

*The Township Committee of the Township of Raritan met on May 5, 2015  
at the Municipal Building, One Municipal Drive, Flemington, New Jersey*

**MEETING  
CALLED**

Mayor O'Brien called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 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.

\*\*\* Barbara Sachau, 2 Glenway Drive, inquired about the purchase of property which the Committee will be voting on later in the meeting. She said she has problems with the deed naming New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF) as the owner of the property after the ordinance is adopted. She felt that because this property is being paid with taxpayer dollars, the ownership and management should stay with taxpayers. She found that some of the environmental organizations are closed and the public cannot find out information about how they operate and where the money is being spent. NJFC has a \$40 million asset portfolio. She has also seen the organization try to keep the public out of meetings. She is in favor of transparency with public land that the taxpayers have paid for. She is opposed to the NJFC's name going on a deed with taxpayer dollars.

**PUBLIC  
COMMENT  
(Con't)**

Mayor O'Brien clarified that this is not about the purchase of the property. It is a matter of a legal process to take title of land for a short period of time and then transfer title to partnered organizations of which NJCF is one of them to allow this to be transition to open space. The purchase was authorized by resolution in 2013.

\*\*\* Frances Gavagin, 123 Wertsville Road, Ringoes, NJ, said that she understood the work and plan of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF) has for protecting the Wickecheoke Creek. She does not have any problem with non-profit organizations. Her concern, however, was of a pattern of the value of an asset being transferred into a non-profit organization. The calculation of what something is worth and how much the Township or the County will pay goes into a magic box and out comes a value. The value is not linked to recent sales. She spoke about the transparency and said that the process and it is not limited just to Raritan Township or anywhere in Hunterdon or Somerset Counties. The issue that raises flags is that this piece of property has serious environmental challenges. A stream runs through the property. The cost is \$144,000 or 48% which kicks the total purchase to up to \$300,000. The land was sold for \$75,000 in 2000 and is only assessed at \$89,900. How is it suddenly worth \$300,000. She wondered how this price was negotiated so high. She asked that people look at how the purchase price was set. She was concerned about the limited resources for open space especially over the next few years. She handed the Clerk an OPRA Request for the documents pertaining to this piece of property.

Mayor O'Brien reiterated that the ordinance before the Township Committee is not for the purchase of the property. The purchase has already been done. He agreed that there should be the need for efficiency when it comes to open space. The current Township Open Space Fund taxes go to pay off debt for previous purchases. There is a limited amount of money available in the Open Space Fund which is why the Township looks for partners for the open space purchases. As far as transparency goes, when the purchase was decided in 2013, two appraisals were completed which used five independent properties in each case. That was the basis for the market that was used. Comm. Mangin said that the two appraisals were made by two licensed appraisers who then reported back to the State. The Township was not involved in the appraisal process. He agreed that there is a windfall of money for this property, however, there was probably a windfall for the Ewing family. When they bought their farm many, many years ago, they may have paid a little bit of money per acre and it sold for over \$3 million.

**PUBLIC  
COMMENT  
(Con't)**

\*\*\* Richard Higgins, 21 Bloomfield Avenue, Flemington Borough, said that it was important to remember that Flemington Borough and Raritan Township were combined many years ago. He felt that there should not be two governments, two planning boards and two police departments less than one mile apart from each other especially in these times of advanced communication. The State guideline is that if the population is less than 15,000 people then the municipality should connect to the neighboring municipality. There are 4,500 people that live in the Borough. There should be a study begun to see it is feasible to have a question placed on both ballots. He quoted that, "A house divided against itself, cannot stand". Mr. Higgins said he also mentioned this to Flemington Borough.

Attorney Cruz said that this segment is for public comment only. He said that there is a public hearing later on in the meeting for the ordinance for the Davino property. If anyone has any comments on the ordinance, the comments should be stated at the public hearing.

**FINANCIAL  
ISSUES**

Payment of Bills as Listed for Raritan Township:    **\$ 5,238,163.78**

Mayor O'Brien said that \$4.6 million is going to the Flemington-Raritan Board of Education, \$310,000 is for payroll and a very large amount is for the healthcare payment. Comm. Reiner asked about the Canning Group. Mayor O'Brien said that this payment is for Administrator 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.

