

## Minutes

**Regular Meeting** of the Hazlet Township Committee held at 8:00 p.m.

**Salute** to the flag and moment of silent prayer called by Mayor.

**Mayor's Statement** – Open Public Meetings Act & Emergency Fire Exits.

In Compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" of the State of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting of the Township Committee was provided in the following manner:

(A) On April 11, 2012, advance written notice of this meeting was posted at:  
1766 Union Avenue, Hazlet, New Jersey.

(B) On April 11, 2012, advance written notice of this meeting was forwarded to the Independent and published in the Asbury Park Press on April 13, 2012.

(C) On April 11, 2012 copies of advance written notice of this meeting were mailed to all persons who requested and paid for such notices on or before January 1, 2012.

FIRE EXITS are located in the directions I am indicating:

Farther down at the end of the room, through the doors and down the stairs, directly out the front door.

To my right is the door, make a right down the hallway which leads to the stairs and directly out the rear of the building.

If you are alerted for fire, please move in a calm and orderly manner to the nearest exit. Thank you. I direct the Municipal Clerk to enter into the minutes of this meeting these announcements.

ROLL CALL PRESENT ABSENT

Committeeman Aagre X \_\_\_\_\_

Committeeman Belasco X \_\_\_\_\_

Committeeman Brady X \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy Mayor Sachs X \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor Tinker X \_\_\_\_\_

Approval of Minutes – Workshop Meeting, April 3, 2012.

Offered Committeeman Belasco 2nd Committeeman Brady

Roll Call: Committeeman Aagre Yes Committeeman Belasco Yes

Committeeman Brady Yes Deputy Mayor Sachs Yes

Mayor Tinker Yes

Executive Session Minutes – March 6, 2012, March 20, 2012 and April 3, 2012.

Offered Deputy Mayor Sachs 2nd Committeeman Brady

Roll Call: Committeeman Aagre Yes Committeeman Belasco Yes

(abstain 3/20/12)

Committeeman Brady Yes Deputy Mayor Sachs Yes

Mayor Tinker Yes

Resolutions, Motions and Appointments:

Resolutions #97 through #103 are by Consent Agenda. All matters listed under Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussions of these items. If discussion is desired by the Mayor or any member of the Township Committee, that item will be removed and will be considered separately. Advance copies of each resolution have been given to each Committee Member. The original resolutions are with the Municipal Clerk for inspection as listed below.

97. Refund of Zoning Board escrow fees.

98. Authorizing the sewer connection for Carsmetics of Keyport, LLC.

99. Refund of the overpayment of taxes made by Bank of America.

100. Issuance of Raffle License RL-3034 to the Hazlet First Aid and Rescue Squad.

101. Cancellation of outstanding operations checks.

102. Appointments to the Community Development Citizen Participation Group.

103. Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an agreement with the Monmouth County Mosquito Extermination Commission for the year 2012.

Offered Mayor Tinker 2nd Committeeman Brady

Roll Call: Committeeman Aagre Yes Committeeman Belasco Yes

Committeeman Brady Yes Deputy Mayor Sachs Yes

Mayor Tinker Yes

104. Authorizing T&M Associates to prepare the 2013 Community Development Block Grant Application.

Offered----- Committeeman Aagre 2nd Deputy Mayor Sachs

Roll Call: Committeeman Aagre Yes Committeeman Belasco Yes

Committeeman Brady Yes Deputy Mayor Sachs Yes

Mayor Tinker Yes

105. Authorizing the Mayor to execute Change Order #1 for the Veterans Park Pedestrian Footbridge.

Offered----- Mayor Tinker 2nd Deputy Mayor Sachs

Roll Call: Committeeman Aagre Yes Committeeman Belasco Yes

Committeeman Brady Yes Deputy Mayor Sachs Yes

Mayor Tinker Yes

106. Authorizing the purchase of two 2013 Police Interceptor Sport Utility Vehicles.

Offered----- Committeeman Belasco 2nd Committeeman Aagre

Roll Call: Committeeman Aagre Yes Committeeman Belasco Yes

Committeeman Brady Yes Deputy Mayor Sachs Yes

Mayor Tinker Yes

107. 2012 Swim Club Salaries.

