

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

December 11, 2013

At 7:01 PM Mayor Piserchia read the following statement:

**STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE**

“In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting was included in a list of meetings notice which was electronically sent to the Echoes Sentinel, Courier News and Daily Record on January 15, 2013; posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on January 15, 2013 and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.”

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**RESOLUTION 13-365  
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, that the Township Committee of Long Hill Township meet in closed session to discuss the following matters:

Contract Negotiations:

- Long Hill Township Fire Dept.
- PBA
- DPW Contract
- Skyline Pump Station

Pending or Anticipated Litigation:

- COAH/Lounsberry
- Copper Springs/Indoor Soccer

Property Acquisition:

- Eberle
- Kurz

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that minutes of this executive session meeting will be released to the public in a timely fashion pursuant to the Open Public Records Act and other applicable laws and regulations.

**MOVED** by: Committeeman Schuler of the Township Committee of Long Hill Township, that Resolution #13-365 is hereby approved. **SECOND** by: Committeeman Meringolo.

**VOICE VOTE:** All in favor. The Township Committee moved to closed session.

At 7:33 P.M. Mayor Piserchia opened the public meeting.

All present recited the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**ROLL CALL:** Committeeman Meringolo , Committeeman Rae, Committeeman Roshto, Committeeman Schuler and Mayor Piserchia were all present.

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

Mayor Piserchia read aloud the following Proclamations:

**PROCLAMATION  
Eagle Scout Kyle Joseph Chen Hall**

**WHEREAS**, the Boy Scouts of America is a volunteer organization and is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, Kyle Joseph Chen Hall has achieved the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout due to his dedication and volunteerism in his community. Troop 59 of the Boys Scouts of America, Stirling, New Jersey, has asked Long Hill Township to join them in recognizing his numerous achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, Kyle Joseph Chen Hall has demonstrated the spirit of volunteerism through his project which consisted of planning, designing, fund raising and building two brick paths at St. Vincent de Paul School in Stirling New Jersey. These paths serve to make emergency evacuations and school dismissal safer for elementary school students and school staff. Construction of these paths gave all involved the opportunity to be or see excellent role models in action. It brought scouts and community members, of all ages, together working towards a common goal. Kyle supervised 29 workers to build the two pathways. His leadership during this projected resulted in commendations from both parents and adult volunteers.

**WHEREAS**, Kyle Joseph Chen Hall began his journey in 2007 Scout and has spent over seven years as a member of Boy Scout Troop 59, where he held leadership positions such as Quartermaster and Patrol Leader; and worked his way thru the ranks of Boy Scouts. He has participated in numerous troop activities which included learning skills of survival, first aid and back packing. His volunteer activities include Scouting for Food and placing flags at veteran's graves. Kyle was the Chaplain's aid for his Philmont Trek; a 103-mile backpacking trek in the Sierra Mountains of New Mexico. He was awarded the Boy Scout Scholar Athlete Award and has been invited to participate in a career building Eagle Scout roundtable.

**WHEREAS**, Kyle Joseph Chen Hall is a member of the 2014 Class at Governor Livingston High School and is recognized for his academic excellence as a National Merit Commended and AP Scholar. Kyle is a Student Ambassador for GLHS and holds varsity letters in swimming and soccer. He is a member of the Athletic Honor Society.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey and on behalf of the residents of Long Hill Township on December 11 2013, do hereby recognize and congratulate Kyle Joseph Chen Hall on his achieved rank of Eagle Scout.

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**PROCLAMATION  
Eagle Scout Ian Robert St. Clair**

**WHEREAS**, the Boy Scouts of America is a volunteer organization and is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, Ian Robert St. Clair has achieved the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout due to his dedication and volunteerism in his community. Troop 59 of the Boys Scouts of America, Stirling, New Jersey, has asked Long Hill Township to join them in recognizing his numerous achievements; and

**WHEREAS**, Ian Robert St. Clair has demonstrated the spirit of volunteerism through his Eagle Scout project which consisted of building 4 large feral cat shelters for St. Hubert's Animal Hospital in Madison, New Jersey. He purchased building materials; assembled the structures, roofed and painted the units. Ian's project required interfacing with St. Hubert's staff; as well as

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leading a team of 10 young scouts and included fund raising for the project. The staff at St. Hubert's was amazed and Ian was the first scout to make shelters for the numerous feral cats on the extensive grounds at St. Hubert's Animal Shelter.

