

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
1033 WELDON ROAD
LAKE HOPATCONG, NJ 07849
973-208-6133
www.jeffersontownship.net

Regular Meeting
March 16, 2016
MINUTES

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CALL TO ORDER

This meeting is being held in compliance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, Sections 4 and 13, as notice of this meeting and the agenda thereof had been reported to the official newspapers of the Township on March 10, 2016 and posted in the municipal building.

Vice President Sanchelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the municipal building.

ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Mr. Birmingham	X	
Mr. Dunham	X	
Mrs. Merz	X	
Vice President Sanchelli	X	
President Yocum		X
Mr. Cohen, Township Attorney	X	
Ms. Pivrotto, Deputy Clerk	X	

Ms. Reilly called the roll. All Council members were present, except for Council President Yocum, who was absent. Also in attendance were Township Attorney Larry Cohen, Deputy Clerk Maria Pivrotto, Clerk/Typist Michele Reilly, Mayor Russell Felter, Administrator James Leach, and CMFO Bill Eagen.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Vice President Sanchelli asked everyone to rise and Salute the Flag.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Felter declared March 2016 as American Red Cross Month and read the Proclamation.

Mayor Felter recognized Brittany Boetticher as the Top Youth Volunteer Of The Year for Jefferson Township High School and presented her with a certificate.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Felter presented appreciation certificates to students participating in and appointed to the Jefferson Township Municipal Alliance Committee (JTMAC). He was assisted by Mrs. Merz and by Christine Wilsusen, JTMAC Coordinator. Mayor Felter recognized the following students: Samantha Nunez, Brianna Ruzicka, Angelina Santiago, Cortney Scanlon, Samantha Novack, Brittany Boetticher, Lilly Snow, Kara Cannarozzi, Jess Adams. Mrs. Merz also acknowledged the contributions of Officer Rodriguez, Mrs. Terri Tate the Coordinator, Mrs. Boetticher, and Susan Woomer.

Mayor Felter, Mrs. Merz, and Ms. Wilsusen congratulated the students on their involvement in the program, their dedication to substance abuse prevention, and for being role models. The Council thanked the students for their contributions to the Township and wished them much success in future endeavors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice President Sanchelli opened the public comment portion of the meeting with the consent of the Council and asked speakers to state their name and address for the record.

Susan Williams – 29 Christy Lane, Sparta

Ms. Williams represented herself as the chair of the Skylands Group Sierra Club and addressed the Council regarding the Sparta Mountain Logging Plan. She told the Council that her group opposed the plan and felt that much of the information contained in the document was skewed and that facts had been omitted. She also commented on what her group felt was a lack of transparency on the part of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and its release of the plan and solicitation of public comment. Ms. Williams said her group had spoken out against the plan at the Sparta and Hardyston Council meetings as well as at a Freeholders meeting. She invited the Council to hike with her group in order to witness firsthand the effects of the logging.

Vice President Sanchelli thanked Ms. Williams for her comments. He said that the Township Council relied heavily on its professionals and commissions and valued their opinions in situations such as this. He asked Ms. Williams to contact the Environmental Commission (EC) and asked Dr. Williams, the Chair of the EC, who was also in attendance, to submit his findings to Administrator Leach. Vice President Sanchelli asked the administration to update the Council at the next meeting. He also asked the Clerk to contact Sparta and Hardyston regarding the opinions and statements of the municipalities on the project.

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Constance Stroh – 19 Dogwood Trail, Randolph
Ms. Stroh identified herself as the President of the Upper Rockaway River Watershed Association. She read a prepared statement outlining her concerns to the plan, which she said would cause significant harm to Sparta Mountain and impact Russia Brook. She offered her opinion that the plan is a violation of the public trust and not ecologically based but economically based. Ms. Stroh said the DEP’s plan was commercial forest management hidden under the guise of protecting an endangered species, the golden winged warbler. She provided the Clerk with some information for the Council and a sample resolution for the Council to consider.

Mr. Birmingham mentioned that the Rockaway River Watershed Association conducts baseline water testing and monitoring on Russia Brook and so far there have been no changes.

Steven Opresnick – 2 Megan Terrace, Sparta
Mr. Opresnick stated that he was a volunteer for a search and rescue team and said he wanted to discuss an issue which he felt had not been addressed in the plan, which was the issue of water runoff and water erosion. He said there was potential for mudslides and flooding due to the clear cutting and the taxpayers would have to pay for the damage. Mr. Opresnick invited the Council members to hike with him on Sunday morning at 8 am in order to view the damage and the environmental impact.