Offered----- Committeeman Brady 2nd Committeeman Belasco

Roll Call: Committeeman Aagre Yes Committeeman Belasco Yes

Committeeman Brady Yes Deputy Mayor Sachs Yes

Mayor Tinker Yes

108. Award of bid to Belly Flop Café, LLC for the operation of the Hazlet Swim Club Concession Stand.

Offered----- Mayor Tinker 2nd Committeeman Aagre

Roll Call: Committeeman Aagre Yes Committeeman Belasco Yes

Committeeman Brady Yes Deputy Mayor Sachs Yes

Mayor Tinker Yes

109. Award of bid to Down to Earth Landscaping for Veterans Park Improvements.

Offered----- Deputy Mayor Sachs 2nd Committeeman Aagre

Roll Call: Committeeman Aagre Yes Committeeman Belasco Yes

Committeeman Brady Yes Deputy Mayor Sachs Yes

Mayor Tinker Yes

110. Authorizing Realty Appraisal to perform a Reassessment.

Offered----- Mayor Tinker 2nd Committeeman Brady

Mayor asking Committee if there is any discussion before vote.

Committeeman Belasco-If it is not beneficial to 100% of the residents of Hazlet I understand there are some good points but I don't believe it will be beneficial to all residents of Hazlet and be equal to everyone.

Roll Call: Committeeman Aagre Yes Committeeman Belasco No

Committeeman Brady Yes Deputy Mayor Sachs Yes

Mayor Tinker Yes

Motion for payment of bills:

Advance bill lists having been supplied to each Committee Member.

Offered----- Committeeman Belasco 2nd Deputy Mayor Sachs

Roll Call: Committeeman Aagre Yes Committeeman Belasco Yes

Committeeman Brady Yes Deputy Mayor Sachs Yes

Mayor Tinker Yes

Citizens Hearing:

Charles Hoffman- On resolution #106 when you purchase those vehicles are presume you are doing it via the State as we discussed previously a couple of meetings back.

Administrator Valentino- The easiest way is through the state or through the COOP whichever one gives us the best terms.

Mr. Hoffman- When you purchase these vehicles do you purchase with all the acutriments?

Administrator Valentino- Not typically Chief Broderick does a very efficient job of salvaging whatever can be salvaged from the out going vehicles and using them in the new ones. It is only when we know for a fact that we need something new. The funding that is in place will pay for anything new and will pay for the transfer of the old.

Mr. Hoffman- I know money is tight so it might be a good idea to purchase just one and wait to the last quarter to make sure the money is there in case it ends up being spent somewhere else.

Tom O'Hara, CFO- These vehicles are being purchased through a bond ordinance that was approved earlier in the year. The bond ordinance was specifically approved for this purpose. Funding is in place for these vehicles.

Mr. Hoffman- The Belly Flop Café, who is the CEO of the Organization or president?

Administrator Valentino- I believe it is a husband and wife from town, the Moores. They also own the Keyport IHOP.

Mr. Hoffman- Resolution #110 I presume from what Committeeman Belasco said we are talking about a whole community reassessment?

Administrator Valentino- Yes sir.

Mr. Hoffman- That is kind of an expensive undertake isn't it?

Mayor Tinker- First of all it is a reassessment not a reappraisal.

Mr. Hoffman- Can you explain that to me please.

Attorney Gorman- In a Re-Evaluation they have to physically inspect every property. That is a much more expensive time consuming process. Reassessment is basically looking at data from sales and they are not going to inspect the residential properties but they will inspect the commercial properties.

Mr. Hoffman – I understand why you might be doing this because of what happened to the housing market. Do we know what this might cost us?