**WHEREAS**, Ian Robert St. Clair held many leadership positions in Troop 59, including Troop Scribe, Troop Librarian, Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol leader. Ian spoke on behalf of Troop 59 at recruiting events and was very successful in recruiting new scouts.

**WHEREAS**, Ian Robert St. Clair is a member of the 2014 Class at Governor Livingston High School and has been active in student government as Class President in his junior year and Executive President in 2014. Ian is an orientation leader, helping freshmen adjust to high school. As an avid runner, Ian has participated in track and cross country events all through high school.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey and on behalf of the residents of Long Hill Township on December 11 2013, do hereby recognize and congratulate Ian Robert St. Clair on his achieved rank of Eagle Scout.

Mayor Piserchia congratulated the Scouts and presented each with their Proclamations

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**HPAC ANNUAL REPORT** Presentation by Carol Prasa, Chair

Mrs. Prasa read a summary of the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee's Annual Report and introduced the Historic Site Plaque Program. The HPAC presented a draft of the application for the program for the Committees approval. There are approximately 250 properties that would qualify for the program. The plaques cost \$150.00 each the HPAC has budgeted \$2,000 from the Historic Trust Fund in 2014 for the new program.

Comm. Roshto requested approval from the Township Committee to commence this new program in 2014. **Voice Vote:** All in favor. Mr. Henry was instructed to proceed with finalizing the work necessary for the program to begin in 2014

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**ORDINANCES:**

**ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING/CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION**

**BOND ORDINANCE 322-13**

**PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE SANITARY SEWERAGE SYSTEM IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$4,500,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$4,500,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING SUCH APPROPRIATION.**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY** (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring), **AS FOLLOWS:**

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The improvement described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance is hereby authorized as a general improvement to be made or acquired by The Township of Long Hill, in the County of Morris, New Jersey. For the said improvement or purpose stated in said Section 3, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$4,500,000, said sum being inclusive of all appropriations heretofore made therefore.

For the financing of said improvement or purpose and to meet the said \$4,500,000 appropriation, negotiable bonds of the Township are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of \$4,500,000 pursuant to the Local Bond Law of New Jersey. In anticipation of the issuance of said bonds and to temporarily finance said improvement or purpose, negotiable notes of the Township in a principal amount not exceeding \$4,500,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to and within the limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

(a) The improvement hereby authorized and purpose for the financing of which said obligations are to be issued is the improvement of the sanitary sewerage system in and by the Township, including the reduction of infiltration and inflow and the improvement of the wastewater treatment plant by the installation of influent screening and an ultra-violet disinfection system, together with all structures, site work, equipment, work and materials necessary therefore or incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications therefore on file or to be filed in the office of the Township Clerk and hereby approved.

(b) The estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued for said purpose is \$4,500,000.

(c) The estimated cost of said purpose is \$4,500,000.

The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

The said purpose described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance is not a current expense and is a property or improvement which the Township may lawfully acquire or make as a general improvement, and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be specially assessed on property specially benefited thereby.

The period of usefulness of said purpose within the limitations of said Local Bond Law, according to the reasonable life thereof computed from the date of the said bonds authorized by this bond ordinance, is forty (40) years.

The supplemental debt statement required by said Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the office of the Township Clerk and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey, and such statement shows that the gross debt of the Township as defined in said Local Bond Law is increased by the authorization of the bonds and notes provided for in this bond ordinance by \$4,500,000, and the said obligations authorized by this bond ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

An aggregate amount not exceeding \$900,000 for interest on said obligations, costs of issuing said obligations, engineering costs and other items of expense listed in and permitted under Section 40A:2-20 of said Local Bond Law may be included as part of the costs of said improvement and is included in the foregoing estimate thereof.