Jennifer Downing – 70 Glen Avenue, Lake Stockholm
Ms. Downing said she lives on the Hardyston side of the lake. She said she could not understand how the management of Green Acres land now equated to logging. She reminded the Council that this was just the beginning of a proposed sixty (60) year plan.

Catherine Evans – 652 Route 94, Fredon Township
Ms. Evans said she summers at Beaver Lake and she outlined her environmental background, including employment with the Massachusetts Audubon Society. She stated her opinion that the bird argument is a farce.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Vice President Sanchelli closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Vice President Sanchelli thanked everyone for speaking and stated that the administration would gather the information and report back to the Council.

In response to a public query, Mayor Felter stated that the Passaic River Coalition is disbanding and that the land is being distributed to preservation groups.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 2-16 – Ordinance to Excess the Municipal Cap Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45:14)

Following introduction, the above Ordinance will be published in accordance with the law and a Public hearing will be held on **April 6, 2016**.

Introduced: March 16, 2016

Adopted:

Council Member	By:	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	By:	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham			X									
Mr. Dunham		X	X									
Mrs. Merz	X		X									
Vice President Sanchelli			X									
President Yocum						X						

INTRODUCTION OF 2016 MUNICIPAL BUDGETS

RESOLUTIONS

- **Resolution #16-23: Authorize that Budgets be Read By Title Only**

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Council Member	By:	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham	X		X			
Mr. Dunham		X	X			
Mrs. Merz			X			
Vice President Sanchelli			X			
President Yocum						X

- **Resolution #16-24: Introduction of the Municipal Budget of the Township of Jefferson, County of Morris for the Fiscal year 2016**

Ms. Reilly read the following Resolution into the minutes:

BE IT RESOLVED that the revenues and appropriations present shall constitute the Municipal budget for the year 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Budget be published in the Daily Record.

A Public Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at the Jefferson Township Municipal Building on **April 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.** or soon thereafter, at which time and place objections to said Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2016 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

Council Member	By:	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham			X			
Mr. Dunham		X	X			
Mrs. Merz	X		X			
Vice President Sanchelli			X			
President Yocum						X

- **Resolution #16-25: Introduction of the Solid Waste Collection District Budget of the Township of Jefferson, County of Morris for the Fiscal Year 2016**

Ms. Reilly read the following Resolution into the minutes:

BE IT RESOLVED that the revenues and appropriations present shall constitute the Solid Waste Collection District budget for the year 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Budget be published in the Daily Record.

A Public Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at the Jefferson Township Municipal Building on **April 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.** or soon thereafter, at which time and place objections to said Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2016 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

Council Member	By:	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham			X			
Mr. Dunham		X	X			
Mrs. Merz	X		X			
Vice President Sanchelli			X			
President Yocum						X

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[February](#) 24, 2016 Budget Meeting All Members Present
[March](#) 2, 2016 Regular Meeting All Members Present

Council Member	By:	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham			X			
Mr. Dunham		X	X			
Mrs. Merz	X		X			
Vice President Sanchelli			X			
President Yocum						X

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COUNCIL REPORTS

Mrs. Merz commented on the loss of Marge Babich, her neighbor and a long-time member of the Milton First Aid Squad. She said Mrs. Babich's passing was a terrible loss for the community.

Mr. Birmingham said that the Library had sent out its bid on the portico and a number of contractors had picked up the specs. He said the portico would be a nice enclosure and it was expected to be completed by September. He mentioned that there would be no debt incurred, it was a "pay as you go" project, and he said it would help the access for library patrons.

Mr. Birmingham stated that he had attended the funeral for Mayor Art Ondish, whom he had served with on the Morris County League of Municipalities. He said Mayor Ondish was very dedicated to his Township and to the County and that he will be missed.

Mr. Dunham reiterated Mrs. Merz's comments about Mrs. Babich, stating that she was a charter founding member of the Milton First Aid Squad and a faithful congregant at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. He mentioned that her viewing would be held this Friday from 2 pm to 4 pm and from 7 pm to 9 pm at Stickle Funeral Home, and that a memorial mass would take place on Saturday at 10 am at the church.

Mr. Dunham also echoed Mr. Birmingham's comments about Mayor Ondish, stating that he was a very sincere man and a good leader. Mr. Dunham said his heart goes out to the Mayor's family and town.

