

September 9, 2014 – AGENDA SESSION

President Baxter called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and read the Open Public Meeting Statement:

The notice requirements provided for in the “Open Public Meetings Act” have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given in a notice which was transmitted to the Times of Trenton and the Trentonian, filed with the Clerk of the Township of Ewing and posted in the Ewing Township Municipal Complex, all on the 1st day of July, 2014.

THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL DURING THE “STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC” SEGMENT OF THE MEETING. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE REQUESTED TO SIGN IN ON SHEET PROVIDED IN THE FRONT OF THE ROOM. ALL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC WILL BE DIRECTED TO THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, WHEN ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL, PLEASE GIVE YOUR NAME AND YOUR ADDRESS.

THE COUNCIL INVITES AND ENCOURAGES PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC IN ITS MEETINGS, HOWEVER A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC MAY UTILIZE FIVE MINUTES OF TIME FOR REMARKS AND QUESTIONS, UNLESS OTHERWISE ENGAGED IN A DIALOGUE WITH A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, ANY FURTHER REMARKS OR QUESTIONS BEYOND THE TIME LIMIT MUST BE AUTHORIZED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.

ROLL CALL

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| ▪ Ms. Keyes-Maloney – Present | Jim McManimon, Administrator |
| ▪ Mr. Schroth – Present | Joanna Mustafa, CFO |
| ▪ Ms. Steward – Present | Maeve Cannon, Attorney |
| ▪ Ms. Wollert – 6:42 p.m. | Kim Macellaro, Municipal Clerk |
| ▪ President Baxter – Present | |

The Clerk stated for the record that Councilwoman Wollert will be late.

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY – NO FORMAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

1. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, TO AMEND CHAPTER 91, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The Attorney explained that this proposed Ordinance comes at the suggestion of a Township resident – Matt Kalnas – who felt that Ewing businesses might be disadvantaged because other municipalities allow liquor to be sold at an earlier hour on Sunday. The Attorney stated that Mr. Kalnas provided her with information relating to KC Prime and Joe Canal’s along with the Ordinance from Lawrence Township. The Attorney then stated that under ABC regulations, hours of operation are at the discretion of the town except that there are minimum hours that have to be observed. Currently, Ewing’s Sunday hours start at Noon. The proposal is to change this to 10 a.m. for restaurants only. The Attorney noted that whenever a restaurant is allowed to serve alcohol, it is also allowed to sell package goods.

President Baxter asked what are “packed goods”.

The Attorney replied beer and wine. The Attorney then pointed out that the current Ordinance allows businesses to open at 7:00 a.m., which is contrary to State statute. The Attorney stated that she did not know of any establishments that did open at 7:00 a.m. The Attorney said that a sentence has been added to clarify this.

Matt Kalnas (527 Pingree Avenue) said that the whole purpose for this is that he felt that Ewing has many fine restaurants that have to compete with each other; they should not have to compete with Lawrence as well.

Fred Urbano (12 Railroad Avenue – Freddie’s Tavern) said that it would be a nice option for him to be able to offer brunch. Competition is fierce; people are going elsewhere. Mr. Urbano then said that it would not be about the alcohol - just opening the bar and having people drinking beer specials – rather; it is about families coming out for a Sunday brunch. Mr. Urbano said that it is also not about “package goods” which are only about two percent of his liquor sales. Mr. Urbano then said that as there are no shift workers in the area so the Township would not have to be concerned about a group of guys coming off a shift and drinking shots. President Baxter asked Mr. Urbano if he currently has a Sunday brunch or offered breakfast items.

Mr. Urbano replied - no.

President Baxter then asked if this would be something that you would take on.

Mr. Urbano answered that it would not be conducive opening for breakfast during the week, but a Saturday or Sunday brunch would take off.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney asked if you see the breakfast business only for Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. Urbano answered that he does not believe there is a call for it during the week; there are very good breakfast places in Town and even there people are not waiting out the doors.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney then asked what time do you see yourself opening for a Sunday Brunch.

Mr. Urbano said that it would depend on what Council decides regarding the liquor; probably 9:00 a.m. But we would have to adjust to what the demand is; we will not know until we try it.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney asked Mr. Urbano if he had ever contemplated opening for breakfast without being able to serve liquor.

Mr. Urbano replied that he did. However, there are a lot of businesses in the area that offer breakfast; we cannot compete with them. Mr. Urbano said that he is looking to add a different aspect to the Sunday brunch to keep people in Town instead of going elsewhere.

