

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

**Regular Meeting
September 7, 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 September 1, 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 except for *Mrs. Finnegan who arrived after the recess. Also in attendance were Township Attorney Larry Cohen, Mayor Russell Felter and Township Administrator James Leach.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Council President Sanchelli led the flag salute and turned the meeting over to Mayor Felter.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

• **Proclamation Honoring Retiring Cpl. Glenn Peter**

Mayor Felter presented the proclamation in absentia to Cpl. Peter's brother-in-law, Deputy Chief Wilsusen, with sincere thanks for Cpl. Peter's many years of service.

• **Proclamation Honoring Retiring Cpl. Bryan Christie**

Mayor Felter presented the proclamation to Cpl. Christie with sincere thanks for his many years of service.

• **Swearing In – Mathew Saparito**

Mayor Felter administered the Oath of Office to Patrolman Saparito. His fiancée held the Bible and then pinned his rank.

• **Civilian Service Awards**

Chief Craig congratulated Cpl. Peter and Cpl. Christie on their retirements and welcomed Patrolman Saparito to the Department. He thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing the Department to continue to hire officers to replace those lost to retirements.

Chief Craig presented the first Civilian Service Award to Nancy and Michael Prescott. He explained that their common sense and good judgement led to the December 15, 2015 report of a fire in the garage at the home of the McCann family. He said their persistence and keen instinct led to the quick response of the Fire Department and prevented excessive damage to the property.

Chief Craig presented the second Civilian Service Award to Paige Toriello, who accepted the award for herself and for Christopher Ondish. Chief Craig explained that Paige and Christopher had come across the scene of a motor vehicle accident on August 7, 2015, and had rescued a trapped occupant. He said their keen observations and selfless act prevented loss of life.

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

Council President Sanchelli reconvened the meeting at 7:40 pm.

• **Lake Hopatcong Foundation Presentation**

Martin Kane, President, gave a brief update about the Lake Hopatcong Foundation and its activities. He discussed hydro-raking, a weed treatment alternative which will begin this fall for a one (1) year trial period and which will be followed up by herbicide treatments in the spring. He said the Foundation hopes to install a boat wash in conjunction with the County of Morris in order to prevent contamination by invasive species. He mentioned that the Foundation is trying to set up a meeting with the Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) and is hoping to assist municipalities with keeping the costs of dredging to a minimum.

Mr. Kane talked about the progress being made on the Lake Hopatcong Trail, and said that the goal this year is to get the trail down to Jefferson. He discussed the dock numbering initiative and, in response to the attorney's question about requesting that the municipalities surrounding the Lake make dock numbering mandatory, said at this time the Foundation was hoping for a solid voluntary response and was pleased with the response to date.

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Mr. Kane presented the Foundation's concept plan for a floating classroom on the Lake, to be permanently placed at Hopatcong State Park and to be used by school children who would typically be bused to Sandy Hook. He also mentioned the work taking place at the Lake Hopatcong Train Station, due in part to the grant received from Morris County.

Mr. Kane thanked Mayor Felter and Mr. Leach for their support, and Mr. Leach presented him with a photo of Point Pleasant dated 1888. The Council thanked Mr. Kane for his presentation and requested that he follow up with the administration after his meetings in Trenton with the DEP. In response to Council questions, Mr. Kane said that the three (3) Senators and six (6) Assemblymen whose districts included Lake Hopatcong would be invited to participate in the meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

• **Discussion re: Verizon request for renewal of consent Ordinance**

Council President Sanchelli introduced the Verizon Representative, Mr. Mark Bocchieri. Mr. Cohen mentioned that the Council had received a copy of an Ordinance detailing an agreement between the Township and Verizon and passed by the Council fifty (50) years ago. He said the agreement expires in 2016 and that the Council is required to pass another Ordinance, which grants blanket permission to Verizon to operate within the municipality. Mr. Cohen stated that he is satisfied that the procedure set forth by Verizon is acceptable but noted that the Council could change the term of the agreement to fewer than fifty (50) years if it desired to do so.

Mr. Leach said he had asked Mr. Bocchieri to attend the meeting this evening in order to address the issue of Verizon's response time to maintenance issues. He stated that, as fewer and fewer residents maintain landlines and Verizon service, Verizon has ignored the maintenance of poles and lines, citing as examples situations on Russia Road and Berkshire Valley Road. The Council agreed with Mr. Leach that response time has been an issue. Councilman Dunham mentioned the amount of money spent on police overtime for traffic situations caused by downed poles or wires.

