

*The Township Committee of the Township of Raritan met on December 1, 2015 at the Municipal Building, One Municipal Drive, Flemington, New Jersey*

**MEETING  
CALLED**

Mayor O'Brien called the regular meeting to order at 7:20 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 Township Attorney Albert E. Cruz.

**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.

\*\*\* Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, Ringoes, NJ, said that she read about the proposed action regarding liaisons. Her concern has to do with the Sunshine Law and things going on in the light of day. She wanted to know when and where the decision about the liaison was made. She also had concerns about how things are operating, not necessarily at Raritan Township, but with the School Board. She will look to see if there was any formal communication by the School Board about their discomfort with the liaison over the last few months. The swearing in of the new School Board Administrator was held in April. At the meeting, there was an informative presentation about the legal status and what the thresholds were for bullying vs. inappropriate behavior. The comments that were on line and in the newspaper about it being an opportunity to have a discussion with Assemblywoman Simon and that conflict, in this case, being seen as an opportunity for discussion and hopefully for personal improvement. She was concerned if government is happening out front or are decisions being made behind the scenes. There is an unfortunate perception of the Raritan Township Committee and in terms of the timing and maybe it being somewhat reactive. The original incident occurred in August and a letter was sent out in September. There was no action by the Committee in September, October or

**PUBLIC  
COMMENT  
(Con't)**

November. The General Election was held in November and before that, a flyer was circulated by Comm. Reiner. The question that was placed on the ballot in November regarding talks about a merger between Raritan Township and Flemington Borough was defeated. It created a perception that she did not think any of the Committee wanted. Raritan Township has a long and well thought of history. She suggested that if there is any documentation, she would like to know what the nature of any communications were. She did not think it was an appropriate forum to be handling municipal business in the media or on line. She mentioned that she would come in the next day to file an OPRA Request.

\*\*\* Allen Brewer, 1 Coppermine Village, member of the Flemington-Raritan School Board said he was at the Township Committee Meeting as a citizen. He was not speaking on behalf of the Flemington-Raritan School District. He was concerned about a recent article that he read in the Sunday Democrat. He wanted to know, from the Committee, the name of each Flemington-Raritan School Board District Board Member who reached out to them, either individually or as a Committee, to remove an elected official, namely Mr. Reiner as Liaison to the School Board. He believed that this should be an open public records that should be available to all. He wanted to know the manner in which this communications occurred, by whom and whether or not it was done behind closed doors, by telephone and/or by email. He was willing to file an OPRA Request. The School Board should not go to the Committee about the liaison, they should be apolitical. He did not speak with Mr. Davidson or other members about Mr. Reiner. Mr. Davidson was quoted in the newspaper as stating that he was not pleased with Mr. Reiner or any comments that Mr. Reiner made. He also said that if the Board made any decisions, it was not done through him. Mr. Brewer is an elected official and representatives of the School Board are equal members. He was not involved with any decisions and wanted to know if anything happened. He also said that he did not agree with might be considered a unilateral politically motivated action to unseat an elected official in retaliation for comments that he may or may not have made, in a letter to the editor or anyone else regarding the Board's own juvenile behavior. He agreed with Mr. Reiner's presentation and supports him individually and he affords him for his willingness to speak up and to respond.

**BENEDICT DONARUMA PROMOTION TO SERGEANT – EFFECTIVE  
JANUARY 1, 2016.**

Chief Glenn Tabasko said that Benedict Donaruma has been with the Raritan Township Police Department since 1995 having worked previously with the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office. He was assigned to the Patrol Division, Detective Bureau and Special Operations Division. He has been primarily focused on Drug Enforcement. He has proved to be an asset to the Raritan Township Police Department with his knowledge and leadership qualities.

Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to approve the promotion of Benedict Donaruma Effective January 1, 2016.

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.

