

May 3, 2016

AGENDA

**Regular Meeting** of the Hazlet Township Committee held at 8:02 p.m.

**Salute** to the flag and moment of silent prayer called by the 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 January 4, 2016, advance written notice of this meeting was posted at:  
1766 Union Avenue, Hazlet, New Jersey.
- (B) On January 7, 2016, advance written notice of this meeting was forwarded to the Independent and Asbury Park Press. It was also published in the Asbury Park Press on February 10, 2016.
- (C) On January 4, 2016, 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, 2016.

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. Finally, let the record reflect that the minutes of this meeting will accurately reflect the topics addressed during this meeting but will not be a verbatim transcript of tonight's proceedings. Thank you. I direct the Municipal Clerk to enter into the minutes of this meeting these announcements.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Committeeman DiNardo	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Committeewoman Ronchetti	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Committeeman Sachs	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Deputy Mayor Kiley	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Mayor Aagre	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>

Approval of Minutes – Workshop Meeting – April 19, 2016.  
Regular Meeting – April 19, 2016.

Offered Committeewoman Ronchetti

2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman DiNardo

Roll Call: Committeeman DiNardo Yes

Committeewoman Ronchetti Yes

Committeeman Sachs Yes

Deputy Mayor Kiley Yes

Mayor Aagre Yes

Approval of Executive Session Minutes – April 19, 2016.

Offered Committeewoman Ronchetti

2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman DiNardo

Roll Call: Committeeman DiNardo Yes

Committeewoman Ronchetti Yes

Committeeman Sachs Yes

Deputy Mayor Kiley Yes

Mayor Aagre Yes

## **Proclamations**

### **Harbor House Ride for New Beginnings**

### **National Safe Boating Week**

## **1. HEARING ON THE 2016 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Introduced: April 5, 2016.

Published in the Asbury Park Press, issue of April 8, 2016. Proof on file.

Posted in Town Hall – April 6, 2016.

Hearing scheduled for May 3, 2016.

### **Hearing:**

David Kestner – My question is for the Mayor, in this budget are there any salary increases in excess of 5% and if so, how many and what is the largest percentage?

Tom O'Hara, CFO- I wouldn't have any percentage in there. Anything that is budgeted in this document is putting funds in place if the Committee were going to do a resolution. There is no resolution at his time to speak of a specific percentage.

Mr. Kestner- You don't know if anyone is getting a large increase?

Mayor Aagre- We previously had four different departments or department heads. We had the CFO covering the Tax Collector portion along with his regular duties. We had a sewer department head who oversaw the Sewer utility and now DPW is working on the operations part

of that and incorporation that into DPW. Instead of hiring someone new at the cost of \$60-\$80K we are promoting within. We have a person who is currently in between tax and sewer is going to move up into the administrative side of those two departments. The CFO, Mr. O'Hara is also the Tax Collector and he has taking on the additional duties of overseeing the finance department of sewer. There is a mix of increases in those four departments if that is what you are asking.

Mr. Kestner- You have employees that are picking up additional work, how many additional hours are they going to work?

Attorney Gorman- It is just additional responsibilities.

Mayor Aagre – We are using the same people more efficiently that is the same in any business. The Administrator puts in extra hours and the CFO puts in additional hours by being at meetings.

Mr. Kestner- So their additional salaries are coming from salaries you no longer have to pay to somebody else.

Mayor Aagre- That is correct.

Mr. Kestner- That is how you are keeping this a flat budget.

Deputy Mayor Kiley- When you get a promotion at work you make more money because you take on more responsibility it doesn't mean that if you work a 40 hour week you are now going to work a 50 hour work week.

Mr. Kestner- What I am looking at is where the money is coming from for additions in their salaries and keeping the budget still flat. Is it at the expense of any of programs? Such as the road programs? There is no cut in the amount of money in the road program?

Committeeman Sachs- No.

Mayor Aagre- No we still have \$1million in the road program. Hopefully by next meeting we will know the extent of what roads are included.

Committeewoman Ronchetti- There was \$1.5 million you did cut \$500,000.00.

Mayor Aagre- It was \$1.2 million and I cut \$200,000.00 to bring it down, yes but it wasn't for salaries.

Mr. Kestner- The road program is one of the most needed programs in this town and anyone who drives around town knows what the roads are like.

Mayor Aagre- Absolutely.

Bill Shewan – With regard to the total budget just a point of clarification in view of the fact this is the municipal budget we are talking about, what is the total budget of Hazlet Township which would include the schools?

Tom O'Hara, CFO- I do not have the school information I was not prepared for that question it has nothing to do with our operations.

Mr. Shewan- It does have a substantial portion of the taxes that we pay.

Mayor Aagre- The school budget is over 60% of your dollar.

Committeewoman Ronchetti – It is going up 2.1%.

Mr. Shewan- The budget of Hazlet includes so many other things and it is not the amount that is shown on the printouts or the newspaper as a total that we are responsible for paying taxes in this town.

Mayor Aagre- We only have control and concerns over the municipal budget that we oversee.

