

**MINUTES OF A CAUCUS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HADDON, IN THE
COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY, HELD ON OCTOBER 15, 2013,
IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AT 7:00 PM.**

A caucus meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Haddon was convened in the Municipal Building, 135 Haddon Avenue, Westmont, NJ on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at 7:00 PM.

Mayor Teague requested all stand for the flag salute

Mayor Teague announced that Chapter 231, Public Law 1975 requires adequate notice of this meeting be provided specifying time, place and agenda. This was done by placing Annual Notice in the Courier-Post and Retrospect Newspapers and by posting on two bulletin boards in the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL:	Mayor Teague	Present
	Commissioner Foley	Present
	Commissioner Dougherty	Present

Stuart Platt, Esq., Greg Fusco, P.E., Jim Stevenson, Mark Cavallo, Martin Blaskey, Lee Palo, Betty Band and Kate Burns were present.

Commissioner Foley moved, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 24, 2013 be approved, with all members voting in the affirmative.

ORDINANCES (for consideration October 22, 2013)

RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL THIS EVENING:

The following resolution was approved with a motion by Commissioner Foley, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty, with all members voting in the affirmative.

#2013-184 – Authorizing a Special Emergency Appropriation

The following resolution was approved with a motion by Commissioner Foley, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty, with all members voting in the affirmative.

#2013-185 – Extending the Temporary 8 week period for the Temporary Police Clerk

The Mayor and Commissioners presented the following proclamations, read by Commissioner Foley, and approved at the September 24, 2013 meeting:

Township of Haddon Proclamation

Whereas, National Fire Prevention Month commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 that killed more than 250 people, left 100,00 homeless and destroyed more than 17,400 structures; and

Whereas, these deadly and destructive fires serve as a motivating force to bring the residents of the Township of Haddon together to promote and practice fire safety; and

Whereas, the Township of Haddon is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all residents and visitors, and highlights that commitment by observing Fire Prevention Month each October; and

Whereas, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally and homes are the locations where people are at the greatest risk from fire; and

Whereas, the men and women of the Westmont Fire Co. 1 and the West Collingswood Heights Fire Co. 1 are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires through prevention, protection and education; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Haddon Township Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of October 2013 as

Fire Prevention Month

throughout the Township of Haddon and urge all residents to protect their homes and families by heeding the important safety messages of the Westmont and West Collingswood Heights Fire Departments.



Township of Haddon

Whereas, We are honored today to help commemorate the outstanding milestone of Westmont Party as they celebrate 30 years of doing business in the Township of Haddon; and

Whereas, founded on October 3, 1983, Mario & Elvira Albertini Sr., established their family business originally located at 39 Haddon Ave. selling catering supplies ; and

Whereas, in 1992, the business expanded into their second location at 37 Haddon Ave., carrying balloons and party themed goods; and

Whereas, in 2000, this third generation business grew once again to a third location at 35 Haddon Ave., adding party rentals supplies and equipment; and

*Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Haddon, do hereby congratulate, **Westmont Party on its 30th Anniversary.** We hereby call upon the good citizens of Haddon Township to join them, a prominent, long-standing family business, in celebrating this significant anniversary.*

The Mayor and Commissioners presented the following Proclamation to the Community Garden Group, as read by Commissioner Foley:

<p>PHS Award to Haddon Township Community Garden</p>
--

Be It Proclaimed:

Whereas, the Township of Haddon is committed to promoting a sustainable and engaged community; and,

Whereas, the first Haddon Township Community Garden was initiated to further these communal goals: to improve the quality of life of the gardeners and the surrounding community, to beautify and preserve green space, to foster a sense of community identity, ownership, and stewardship, to provide opportunities for inter-generational and cross cultural connections, and to produce fresh, nutritious, food; and

Whereas, the Haddon Township Executive Committee with the assistance of the Department of Public Works began construction of the Community Garden at the Champion School site in March blending the old with the new; and in doing so, enlisted hundreds of volunteer hours and utilized multiple grants thus incorporating fiscal responsibility; and

Whereas, the Gardeners contributed to the Haddon Township community at large by donating surplus food to local food pantries and senior facilities, taking part in a Community Garden Tour of area gardens, donating time, expertise, and manual labor to socio-economically disadvantaged community gardens; participating at public events to educate residents on the benefits of gardening; and participating in the Township's First: Farm to Fork event; and

Whereas, the Haddon Township Community Garden was awarded the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Community Greening Award in September and was recognized for contributing to beautifying public property and was evaluated based upon plant variety, design, use of space, and horticultural practices.

