

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

Regular Meeting
May 4, 2016
MINUTES

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1. 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 April 28, 2016 and posted in the municipal building.

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

2. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Mr. Birmingham	X	
Mr. Dunham	X	
Mrs. Finnegan	X	
Vice President Merz	X	
President Sanchelli	X	
Mr. Cohen, Township Attorney	X	
Ms. Reilly, Township Clerk	X	

Ms. Reilly called the roll. All Council members were present. Also in attendance were Township Attorney Lawrence Cohen, Mayor Russell Felter, and Township Administrator James Leach.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Council President Sanchelli asked everyone to rise and asked Jaclyn Amantea to lead the audience in the Salute to the Flag.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS (Proclamations, Special Resolutions, Swearing In)

• **Proclaiming the Month of May 2016 as “Poppy Month” in Jefferson Township**

Mayor Felter read the proclamation to the numerous auxiliary and legion members in attendance and thanked them for all their efforts. Diana Dark and Andrea Drzyzga accepted the proclamation from the Mayor. Mayor Felter mentioned that American Legion Post 423 would hold its Memorial Day ceremony at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, May 30th, and that American Legion Post 245 would hold its Memorial Day ceremony at 11:00 a.m., followed by a parade to Brady Bridge.

• **Proclamation: National Day of Prayer May 5, 2016**

Mayor Felter read the proclamation and Pastor Rod Kesserling from Grace Evangelical Free Church and Jaclyn Amantea, congregant, accepted the proclamation.

• **Swearing in of New Township Clerk, Michele Reilly**

Mayor Felter administered the oath of office to Ms. Reilly. Mary O’Keefe, Municipal Clerk for the Borough of Butler, held the Bible.

With consent of the Council, Council President Sanchelli called for a brief recess.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Sanchelli reconvened the meeting and 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.

Horace Chamberlain – 21 Chamberlain Road

Mr. Chamberlain expressed concerns about the Sparta Mountain project and wanted to know what the Council and Mayor intended to do to stop the clear cutting. He said he had attended a meeting in Franklin to learn more about the project and he suggested sending a representative from Jefferson to any future meetings. He asked if the Mahlon Dickerson property was affected and was concerned that trees near Berkshire Valley Road were being removed as part of this project. He suggested the Council take steps to inform the residents.

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

Mayor Felter told Mr. Chamberlain that the Mahlon Dickerson property was not affected by the Sparta Mountain project and that the trees on Berkshire Valley Road were being removed as part of a forestry management plan. Mr. Leach said the Longwood Lakes Property Owners Association is responsible for the removal of these trees on Berkshire Valley Road.

Council President Sanchelli told Mr. Chamberlain that representatives of the citizens group opposed to the Sparta Mountain project had attended a previous Council meeting and expressed their concerns. He mentioned that the Council consulted with the Township Attorney and had requested that the Township Forester prepare a report as to how the project might affect the Township. He said that the attorney has concluded that the Township is logistically and financially unaffected by the project.

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Mr. Dunham said although he agrees with some of Mr. Chamberlain's comments and concerns, the project, which is being facilitated by the Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), primarily affects Green Acres land located in Sparta and Hardyston. He said that at the most, the DEP project affects a maximum of fifty (50) acres of Green Acres land located in the Township. Mr. Leach mentioned that the DEP project is not new and has been on-going for twelve (12) years.

Council President Sanchelli said that the minutes of the meeting attended by the representatives opposing the Sparta Mountain project had been posted to the Township website.

6. ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE FOR ADOPTION

There were no Ordinances listed on the agenda for public hearing and vote for adoption.

7. COUNCIL REPORTS

Mrs. Finnegan said she had attended a Historical Society function at the Museum on Sunday. She also mentioned that she had attended the "In Our Own Voice" program sponsored by JT Connect. She said it was a great program dealing with suicide and mental health.

Council Vice President Merz said she was unable to attend the "In Our Shoes" event but hoped that Mayor Felter would be able to report on the function. She commended JT Connect for their efforts to make people aware of mental health issues.

Council Vice President Merz reported that the Jefferson Senior groups attended the County presentation held last Tuesday regarding Older Americans Month, and that she was pleased the Township had been represented.

Mr. Birmingham said the Library Board would like to make a brief presentation to the Council at the next meeting regarding their proposed improvement project.

Mr. Birmingham stated he had attended the Historical Society Open House with Mrs. Finnegan. He mentioned he had also attended the Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner and that he was pleased to see the businesses involved in the community. He said that Mr. Leach gave a great presentation at the dinner. Mr. Dunham said he had also attended the Chamber of Commerce Dinner and agreed with Mr. Birmingham that Mr. Leach had given an excellent update as to the state of the Township.

Mr. Dunham reported that he, Council President Sanchelli, Mr. Leach, CFO Bill Eagen, and Human Resource Representative Annette Kouyoumijian had attended the Labor and Law Seminar in Neptune. He said it was well worth the time and effort to attend. Council President Sanchelli concurred that the seminar was excellent.

Mr. Dunham mentioned the other events he had attended, including the craft fair at Star of the Sea, a community tag sale, and the Historical Society event at the Museum.

Council President Sanchelli stated that retiring Sheriff Ed Rochford would be honored by the Council at the May 18th meeting.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS OF MAYOR AND ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Felter reported that the "In Your Shoes" event was eye opening and impactful. He said he wished the attendance was better and recommended to those in the audience that they take the opportunity to attend the event with a loved one if it is offered again.

Mr. Leach mentioned that the Department of Transportation (DOT) would be holding its public information session on May 19th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church on Berkshire Valley Road. He said the session will include information regarding the DOT's proposed plans to pave Route 181, the replacement of the bridge on Route 15 South, and the redesign of the Berkshire Valley Road/Route 15 intersection.