Deputy Mayor Kiley- That is a great point Bill because that is about 28% of your total tax dollar.

Mr. Shewan- I believe it totals around \$60 million by the time you finish.

Mayor Aagre- School budget totals about \$53 million , ours is \$21 million and the county is flat or under.

Mr. Shewan- I had attended a couple of meetings that were the workshops where you really can't participate in them and I understand why and I took some notes and printed out the minutes. One of them was the committee needs to cut an additional \$338,000.00 for a 2% tax increase or a \$616,781.01 for a zero percent tax increase. So we have reduced the budget by \$616,781.01?

Mayor Aagre- That is correct.

Tom O'Hara, CFO- It is a combination of cuts and additional revenue sources.

Mr. Shewan- Can you be specific on the additional revenue sources in view of the fact that it doesn't include a tax increase.

Tom O'Hara, CFO- An additional \$188,901.87 from our fund balance.

Mr. Shewan- O.K. so it is coming from the fund balance. It is really not income from the township the township is really not generating income.

Tom O'Hara, CFO- It is previously generated.

Mr. Shewan- To me that is part of the budget in process the Fund Balance which at times increases the taxes and that is how you end up with a fund balance if you over extend the budget. I had brought this up before and I do think that you should use zero based budgeting instead of the budgeting process that we use and many townships use. Wherein you look at only the line item and anything that is increased and you look at that and try to decrease it. Wherein on zero based budgeting what you would be doing is looking at every line item to see where you are spending money and not spending money. I have looked at the past budget and there are many items that we did not spend the amount that was in the budget yet we put it through at the same

amount in some cases you must of decreased it now maybe not all but you are not really looking at every line item and calling in every department head and going over every line item to decrease those items.

Committeeman Sachs- Yes we did.

Deputy Mayor Kiley- Yes we did.

Mayor Aagre- We did you were here. The larger department heads came in and we went over every line item.

Mr. Shewan- What about the items that were unspent?

Administrator Pino- Sometimes that just happens Bill they may put in \$500.00 for supplies and they had some supplies left over from last year or need as much and the following year they still need to put the \$500.00 into supplies.

Mr. Shewan- Back on zero based budget I had also mentioned and this comes into play of the taxes Tom had indicated that the towns should face up to it that we always are going to face up to tax increases. Tom said I will be the bad guy on Saturday and tell the Committee all the pain and part of that pain is you have to face up to tax increases. I think that is the wrong approach to take that is a financial approach not a management approach from standpoint of the town.

Mayor Aagre- Clearly we addressed that by not increasing.

Mr. Shewan- I am glad you followed that format. I hope you do the same in the future because there have been years we have increased taxes. This plays into some line items and I guess it works into where we are going with regards to the township on expanding or new building. Uniform Construction Codes were down 32.47% is that a reality? I am looking at User Friendly Budget section Anticipated Revenue. Total realized the year before was \$444,000.00 anticipated this year was \$300,000.00.

Administrator Pino- I would say it was a very busy year for solar and I would not expect the same this year. That was above normal last year's receipts. There were some big solar projects that came in and that kicked up those permit fees really high.

Tom O'Hara, CFO- We increased the anticipated revenue for UCC fees from \$280,000.00 to \$300,000.00 so we anticipate a \$20,000.00 increase.

Mr. Shewan – With regard to the public can you explain on the Health and Human Services that went down 45% so what services are we going to lose if that is being decreased by 45%? It was \$57,690.00.

Tom O'Hara, CFO- We decreased our appropriations for Animal Control Services from \$50,000.00 to \$25,000.00 as a result of our agreement that we entered into with Middletown Township between budget appropriation and funds generated through the sale of dog licenses that is how we pay Middletown for the Animal Control services.

Mr. Shewan – So it is strictly animal control it has nothing to do with health services provided to the township if any?

Tom O’Hara, CFO- Code 27 is Animal Control, Environmental Commission, Open Space Commission but the vast majority of that money is Animal Control.

Committeeman DiNardo- We partnered up with Middletown for shared services.

Administrator Pino- It depends on the activity it can go up next month.

Mr. Shewan- This is an interesting page on assessed property evaluations which is part of the budget and that 80.75% of the values are homeowners and that means again the burden of taxes are on the homeowners. Is there anything we can do about that I know we had an economic committee on expanding businesses?

Mayor Aagre- We still do we are actually talking about several businesses on their ideas. Unfortunately we are not like Holmdel who has the larger AT&T’s or Bell Labs type set up so we are limited to what size large companies can come. We are meeting with business owners all the time.

Mr. Shewan- The one thing that needs some justification and I realize it is a reality is the cost of health benefits. The net cost share total is listed as \$1,915,504.00. That seems like such an exuberant amount.

Tom O’Hara, CFO- It is an exuberant amount.

Administrator Pino- It is an uncontrollable cost with a few extreme cases.

Deputy Mayor Kiley- Based on claims data.

Mr. Shewan- Is the township subject to the same rules and regulations as normal business with regard to the Affordable Care Act. I don’t if our plan is considered in the Affordable Cadillac Plan?

