

**MINUTES OF A CAUCUS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HADDON, IN THE
COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY, HELD ON DECEMBER 16, 2014,
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, December 16, 2014 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

Eric Riso, Esq., Greg Fusco, Sean Gooley, Jim Stevenson, Lee Palo, and Betty Band were present.

Commissioner Foley moved, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 25, 2014 be approved, with all members voting in the affirmative.

ORDINANCES: (For consideration December 23, 2014)

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL THIS EVENING:

The following resolution was approved with a motion by Commissioner Foley, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty, with all members affirmatively concurring:

#2014-209 – Award of Installation of Playground Equipment

The following resolution was approved with a motion by Commissioner Foley, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty, with all members affirmatively concurring:

#2014-210 – Authorizing Sick Buy Out for 2014

RESOLUTIONS (for consideration December 23, 2014)

OTHER BUSINESS: (for consideration December 23, 2014)

- 2015 Temporary Municipal Budget and W/S Operating Budget
- 2015 Temporary Business Improvement District Budget
- Authorizing the Township Clerk to Advertise Meeting Dates for 2015 for Various Boards and Commissions
- Raffle License #27-2014 Paul VI PTO & Alumni Assoc.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Greg Fusco reviewed the Engineer's Report for December 16, 2014.

Public Works, Water/Sewer Department: - Mr. Stevenson reported that leaf season continues even though the Township lost a couple of days last week due to inclement weather and equipment issues. He further informs the governing body that the street sweeper is going around this week. Mr. Stevenson reports that the snow plow is in good shape and ready to go. Pothole crews are out this week and on Thursday and Friday the tree crews will be out.

Compliance Officer: - Ms. Band reported that a couple letters went out this week to try and clean up properties. Ms. Band further reports that she has been contacted by some service companies of abandoned properties to see what they need to do to get compliant.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Bill Resolution
- Appointment of Various Professional Services
- Award Government Banking
- Award Payroll Services
- Appointments to Multiple Boards and Commissions
- Appt. of Treasurer, Licensing Clerk, Public Agency Compliance Officer and Municipal Improvement Search Clerk
- Appointment of Municipal Coordinator on Aging
- Appropriation Transfers
- Chapter 159 Revenue for National Priority Safety Program
- Resolution of Support Authorizing Sustainable Jersey Grant Application
- Refund of Zoning Application Fee to Grimaldi
- Change Order No. 5-Final 2014 Street Improvement Program – DiMeglio
- Change Order No. 3 2014 Street Improvement Program – Curbcon
- Appointment of Fire Marshall
- Appointment of Municipal Court Judge
- Refund Senior Trip to Tropicana Holiday Show

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Dissolving Haddon Township Fire District No. 2

Commissioner Foley informs the public that Haddon Township Fire District No. 2 is located in the West Collingswood Extension and the residents are provided fire suppression services by Collingswood Fire Company. Commissioner Foley did an investigation into the last 5 years of budgets of Fire District No. 2 and concluded that this District exists to pay Collingswood. There is no fire apparatus. There are administrative costs that are incurred by running the fire district and it is Commissioner Foley's opinion as well as the Board of Fire Commissioners' opinion that the need to raise these administrative costs just to pay the bill is not necessary. It is Commissioner Foley's recommendation that Fire District No. 2 be dissolved and that the Township assume the responsibility of paying the Collingswood Fire Company. To give the public a better understanding, Commissioner Foley compares Audubon Park paying Haddon Township for Police & Court Services and there are no administrative costs to Haddon Township paying Collingswood Fire Company. Collingswood Fire Company would send the Township the bill and we would pay it. The Commissioner points out that there is still outstanding money owed to Collingswood, \$4,000 from 2012, due to disconnect of budget and bill, Fire District No. 2 did not prepare a 2014 budget and there is approximately \$26,000 owed for Fire Suppression Services. The Commissioner points out that he met with the Division of Local Government Services and Eric Riso, Esquire, and the State is making a push for local governments to take a look at "on paper" fire districts and make determinations as to whether they are still viable or not. This agency would be better served if the Township assumed the liability for paying the bill and the benefit to the taxpayers would be the savings of \$2,000 to \$4,000 in taxes each year.