**REPORTS**

**LIAISON REPORTS**

Karen Gilbert – Joint Parks & Recreation, Open Space, Public Works – Comm. Gilbert said that, based on the research and information, it was noted that the Township could provide the services for electronics recycling. This will be for free including the removal of data from any kind of computer equipment. There were discussions between her and Superintendent of Public Works Don Hutchins whether or not this service should be opened to the surrounding communities. However, at this time, it will be launched initially only for Raritan Township residents. Residents can use their \$5.00 recycling ticket. Adm. Giaimis mentioned that no smoke detectors or light bulbs will be allowed. There will be no cost to the Township. Attorney Cruz suggested that if there is a contract for this type of recycling, the contract should be approved by resolution so there is a record of the action that this body has taken and that the contract, in fact, reflects what has been discussed and that it is at no cost to the Township and that precautions are being taken. Comm. Gilbert said that the Girl Scouts took a tour of the Public Works Facility. She said that Superintendent Hutchins is looking into converting the Public Works Building into natural gas. The savings will be about \$10,000 per year.

Michael Mangin – Planning Board, RTMUA, Board of Health – Comm. Mangin said that the Ingerman Group received preliminary site plan approval for 98 COAH units. This development will be housing for low and moderate income. The buildings will be very high efficiency and are very nice in appearance. There was no report given regarding the RTMUA. Regarding the Board of Health, Secretary Rose Sollena shared the two draft ordinances regarding abandoned and foreclosed properties with the Board. The Chairman, Frank Nagy, agreed that the Board will not pursue an ordinance. The Board will wait for an ordinance from the Township Committee. The Board reviewed an ordinance from Bloomsbury Township, however, this ordinance dealt with properties that were owner occupied. There was a 5K Run held at Barley Sheaf School. He thanked reporters Rick Epstein and Terry Wright who will no longer be reporting for the Hunterdon County Democrat after the summer. He thanked them for their fine service over the years.

Richard Chen – Public Safety, Finance – Comm. Chen said that State Farm Insurance has a neighborhood assist program whereby they give a grant out for \$25,000. The grants are related to drunk driving and prevention of drunk driving. With one grant, he would like to purchase portable breath analyzers that can easily be hand carried. People that get stopped by Raritan Township Police for driving under the influence may have some alcohol in their bloodstream, however, not high enough to receive a conviction. The portable breath analyzer can be used after the person signs a consent form. The second

**REPORTS  
(Con't)**

grant would be for education. He will work with the high school to help promote a driver safety poster contest. Winners will receive a portable breath analyzer to use when they go out to make sure that they are under the legal limit. The winners will be announced on May 14<sup>th</sup>. There are over 1,000 entries and the top 40 will be chosen.

Louis Reiner – Flemington-Raritan Schools, Hunterdon Central High School, Environmental Commission, Local Historians Committee – Comm. Reiner said that the Flemington-Raritan School Budget will be increased by 3% justified because of increased medical insurance for the staff and administrators. He mentioned that he is looking forward to the bus trip to Bethlehem, PA with the Local Historians on May 16, 2015. Clerk Sollena said that the tickets are available in the Clerk's Office. Comm. Reiner mentioned that even though the Flemington-Raritan School District's enrollment is at a low point, there are no plans for consolidation.

Craig O'Brien – Administration, Personnel – Mayor O'Brien said there will be a Hunterdon County Community Day on Saturday, June 13, 2015 hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. There will be a County-level shared services meeting to be held on May 20, 2015 at the County Complex on Route 12 beginning at 7:30 a.m. Last week, the Freeholders held an economic development meeting to discuss what the next steps are. He received a letter from John Parker who, as a veteran, helps coordinate the Memorial Day Parade and invited the Committee to march in the parade. The parade begins at 10:00 a.m. There will be a service on Memorial Day at the Municipal Building beginning at 8:30 a.m. He encouraged everyone to attend. It's a very moving time. On May 11, 2015, the Hunterdon Medical Center is having a dedication for the electric charging station at 11:00 a.m. Deputy Mayor Karen Gilbert will attend. Comm. Mangin was the mayor when the electric charging station was approved, however, he will be out of town on that day. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor Gilbert are going to the high school on May 21<sup>st</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup> to speak about local government to juniors and seniors.

**UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS**

**DONATION OF 2004 AMBULANCE TO FLEMINGTON-RARITAN  
FIRST AID & RESCUE SQUAD** – This matter was tabled.

**FORECLOSED AND ABANDONED PROPERTY ORDINANCE** – Mayor O'Brien said that there have been previous discussions on this matter. This is to address properties that are abandoned or in foreclosure. The State has passed legislation that gives towns the ability to take action when there is an abandoned property that is not maintained or a foreclosed property where the bank is not doing its due diligence to maintain the property in accordance with the standards of the town. Comm. Gilbert said that this ordinance is long overdue. When she and Comm. Mangin were campaigning, people raised questions about the abandoned properties not being kept up. This ordinance will improve the conditions of the neighborhoods

**UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS  
(Con't)**

and is an important step forward for the health and safety of the residents. Comm. Reiner said that the foreclosure ordinance seems to be straight forward. However, the ordinance pertaining to vacated properties seems to be problematic. A vacant or abandoned structure, in his opinion, can be anything the zoning officer determines to be a vacant or abandoned structure in his or her sole discretion. The definitions, in his opinion, appear to be too broad. He felt that the zoning officer has too much power. His issue is the intrusion onto private property. He encouraged everyone to read the definitions proposed. In his judgment they would all potentially give an over zealous zoning officer the tools necessary to make mischief if he or she so chooses. The first sentence in the ordinance is okay, however, he felt that Sections A,B.C & D should be removed in reference to owner-occupied residential homeowners. Mayor O'Brien pointed out that A,B.C & D have no value unless they meet the first criteria.

Comm. Mangin said that Item 15 D.08 regarding vacant properties places a great deal of responsibility on the zoning officer who is also the Planner. He would like to see some of that weight to include the Construction Code Officer. The Zoning Officer should not have the sole determination about the status of the properties.

Attorney Cruz said that there have been discussions in the past about adopting a property maintenance code. It was his understanding that it is the consensus of the Township Committee not to adopt a property maintenance code because the Township has already adopted the State Housing Code. The Township Committee will have to consider designating a building inspector who would identify the deficiencies on the properties. The building inspector would then work with the Zoning Officer to bring those building or housing code violations to either the lending institution or to the person responsible for the abandoned properties. The enforcement of these violations is up to the Township Committee. Typically it is the Zoning Officer that does that work. Comm. Mangin pointed out that he felt that no more than \$50.00 should be charged for registering an abandoned or foreclosed property. If one does not pay the \$50.00, then the Township can impose a fine of \$250.00. Comm. Gilbert agreed. Comm. Chen said that there should be an amount that is capped. Adm. Giaimis said that, in general, if there is a cap placed, the amount should be enough to fix the property. Attorney Cruz said that the maximum amount for fines and penalties are set by Statute and the judge cannot exceed that amount. The Township can administratively issue a Notice of Violation and try to receive compliance in that fashion. The purpose of these ordinances is not to collect fines but to obtain compliance. So the enforcement officer can choose any array of mechanisms in order to get compliance. The enforcement officer does not have to immediately issue a summons. This will be at the discretion of the person enforcing the ordinance. The judge also has the discretion to impose a fine. Adm. Giaimis asked if the judge has the discretion to also lower the fine. Attorney Cruz reiterated that the fines come directly from the State Statute. There is a foreclosure Statute that was adopted last year and there is also a vacant and abandoned Statute that has been

**UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS  
(Con't)**

in effect for a longer period of time. Mr. Cruz said that he tempered the amounts from the State Statute in order to reduce the severity of what the State Law already allows. As an example, if a property does not have a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy or Certificate of Occupancy, has lost it in some way or the premises are being occupied contrary to the zoning ordinance, it means that the property is illegally occupied. Attorney Cruz suggested that before the ordinance is changed, there should be a discussion between the Building Code Official, the Zoning Officer, Mayor and Administrator to iron out the changes.