Committeewoman Ronchetti- No

Tom O’Hara, CFO- Currently the penalty provision of the Affordable Care Act is not place but our premiums would put us into the Cadillac Plan range subject to penalties in the future.

Mr. Shewan- That should be understood because those penalties are substantial and they just postponed it and they didn’t write it off it is still in the act.

Tom O’Hara, CFO- In theory those amounts will be adjusted for inflation.

Mr. Shewan- I do have some questions with regard to process based on past audits to assure that the budget is held to the right standards reflects on the amount of the budget as well on how you spend the money and where it goes. I see the same thing popping up two years in a row. For example, the township has not adopted a County Policy and Procedures to reconcile activity between the Finance Department and Tax office and that was also in 2013. The township at that

time stated they would be implementing policies but apparently they have not done it. There must have been an audit in 2015 but it's not on the website.

Tom O'Hara, CFO-The 2015 Audit has not started yet.

Mr. Shewan- Why would that not have been done if it is detrimental to the township?

Tom O'Hara, CFO- Between having a previous tax collector leave under sudden circumstance and having a part time tax collector it definitely deficiencies in reporting between the departments. Right now I am the Chief Financial Officer and the Tax Collector. I am it, I report to myself in that regard.

Mr. Shewan- From an accounting standpoint that is not a very good process and I am sure you will agree. If you can't account for certain functions and I am not even mentioning some of the things of that it mentions regarding the right fees are not collected. The Township has adopted County Policy and Procedures and this has to do with the tax office recording appeals against the proper tax year and a policy and procedure should be written and adopted which would include procedures for tax records so it has nothing to do with additional personnel I would think it should be written and again this was a repeat of 2013.

Administrator Pino- Does this have to do with the budget? This is for the budget hearing I know you can tie it in somehow.

Mr. Shewan- I can talk about this in the citizens hearing if you don't want me to waste your time.

Administrator Pino- You are not wasting our time just in talking about time you are well over the five minutes we typically allow you are at 15 minutes at the moment and everyone else has been under five minutes and we haven't stopped you. You are going to a point where you are above and beyond the budget.

Marie Cisaro- Salary and wages how come I see them going up constantly? On Streets and Road maintenance it goes from \$304,000.00 to \$350,000.00. Recycling goes from \$639,000.00 to \$726,000.00 I see this over and over again and to say that it is a flat budget that is my concern I am not sure where the money is taking from to do these hefty increases in all these salaries. It is quite significant.

Mayor Aagre- Salaries are contractual so each year blue collar or white collar based upon their contracts get 1-2% raise for that year.

Ms. Cisaro- At 2% increase at that amount of money you have to have a lot of people working. We are talking about \$50K-\$60K increase that is not 2%.

Administrator Pino- There could also be new employees in that particular department that were never there before.

Ms. Cisaro- Are there any numbers around.

Tom O'Hara, CFO- The salary and wage worksheet is on the township website that is broken down by employee.

David Kestner- Is the money for the Electronic Recycling that was shut down in the budget?

Administrator Pino- No it never was.

Bill Shewan- With regard to BANS are we going to continue using BANS to fund improvements?

Tom O'Hara, CFO- I don't know what improvements the Committee has in mind for the swim club that would necessitate borrowing money. For those who don't know BAN is a Bond Anticipation Note it is a form of short term borrowing.

Mayor Aagre- Right now the improvements we spoke about for this year are within the monies allocated within the pool budget.

Mr. Shewan – This says \$35,000.00

Mayor Aagre- We spent over \$90,000.00 plus on improvements this summer alone between electrical, lounge seating, umbrellas and now we are talking about slides so there is more than \$35,000.00 we are talking about close to \$95K and that is all within the monies from the swim club we are working within the limits of what the swim club brings in.

Mr. Shewan- We do put into the budget out of the Operating Surplus \$142,250.00 to balance the budget so that depletes the surplus.

Tom O'Hara, CFO- There is \$142,000.00 of pool surplus used as a revenue source.

Mr. Shewan- With that said it reduces to the balance of \$35,000.00? The reason why I bring up BANS is because if you fund any improvements by BANS the interest rate is very low which is terrific. What can happen is they come due a year from the date which our current BAN of \$69,500.00 comes due in June and you are looking at what is your cash flow at that point in time. Normally we get most of the cash coming in July. I would assume the bank that was created is that what is it used for?

Tom O'Hara, CFO- I am not sure what you mean when you say bank?

Mr. Shewan – The donation.

Tom O'Hara, CFO- The donations would be used for any additional items to enhance the pool. It would not be used for operating expenses.

Mr. Shewan- I only bring it up in case we want to bring any large improvements in which I am not against that BANS can be very dangerous when you don't have a tax base. You cannot increase the taxes of the pool members they will vanish and you will have no one there. If the date of the BANS came at the end of the year it might be a different story where you have a surplus but you don't have a surplus in the beginning of the year particularly if you are taking that surplus and putting it in the budget as anticipated revenue. I would of asked all of these questions in the past which I have where it is not a public forum but I am no longer allowed to ask those questions in Recreation and I understand that. I did get a call that Recreation has no responsibility whatsoever for the budget and cannot ask questions.