President Baxter thanked Mr. Urbano for coming before Council.

Chip Slocum (1669 Pennington Road – Slocum’s Bowling Center, Bar & Grill) said that he is not here for himself as he will not be having a brunch as his place is too small. Mr. Slocum said that he is concerned for the others – Erini’s, Freddie’s, Metro, Revere – it is obvious they are not as busy as they used to be.

President Baxter thanked Mr. Slocum for showing up to support the other restaurants in the Community. President Baxter then said that opening earlier on Sunday might help him with package good sales.

Mr. Slocum said that he did not believe it would; even during the week he does not have a lot of package good sales – if he made \$100 during the day that would be a lot.

The Attorney added that it is 9:00 a.m. on Sunday in both Hamilton and West Windsor.

Matt Kalnas (527 Pingree Avenue) added that he believed that it is unfair that people can go into BYOB restaurants and drink at 10:00 a.m. while restaurants that pay a lot of money for their liquor license are forbidden to serve before Noon. Mr. Kalnas added that he cannot say if making this change would bring an economic boon to Ewing; however, a lot of money is being made on Sunday’s at K.C. Prime. President Baxter said that he knows that K.C. Prime is very busy; but that he does not know what is driving that – is it the food or the alcohol. And would this change help those businesses that do not serve alcohol.

Councilwoman Wollert said that it is her opinion that we should move forward with this. We are out of step; other towns are benefiting from this. Councilwoman Wollert said that she does not believe that there are any negative connotations for changing the hours. Councilwoman Wollert said that she agrees with Mr. Kalnas’ point about BYOB.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney asked if a business, instead of a sale of alcohol, could allow alcohol to be a “gratis” part of the brunch.

The Attorney replied no, the Ordinance includes the consumption before those hours.

President Baxter said that yes, you are correct about the BYOB aspect of this, but most likely those establishments are not open for brunch, but rather lunch or dinner. President Baxter said that he knows Mr. Kalnas wants a level playing field, but things are not always equal.

Councilman Schroth said that he believes that this is a good idea. Brunch is a traditional part of our society.

Councilwoman Steward said that she has waited to have brunch many times. The question is whether alcohol will be leaving the restaurants earlier. Councilwoman Steward said that she is more interested in the brunch, not the alcohol. But if this would keep people in town, it is hard to be opposed to it.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney mentioned the tradition of the “Blue Laws” and said that this is a balance between respecting the past while at the same time recognizing change and then added that she hopes that businesses will be interested in doing this.

The Attorney said that if Council wants to see how this goes, what kind of support there is for this; Council can add a sunset provision.

Councilwoman Wollert said that she is not really concerned about a sunset provision as we can always revisit it. And, restaurants will do it or not based on their own business interest. Councilwoman Wollert then stated she has not heard of any opposition to this.

Councilwoman Schroth said that if we are considering 10:00 a.m., we should consider 9:00 a.m.

Councilwoman Wollert said that she thought that 9:00 a.m. was being discussed.

Mr. Urbano (12 Railroad Avenue) said that we do not know what will happen; it is about “testing the waters”.

President Baxter said that he is concerned about what comes first – the brunch or the sale of alcohol. President Baxter said that when we first started discussing this, he was hesitant; but now after discussion, he is of the opinion that if this works for you, it works for you; if it does not, it does not.

President Baxter thanked Mr. Kalnas for coming forward and being persistent and making us aware of this issue. President Baxter then said that any of the other business owners should come to our next meeting on the 23rd or email the Clerk with their concerns and ideas.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council or the Public.

DISCUSSION

- 1. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, AMENDING THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING, AMENDING SECTION 225-52, ENTITLED “SCHEDULE V: HANDICAPPED PARKING ON STREETS,” TO ADD A HANDICAPPED PARKING SIGN AT 34 STOUT AVENUE**

President Baxter explained that this is requested from time to time. There is a vetting process through our Police Department and it has been approved by the Office-in-Charge.

The Attorney said that this is a standard handicapped parking spot. The Police confirmed that there is a valid handicapped placard for the driver and that there is no driveway.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

- 2. AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE NAME OF PART OF SAM WEINROTH ROAD NEAR TRENTON-MERCER AIRPORT TO AIRPORT CORPORATE DRIVE**

The Administrator described exactly where this is located and then said that the County does not have a problem with the name change. The business owners like it because it helps with their marketability to be associated with the airport.