Attorney Gorman- The estimated cost is approximately \$200,000.00 from the same company that did the reevaluation. We solicited some quotes and we got the quote of about \$200,000.00 from Reality Appraisal to do the reassessment and it can be spread out over a five year period to pay the cost of it. The tax appeals have gone from fifty filed appeals with the county in 2010 and 108 for 2011 and over 200 for 2012 tax year.

Mr. Hoffman- Are they still outstanding or were some of them settled?

Attorney Gorman- The County Tax appeals are all resolved for 2010. They are all resolved for 2011 for the residential there are still some commercial ones pending. The deadline for filing for 2012 was April 1, 2012 so the two hundred new ones just came in. It will become 400 next year unless the values are adjusted to reflect true market values.

Gene Geer- Did the report for NATCO Park get filed with DEP?

Administrator Valentino- The township committee approved the final version in workshop tonight so that will be going out this week.

Mr. Geer- But it was due last week.

Administrator Valentino- It was mutually agreed upon if we needed extra time.

Mr. Geer- Any chance I can get a copy of that?

Administrator Valentino- Once I sign it, it will become a public document and then it will be available.

Mr. Geer- When is that?

Administrator Valentino- By the end of the week.

Jim Dericks- I was here less than a year ago in regard to the condition of our street on Stanford Drive. I showed you pictures and I think Mr. Valentino agreed how bad the conditions were. Through our communications back and forth he had stated that we were on a prioritized list for improvements. I would like to know where we stand?

Administrator Valentino- There are a lot of streets on the priority list. I think the last time we had a detailed conversation I had said to you for the benefit of the public that the engineers office was doing a survey of all the roads in town so that when the governing body made decisions about road work and they are making it from an informed decision that we knew what streets were worse than others and why. That has since been done and we now have a survey of the entire town and I am sure there are people who will debate that their roads are worse or in better conditions than the map says. The decision about what

roads are going to be done this year have not yet been made and we are in the process of coming up with our recommendations to give to the Committee.

Mr. Dericks- We came at the right time. Here are some pictures and they are part of the ones I handed in the first time. I don't think any of you live on Stanford Drive because I don't think you would want this for your kids, your family. If I go one street over I don't have this, if I go any place in town I don't have this. If you just do me a small favor and drive down Stanford Drive and take a look. Look at the street with all the pot hole and look at the curbs and you know what you are going to see no curbs. The curbs were installed in 1958. Slowly but surely we are going to be back. We have a few people now but we will get more and we are going to form a Committee and I think that is the only way we are going to be heard. I hope you take a serious look at this street.

Jerry Sacher- I would like to reiterate on what Jim said. The priority list is coming up or it is going to be debating for the streets?

Administrator Valentino- I should probably clarify what a priority list is. We asked the engineer to go through all the streets in town with the public works department and classify the streets into extremely bad, pretty bad, fair, good and excellent. Excellent is anything we would have touched in the past four or five years. When you look at that map there is a lot of red, ready to be done now. Stanford and all the college streets is what I call them are all red there is no doubt about it. A lot of the streets in town are. When I say there is a priority list I don't mean to say I can tell you that you are six and he is seven. We have a list of things that are all in the same general quality or condition and the Committee has half a million dollars of capital money that needs to be spent.

Mr. Sacher- We all know half a million dollars not go far. You are going to come up with a plan or something within the next couple of months?

Administrator Valentino- Yes we need to start putting that together. The budget got adopted at the last meeting so we are through that part so we will move into that phase of deciding. Your elected officials tonight are hearing what you are saying and they are looking at letters and emails and phone calls and other people have come to make comments. What you are doing tonight is helpful to the Committee.

Mr. Sacher- Is there any time frame when something will be decided as to what roads will be done?

Administrator Valentino- No we just have to make some decisions.

Mr. Sacher- On the reassessments how is that going?