Administrator Pino- We didn't say you can't ask questions Bill we just said it is not a concern or the intent of the Receptions Committee to act on behalf of the township for reasons why they are appointed and to be there. The financial aspects are not up to that committee at all. If you have any questions as I said you can always ask.

Kevin Lavan- Congratulations on a flat budget I am very happy to hear that. I think all the people of the township of Hazlet will be very happy. You mentioned about the utility money being used I thought the utility money was only supposed to be used for the swim club or fixing and maintaining the swim club, is there supposed to be a line item in the budget is that correct or incorrect? The \$142,000.00 you put it in the budget?

Tom O'Hara, CFO- Yes.

Mr. Lavan- Are you allowed to take that from the utilities or are you supposed to use that back the utilities?

Tom O'Hara, CFO- That \$142,000. 00 was fund balanced in the swim club that is being regenerated back in the swim club budget.

Mr. Lavan- You put it into the budget to help flatten the budget, correct?

Tom O'Hara, CFO- No it is back in the swim club budget. The document is 3 different budgets, the Current Fund, Sewer Utility and Swim Club.

Mr. Lavan- Last year we had an increase of 2% or 2.4% and this year we are a flat budget how do we do that this year? Where did we get the money from last year?

Mayor Aagre- The previous 3 years before that we did basic 2% we built up the fund balance and that's why 2013 and 2014 was zero, 2015 we couldn't do that so we had to go 2% this year we were able to go through each line and reduce it down.

Mr. Lavan- Is there \$2.8 million left in the surplus sewerage authority and \$2.8 left for the township correct?

Tom O'Hara, CFO- December 31, 2015 there was \$3,114,000.00 in sewer surplus that we used \$766,483.98 in the 2016 sewer budget.

Mr. Lavan- On salaries or to balance the budget?

Tom O'Hara, CFO – A revenue source isn't designated to a specific expense. We have 2 budgeted revenue sources in the sewer utility. Sewer fees and fund balance. Those two amounts equal the total appropriations for sewer budget.

Mr. Lavan- Now we are down \$2.1 million from \$3million. Are we going to use that constantly to deplete it until the point of no money in there?

Tom O'Hara, CFO- We also regenerate on December 31 there was approximately \$560,000.00 unspent from the prior year sewer budget. Any monies that is unspent from 2015 sewer budget will flow to fund balance at the end of 2016.

**Motion to close hearing:**

Offered Mayor Aagre

2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Mayor Kiley

Voice vote: Yes

**Action of Committee:** Adopt X

Offered Mayor Aagre

2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Mayor Kiley

Roll Call: Committeeman DiNardo Yes

Committeewoman Ronchetti Yes

Committeeman Sachs Yes

Deputy Mayor Kiley Yes

Mayor Aagre Yes

**Reports:**

MUNICIPAL COURT – March 2016 – Total fees collected - \$35,849.86.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – March and April 2016 – Received and read.

CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL – March 2016 – Total fees collected - \$32,148.00.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – February 2016 – Total Calls Handled – 1,740.

March 2016 – Total Calls Handled – 1,817.

**Correspondence:**

A letter was received from Walter Vella resigning from his position on the Bayshore Regional Sewerage Authority effective April 19, 2016.

Offered Committeeman Sachs

2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman DiNardo

Voice vote: Yes

**Resolutions, Motions and Appointments:**

Resolutions #143 through #147 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.

- 143. Refund of Swim Club fees to Marilyn Tukis and Jeannette Watson.
- 144. Refund of the duplicate payment of a CCO fee for 30 Calt Drive, Block 183.02, Lot 13.
- 145. Granting an exemption and abatement for 7 Fir Place, Block 79, Lot 6.
- 146. Refund of Swim Team fees to Henry and Erica Coleman.
- 147. Refund of the overpayment of taxes due to a duplicate payment by Core Logic for Block 104, Lot 14.

Offered Committeewoman Ronchetti

2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Sachs

Roll Call: Committeeman DiNardo Yes

Committeewoman Ronchetti Yes

Committeeman Sachs Yes

Deputy Mayor Kiley Yes

Mayor Aagre Yes

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

**Anyone who would like to address the Township Committee regarding the below listed Resolutions on the Agenda, please come up, print your name and address on the sign in sheet and then state your name and address for the Committee.**

Charles Hoffman – You know I presume that Mr. Pino forwarded you a copy of an email that I sent to him and I have publically stated when I feel the qualifications for someone to be a member of the Board of Commissioners representing Hazlet. In reference to Resolution #148 is what is the length of the unexpired term?

Attorney Gorman- January 31, 2017. We are talking about 8 months.

Mr. Hoffman- I think it is incumbent upon you folks as I more or less said in my email that when you do decide to fill this position permanently, which can you do that before the term expires or must you wait?

Committeeman Sachs- Wait until it expires.

Mr. Hoffman- At this stage the gentlemen you have nominated will fill that term for the next 8 months?

Committeeman Sachs- Correct.

