner, Mayor Gilbert

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RECUSE: Mangin

Deputy Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to approve the application for Katherine Wetter.

Motion by Reiner, seconded by O'Brien

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Chen, O'Brien, Reiner, Mayor Gilbert

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RECUSE: Mangin

Mayor Gilbert read Resolution #17-167 by title.

Mr. Hutchins requested that the word “Acting” be removed from the third Whereas paragraph.

Committee Member Reiner asked for clarification of dedication by rider and use of funds.

Committee Member O’Brien also inquired about fund usage.

Mr. Hutchins addressed Committee Member Reiner’s query explaining that the Township must request permission from the State to dedicate funds from deer management license/hunting fees to a certain account. Mr. Lehrer continued that State statute requires a separate fund dedicated to a specific objective or category if money is not being put in the General Fund; and this dedication by rider must be done by resolution.

Mr. Hutchins stated that this resolution was originally adopted in November, however, it was not followed through in the Clerk’s office so, therefore, it died and is now being reintroduced to move forward.

Mayor Gilbert suggested tabling the resolution and carrying to a future scheduled meeting as additional information is necessary regarding anticipated revenue and a charter for fund usage.

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to table Resolution #17-167.

Motion by Mangin, seconded by O’Brien

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

Mayor Gilbert read Resolution #17-170 by title.

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #17-170.

Motion by Reiner, seconded by Mangin

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Chen, Mangin, O’Brien, Reiner, Mayor Gilbert

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #17-170

WHEREAS, an application, municipal fee and Tax Clearance Certificate have been received by the Township Clerk of the Township of Raritan for the renewal of a previous liquor license issued by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Raritan; and

WHEREAS, notice of the renewal of the license has been published under the direction of the Director of Alcohol Beverage Control and no objections to the renewal of this license have been received by the Clerk; and

WHEREAS, this renewal application has been reviewed by the Township Clerk and the Police Department and since no objections were received, recommends the renewal of the liquor license.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Raritan that the following liquor license be renewed for one year beginning July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018:

***Elmil Corporation
t/a Mangia Bene
250 Route 202/31 North
Flemington, New Jersey 08822***

***License # 1021-36-011-005
License Renewal Fee: \$2,500.00***

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Acting Clerk of the Township of Raritan, Lisa Fania, shall sign, issue and deliver such certificates of license to the above licensee on behalf of the Township of Raritan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Acting Clerk of the Township of Raritan, Lisa Fania, shall send a copy of this resolution to the Division of Alcohol Beverage Control

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

Raritan Township, Police Chief, Glenn Tabasko, expressed dissatisfaction regarding the defeated bond ordinances.

Raritan Township Superintendent of Public Works, Brion Fleming, reiterated Chief Tabasko's dissatisfaction. Mr. Fleming advised that the guard rail on Pennsylvania Avenue is life-threatening.

Mayor Gilbert echoed sentiments of the previous speakers.

Barbara Sachau, a resident of 2 Glenway Drive, commented on the public's feeling about the high property taxes in New Jersey; Committee Member Chen's articulation and the difficulty in understanding him; and better dissemination of information on projects like the proposed nature preservation idea.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gilbert asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Mangin, seconded by Reiner

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Fania, RMC
Township Clerk