*Township Clerk Rose Sollena administered the Oath of Office to Benedict Donaruma*

**PROBATIONARY OFFICER BRIAN S. MAYER**

Chief Glenn Tabasko said that Brian Mayer is 23 years old and hails from New Jersey. Mr. Mayer is a 2015 Graduate of the Ocean County Police Academy. He worked the past few summers as a Special Police Officer in the Seaside Heights Police Department. He also attended Middlesex County College where he received an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice and he will receive his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice in January from Columbia Southern University.

**Resolution #15-244 – Probationary Officer Brian S. Mayer = Effective 1/1/2016**

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

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

**Probationary Officer Brian S. Mayer: (Con't)**

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

Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL  
ISSUES**

Payment of Bills as Listed for Raritan Township:    **\$ 18,568,855.42**

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

Comm. Mangin said that approximately \$14 million is to be paid for school and County taxes. Comm. Gilbert said that she asked about the 3M bill at the last meeting. Adm. Giaimis said he will check this out.

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.

Payment of Bills as Listed for the Fire Company:       **\$ 904,527.89**

Mayor O'Brien said that this is for the purchase of the tower ladder fire truck which is now on site.

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

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

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

Motion carried.

**REPORTS**

**LIAISON REPORTS**

Karen Gilbert – Joint Parks & Recreation, Open Space, Public Works  
Michael Mangin – Planning Board, RTMUA, Board of Health  
Richard Chen – Public Safety, Finance  
Louis Reiner – Flemington-Raritan Schools, Hunterdon Central High School, Environmental Commission, Local Historians Committee  
Craig O’Brien – Administration, Personnel

*(There were no Liaisons Reports)*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*(There was no Unfinished Business)*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE RENEWAL APPLICATION – GRANT YEAR JULY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2017** – Adm. Giaimis said that this is for the Municipal Alliance Renewal Application. This is a yearly renewal and there is no cost to the Township.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR PBA UNION CONTRACT**

Adm. Giaimis said the points of agreement were discussed in Executive Session between PBA Local 337 and the Township of Raritan. It also includes the Superior Officers. The Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed upon by both parties and voted on by the union. Mayor O’Brien congratulated Adm. Giaimis and the Police Department for an outstanding job. A resolution was adopted later in the meeting.

**TO BANK AND RESERVE THE 2015 MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION OF HUNTERDON COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUNDS**

– Adm. Giaimis said that this is an annual allocation of Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Funds in the amount of \$127,962.81. The Township will be applying that money to the Open Space Trust Fund for future purposes. No specified project is in place at this time. A resolution was adopted later in the meeting.

**IT PRESENTATION BY COMMITTEEMAN RICHARD CHEN**

– Adm. Giaimis said that there is some allocation of funds for the data processing budget. There will be a transfer made via a resolution. There will be no additional funds used. Most of the items purchased will be through State Contract. The Committee approved a competitive contracting several weeks ago for an IT Consulting Service. Comm. Chen said that there will be new email addresses assigned which will have Raritan Township.gov instead of Comcast.net. There will be installation of network cables, network hardware (routers and switches). A new telephone system will be integrated with the network. Comm. Chen said that this is a much needed upgrade to the infrastructure.

**NEW  
BUSINESS  
(Con't)**

**MODIFYING FLEMINGTON-RARITAN RESCUE SQUAD RESPONSE  
AREAS** – Adm. Giaimis received a map from the Rescue Squad and said that the Township is in the process of working on an ordinance to designate areas