Mr. Hoffman- My sentiments are the qualifications of the person.

Mayor Aagre- Mr. Whalen is quite qualified for this position.

Mr. Hoffman- I didn't intend to address him that was not what I was addressing, please try to understand that. I believe I have spoken to the gentlemen once or twice and I think he has come across as an outstanding individual and an outstanding employee. Thank you.

Offered Committeewoman Ronchetti

2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Mayor Kiley

Voice vote: Yes

148. Appointment of Scott Whalen to fill an unexpired term on the Bayshore Regional Sewerage Authority.

Offered Mayor Aagre

2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Sachs

Roll Call: Committeeman DiNardo Yes

Committeewoman Ronchetti Yes

Committeeman Sachs Yes

Deputy Mayor Kiley Yes

Mayor Aagre Yes

149. Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an employment agreement with the Chief of Police.

Offered Committeeman DiNardo

2<sup>nd</sup> Committeewoman Ronchetti

Roll Call: Committeeman DiNardo Yes

Committeewoman Ronchetti Yes

Committeeman Sachs Yes

Deputy Mayor Kiley Yes

Mayor Aagre Yes

150. Refund of a residential CCO for Block 232, Lots 16 and 17.

Offered Committeeman Sachs

2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman DiNardo

Roll Call: Committeeman DiNardo Yes

Committeewoman Ronchetti Yes

Committeeman Sachs Yes

Deputy Mayor Kiley Yes

Mayor Aagre Yes

### **Payment of Bills:**

Advance bill lists have been supplied to each Committee Member.

Offered Committeewoman Ronchetti

2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Sachs

Roll Call: Committeeman DiNardo Yes

Committeewoman Ronchetti Yes

Committeeman Sachs Yes

Deputy Mayor Kiley Yes

Mayor Aagre Yes

### **Payment of Bills:**

Advance bill lists have been supplied to each Committee Member – Check #44664 for CME Associates dated April 19, 2016.

Offered Committeewoman Ronchetti

2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Sachs

Roll Call: Committeeman DiNardo Yes

Committeewoman Ronchetti Yes

Committeeman Sachs Yes

Deputy Mayor Kiley Yes

Mayor Aagre Yes

### **Citizens Hearing:**

Ann Marie Colasurdo- I have been a resident of Hazlet for 11 years and I had worked for the Hazlet School District as a teacher for 37 years. All of this is in relation to Mr. and Mrs. Verdolino and the eight minutes and 49 seconds where they have defamed and the Hazlet Senior Club. Mrs. Ronchetti did you report back to the Committee?

Committeewoman Ronchetti- Yes I did and I told them exactly what you told me and how well documented you were and how you were re-incorporating the new By-Laws with the votes that you dropped off. I told them everything about our conversation and how diligent you were with all your information.

Ms. Colasurdo- They have been on my case and the Hazlet Senior Club for as long as I have been Vice President and President. Mr. Pino I have a meeting with you next week.

Administrator Pino – Yes.

Ms. Colasurdo- The tape went on for 8 minutes and 49 seconds to be honest with you I am offended and upset that Mr. and Mrs. Verdolino non Hazlet residents were allowed and encouraged to defame my good name and the integrity of the Hazlet Senior Club for several minutes and no one stopped them. They went on and on with untruths. Mrs. Verdolino has not been to the club for a year. Her idea of the membership and how the money is spent is fiction. The Committee should have responded and postponed their verbal abuse of me until the facts were known. Some members and their comments appear to be bias. The person who escorted them in because they went to the wrong meeting and said this woman has been defiled or called ugly names or whatever it was. Mr. Verdolino questions how the \$2.00 door fee was spent, this was incorporated before I became president and they never asked anyone else they asked me they put me on the spot. I list every item that we spend. We collect \$2.00 and spend \$1.49 that means service for the kitchen, we don't have volunteers we have to pay people. Every item that was used to serve coffee, tea, the stirrers, etc., came to \$1.49 out of every \$2.00 that was spent.