Mr. Leach thanked Mr. Dunham for his conversations with the DOT that will result in the milling and repaving of Route 15 South between Picatinny Truck Gate and Route 80.

Mr. Leach reported improvements to the Town Hall, including painting and the addition of a television monitor over the reception area, which will allow for the advertisement of events and will eliminate the need for posters. He pointed out the monitors that were added to the Council chambers, which he said can be used for training purposes as well as for Court. Mayor Felter said having the monitors saves the Township money, as prisoners do not have to be transported from jail but can be Skyped during a court proceeding. Mr. Leach said that the Township's JIF had contributed \$7,000 toward the improvements.

Mr. Leach mentioned a bill currently before the Legislature which, if passed, would allow municipalities to bill utility companies for extraordinary police time required due to utility pole accidents.

Mr. Birmingham said it was mentioned at the Chamber of Commerce dinner that the Lake Hopatcong Foundation had raised \$9,000 towards the fire boat, which, when purchased, will benefit all four (4) towns surrounding Lake Hopatcong. Mayor Felter said those interested in donating can send in a donation to the Morris County Parks Commission, and that donation cards are available at Lee's Park.

Council President Sanchelli said he and Mr. Birmingham would be circulating a letter on behalf of the Jefferson Township Arts Committee and Jefferson Day. He said the letter would ask for volunteers and would also ask Township groups to keep July 9th free of scheduled events in order to allow all residents the opportunity to participate in Jefferson Day.

Council President Sanchelli asked the Administration to consider placing an American Flag on the municipal sign. He also asked them to consider placing wording on the signs entering the Township stating that Jefferson respects and loves their Veterans.

Mr. Leach reported that the Lake Hopatcong Foundation would be hosting a special day for Veterans aboard the Miss Lotta on July 2nd, and that each of the four (4) towns surrounding Lake Hoptacong had been invited to send 25 (twenty-five) veterans.

9. NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT SENATE BILL 2983 AND ASSEMBLY BILL 4543

Council President Sanchelli led the discussion and said he was asking the Council, Mayor, and administration to support this legislation, which would allow retired police officers up to the age of sixty-five (65) to become Class 3 Special Police Officers. He said he felt this legislation would help municipalities to realize cost savings and to enhance school security.

Mr. Leach said he had discussed this issue with Chief Craig, who reported that the New Jersey State Chiefs of Police (NJSCOP) supported the legislation with the provision that it does not replace or supersede the role of the School Resource Officer (SRO). He said another minor issue with the legislation is that it currently does not address funding and whether the municipality or Board of Education would pay for the Class 3 officers. Mr. Leach said the legislation would be addressed at the next NJSCOP meeting which Chief Craig would be attending.

Mr. Birmingham said the legislation had been discussed at a recent County League of Municipalities meeting and that Assemblyman Bucco is a sponsor.

The Council concurred with the Council President’s recommendation for support. Council President Sanchelli asked Ms. Reilly to speak with Chief Craig and to make any necessary adjustments to the resolution prior to its inclusion on the next agenda.

**10. NEW BUSINESS
ORDINANCES – FIRST READING**

There were no Ordinances listed on the agenda for first reading.

11. NEW BUSINESS

• CONSENT AGENDA*

***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.**

Prior to the vote on the Consent Agenda, Ms. Reilly explained that Vice President Merz would also be appointed to “Animal Control Ordinance” and that Mrs. Finnegan would replace Council President Sanchelli as the appointee to Solid Waste & Recycling.

***MINUTES:**
April 20, 2016 (Regular)

***APPOINTMENTS:**
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

***APPOINTMENT(S):**
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

BIRMINGHAM	DUNHAM	FINNEGAN	MERZ	SANCHELLI
		Animal Control Ordinance	Animal Control Ordinance	
			Board of Education/Interagency Cable TV	Board of Education/Interagency
	Camp Jefferson			Camp Jefferson
	Capital Budget/Finance Committee		Capital Budget/Finance Committee	Capital Budget/Finance Committee (Alt)
	DOT			DOT
	Economic Advisory Board	Economic Advisory Board		
			Emergency Mgmt/Services	Emergency Mgmt/Services
JCPL/NJNG		JCPL/NGNG		
	Jefferson Day/Jefferson Arts Committee	Jefferson Day/Jefferson Arts Committee		
			Lake Hopatcong Regional Sewer Authority Board	
Library Board	Library Board			
			Liquor Board	Liquor Board
MC Freeholders				MC Freeholders
MC League of Municipalities				
MC Shared Services	MC Shared Services			
	Open Space Advisory			
	Personnel & Negotiations			Personnel & Negotiations

	Policy Procedure Manual	Policy Procedure Manual		
	Public Health Board			
		Recreation Advisory Board		Recreation Advisory Board (alt)
Rockaway River Watershed Cabinet				
Rockaway River Coalition				
	Senior Citizens Advisory Board	Senior Citizens Advisory Board (Alt)		
		Solid Waste & Recycling	Solid Waste & Recycling	
	Stormwater Management	Stormwater Management		
	Utility Dispute Advisory Board	Utility Dispute Advisory Board		
Watershed Coalition				

***OUTDOOR GATHERING PERMIT:**

***CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

- 16-53 Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills
- 16-54 Resolution Municipal Utilities Request Refunds

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

**Council Vice President Merz abstained from voting on Resolution 16-53, Purchase Order #16-01197 and #16-01198, Kristine Wilsusen.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Council 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 wishing to be heard, Council President Sanchelli closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT at 8:03 PM

Motion made by Mr. Dunham, second by Mr. Birmingham to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm, with all members in favor signifying by "Aye".

ATTEST: May 4, 2016

Michele Reilly, Township Clerk

Michael J. Sanchelli, Council President