

*The Township Committee of the Township of Raritan met on November 4, 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 CFO William Pandos 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.

No one showed.

**FINANCIAL
ISSUES**

Payment of Bills as Listed for Raritan Township: **\$ 5,269,547.71**

Comm. Reiner asked about Item #218 to Delta Dental in the amount of \$8,158.84. Mayor O'Brien said that this is the premium for all employees for one quarter. The Township employs approximately 100 employees. Comm. Reiner also asked about Item #3177 to Horizon Blue Cross in the amount of \$182,895.00. He wanted to know if this was a quarterly premium. CFO Pandos said that this is a monthly payment. The annual health bills are about \$1.9 million per year. Mayor O'Brien asked about checks previously dispersed and, in particular, a return to fund in the amount of \$82,715. CFO Pandos said that this is for accounting purposes only.

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

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

**FINANCIAL
ISSUES
(Con't)**

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 she would email a list of accomplishments from the Public Works Department to the Township Committee.

Michael Mangin – Planning Board, RTMUA, Board of Health – Comm. Mangin said that the Ingerman property was approved for final site plan at the last Planning Board meeting. There will be approximately 86 COAH units.

Richard Chen – Public Safety, Finance – Comm. Chen said that the Fire Company held demonstrations at senior citizen centers and at Home Depot. The new fire truck will be delivered in a few weeks.

Louis Reiner – Flemington-Raritan Schools, Hunterdon Central High School, Environmental Commission, Local Historians Committee – Comm. Reiner said that the Environmental Commission reviewed site plans for a warehouse behind the Flemington Department Store. Ms. Keegan, Assistant Superintendent of Hunterdon Central High School would like to come in and make a presentation about the high school.

Craig O'Brien – Administration, Personnel – No report.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

There was none.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

CONSTRUCTION OFFICE RE: SECRETARIAL HELP - Construction Code Official, Hans Wernebold, congratulated Craig O'Brien and Karen Gilbert on their recent victory for seats on the Township Committee. He said that the Construction Office is extremely busy with a total of 1,722 permits issued which is more than 200 over last year. There have been 5,500 inspections completed. There were 5,700 last year which included East Amwell Township. He requested part time clerical help for his office. This person could help with the phones, paperwork and filing. He asked that this person be in place at the beginning of next year.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

ENGINEERING OFFICE RE: ENGINEERING AIDE/INSPECTOR – A resolution was adopted appointing an Engineering Aide/Inspector later in the meeting.

OPEN SPACE APPLICATION – Comm. Gilbert said that she and Mayor O’Brien attended a meeting of the County Open Space and there is \$527,000 available in County Open Space funds. Some of the surrounding municipalities use the money to pay down the debt of the Open Space Fund. She recommended that the Township do this as well. The Township can request any amount it wishes. The deadline for the submission of the application is November 16, 2015. Comm. Mangin said he would also like to see the money used toward the debt. Comm. Reiner agreed. There are no plans for acquisition of open space at this time.

Motion was made by Comm. Gilbert to request \$400,000 from the County Open Space funds for the purpose of open space debt reduction and seconded by Comm. Reiner.

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

Motion carried.

Adm. Jerry Giaimis was directed to submit the application to Hunterdon County. A resolution will be prepared to request the funds at the next meeting.

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE #15-17

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A DRAINAGE EASEMENT FROM MARIA L. YASENCHAK FOR LOT 2 IN BLOCK 41.01 AS SHOWN ON THE TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN.

Meeting opened to the public.

Mayor O’Brien asked for a motion to close the public hearing to the public and adopt Ordinance #15-17 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.

Mayor O’Brien spoke about a piece of land known as the Micek Tract that the Township owns outright. This property is about 90 acres. The land is located behind Johanna Foods. In speaking with the County, the County suggested that the easement that is on the property could be sold and the land could be preserved as farmland. The Township cannot do much with the open space property. Comm. Mangin said that this matter has been a battle with the residents in the area. They objected to anything being done with the property. The Township will investigate this matter.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. League of Municipalities: (All Information is on File in the Clerk’s Office): Conference Sessions – Transportation Matters; Legislative Bulletin for September; Upcoming Seminars and Events; Weekly Policy Update: Assembly Returns November 9th; Senate President Announces “New Jersey: Investing in You”; Annual League Conference; Mayors Invited to Gateway Project Forum; Survey on School-Municipal Cooperation: Creative Solutions to the 2% Cap; The Gateway Project: Improvement of New Jersey’s Crucial Rail Link to New York; Important Conference Sessions Using Technology; Federal Advocacy Update: House Transportation Committee Advances Highway Bill; House Legislation would give Municipal Securities a Favorable Classification; Senate Blocks Sanctuary City Mandate: EPA Announces Tougher Ozone Standards; NLC Asks congress to Strip CSO Prohibition from Appropriations Act; Guide to Federal Broadband Funding Released; ACA “Excise Tax” would Burden Local Governments;
- b. NJ DEP re: Ramapo Mountain State Forest Reopens Following Monitoring for Black Bear Activity
- c. Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Breakfast – Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at Beaver Brook Country Club
- d. Borough of Wanaque, County of Passaic Resolution re: To Explore the Elimination or Reduction of County Government in the State of New Jersey

Resolution #15-236 – Chapter 159 Body Armor - \$3,194.21

Comm. Chen said that this is payment from the State for use by the Police Department. One half is from the State and one half is from the Federal Government for body armor.

Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #15-236.

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

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.

Attorney Robertson read Resolution #15-234 as amended.

Resolution #15-234 – CLOSED SESSION:

Personnel - Fire Prevention Inspector

Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #15-234

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

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.

**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: 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Sollena, RMC/CMC
Township Clerk