The \$2,000.00 stipend that the township gives us is used to pay for things like pizza and hoagies. We pay over \$30.00 for the two parties we have each year \$30.00 per person. We have a 50/50, we have a raffle and baskets and Mr. Verdolino did not participate in our 50/50's and he did not participate in our gift raffles but he is there to collect the freebies. If I sound angry I am. The trips they mention and the woman they are mentioning was a professional travel agent who came to the club on the first day and started passing out pamphlets for our trip it is against our By-Laws that is why I asked her to leave. She has been at other clubs and they have asked her to leave as well. She did not contribute one dime she is a professional travel agent. She does run trips out of St. Clemens this has been an ongoing thing for over 20 years. Instead of spending my time adding to the quality of the club, the members have to listen to the constant bickering and verbal abuse of comments. In terms of the amount of people in our club Mrs. Verdolino said we have 80 or 90 people that is not correct. Last count was 135 people. Mrs. Verdolino at one point said, she meaning me, said the meeting is over when she leaves the club and someone's comment up there was you mean like "when Elvis leaves the building". That was uncalled for. I stay because if something goes wrong at that club I am responsible. I could very easily walk out after the business meeting if someone falls or gets hurt who they are going to ask where was the president. Up until recently I was under the impression we were under Recreation, I have since found out that I may be incorrect that we are an entity unto ourselves. That means our Executive Board, Board of Trustees are responsible for the club. I have personally disavowed what goes on at the alternate Wednesdays because I am not there and I do not know what goes on in the building. I would also like to commend the male member of the Committee who had the foresight to realize that there are two sides to every story and the wisdom to suggest that the Committee hears the other side of the story. Our treasurer was questioned about the amount of money we have in the budget was questioned by Mrs. Verdolino. Our treasurer is one of the most honest people I know. He was treasurer under Bill Bickler, Gifford Baum and Ralph Papagalo and now he is treasurer under me. It is totally irrelevant to bring up what goes in the Aberdeen Club. I know nothing about the club but I do know there is a waiting list for every trip they have. How much money does the Township give the club I do not know? Mrs. Verdolino brought up that Gifford Baum had wonderful trips, yes that is true but she did not bring up the fact that one day he got fed up and just quit. He quit as Vice President and he eventually quit as trip coordinator. As a new vice president I had to take on these responsibilities. This is all new to me I was a school teacher I should also point out that since the time I became vice president I have been vice president of St. Clemens and secretary at St. Clemens and I am now vice president again of St. Clemens and I am a trustee at the Union Beach club. The idea of just handling the trips to Atlantic City was new to me I did not know anything about it. It prevented me from going on and planning other trips. I have gotten to the point where I am comfortable with Atlantic City and yes we do make money at the end of the year. I would not run a trip consistently if we did not make money. Mrs. Verdolino's assessment that the \$2,000.00 should be used to pay for the trips because if the bus costs \$700 plus how long is that \$2,000.00 going to last us not long we can get 2 ½ trips out of that. Mr. Verdolino complained or said that the seniors are complacent. He implied that they follow orders and he was there that he was there to kind of defend their rights. They don't need anyone to defend their rights. According the tapes and this is questionable that Mr. Verdolino functioned as an Officer of the Court did he mean Court Officer or Officer of the Court. There is a big difference and I doubt if he is a Court Officer, according to the paperwork that is a Judge, Magistrate, public defender or prosecutor. He was a police officer in NYC and retired on a disability what he did after that I do not know. All of this would have been avoided if Mrs. Verdolino came up and said may I talk to my husband. Her account is completely wrong I did not call her those ugly names that she said. As a person, as a president I feel Mr. and Mrs. Verdolino owe me a written and oral apology and on behalf of the Executive Board, Board of

Trustees and the members of the Hazlet Senior Club they also deserve a written and oral apology. Thank you.

Mayor Aagre- Even if a person is not a township resident they can still come up and speak at meeting. We do not oversee the senior clubs and this is between you and Mrs. Verdolino.

Ms. Colasurdo- I only wanted to be on record because they have defamed me and made a number of falsehoods against the club. Why did you let them go on that long? You just said there was a five minute limit.

Administrator Pino- There is and you were 12 minutes and 15 seconds but we are not counting. That is fine. We will talk more on Thursday.

David Kestner- At the beginning when you were reading the Harbor House Ride Proclamation you mentioned that you expected all of us to be there, we will follow your lead.

Bill Shewan- As an individual and I am sure most citizens would appreciate the time and effort that is put in by the township committee, mayor and Tom. I think Tom does an excellent job by the way with regard to the printouts and adherence to process. The time that is put in on that I have sat in on some budget meetings and they are 2-3 hours and it is somewhat grueling and I understand you were there for maybe 6 hours so compliments on that. This is in reference to Stone Road Meadows I just want to read what I wrote to Scott. We are talking about Route 36 an area which is in need of improvement all along, we look at Route 35 and who knows what is going on over there. I look at Stone Road Meadows as an anchor property something that would be an improvement to attract other housing or other businesses along that corridor and we have been unsuccessful over the years. "I know you agree on the current positive movement in the direction of preserving Stone Road Meadows as detailed in my recent discussion during the Open Space meeting ( I am speaking now on behalf of HAQLA) it is what we need to move forward the town support and county support is the major thrust required as represented by resolutions to preserve the area. (We recently passed a resolution and a county resolution and the surrounding towns passing resolutions on that). I am available to work closely with yourself and the township committee if you feel it necessary I will present the committee at a workshop the positive aspects of preserving Stone Road Meadows also detailed steps taking to reach where we are today. What is has been going on behind the scenes. I sincerely feel if preserved as a county park or a township park this could be the magnet required to bring much needed development along the Route 36 Corridor. As always I realize political support is an absolute necessity to move forward. There are many bridges to cross and I feel a one on one meeting would be appropriate to establish that." With that said the reason why I wrote that is because I received a letter from a group that is called The Friends of Stone Road Meadows. I was at a recent meeting where I did give a presentation at Monmouth Conservation Foundation. This was all about preserving land in our County. This email did not come to me it was written by William D. Kastning he is the Executive Director of Monmouth Conservation Foundation. "We determined today that the owner of Stone Road Meadows was not who we all assumed Zygi Wilf the owner of the Minnesota Vikings. At one time the Wilf family and the owner were partners but not on this property. They have parted ways. The owner was Benjamin Gold who died in 2013. We will reach out to his son Abraham who lives in Ocean Township. If we connect with Mr. Gold we will determine if he is a willing seller, if not, then the MSCF will not proceed further. If Mr. Gold is a willing seller we will request his asking price which he may not share. We won't know if a shared asking price is reasonable and can only assess if an appraisal were ordered. MCF will