Now, Therefore Be It Proclaimed, that the Mayor and Commissioners of the Township of Haddon, County of Camden, and State of New Jersey, congratulate and commend the Haddon Township Community Garden for a successful, inaugural year and for having earning the aforementioned prestigious award..

The following resolution was approved with a motion by Commissioner Foley, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty, with all members voting in the affirmative.

#2013-186 – Proclamation to the Community Garden Group

RESOLUTIONS (for consideration October 22, 2013)

#2013-187 - Bill Resolution

#2013-188 - Authorizing the Tax/Utility Collector to Process Posting Corrections and Various Other Adjustments and Deductions

OTHER BUSINESS FOR APPROVAL THIS EVENING:

The following items were presented and approved with a motion by Commissioner Foley, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty, with all members voting in the affirmative:

- Amend Raffle License #12-2013 for Paul VI
- Bingo License #1-2013 for Westmont Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary
- Raffle Licenses #15-2013 and #16-2013 for St. Joseph the Worker Parish

The following was presented as part of the agenda:

- Best Practices Worksheet

OTHER BUSINESS: (For consideration October 22, 2013)

- Authorization to go out to RFP for Banking, Auditor and Various Prof. Services

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Greg Fusco, PE reviewed the Engineer's Report for October 15, 2013.

Public Works, Water/Sewer Department: - Mr. Stevenson reported that he met with Greg Fusco and NJ DEP last Wednesday to review the work that the Township has achieved to comply with the Administrative Consent Order (ACO). The NJ DEP has reviewed everything and is basically done in the Bettewood Section and Storm Water Management. Mr. Stevenson reported that there was more work to be done on Toledo Avenue. This is leaf season and Public Works is encouraging residents to put out their leaves weekly. The Township's resources for leaf season are strong due to new equipment. Public Works continues to work on the Park and Albertson Pump Station. Pumps have already been purchased and are ready to be installed.

The Mayor requested the status on the Mansion Avenue Project. Mr. Stevenson responded that the contractor has installed the water main and notified the residents that the water would be shut off on Monday. Unfortunately, Collingswood had a problem with a valve. The valve was repaired today. The residents on Merrick were without water during that time. The Mayor pointed out that this is a Collingswood project in our town due to the fact that Collingswood owns the water lines.

Tax Assessor: Mr. Blaskey reported the Tax Assessor's Office recently finished up the added assessment book for 2013 and is now working on the tax book for 2014.

Compliance Officer: Mrs. Band reported actively working with abandoned properties and that Public Works is still maintaining the lawn when the Township doesn't hear back from the banks. There are 5 pending court cases regarding property maintenance with people that are in their homes. Mrs. Band reported that Senior Services is having a Medicare Seminar for Haddon Township and Audubon Park Seniors in Audubon Park on October 24th at 2 PM. The seminar will be about experiences with different changes with Medicare.

BID/Town Events: Ms. Burns reported this Saturday, PJs, The Pour House and Treno will be having a "Pump-King" Event, with treats for the kids, Keg and Kitchen will be hosting an event called "Rescue the Girls" for breast cancer and all proceeds benefit the Tyanna Foundation. Ms. Burns further reported that the Westmont Fire Department has been very generous offering support at the event by bringing a fire truck and promoting rescuing the girls. On Wednesday, October 30, Westmont Lions Annual Halloween Parade will begin at 7:30 PM and Trick-or-Treating will be on Thursday, October 31, 2013, from 3 PM until 6 PM. As far as the Business Improvement District, she reported there will be three new businesses opening soon, a barber shop, a sports shop, and Franco's Place. More information provided by Ms. Burns regarding the BID is that fall

landscaping has been completed and cornstalks are up. Ms. Burns met with Catherine Turcic regarding trees that need to be replaced.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: (For consideration on October 22, 2013)

- Amend Salary Ordinance 2013
- Cancel Outstanding Checks for the HIF
- Fair and Open Process for Various Professional Services
- Renew Liquor License for Westmont Holdings, LLC
- Appointing Seasonal Help for Public Works
- Backyard Chickens

Mayor asked the Commissioners and the audience if they had any questions or comments regarding backyard chickens.