\*\*\* William Pandos, VP Flemington-Raritan First Aid & Rescue Squad. He suggested that the Committee pass this by the Township's attorney because he is not sure if the areas can be designed by ordinance. The Amwell Valley Rescue Squad has been providing emergency medical and rescue services to residents in the southern portion of Raritan Township for many years. This ordinance would make the Flemington-Raritan First Aid & Rescue Squad the primary responding agency. The Amwell Valley Rescue Squad is a very fine organization with fine volunteers. Their years of service to the residents of Raritan Township deserve more than this brief recognition. It would be in the best interest of the residents of the southern portion of Raritan Township for the Flemington-Raritan Rescue Squad to be the primary provider of emergency medical and rescue services. The statistics available indicate that the Flemington-Raritan Rescue Squad could provide a quicker response to the residents of that area. The Flemington-Raritan Squad has responded quickly in arriving on the scene from the time of dispatch. This is because the Flemington-Raritan Rescue Squad staffed 24/7 with personnel in the building. They also provide double staffing during the busiest hours during the day. The Flemington-Raritan Rescue Squad is a State licensed agency which enables them to use certain medicines such as epinephrine and Narcam. The Flemington-Raritan Rescue Squad provides a comprehensive array of rescue services. Mr. Pandos said that for whatever reason they could not get to the resident or needed additional assistance, Amwell Valley Rescue Squad would be the second responder.

Comm. Chen asked if the residents in this area will be notified of the switch.

\*\*\* Mr. Pandos said that he would be happy to provide that notification.

Mayor O'Brien asked if the members have to be certified to use Narcam.

\*\*\* Mr. Pandos said that the squad has to be State licensed to dispense that.

\*\*\* Dave Giuliani, Flemington-Raritan Rescue Squad, said that there is nothing on the books at this time as to designated areas. He felt that this could be done by resolution for one year. This way, the municipality could make changes when necessary.

**NEW  
BUSINESS  
(Con't)**

Comm. Mangin said that his concerns were that 48 Rescue has no staff on site all the time. It is indeed great to notify the residents. He did not want the residents to worry about receiving a bill from the rescue squad. Adm. Giaimis asked the Rescue Squad to provide notes which will help draft a resolution or an ordinance. The FR has answered 1,415 calls as of the end of October.

**TO MODIFY RESOLUTION #15-1 – YEARLY APPOINTMENTS** – Mayor O'Brien said that there has been a great deal of discussion on the subject of liaisons. He thanked Mr. Brewer and Ms. Gavison for making their comments known to the Committee. There has been discussion about how liaisons are assigned. Comm. Reiner agreed to not attend any more School Board Meetings as Liaison until the matter is resolved. Mayor O'Brien has been attending the meetings in his absence. A formal resolution to remove Comm. Reiner is not necessary because under Resolution #15-1, liaisons are not appointed. Comm. Reiner said that he did not agree to that. Mayor O'Brien said that the matter will be continued later in Executive Session. Mayor O'Brien apologized for bringing everyone out without being able to have a clean resolution to this matter. He said that the matter that has become before the Township Committee is of a serious nature. Several comments have already been seen in the newspapers. He apologized to the School Board. As Mayor, he said that he must share in the responsibility for the failure. He is sad that this matter has come before the public eye. He said that the Committee is elected to serve the people and not themselves. He asked Comm. Reiner to look into his heart and find the right answer.

*Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to recess at 8:10 p.m. for five minutes.*

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

Vote: 5 – 0 motion carried.

*The Township Committee Meeting resumed the meeting at 8:17 p.m.*

**HUNTERDON COUNTY FREEHOLDER CEDS (COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY) PRESENTATION**

Freeholders Matt Holt and Suzanne Legay gave a presentation on CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy).

\*\*\* Freeholder Holt said that between 1970 and 2000, there was a 55% population growth, 3.14 persons/household, rural migration, educated and a high income. In 1980, the median age was 32. Between the years 2000 and 2015, there has been a declining population, urban migration, 2.61 persons/household, retirees and empty nesters. In 2014, the median age was 44. There are many vacant corporate campuses in Raritan Township. Not only has there been a decrease in population growth but also a reduction in school enrollment, reduction in

**HUNTERDON COUNTY FREEHOLDER CEDS (COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY) PRESENTATION**

the sale of single family homes; as well as a declining number of persons per household. The areas that the County will be focusing on will be business attraction and retention, infrastructure, transportation, municipal outreach, education and marketing/tourism. The County will continue to explore ways to make the education system seamless from kindergarten through college with innovative, future-looking programs that insure the youth is prepared for careers and jobs. The County is a destination for agricultural experiences, recreational abundance, culinary and winery delights, exploring diverse town centers, historic sites and small business opportunities. Basically, Hunterdon County is open for business. Additionally, the County will be looking for opportunities to share services with municipalities to assist the municipalities in meeting their Master Plan goals.