share any asking price with Hazlet. Assuming Gold is a willing seller and Hazlet is a willing buyer MCF would order one appraisal but only if Hazlet agreed to reimburse us at some future date. We will obtain estimates from more reliable appraisers. What I am getting out of this is there is movement on the County level for support but it does require the support of politicians not just an organization like Hazlet Area Quality of Life. With the thinking that the resolution that was passed by the township is support from the politicians I would like to move to the next step and at least set up meetings not necessarily with me but other people in the HAQLA and move forward on this. Again, nothing is available until it is for sale and I have put a lot of effort into this on a personal level for the past 3-4 years so from that aspect there are others that have done the same thing. I do think a workshop meeting or one on one meeting would be something of the next step with the hope we can move forward and get the support of all the politicians in the town and the main thrust would be the Committee and Mayor at this point.

Mayor Aagre- We did support with the resolution stating we support the county pursuing this. What else do you need?

Deputy Mayor Kiley- There is some additional information, at the last Open Space meeting which you weren't able to attend and this is in the minutes so I would encourage you to get them. There was discussion about following up on that letter and in fact what we learned was that there (I don't want to be misquoted but I will give the gist of it) that the Wilf family is still involved in the property and there are different shell companies that are set up so it is really difficult to track who actually owns it but they are still involved. As I said I would encourage you to look at those minutes because there was a lot of research done into this after that letter was sent.

Mr. Shewan- I took the word from the Monmouth Conservation because they came up with new enlightenment.

Deputy Mayor Kiley- As I understand that is not the case.

Administrator Pino- I can check the tax records tomorrow to see who we have as the owner.

Attorney Gorman- It is an LLC and we do not know who owns the LLC. About 6-8 years ago when there was some discussion about that property with the attorney representing the owner, at that point and time it was represented that Mr. Wilf was the owner. They can change ownership at an LLC and sell your shares in the LLC. Who the current owner is the LLC and who owns the LLC we do not know.

Mr. Shewan- That is one thing that I have brought up on the County level at the parks department I have gone before the parks department and I always mention county park. Particularly in view of the fact that you are talking about development not just purchase with regard to what would you do with it, you are not just going to leave it the way it is. That is another thing that I have been working on with other people with regard to design and different proposals what you can do with the area. I was asked to do that by the county that why I asked for a meeting so you know what is going on behind the scenes so it is not a secret. I did check the tax records through Mrs. Scaglione and the last time around when it was not farm assessed and it had been thrown out in the past the property was valued at \$17M.

Attorney Gorman- I do not know what that property is worth but because that property is farmland assessed whatever number shows up in the tax rolls is meaningless because we are

assessing them on a per acre basis on the quality of that farm. They pay minimal taxes as a farm. I think it is the only farmland assessed property left in the town.

Mr. Shewan- It was farmed assessed at approximately \$46K. The last time it wasn't farmed assessed it was assessed at \$1.7M.

Mr. Shewan – The \$17M was thrown around 6 or 7 years ago and that number is not correct because it is \$1.7M.

Attorney Gorman- I don't know what that property is worth.

Mr. Shewan- What about the 100% assessment does that work on that?

Attorney Gorman- No it is farmland assessed so that puts it in a different category.

Mr. Shewan – I saw in the paper there is an opportunity for towns to opt out of the new tax program offered by Monmouth County?

Committeeman Sachs- Noone knows which direction anyone is going in. It has not come down from the State yet. There is no definitive answer.

Mayor Aagre- Some towns opted out and we just got a letter from Shrewsbury they opted back in. All we did was defer any inspections until next year.

Charles Hoffman- In relation to this Stone Road Meadows issue is our Open Space money actually an escrow account? O.K. if the township were to fund an assessment that money would naturally come out of that fund, would it not?

Mayor Aagre- Yes that would be a direction we would have to say that is what it is for.

Deputy Mayor Kiley- It would be based on the recommendation of the Open Space to do that assessment.

Mr. Hoffman- Of course and if they are not interested in selling that is the end of that I understand that. Therefore since this is an escrow account I would like to see the board without any delay go on record stating that if an assessment of the property is to be made for this project that the township will reimburse the Conservancy fund. Can we get a resolution stating that?

Administrator Pino- The Open Space Fund also has intentions for other areas and other improvements in the town as well so that would not be the sole property that the money would go for.

Mr. Hoffman- I understand that.

Administrator Pino- I don't think you have anything at all close to what that property would sell for.