The Mayor said that it will also benefit the town because new signs will be put up.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

- 3. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE EWING-LAWRENCE SEWERAGE AUTHORITY, CIRCLE REALTY ASSOCIATES, LLC AND THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL FOR THE PROVISION OF SEWER SERVICES FOR BLOCK 71, LOT 5, PENNINGTON ROAD**

President Baxter said that this is routine; it is to hook into the sewer system.

The Attorney said that Ewing has to sign off on this because it is on the Ewing side of the Ewing-Lawrence Sewerage Authority. There are a number agreements with each individual property. Each will pay the standard amount.

The Administrator added that they will pay one and one half times the rate that everyone else pays.

The Attorney then said that it comes at the recommendation of ELSA and it is beneficial to the Town because the overage subsidizes the rate in Ewing.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

- 4. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE EWING-LAWRENCE SEWERAGE AUTHORITY, GREG RASCHDORF, MARIE RASCHDORF AND THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL FOR THE PROVISION OF SEWER SERVICES AT 4 BRANDON ROAD WEST**

President Baxter said that this is the same issue as Item Number Three. A home being tied into the sewer system.

- 5. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE EWING-LAWRENCE SEWERAGE AUTHORITY, BRIAN GOLDSMITH, MAXINE GOLDSMITH AND THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL FOR THE PROVISION OF SEWER SERVICES AT 16 BRANDON ROAD WEST**

President Baxter said that it is another tie-in into the sewer system.

- 6. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE EWING-LAWRENCE SEWERAGE AUTHORITY, VITO BADELEMTI AND THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL FOR THE PROVISION OF SEWER SERVICES FOR BLOCK 71, LOT 3.01, PENNINGTON ROAD**

President Baxter said that this is another tie-in into the sewer system.

- 7. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE EWING-LAWRENCE SEWERAGE AUTHORITY, KENNETH MATHER, JACQUELINE MATHER, VICTORIA MATHER AND THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL FOR THE PROVISION OF SEWER SERVICES FOR BLOCK 71, LOT 4.01, PENNINGTON ROAD**

President Baxter asked the Attorney why tying into the sewerage system has to be done by Resolution.

The Attorney replied that ELSA requires Ewing's authorization to utilize Ewing's infrastructure to get this material to the plant. It is considered Ewing's capacity but the overage that they pay will subsidize Ewing's overall sewer rate. The Attorney then explained that if this material had to go through Lawrence's infrastructure then Lawrence would have to pass the Resolution.

There were no questions or comments from Council on Items Four through Seven.

- 8. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE 2014-2015 RENEWAL OF LIQUOR LICENSE FOR BUCKS-MERCER MANAGEMENT, INC. t/a CURTIS LANES (#1102-33-005-002)**

President Baxter said that when we did our license renewals, Curtis did not have their tax clearance certificate. They have it now so they are clear to renew their 2014-2015 liquor license.

The Attorney added that Curtis Lanes has been operating under an “ad interim” license.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

9. A RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FINAL TO RICHARD T. BARRETT PAVING COMPANY, INC. FOR THE FY 2013 NJDOT TRUST FUND IMPROVEMENTS TO MOUNTAIN VIEW ROAD

The Administrator explained that this is for a decrease in the overall contract amount of \$24,167.90. We also used Barrett Paving to finish the lower half of Federal City Road which last winter had been destroyed by the ice and snow. Barrett did not charge for Mountain View Road which was the lower project amount. The Administrator added that the rest will be reallocated back to the State in the form of a grant for a further application.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

10. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW JERSEY STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM ACT OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR LOCAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

The CFO explained that currently the Township has State medical coverage and private prescription drug coverage. This will move the prescription drug coverage to the State plan as well. It will save the Town about \$187,000 and copays will be less. The Mayor said that the copays will be three dollars and twelve dollars. The Mayor then stated that we did have meetings with several unions and they are all onboard with the new plan. The Mayor then discussed the cost savings to the Town and the benefits of the new plan to the employees. The Mayor added that it does not appear that there will be any cost increase to the State plan for a couple of years.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

11. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE ON AN ONLINE AUCTION SITE

The Administrator said that this is for old outdated computer equipment except for and an electric organ and two pianos from the Senior Center that were there when the Township bought the building.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Baxter presented the Consent Agenda for review.