**NEW  
BUSINESS**

**REMINDER:** *The Township committee Meeting Scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2015 has been changed to Monday, May 18, 2015 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, One Municipal Drive, Flemington, New Jersey*

**ORDINANCES:**

**ORDINANCE #15-2**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF A PERCENTAGE OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 20, LOT 3, COMMONLY KNOWN AS 113 OAK GROVE ROAD, AS SHOWN ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN, FROM KATHY DAVINO AND PATRICIA DAVINO, AND APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS.

*Attorney Cruz clarified that the Township Committee already committed to the funding for this property. The Township Committee has not committed to acquiring the property. A technical requirement is that the Township take title to the property for a brief moment at closing. This ordinance authorizes the acquisition and appropriates the necessary funding from two sources; the County Open Space Fund and the Green Acres Program and then authorizes the Mayor to sign a deed conveying the property to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. As mentioned previously, there was an appraisal process that went through. The Township was not involved in that appraisal process, however, the appraisals were reviewed by the State of New Jersey, Green Acres Program.*

*Mayor O'Brien said that this ordinance is for the actual takeover of the property as a means of conveying it over to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation.*

**ORDINANCES:** Meeting opened to the public.  
(Con't)

- \*\*\* Patrick Fatton, 115 Old Croton Road, said that he is a professional land Surveyor and has lived in the Township for thirty-three years. He has completed numerous preservation surveys for Raritan Township and Green Acres. He supports the funding of this acquisition by the Township. He felt it was a good use of funds.
- \*\*\* Mayor Roger Locandro, Delaware Township, thanked the Township Committee for its commitment to open space. He is the Chairman of the Storm Water Committee in Delaware Township. The Wickecheoke Creek goes from Raritan Township to Delaware Township down to Stockton. Storm water is a regional problem. It is great that headwaters can be preserved for the properties downstream. Delaware Township also has a 319 Federal Grant that is being utilized to stop the sediments moving out of the Township, into the water, down the stream and into the canal. He felt that the \$10,000 per acre appraisal does not seem over generous. He said that the residents of Delaware Township appreciate the commitment of Raritan Township.
- \*\*\* Leslie Zower, Delaware Township, said that she shared Mayor Locandro's gratitude to Raritan Township for protecting the headwaters. She emphasized how important headwaters protection is for Raritan Township as well as Delaware Township. She worked with Mayor Locandro to map the serious storm water problems in Delaware Township. Headwaters is so important for infiltration and if they are not protected, there will be a dramatic increase in flooding in that immediate area as well as further downstream.
- \*\*\* Barbara Sachau, 2 Glenway Drive, said that she felt that this property should not be transferred to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and that it should stay with the taxpayers who paid for the property. She was not in favor of this purchase or any other purchases in the future taking tax dollars and turning it over to a non-profit organization. This may not be in the best interest of the taxpayers. At the State House Commission in Trenton, there has been much comment by people on the formula for appraisals that Green Acres uses. People have questioned the appraisals from the State of New Jersey. They are higher than they should be. She stated that the New Jersey Conservation Foundation or any other non-profit organization should abide by OPRA (Open Public Records Act) of the State of New Jersey. The taxpayers have an interest in that property that should not be lost.

**ORDINANCES**

- \*\*\* Oliver Elbert, 254 Everitts Road, Ringoes, NJ, former Mayor and Township Committeeman of Raritan Township thanked the Committee for following through on this project. This project was started several years ago. He appreciated the Committee's efforts.
- \*\*\* Julie Hajdusek, New Jersey Water Supply Authority, said that the State Authority operates drinking water resources including Spruce Run and Round Valley Reservoirs. The New Jersey Water Supply Authority is a partner in this project and invested financial resources into the project and has an interest in seeing this come to completion. The New Jersey Water Supply Authority has partnered with Raritan Township in the past on previous acquisitions and has been undertaking land acquisition for source water protection for about thirteen years. Most of those properties are close to this area within the Raritan Basin and also within the Lockatong-Wickecheoki Creek Water Shed, both of which feed the D & R Canal. She said that Mayor Locandro pointed out that the D & R Canal is a drinking water source for 1.5 million residents in Central New Jersey. They have invested more than \$15 million into water protection in the last thirteen years and they have actually committed \$40,000 to this project. There is a value of the resource and a value of the partnership. She asked the Committee for their consideration in this matter.
- \*\*\* Amy Greene, 32 Windham Court, Chair of the Open Space Committee, encouraged the Committee to move forward with this vote to allow this long standing project to move ahead. There are many different types of open space that the Open Space Committee is targeting. This is part of the Croton Plateau which, in the Master Plan, is identified as a high resource value area. Some of the values have been identified as water supply, flood control, wildlife. The New Jersey Conservation Foundation has a long history of preserving land along the Wickecheoki Corridor, including Raritan Township. With the help of volunteers, they will create walking paths through this property. They encourage the public to take advantage of the property and its beauty. There will be no cost to the Township. The funding is from Green Acres and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. NJCF also applied for a Non-Profit Grant from Hunterdon County which they are also using. Raritan Township also applied for a 30% funding of the property in a competitive application to the County Cooperative Open Space Fund and the County recognized the value of this preservation and authorized that funding. The cost of the appraisal was shared and will be refunded from Green Acres. She felt this was a win-win situation for everyone.