**HUNTERDON COUNTY FREEHOLDER CEDS (COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY) PRESENTATION (Con't)**

Comm. Reiner said that he was extremely concerned about top down government as well as the local economy and high density apartments and high density development going on in Raritan Township. Although he is not anti-development, he is cautious about the high density apartments because of the school budgets. Even though school enrollment is down, property taxes continue to rise.

\*\*\* Freeholder Holt said that he shared Comm. Reiner's concerns. He stated that Hunterdon County needs to address the age issue. He sees the County lagging behind in valuation, transportation, and school systems that are getting smaller.

Comm. Mangin said that his recommendation would be how to attract companies into Hunterdon County. Mayor O'Brien asked if the County had a list of projects for Raritan Township.

\*\*\* Freeholder Holt said that there are no projects at this time.

**ORDINANCES:** *(There were no ordinances)*

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. League of Municipalities: (All Information is on File in the Clerk's Office): Seminar for Newly Elected, Re-Elected or Experienced Municipal Officials; Budgeting for the Elected Official;
- b. Town of Clinton Resolution re: Urging Governor Christie to Protect Local Property Taxpayers by Respecting the Structure and Preserving the Integrity of Local Pension Systems

**CORRESPONDENCE  
(Con't)**

- c. Township of Readington Resolution re: Draft Open Space, Farmland Preservation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Plan
- d. Radon Awareness Month – January, 2016

**NON CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resolution #15-246 – Budget Transfers (4 Votes Needed for Adoption)**

Mayor O'Brien asks for a motion to adopt Resolution #15-246.

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

Adm. Giaimis said that various routine transfers were made between the different Departments.

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

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

Motion carried.

**Resolution #15-251 – Amending Resolution 15-1 – Yearly Appointments**

This resolution was tabled.

**Resolution #15-252 – Flemington Raritan Rescue Squad Response Areas**

Resolution for Flemington Raritan Rescue Squad Response Areas will be carried over into the New Year.

**Resolution #15-253 – Budget Transfers (4 Votes Needed for Adoption)**

Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #15-153.

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

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

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.

**Resolutions:**

**Resolution #15-243 – Municipal Alliance Renewal Application – Grant  
Year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017**

**Resolution #15-247 – Authorizing a Professional Services Contract to  
AON Hewitt for Postretirement Actuarial Services**

**Resolution #15-248 – To Approve the Memorandum of Understanding  
and Authorizing the Mayor and Administrator to  
Sign a Contract Consistent with the Terms Therein**

**Resolution #15-250 – Authorization to Bank and Reserve the 2015  
Municipal Allocation of Hunterdon County Open  
Space Trust Funds - \$127,962.81**

Mayor O'Brien asks for a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda.

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 showed.)*

*Adm. Giaimis read Resolution #15-249 in full as amended.*

**Resolution #15-249 - CLOSED SESSION:**

**Personnel 2016 Board and Committee**

**Appointments;**

**Modifying Resolution #15-1;**

Mayor O'Brien asks for a motion to adopt Resolution #15-249.

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

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

Motion carried.

**CLOSED  
SESSION**

*Closed Session Minutes are on a separate document.*

**OPEN  
SESSION**

The Committee went back into Open Session.

**FURTHER  
ACTION**

There was none.

**ADJOURN-  
MENT**

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

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

Vote: 5 – 0 motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at: 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Sollena, RMC/CMC  
Township Clerk