1. A Resolution Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Pay Bills in the Amount of \$7,699,373.58 and to Pay Supplemental Bills per Resolution #14R-44 in the Amount of \$263,227.19
2. Approval of Minutes of the Meetings of October 21, 2013, November 12, 2013, December 16, 2013 (Agenda), and October 22, 2013, November 12, 2013, December 17, 2013 (Regular)
3. A Resolution Authorizing the Conduct of a Bingo Sponsored by PTA Incarnation School on September 20, 2014
4. A Resolution Authorizing the Conduct of an On-Premise 50/50 Cash Raffle Sponsored by PTA Incarnation School on September 20, 2014
5. A Resolution Authorizing the Conduct of an Instant Raffle Sponsored by BPOE Trenton #105

- 6. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Township Construction Official, For Fees in the Amount of \$101.00 to Harold Christiff, 50 Wilburtha Road, Ewing, NJ 08628 for Applicant Fee at 50 Wilburtha Road, Ewing, NJ 08628. The Homeowner Was Unaware That He Was Entitled to a 50% Senior Discount**
- 7. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Township Municipal Clerk, for Fees in the Amount of \$20.00 for a Fee to New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC, 55 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 for an On-Premise 50/50 Cash Raffle (RL-1453) that Was to be Held on September 29th, 2014 at the Trenton Country Club. The New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC Has Decided to Cancel the Upcoming Fundraiser Due to Unforeseen Problems**
- 8. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Township Municipal Clerk, for Fees in the Amount of \$20.00 for a Fee to New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC, 55 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 for an On-Premise Merchandise Raffle (RL-1452) that Was to be Held on September 29th, 2014 at the Trenton Country Club. The New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC Has Decided to Cancel the Upcoming Fundraiser Due to Unforeseen Problems**
- 9. A Resolution Authorizing a Cancel, as Recommended by the Tax Collector, in the Amount of \$15,171.84 for the 2014 3rd and 4th Tax Quarters For Property Owner Gardens at Birmingham #100, for Block: 365 Lot: 9.02 Also Known as 1480 Parkway Ave. Due to the PILOT Program Signed on April 11, 2012**
- 10. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Tax Collector, in the Amount of \$1,504.39 for August 1, 2014 Tax Quarter, to Title Village Title Agency, 168 Franklin Corner Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, for Property Owner Lorenzetti, Debra L., for Block: 588 Lot: 55 Also Known as 12 Cromwell Ct., for Overpayment of August 1, 2014 Tax Quarter**
- 11. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Tax Collector, in the Amount of \$1,095.55 for August 1, 2014 Tax Quarter, to CoreTitle LLC, 1300 Route 73, Suite 112, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054, File #CT14-6633, Attn: Trish, for Property Owner White, Atira J., for Block: 465 Lot: 74 Also Known as 102 Stratford Ave., for Overpayment of August 1, 2014 Tax Quarter.**
- 12. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Tax Collector, in the Amount of \$3,041.27 for August 1, 2014 Tax Quarter, to Richard Lupo, Attorney at Law, 1254 Highway 27, North Brunswick, New Jersey 08902, File No. R4998L, for Property Owner Dwyer, James E. ux, for Block: 533 Lot: 17 Also Known as 53 Lochatong Rd., for Overpayment of August 1, 2014 Tax Quarter**
- 13. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Tax Collector, in the Amount of \$1,016.83 for August 1, 2014 Tax Quarter, to Richman, Jack M. & Paula, 13 Marvin Court, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, for Property Owner Richman, Jack M. & Paula, for Block: 485 Lot: 189 Also Known as 14 Wallace Court, for Overpayment of August 1, 2014 Tax Quarter**
- 14. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Tax Collector, in the Amount of \$1,730.92 for August 1, 2014 Tax Quarter, to Battle, Linda M. & Heading, Reginald, 117 Robbins Ave., Ewing, NJ 08638, for Property Owner Battle, Linda M. & Heading, Reginald, for Block: 26 Lot: 123 Also Known as 117 Robbins Ave., for Overpayment of August 1, 2014 Tax Quarter**
- 15. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Tax Collector, in the Amount of \$1,245.89 for August 1, 2014 Tax Quarter, to MidLantic Title, 106 Centre Blvd. Suite J, Marlton, NJ 08053, File Number: MTB-4868-14, for Property Owner Karpiscak, Jeffrey & Madelyn, for Block: 67 Lot: 79 Also Known as 226 Greenland Ave., for Overpayment of August 1, 2014 Tax Quarter**

16. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Tax Collector, in the Amount of \$1,484.41 for August 1, 2014 Tax Quarter, to Bates, Barry & Evelyn, 32 Thurston Avenue, Ewing, NJ 08618, for Property Owner Bates, Barry & Evelyn, for Block: 275 Lot: 26 Also Known as 32 Thurston Avenue, for Overpayment of August 1, 2014 Tax Quarter.
17. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Tax Collector, in the Amount of \$1,379.14 for August 1, 2014 Tax Quarter, to First American Title Insurance Company General Loan Division, 2 Research Way, Princeton, NJ 08540, File No. 3471-2090005-PRC, for Property Owner DavidJames, LLC, for Block: 194 Lot: 21.01 Also Known as 254 Ewingville Road, for Overpayment of August 1, 2014 Tax Quarter

President Baxter asked the CFO how retiree reimbursements are going.

The CFO replied that reimbursements are going well and said that she has not received any complaints. The only hiccup has been having the wrong address on file. Checks are being turned around in two days.

The Mayor added that if there is a proven hardship to a senior retiree; we will front them up to the \$1,400.00.

The CFO added that no one has requested this.

The Mayor said that we have met with the retirees on a couple of occasions. There have been some naysayers. Overall, their out-of-pocket expenses are less than under the old plan.

President Baxter said that the Bills List total for the month seems higher than average.

The CFO replied that it is higher because we only had one meeting in August and we have the debt service, payments to ELSA, County and school taxes due in September.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney asked if we received the ambulance.

The CFO replied yes.

The Mayor said that it will be in service on Monday and said that the EMS director, D. Clark, will be at a future Council meeting to go over the significant changes that have been made. The Mayor stated that Mr. Clark has been done a great job; he has turned it around. We have gone from State oversight to the State not involved with us anymore. The Mayor then described some of the changes that were made.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council.

ORDINANCE(S) FOR FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION

(None for this Meeting)

ORDINANCE(S) FOR SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION

1. AN ORDINANCE REAPPROPRIATING \$35,000 PROCEEDS OF OBLIGATIONS NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSE, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) JEEP PATRIOT SPORT SUV'S FOR USE BY THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING, COUNTY OF MERCER, IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY (2014)

The CFO explained that this is for two new replacement vehicles for the Health Department that are being purchased under State contract.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

2. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING ZONING MAP TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT BLOCK 423.04, LOT 12 FROM OP-1 TO R-M/R-TH (2014)

The Administrator said that this is the last underdeveloped section along Scenic Drive. The property is owned by Sold Inc. A few years ago, the owner received approval to build 125 senior units. Infrastructure was put in. As there is no market

for this type of housing, the owners are requesting the property to be rezoned so they can put in high-end apartments.

President Baxter said that this was before the Planning Board last week and there were no issues.

The Attorney added that there is a letter attached from Mr. Herbert, the Planning Board Attorney, indicating that this rezoning is consistent with the Master Plan.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

3. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE EWING TOWNSHIP SALARY ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARY AND POSITION OF MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR (2014)

President Baxter stated that at the last meeting the Mayor mentioned that he wanted to bring all emergency services under one umbrella; there will be one point of contact during an emergency, although all entities will still be involved.

The Attorney added that this position already exists in the Township ordinances and is required by State statute.

The Mayor said that he wanted to set the record straight as some members of the emergency response team thought that he stood before Council at the last meeting and said that the emergency response team did not do a good job during the South Fork emergency. The Mayor said that he wanted to reiterate what he actually said at that meeting; that everyone did a magnificent job during the emergency at South Fork. The Police did what they had to do, the Fire Department did their job, Construction did theirs and the Health Department did what they had to do. However, no one person put it all together. The Mayor stated that CSX has doubled, even tripled, the amount of daily trips down the rail line and is now hauling oil and chemicals; not just garbage. 125,000 people each month are now going through the airport. The GM site is being developed. There is a need for a coordinated effort for emergency response with one person in charge.