Attorney Gorman- There is a general understanding in the community that property values have decreased over the last several years. A lot of towns in Monmouth County Hazlet is not alone ordered by the County to do re-evaluations when prices were rapidly rising. Now as they have come back down the numbers that are placed on the assessments seem to be too high leading to more appeals. The Tax Assessor keeps data base on all recent sales and it was her recommendation and I agree that it is time to look at a reassessment of the property assessments.

Mr. Sacher- The Re-evaluations are required by the county every 10 years?

Attorney Gorman- No they are required by the county basically when your number gets so far away from being at 100%.

Mr. Sacher- how have the tax appeals been going?

Attorney Gorman- We have been pretty successful.

Mr. Sacher- There is no way to find properties in town are 5-10% over assessed?

Attorney Gorman- We wish it could be that simple across the board. The State won't allow us to do that.

Mr. Sacher- So we are hiring Reality Appraisal to do the reassessment?

Attorney Gorman- No not yet.

Mr. Sacher- We haven't hired Reality Appraisal yet?

Administrator Valentino- The Committees intent tonight was to authorize the Tax Assessor to notify the County Tax Court that this is our plan and the County Tax Court says yes we agree with you then it goes to the State Department of Taxation.

Mr. Sacher- So they just go over all the records when we did a re-evaluation?

Administrator Valentino- They are going to be looking to see if our request is justified.

Jim Dericks- Our problem on Stanford Drive and the water level in our town everyone had sump pumps and they built these houses and put a sump pump in the ground as they built it. It is ridiculous that is not today. The way everybody got rid of the water was to pump it out in the street and that is why we don't

have curbs they are all destroyed from that. I was looking at the garbage trucks coming up and down the streets and we have a good system. I can go to anyone of these garbage companies that I want to we have 7 different garbage companies on our street alone. I also looked on Amherst where you enter our development and it says trucks over 4-5 tons well garbage trucks are far in excess of any tonnage that is allowed on our streets. Let's say we have one garbage service comes up our street at least over 200 times a year an overweight truck comes down our street in Hazlet. No it is seven different carries that is 1400 trips on my street alone as well as every single street in this town. That is a lot of abuse. Now we are looking at colored chart. It is a possibility that you can take these carriers and put them in certain areas.

Attorney Gorman- It is a good suggestion but no.

Committeeman Belasco – That is good idea sir but if you got your neighbors together and all went as a group together you might get a fantastic price.

Committeeman Aagre- We have been out to bid for a garbage company but no one can do it.

Tony Bernard- I would like to approach the curb situation a little differently then Mr. Derick. I don't mean to insult anyone here because you are all temporary. Last year you were the Mayor sir and it keeps changing. Hopefully I have to look at Brian Valentino and say have you been around long enough to say have you been here long enough to say can you do long term planning. I have been on this street since 1987 I have watched decay. The curb that is not normal that is a solid piece of cement that is suppose to keep the sidewalk and grass away from the street. Since 1987 I have watched this thing decay and since 1987 nobody has addressed it. It wasn't until 2010 when this town had communications with Mr. Derick that someone has addressed it. I am here to tell you that 24 years are we that poor in planning. Well I hope it is not because you are here this year and gone next year. I hope that is not the attitude. Money was tight in 2010 and 2011 what do you think 2012 is going to be. It is going to get worse because that 2% cap is going to kill you guys and hurt us. If we don't start planning long term.