**ORDINANCES  
(Con't)**

\*\*\* Larry LeFevre, 21 Amsterdam Road, Holland Township, represented the Hunterdon Land Trust and said that he supports this project. This is an opportunity to continue to preserve this particular corridor and greenway. He mentioned that people live here because of the beauty of the area.

\*\*\* Marie Newell, 20 Meadow Lane, Lebanon, NJ, thanked the Committee for working through this process of preserving lands in Raritan Township. The NJFC has preserved the Turnquest, Levine and Davino properties. She reassured everyone that the New Jersey Conservation Foundation is a 50+ year old organization that has been managing land and preserving properties. They have been working almost 28 years in the Wickecheoke corridor. They preserve two pieces per year. These properties are for passive recreation for the public. They are marked and there are kiosks on the property explaining the land. She encouraged people to tour the preserved properties.

Comm. Mangin said that the true cost of the property needs to be clarified. There are about four to five partners including Green Acres, Hunterdon Land Trust, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Hunterdon County Open Space that are paying for this property. Raritan Township has an open space fund which is .015 cents. None of the Raritan Township open space money is going toward this project.

\*\*\* Amy Greene said that what Comm. Mangin was correct. The Township spent a couple of thousand dollars for the appraisals, however, that money will be refunded 100% from Green Acres.

Comm. Mangin went on to say that Raritan Township taxpayers pay a County Open Space Fund as well an open space tax to the Township. The County allocates 15% back to the Township for projects such as this one. If the Township decides not to invest in any projects, the County keeps the taxpayer's money and gives it to other municipalities. Comm. Gilbert said that she is in full support of this project. She has been working with the Open Space Committee for several years. One of the questions she has come across is that if a property that has wetlands, a creek and only allows two houses to be built on it, would it be a good acquisition. This property is protecting the headwaters of the Wickecheoki Creek and prevents flooding. If there were two houses built on this property, children would have to be educated and services would have to be provided. There will be no cost to the Township. Comm. Reiner thanked Amy Green and Marie Newell for doing stupendous work and for following all the guidelines in accordance with the State. Comm. Reiner stated that the property was purchased for \$75,000 fifteen years ago. The value now, according to the appraisal that was approved by the State, is \$300,000. Comm. Reiner stated that the first seven years after 2000, there was an upswing in real estate and the last eight years there was an economic downslide. Comm. Reiner said that one could reasonably argue that this could constitute a wash in value. Comm. Reiner stated that

**ORDINANCES:** he is not willing to make that leap. He is willing to concede that the property did increase in value somewhat, however, not four times the value in the last fifteen years. He understood that the State appraisals are not based on private comparables. Again, he could not reconcile the fact that this property gained four times its value in the last fifteen years. He could not understand how the appraiser came to this valuation for this property.

**(Con't)**

Comm. Gilbert said that just because the property was sold for \$75,000 15 years ago does not mean that it was valued at \$75,000. Property has been sold for \$1 if one chooses to do so. That was the amount of money that was exchanged back then. The appraisals were done by professionals and they were done with comparisons.