Mr. Hoffman- I am not talking about the sale value I am talking about the assessment value. In other words who will pay to have the assessment done.

Administrator Pino- The purchaser.

Mayor Aagre- The county

Administrator Pino- At this point it would be the county.

Mr. Hoffman- That isn't what I understand the conservancy fund just said.

Mayor Aagre- As long as we reimburse them.

Mr. Hoffman- Will you do that will you go on record to reimburse them if it becomes necessary?

Administrator Pino- I don't know if we could even purchase that today if we wanted to I don't think we have the funds necessary or the means at this moment.

Mr. Hoffman- We do not know that sir.

Mayor Aagre- The problem right now in discussions with Open Space they are not interested in pursuing that site for purchase.

Mr. Hoffman- Say that again.

Mayor Aagre- Currently right now in discussions with Open Space and Township Committee we are not in favor of purchasing the piece.

Mr. Hoffman- I did not say anything about purchasing it.

Mayor Aagre- Why would I pay for someone else to do an appraisal if we are not interested.

Mr. Hoffman- Maybe we can make it an election decision.

Committeewoman Ronchetti- Do you mean put it on a referendum?

Mr. Hoffman- No where do you stand mam?

Committeeman Sachs- You are going to play politics with this is what you are trying to say?

Mr. Hoffman- No.

Committeeman Sachs- That is exactly what you are saying.

Mr. Hoffman- I am saying it could go that way.

Committeeman Sachs- That is why you started the question "how do you stand" that is playing politics.

Mr. Hoffman- No I am not I am an independent I don't play politics.

Committeeman Sachs- I try to keep that out of this room I don't like to play politics in here. Bottom-line is you are asking if the township is willing to pay for a an appraisal. We are not going to pay for an appraisal on a piece of property we are not willing to purchase at this time or nor do we have the funding to pay for a piece of property.

Mr. Hoffman- Why do you not want to purchase it?

Committeeman Sachs – Because right now it is not for sale so why should we spend money to pursue on something that is not for sale it does not make sense. If the county is looking at it as a county park it should be on the side of the county to spend their monies on an appraisal if that is where it is going. What is the sense of spending money on an appraisal when the property is not for sale.

Mr. Hoffman- No one knows if it is not for sale.

Mayor Aagre- Didn't Mr. Shewan say that the Conservatories is going to make the call to see if it is for sale. That is my understanding of what the email stated that he had read from.

Mr. Hoffman- Now you are saying you don't know who owns it so who can the Conservancy talk to?

Mayor Aagre- The Conservancy in the email said they were going to reach out to the person that they said was the owner. So we will see.

Deputy Mayor Kiley- We are not sure who the owner is and we know it is a shell company but we don't know who is behind it and we have to find that out first. We don't know what the property is worth and we heard the county is entertaining the possibility of purchasing it and we don't know what that means. We don't know whether there would be an appraisal done because we don't have a willing seller. I think there is a lot of stuff that has to happen before we can sit before you and say yes we will absolutely support what you are suggesting.

Mr. Hoffman- How many Open Spaces have you purchased in the last five years?

Administrator Pino- I think there is one that is pending the sale and transfer and there was one a few years ago. We are waiting for a closing date any minute.

Mr. Hoffman – So that would be two in five years.

Administrator Pino- That is pretty good for a small town like Hazlet.

Christopher Schmidt- Aberdeen resident- I come to you with a potential safety issue and one that Hazlet Township might have some liability on. The railroad crossings on Beers Street, Hazlet Avenue and Bethany Road the roadways adjacent to them are they all Hazlet Township roads?

Administrator Pino- I couldn't tell you the specifics of who owns what piece of property.

Attorney Gorman- Bethany Road is right on the border of Holmdel/Hazlet.

Committeewoman Ronchetti- It is a dividing line right down the middle.

Mr. Schmidt- Hazlet Avenue?

Committeewoman Ronchetti- Ours.

Mr. Schmidt- The issue I bring up is the signage for the warning signs for railroad crossing is quite deficient especially Bethany Road there are no signs. I understand you said part of that is Holmdel but obviously part of it is yours and at Bethany Road there are no advanced warning signs which are required by the MUTCD. Also what is required is pavement markings a white painted railroad cross buck.

Committeeman DiNardo- You are right I know what you are talking about.

Mr. Schmidt- Both of them at Bethany Road the only thing that is that left like the middle of the "X" where the paint was. All school bus drivers and commercial bus drivers who are required to stop at railroad crossings rely on those markings to know there is a crossing ahead and also they are required to put their hazards on, those markings are important to them, this is a safety issue. Bethany Avenue is the worst one. Hazlet Avenue has one advanced warning sign that is the only one on your roads that is heading towards Route 35. The other direction there are no warning signs. Beers Street both directions there are no warning signs. You are in a situation in my opinion you have some liability if someone is in accident.

**Motion to close hearing:**

Offered Committeewoman Ronchetti

2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Sachs

Voice vote: Yes

**Motion to adjourn:**

Offered Committeewoman Ronchetti

2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Sachs

Voice vote: Yes

Time: 9:35 PM