Commissioner Foley requests that Eric Riso, Esquire and Stuart Platt, Esquire proceed to find out the necessary steps to make this happen. He further reports that he met with Haddon Township Fire District No. 2 last week and they verbally expressed their consent.

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 comments on the lack of holiday decorations in West Collingswood Heights and the West Collingswood Extension. Mr. Kendall brings up the possibility of a Business Improvement District in the Heights. Mayor Teague responds that around 6 months ago when Mr. Kendall brought this issue up at our meeting, Ms. Burns sent out letters to the businesses in that area and there was no interest in forming a Business Improvement District. Mr. Kendall asks if the Township would consider hanging wreaths on every other pole next year. The Mayor responded that the Township would have to reach out to PSE&G this year to get permission for next year. Mr. Kendall informs the governing body that there is a big boulder in front of the “Welcome to Haddon Township” sign on Rt. 130 and Collings Avenue. This boulder is blocking the sign. He suggests that Public Works get a tractor and pull the boulder to the side, if possible. Mr. Kendall informs the Mayor that he was in Princeton recently and picked up a newsletter from Renew Theaters, Inc., a 501(3)c. This group provides management, leadership, and expertise and they actually run the theatre. He requests that the Mayor present the information to LazGor in case the deal with Planet Fitness does not work out. Mayor Teague points out that LazGor and Planet Fitness are extremely close to executing a lease agreement. Mr. Kendall asks Commissioner Foley questions about the dissolution of Fire District No. 2 and what impact that has on the representation of the residents in that area and if they still get a vote. Commissioner Foley responds that Fire District No. 2 will be dissolved and if the residents have questions those questions could be directed to Haddon Township or Collingswood Fire Company. He further points out that this will enable him to ask questions to Collingswood as a Commissioner. Mr. Kendall strongly recommends that the Mayor and Commissioners have a meeting in the extension to explain everything to the residents in that area. Commissioner Foley points out that he will be meeting with the residents in that area in January to answer any questions and explain what is happening. Mr. Kendall concludes by asking about the broken fence in the West Collingswood Heights Park as well as the stones for the parking area. Mr. Stevenson points out that as soon as Public Works finishes up with leaf season they will be over in the Heights to install playground equipment and address the other issues mentioned. Mr. Kendall complimented the Township events such as the Turkey Trot, Holiday Parade, Tree Lighting and Senior Gala.

Mark Asselta, Brown and Connery – Mr. Asselta reports to the governing body that Brown & Connery have two office buildings. He attended this meeting this evening to follow up from last night’s Planning Board meeting at which they had a vigorous and extensive discussion on the sign ordinance and parking ordinance. He comments that Brown & Connery is interested in potential changes to the parking ordinance due to unauthorized parking on their property by their neighbor. He points out that the Planning Board will be making a recommendation based on informative reports from the Township Engineer/Planner. There will be no changes to the parking ordinance other than relief to very small business owners on Haddon Avenue based upon the reports submitted to the Planning Board. Brown & Connery believe this is appropriate; the idea of liberalizing the off-street parking for businesses will only contribute to the parking deficit. Residents were concerned about residential parking from spill over of businesses. Any more dramatic changes to the parking ordinance will have a negative impact. Brown & Connery wants you to know that the issue is percolating and there are groups out there that feel the way we do. Mayor Teague points out that Brown & Connery are paying members of the Business Improvement District. Mr. Asselta points out that he has been coming to work at this firm in Haddon Township for 29 years and they enjoy being in Haddon Township.

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

Commissioner Foley states that on behalf of Mayor Teague, Commissioner Dougherty and myself, I want to wish everyone a Happy Hanukkah.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Foley moved, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty that the meeting be adjourned at 7:40 PM, with all members voting in the affirmative.

December 16, 2014

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DAWN M. PENNOCK,
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Randall W. Teague, Mayor

John C. Foley, Commissioner

Paul Dougherty, Commissioner