Administrator Valentino- I will agree with you respectfully and lets see if you agree with me. The town desperately needs a long term capital improvement plan. This town used to have one and as the economy crashed and the budgets got chaotic the town moved away from it for whatever reasons and they were important at the time. We are now in 2012 and we are working very hard to implement the old long term strategy the long term plan where there was known money coming every year. That the tax rate doesn't fluctuate and that we know how much we are going to have every year so that we can actually make a plan. Making up that priority map was the first step in that. Knowing what our liabilities are. What are we up against? How much do we have to look forward to? The Township Committee unanimously across party lines this year committed to the first year of getting us right. Buying the vehicles that the town needs so that we don't have chaotic years. Budgeting money for parks, roads, drainage and sewerage. You eluded to one of the problems that come with that is every year this Committee ceases to exist and reforms. Sometimes it is the same five people sometimes it is new people. If the economy is chaotic and we have to deal with it the budget sometimes the road program goes away and we move away from the long term plan. I think what you are seeing with the Committee this year is the operational tax rate is flat zero increase for operations. Taxes will not increase to pay for salaries, wages, insurance and gasoline things like that. The complete total 100% of your tax increase this year is going into the capital and infrastructure needs of the community. That is a good plan. What I can disagree with you is it because the 2012 year is bad? I will tell you that the 2012 year is the best year we have had in a couple of years because we have dealt with the problems that the state has dealt us. We now have our hands on the economic problems and we know we are good this year because the budget is adopted and we think we will be o.k. next year unless the unexpected happens.

Mr. Bernard- I agree with you but the trouble with planning is that if you don't have a steady force behind it, it means nothing. That is my concern. I once again refer you back to 1987, 24 years in the planning or not planning. Please think about us I just want a piece of my pie back.

Daryl Gottilla- I take acception to Mr. Valentino in stating that all the college streets are in bad shape. Some of them are not bad. At least where I walk my dog however, our street is an accident waiting to happen. I am surprised you have not seen complaint of people twisting their ankle jogging down the street. I am assuming you have included the safety of the people utilizing these streets in your appraisal. It would be nice to get a priority list and know when we are going to see some paving. I have been there

since 1975 and I think we were paved between 1975 and when Tony moved in. I don't know what the life time of paving is but Jim made a good point in the way we are using the street. I think that would be a challenge to budget that and get one individual to take care of that. Thank you for moving forward and lets get the plan in place.

Administrator Valentino- We do take that in to consideration when looking at the roadways.

Charles Hoffman- There is a little road between Poole and Stone Road and I believe it is Hazlet's. The really bad part of that road is the exact interface with the County Road and that is very bad shape. I don't know if you can get public works to do some patching but I do think you need to address it.

Chris Scanlon- We are wondering what the progress is of the engineering study on Sycamore Drive regarding the storm drain situation?

Deputy Mayor Sachs- As I mentioned at the last meeting we will have a report by the first meeting of May. I will check with the engineer he did say he would have that report by the first meeting in May.

Mr. Scanlon- The progress of the grant that will hopefully pay for this or the application of the grant?

Administrator Valentino- No decision has been made as to what roads are going to be applied for. What I can tell you is that under federal law there will be a public hearing and it will be held right here for the projects that are going to be considered and anyone can attend that meeting. I think I can speak for the Committee and say that we think you are one of the streets that are in consideration for that application. There are other streets that are in consideration as well. That hearing is one of the steps that goes through then there is a hearing out in Freehold and that is all advertised in the newspaper and if I can remember I will drop it in the mail to you with those dates as well.

Mr. Scanlon- Mr. Belasco came out to the house and we walked the area and walked part of the creek bed that the storm drain system empties into. It is an atrocious state there is chain linked fence in it clogging up the bed and shopping carts, picnic tables and concrete light stands. I do have pictures and I am curious as to who we talk to in order to get it cleaned up. I do not know where the property line is. I do not know if it is Hazlet, Keyport or a county responsibility.

Administrator Valentino- Committeeman Belasco called me the next morning to tell me about that. I called down to public works to make sure they had a work order in for it because it is in the creek bed we are a little touchy about doing things in creek bed without DEP input. My understanding is that a phone call is being made out to DEP to make sure that what we plan to do is acceptable to them and then we will get a crew out there to deal with that.

Mr. Scanlon- The piping that goes under Route 36 that affects this creek is half way clogged up with sand and silt. How do we address that with the State?

Administrator Valentino- That is a State DOT issue but when I am addressing this other issue when I am the phone with the State I will see what they can do about that.

Mr. Scanlon- Also R-18 which is the bridge on Florence Avenue directly adjacent to the car wash on Route 36 at the intersection there. Two of the three pipes are clogged there and they are clogged up with branch, leaves, garbage just waste. Is that also a State issue or a town issue?