Commissioner Foley responded that the report by the Environmental Commission is well put together and well researched.

Craig Strimel, 429 E. Melrose – Mr. Strimel reported that he is in favor of backyard chickens and touches on the following points: He admits that there are concerns across the globe regarding backyard chickens but finds these concerns are based in human perception and decisions should not be made using this as the standard; next he believes that the concerns of having backyard chickens are far outweighed by the educational value of teaching our children; and finally he believes a Pilot Program is a great idea if administered the correct way.

Sean McGrath, 1113 Westmont Avenue – Mr. McGrath reported that he is against backyard chickens for the following reasons: Sexing a chicken is difficult to do and roosters are used for packing when they send up chickens; they only lay eggs for around 2 years; their feces smell and attract flies, they can fly over a 3 foot fence; and they attract predators

Gwenne Baile, 24 Hampton Road – Ms. Baile would like to refute many issues brought up by Mr. McGrath. She responds that there are a couple of breeds of chickens that you can tell at birth what gender they are due to their coloring. Sixteen week pullets are all female. Chicken feed will be locked up; therefore, rodents will not be attracted. There are small coops out there and the idea is for there to be only a few chickens kept in the backyard. Ms. Baile reported on the benefits of backyard chickens such as, their feces can be used for fertilizer and that chickens eat bugs such as mosquitoes. Ms. Baile believes the chickens are going to be pets and cared for like pets; chickens are pets with purposes.

John Kendall, 120 Washington Avenue – Mr. Kendall requested that the Mayor and Commissioners look into the setback for the sake of the neighbors. It wouldn't be good to have the chicken coop right on the property line.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

There being no further agenda business, Commissioner Foley moved to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty, with all members voting in the affirmative.

John Kendall, 120 Washington Avenue – Mr. Kendall requested a status on the Westmont Theatre. Mayor Teague responded that LazGor has reached out to Trenton to see what they can do and what they are allowed to do with the Theatre. Mr. Kendall complained that PSE&G did in his area. There are lines and holes in the street. Mr. Stevenson told Mr. Kendall that PSE&G takes 3 to 4 months to come back to finish the job so that the

area can settle out. The following areas in West Collingswood Heights need addressing per Mr. Kendall: fencing needs mending, back of the bench in the Gazebo is broken, asphalt needs to be sprayed, ruts filled in with dirt, and stones or asphalt placed in driveway area. He noticed in the Engineer's Report, it mentions an agreement with New Jersey American Water to take over the West Collingswood Heights Water System. The Mayor responded that the system is old and in such poor shape that if New Jersey American Water takes it over, they will be responsible for rehabilitating it and the Township would not longer be responsible. Mayor Teague further commented that in the long run this will save the Township a lot of money. Mr. Kendall requested that the Mayor and Commissioners consider an elevator in the future for the Municipal Building.

Improvements He further commented on weeds growing in the sidewalks in the West Collingswood Extension and the possibility of doing shared events with the Borough of Audubon Park since they have community buildings.

Sean McGrath, 1113 Belmont – Mr. McGrath responded to the PSE&G comment by Mr. Kendall by recommending flowable fill, it's self-leveling and you can get it from any concrete company can make it with sand or ash which is even better.

Rene Papaneri and Marge Howley from Community Garden Group – Ms. Papaneri and Ms. Howley, requested the Township revisit the idea of paying for the water again next year, they reported the water pressure was really bad, the possibility of having their own checking account to enable them to have better access to garden funds, and the fence and gate need repairing. On a final note, they requested that the Township consider expanding next year since all 21 members signed up again and there are still 29 potential members on the waiting list.

Matt McCarthy, 503 Coles Mill Road – Mr. McCarthy reported a water leak in the street near the community garden where the main line goes in.

There being no further comments from the public, Commissioner Foley made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty, with all members voting in the affirmative.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Foley moved, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty that the meeting be adjourned at 8:09 PM, with all members voting in the affirmative.

October 15, 2013

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DAWN M. PENNOCK,
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Randall W. Teague, Mayor

John C. Foley, Commissioner

Paul Dougherty, Commissioner