Mr. Bocchieri thanked the Council and Administration for inviting him to the meeting. He said that prior to the meeting, he had counted twenty-two (22) "double woods" in Jefferson and said he would have these pole issues cleaned up, in addition to addressing the wire problems on Russia Road. Mr. Bocchieri mentioned that at times, Verizon's response is delayed if the pole carries electrical wires, as it is necessary to have the power company respond first in order to ensure that Verizon's crew can safely perform the maintenance required.

Mayor Felter said it was important to have an open dialog with Verizon and mentioned that the Township had started a similar dialog with Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L), which has led to much better lines of communication and trust with the power company. He said he looked forward to building a similar relationship with Verizon.

In response to questions about whether or not maintenance issues can be addressed in the Ordinance, Mr. Cohen said the appropriate venue is to make complaints to the Board of Public Utilities (BPU). Mr. Cohen also stated that he would not recommend another fifty (50) year agreement. Mr. Bocchieri asked the Council to consider a minimum of twenty-five (25) years for the agreement. Council Vice President Merz made a motion to set the term of the next agreement at fifteen (15) years. The motion received a second from Councilman Dunham and all Council members voting were in favor of a fifteen (15) year agreement. Councilwoman Finnegan recused herself from voting as she is currently employed by Verizon. The Council consensus was that Mr. Cohen should prepare an Ordinance for introduction at the next Township Council meeting.

6. 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.

7. COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Birmingham reported that he has heard many positive comments from the residents of Lake Swannanoa about the condition of the roads.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS OF MAYOR AND ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Felter said he had met with Carol Punterieri and John Focacci about the future of Jefferson Day. He said the decision had been made to take a year off from a full day Jefferson Day, and instead to hold a concert and fireworks along with some refreshments. He mentioned that it has been challenging to find volunteers willing to commit to the year-long process that planning for a successful Jefferson Day requires. Mayor Felter said he expects to make a presentation to the Council in October regarding plans for Jefferson Day 2017.

Mr. Birmingham mentioned that the gypsy moth spraying in the Township had been successful and Mayor Felter expressed concerns about problems which will occur as a result of the Ash Borer.

9. NEW BUSINESS - RESOLUTIONS

• **CONSENT AGENDA* – Township Clerk**

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***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.**

***CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

[16-161](#) Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Bills

[16-162](#) Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of New Firefighter Keagan Culbertsen

[16-163](#) Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Treatment Works Application (TWA) on Behalf of the Municipality – Willow Lake Land Camp, 200 Route 181, Block 329, Lot 5

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- [16-164](#) Resolution Requesting Approval of Item of Revenue and Appropriation Under N.J.S.A. 40A:4-85 For The 2016 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Statewide Labor Day Crackdown Grant in the Amount of \$5,000.00
- [16-165](#) Resolution Authorizing Emex, LLC to Conduct a Reverse Auction for Electricity for the Township of Jefferson
- [16-166](#) Resolution Authorizing a Morris County Trail Construction Grant Application
- [16-167](#) Resolution Authorizing Contract with Certain Approved State and County Contract Vendors for Contracting Units -Day Chevrolet For (1) 2017 Chevrolet Tahoe SUV Police 4 Wheel Drive Vehicle
- [16-168](#) Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the 2016 SubGrant Agreement Renewal With The County of Morris – Dial-A-Ride
- [16-169](#) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Overpayment(s) of Taxes
- [16-170](#) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Overpayment (s) of Recreation Department Fees
- [16-171](#) Resolution Authorizing and Approving Current Estimate No. 1-Mike Fitzpatrick Equipment Co., Inc. for 2016 Road Paving Program, Contract No. RDE-16-1
- [16-172](#) Resolution to Support Assembly Bill #2717, Allowing Charitable Contribution Deductions From New Jersey Gross Income Tax
- [16-173](#) Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of 2015 4th Quarter Tax Amount Due to a Deed Transfer - Block 219 Lot 3
- [16-174](#) Resolution Approving Amendments to Personnel Policies of the Township of Jefferson

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

*Councilman Dunham abstained from voting on:
 -Resolution 16-161, Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Bills, Purchase Order #16-00391, Headley Lumber

10. PUBLIC COMMENT – Presiding Officer

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.

11. ADJOURNMENT at 8:50 PM

Motion made by Mr. Birmingham, second by Council President Sanchelli to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, with all members in favor signifying by “Aye”.

ATTEST: September 7, 2016

 Michele Reilly, Township Clerk

 Michael J. Sanchelli, Council President