Mayor O'Brien said that the issue that is before the Township Committee is a legal process. There was a step that was missed in the acquisition process which is the transfer of title to the Township and then the conveyance to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. The property was sold for \$75,000 in 2000 and it was also sold for \$146,000 in 1992. This may not be the fair market value of the property. There are ten comparable sales and two appraisals. Two or three of those properties were made under open space and also private individuals. The Township has spent roughly \$20 million in open space funding over the last twenty years. The Open Space Tax is .015 paid to the Township and .03 cents paid to the County. The Township will have to decide what to do with its Open Space Fund in the future.

Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance #15-02 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 – no  
                                  O'Brien – yes

Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. League of Municipalities: (All Information is on File in the Clerk's Office):  
"Leaves of Absence in New Jersey – A Look at the Family Medical Leave Act and ADA Compliance"; New Jersey Digital Government Summit; "D" Variances Under The Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) – What they are and How do they get Approved?; Seminar Round Up; Appointment of New Executive Team; Seminar Round Up; Weekly Policy Update;
- b. Delaware Township Ordinance re: Land Use
- c. Township of Readington Resolution re: Opposing New Jersey Assembly Bill #4197 and Any Other Efforts Made by the Senate or Assembly to Reduce Funding for Historic Preservation
- d. Township of Union Resolution & East Amwell Township re: Supporting Assembly Bill A-4325 – "Transparent Tax Act of 2015"
- e. Proclamation – Relay for Life of Hunterdon County
- f. NJ Department of Education re: 2015-2016 Municipal Percentage Shares for Tax Levies for Regional School Districts and Districts Merged Pursuant to P.L.2009,c78
- g. Hunterdon County Planning Board Breakfast re: Shared Services – *This will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. Comm. Mangin and Mayor O'Brien will attend.*
- h. Hunterdon Bike to Work 2015
- i. Township Planner Jamie Sunyak re: Rutgers Introduction to Zoning Administration and Enforcement

*Mayor O'Brien that the Hunterdon Land Trust Farmer's Market will open to the public on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at the Dvoor Farm. This will be the 9<sup>th</sup> season.*

**NON-CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Applications for Membership in the Raritan Township Fire Company**

Mayor O'Brien said that Mr. Natale missed filling out one section of his application where it states if he/she has ever been convicted of a crime. He spoke to Fire Chief Wetter who informed him that Mr. Natale has not been convicted of any crime. This motion will be conditioned on Mr. Natale filing an amended application.

1. Edward G. Natale III

Mayor O'Brien asks for a motion to approve the application for membership in the Fire Company for Edward G. Natale III

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.

2. Joel Thorsen

Mayor O'Brien asks for a motion to approve the application for membership in the Fire Company for Joel Thorsen.

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.

**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 #15-109 – Donation of 2004 Ambulance to Flemington-Raritan First Aid & Rescue Squad**

**Resolution #15-111 – Tax Refunds to CORELOGIC .**

**Resolution #15-112 – Authorizing the Return of a Perc Witness Fee to Marjorie Conte - \$400**

*Resolution #15-109 has been removed from the Consent Agenda.*

Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda with the removal of Resolution #15-109 – Donation of 2004 Ambulance to the Flemington-Raritan First Aid & Rescue Squad.

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

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

Comm. Reiner said that a resident informed him that there is a problem with semi-trucks that are going over the speed limit. The trucks go onto Old York Road in Ringoes at excessive speeds and by-pass Route 202 and end up in Three Bridges. Chief Tabasko met with the resident to try to resolve the matter. Comm. Chen said that people who own semi-trucks and live on Old York Road must go home with the truck. Old York Road is a County-owned road.

*Attorney Cruz read Resolution #15-110 in full.*

**Resolution #15-110 – CLOSED SESSION:**

**Personnel – Zoning Inspector/Planner’s Assistant  
CFO Position; Plumbing Sub Code  
Official;**

**Potential Litigation – In Re 2015 Declaratory  
Judgment Action Seeking  
Approval of the Township of  
Raritan’s Housing Element  
and Fair Share Plan**

Mayor O’Brien asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #15-110.

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

Vote: 5 – 0 motion carried.

**CLOSED  
SESSION**

*Closed Session Minutes are on a separate document.*

**OPEN  
SESSION**

The Committee went back into Open Session at 9:09 p.m..

**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: 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Sollena, RMC/CMC  
Township Clerk