It goes under Florence Avenue.

Administrator Valentino- I will not be able to answer that definitively but if it is tied into directly then it may be a state issue. I just do not know.

Steve McCabe- When T&M performs this testing will someone from the township be present?

Administrator Valentino- T&M is the township they are our engineers so they are an official of the Township.

Mr. McCabe- Can anyone explain how they are going to perform this test?

Committeeman Aagre- Right now they are just working on the water flow where it is going to and the size of pipes things like that. Right now it is research they are not doing testing they are actually just trying to find a solution or divert the water to something that would work with what is there or what can be provided for.

Mr. McCabe- No date has been set if they are actually going to flow water or drain?

Committeeman Aagre- No they are not going to flow water. They are going by hydraulics and the numbers the engineers use. As the Deputy Mayor mentioned we will have a report back by them by the first meeting in May.

Maureen O'Neil Sacher- I was listening to these men about their creek. We have a creek behind our house and in the beginning it was a brook I have been there since 1962. The brook was a beautiful brook with clear water and everything. Over the years the brook is now a creek. All the storms we have make it worse and now we have COSTCO behind us. Our creek goes to the Bell Labs in Holmdel. Years ago my dad had trouble in 1974 with a lot of water. The water was coming from Bell Labs. Every year it gets worse and it smells back there. I don't know if you realize but there is quick sand in there. If children are back there playing they can die. There was so much slim and dirt from the last storm on our decks and it was gross. There must be something going on there.

Deputy Mayor Sachs- There are more strict regulations that have come out over the years. It is not that easy to just dump your water back into the creeks anymore, it does not happen anymore. You are not allowed to clean them out like we were years ago.

Administrator Valentino- Unfortunately for us, the storm system in town was designed at a time when the bulk of town was still a farmland.

Ms. Sacher- It is just a mess. We should do something about. They say we can't touch it but we should do something because we have no idea what is in that water.

Administrator Valentino- We have gone so far as to try and have regional meetings with the other towns around us to talk about it. We got it bad and Union Beach got it worse than we did because they are downstream. It seems that every one downstream from us says great lets have a meeting and everyone upstream doesn't want to know about it.

Tony Bernard- I have a buffer zone between me and Costco about 50 feet or more. 29 Stanford has a problem he doesn't have a fence so therefore it becomes a throughway for a lot of people including their trash. Who is responsible for that?

Administrator Valentino- The person responsible for that would be indicated on the tax map. It may be us but I won't know until I look at a tax map for sure. We will follow up on that.

Committeeman Agre- Most likely the buffer was part of the site plan application so it would be COSTCO's property and since there is no fence apparently there was not a fence required at the time of site plan approval. If people are walking I don't know how you can address that. The Buffer was there because of the setback requirements and buffering from adjacent properties. As far as maintenance and garbage that is COSTCO.

Mr. Bernard- Can you talk to COSTCO?

Committeeman Agre- We are going to be talking to them tomorrow regarding the fences and all that stuff.

Mr. Bernard- I am trying to clean up this problem because obviously 29 Stanford won't do anything to address the problem. I am not picking on 29 Stanford it is just that is the main area. That becomes very hazardous because of kids go back and forth in that area.

Committeeman Agre- If there is garbage or trash in the buffer zone yes COSTCO has to maintain that. If people are brining garbage or walking through and hanging out back there that is a police issue. You can certainly call the police.

Mr. Bernard- Calling the police is not the answer.

Administrator Valentino- Mr. Bernard If you have a couple of minutes after the meeting I would like to speak to you.

**Motion to close hearing:**

Offered Deputy Mayor Sachs 2nd Committeeman Belasco

Voice vote: Yes

**Motion to adjourn:**

Offered Deputy Mayor Sachs 2nd Committeeman Belasco

Voice vote: Yes

Time: 9:08 P.M.