Mr. Birmingham reported that he and Vice President Sanchelli attended a meeting of the Arts Committee and had discussions about Jefferson Day and Christmas in the Village. He said the Committee is pleased that the Christmas program is growing and becoming better attended. He mentioned that the Committee attributes part of the successful growth of the program to its off-site venues, and that the Committee is hoping to expand Jefferson Day to include some satellite locations as well.

Vice President Sanchelli stated that he had contacted the President of the Chamber of Commerce in order to discuss how to get people and businesses involved in Jefferson Day. He said there are a lot of suggestions as to how to revive Jefferson Day, including a bigger, stronger, parade, the possibility of a "restaurant row", and a chili cook-off between the two Fire Companies. He said he would contact both Fire Chiefs about the chili cook-off. Vice President Sanchelli said the Committee requested more public relations support from the Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS OF MAYOR AND ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Felter had to leave the meeting early and therefore had no report.

Administrator James Leach reported an upcoming meeting with the Department of Transportation (DOT) on March 28th at 10:30 am regarding the final concept plan for Route 15 and Berkshire Valley Road as well as the rebuilding of the bridge located on Route 15 South. He invited the Council to attend.

Mr. Dunham thanked the Administration for their hard work and cooperation during the budget process. He said the budget had been done in a collaborative and cooperative process between the Council, Administration and Department Heads. He asked Mr. Leach to convey his thanks to the Department Heads for their efforts and flexibility.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

- [Resolution #16-26: Authorizing A Quit Claim Deed for Block 77, Lot 8.01, As Shown on the Township Tax Map](#)

Council Member	By:	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham			X			
Mr. Dunham		X	X			
Mrs. Merz	X		X			
Vice President Sanchelli			X			
President Yocum						X

- [Resolution #16-27: Authorizing Renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption License 1414-33-003-008 for the Licensing Term 2015-16](#)

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Council Member	By:	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham			X			
Mr. Dunham		X	X			
Mrs. Merz	X		X			
Vice President Sanchelli			X			
President Yocum						X

- [Resolution #16-28: 2015 Appropriation Transfer](#)

Council Member	By:	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham		X	X			
Mr. Dunham	X		X			
Mrs. Merz			X			
Vice President Sanchelli			X			
President Yocum						X

- [Resolution #16-29: Approval of Bills](#)

Council Member	By:	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham		X	X			
Mr. Dunham			X			
Mrs. Merz	X		X			
Vice President Sanchelli			X			
President Yocum						X

- **Motion to Approve:**
PO No. 16-00290 Headley Lumber in the amount of \$51.28
PO No. 16-00391 Headley Lumber in the amount of \$123.63

Council Member	By:	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham	X		X			
Mr. Dunham					X	
Mrs. Merz		X	X			
Vice President Sanchelli			X			
President Yocum						X

- [Resolution #16-30: Authorize Passage of Consent Agenda Resolution](#)
Matters listed on the Consent Agenda Resolution are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion of the Council and one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member requests an item be removed for consideration.

1)[Resolution](#): Award of Bid for Motor Oil & Miscellaneous Lubricants to Chemsearch, a Division of NCH Corp., PO Box 152170, Irving, TX 75015-2170 for one year with the option of extending for a second year upon both parties in agreement in an amount not to exceed \$33,064.42. (Cert Avail Funds)

2)[Resolution](#): Authorizing Contracts with Certain Approved Cranford Police Coop Pricing System Contract Vendors for Contract Units To Enter Into A Contract with Beyer Ford, 170 Ridgedale Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960 for five (5) 2016 Ford SUV Police Interceptor AWD Vehicles, #47-CPCPS, Contract 15-01 Item #2 plus options in an amount not to exceed \$127,817.75. (Cert Avail Funds)

3)[Resolution](#): Tax Office Request for Overpayment Refunds

4)[Resolution](#): Authorizing Separation Agreement and Release of Claims

Council Member	By:	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham	X		X			
Mr. Dunham		X	X			
Mrs. Merz			X			
Vice President Sanchelli			X			
President Yocum						X

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PUBLIC COMMENT

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Vice President Sanchelli opened the public comment portion of the meeting with the consent of the Council and asked speakers to state their name and address for the record.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Vice President Sanchelli closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:20 PM

Motion made by Mrs. Merz, second by Vice President Sanchelli to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm, with all members in favor signifying by "Aye".

ATTEST: March 16, 2016

Lori Harvin, Township Clerk

Michael J. Sanchelli, Council Vice President