NEW BUSINESS

(None for this Meeting)

STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Ingrid Rosario (1717 Fifth Street) said that she wanted to address the North Olden detour. Ms. Rosario said that businesses were notified and included in the design of the detour but residents on the street where the detour is located were not. Residents pay taxes as well. Ms. Rosario then said that she called the Mayor's Office and was told that it is a County construction project; the Mayor's Office should represent the interests of all residents not just the interests of the business owners and when she called the County she was told that the County had asked the Township and the Township said to only include the business owners in that meeting. Ms. Rosario then said that she understood that the Township did make telephone calls when they had a telephone number or an email but what about all the others. Ms. Rosario said that she only found out about the detour the Friday before because a sign was put up; we should have had more notice. Ms. Rosario then discussed how hazardous the traffic conditions are because of this detour. Ms. Rosario then said the impression is that the people involved in this decision thought that it was better to apologize after then to ask permission before. Ms. Rosario then discussed the issues that she has trying to get out of her driveway and with people using her driveway as if it is a public street. Ms. Rosario stated that we know that this project can be delayed either by weather or by other delays. Ms. Rosario said that she wants to know and to be included if this project is going to last longer than scheduled and said that she also wants to know the Township's standard operating procedure regarding construction projects. The Mayor apologized to the residents affected by the detour for not notifying them before the fact. The Mayor then said that the alternative – closing Olden Avenue with one lane open each way – would have been much worse; a year and a half instead of ninety days. The Mayor then said that the County Freeholders are voting to appropriate more money in order to speed up the process. The Mayor explained that he held a meeting with the business owners but only two showed up. The Mayor said that there were no good alternatives. The bridge had to be fixed. It was in imminent danger of collapse. The Mayor apologized again and then said that it was not done maliciously. The Mayor said that he believes that it does work; drivers are impatient, but the situation is getting better.

Ms. Rosario disagreed with the Mayor's characterization that the situation is getting better and then suggested a couple of ways to make the traffic situation better.

Todd Roundtree (110 Crescent Avenue) spoke about the long term ongoing problem of college students coming off campus and walking through their neighborhood causing issues. Mr. Roundtree asked that someone in the Administration speak to TCNJ about this. The Administrator said that things are better since that weekend in August when the students came back. We do have a Town and Gown meeting later this month and this can be addressed at this open public meeting. The Mayor did give a welcoming speech to incoming freshman and the issue has gotten better.

Mr. Roundtree suggested that it is not just the College's problem but ours as well. It is an ongoing issue for many years and said that he is open to any suggestions.

The Mayor said that we do have a new liaison officer with the College of New Jersey – Detective Mike Pellegrino. The Mayor stated that we have made several arrests since that particular incident. The Mayor then said that he was upset that after he had a conversation with the College at the end of last semester in which he suggested that the return of students coincide closer to the actual start date so students would not have too much free time on their hands and then found out later that the College actually pushed it back where there was even more time between when students arrive and when classes start. The Mayor said that he will be having a candid discussion with the College about this. The Mayor then explained that the Police have been aggressive. There were ten calls for noise this past weekend - two were college students and the rest were residents having a party. The Mayor explained that we cannot differentiate between college students and residents. The Mayor then explained that we are in the process of hiring new police officers. The Mayor said that he authorized up to twenty new officers, and we are on track for fourteen. Greater diversity in the Police Department is beginning to show.

Mr. Roundtree said that he is glad to see that the Police Department is becoming more diverse. However, as the residents are elderly, they will not call the Police. Mr. Roundtree suggested that the Police patrol the area during certain nights when the students decide to walk the neighborhood, making noise. Mr. Roundtree also said that we need to work with the College to address this long standing issue.

President Baxter asked Mr. Roundtree to give the Administration his address so a meeting can be set-up.

The Mayor said that the Administration is shortly going to initiate foot patrols. The Mayor then said that the more important thing is that we have had a number of these Town and Gown meetings, but no one said anything about this particular issue.

Mr. Roundtree added that he just wants to address the problem, so that, hopefully, it will go away.

Don Apai (2181 Pennington Road) said that he saw an article in "Back Talk" that said that the Township cannot afford twenty new police officers as our taxes are already too high. Mr. Apai suggested that the Administration call "Back Talk" tomorrow to clarify the record that these twenty officers are not new, but rather replacements.

There were no additional questions or comments from members of the Public.

CLOSED SESSION

(None for this Meeting)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Baxter asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Wollert so moved seconded by Mr. Schroth. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Jennifer Keyes-Maloney, President

Kim Macellaro, Municipal Clerk