This bond ordinance authorized obligations of the Township solely for purposes described in paragraph (d) of section 40A:2-7 of said Local Bond Law; and said purposes are in the public interest and are for the health, welfare, convenience or betterment of the inhabitants of the Township and the amounts to be expended for said purposes pursuant to this bond ordinance are not unreasonable or exorbitant and the issuance of the said obligations authorized by this bond ordinance will not materially impair the credit of the Township or substantially reduce its ability to pay punctually the principal of and interest on its debts and supply other essential public improvements and services, and the Local Finance Board in the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey has

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heretofore made a determination to this effect and caused its consent to be endorsed upon a certified copy of this bond ordinance as passed upon first reading.

All bond anticipation notes issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer, provided that no note shall mature later than one year from its date. The notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer. The Chief Financial Officer shall determine all matters in connection with the notes issued pursuant to this bond ordinance, and the Chief Financial Officer's signature upon the notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. All notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:2-8. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the notes from time to time at public or private sale and to deliver them to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price plus accrued interest from their dates to the dates of delivery thereof. The Chief Financial Officer is directed to report in writing to the governing body of the Township at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the notes pursuant to this bond ordinance is made. Such report must include the principal amount, interest rate and maturities of the notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

The full faith and credit of the Township are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the said obligations authorized by this bond ordinance. Said obligations shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Township, and the Township shall be obligated to levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable property within the Township for the payment of said obligations and interest thereon without limitation of rate or amount.

The capital budget or temporary capital budget of the Township is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing all detail of the amended capital budget or temporary capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, are on file with the Township Clerk and are available for public inspection.

This bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by said Local Bond Law.

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There was a short discussion and the Committee agreed to continue to add the Wastewater Improvements as a capital budget line item in their 6 year Plan in order for future Township Committees to continue to maintain the Wastewater System

**Mayor Piserchia opened the meeting to public comment on Ordinance 322-13**, seeing as there was no comment from the public, Mayor Piserchia closed public comment and called for a motion to approve the Bond Ordinance

**MOVED** by: Comm. Schuler, that Ordinance 322-13 be finally adopted on second reading

**SECONDED** by: Comm. Roshto **ROLL CALL VOTE: All in favor**

**DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS:**

**TURF FIELD Discussion**

**Public Comment for this item only:** *Please note: to help facilitate an orderly meeting and to permit the opportunity for anyone who wishes to be heard, speakers are asked to limit their comments to 3 minutes.*

Mayor Piserchia noted that this portion of the agenda is for the public and Township Committee members to voice their opinion on two questions:

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- 1) Should we turf Field #1 at Matthew G. Kantor Park?
- 2) If so, how should we fund the turf project?

Mayor Piserchia read aloud the referendum question that was approved at the November 4, 1997 election with regard to Municipal Open Space Recreation and Farmland and Historic Trust Fund

The Mayor introduced Joe Kozinski of Ferriero Engineering Firm – to discuss with the Committee and the public his turf cost study analysis that his firm prepared, at the request of the Township Committee for the 3 properties in question: 1- Kurz property, 2- Railroad Ave 3- Mathew G. Kantor Park

Also, invited guest from Applied Landscape Technology (turf contractor) – President Paul Martino, Philip Piro, Vice President.

The Township Committee allowed Engineer Kozinski to answer several questions from the with regards to the report.

The Mayor then opened the podium to the public:

- Greg Risotti – Stirling, supports turfing Field #1 at MGK
- Courtney Ballard supports turfing Field #1 at MGK
- Bob Larkis support turfing field #1 and developing the Kurz property for a grass field as soon as possible.
- Jerry Aroneo stated that as far back as 2007 the public has been demanding more recreational space. Mr. Aroneo supports turf to satisfy the demands of the residents, however, Mr. Aroneo is not in favor of using open space trust fund money for anything other than land acquisition.
- Dr. Kasselbirdy, LHT resident and Lacrosse Coach in LHT - supports turf  
Dr. Kasselbirdy advised the Committee that the LHT Lacrosse had to merge with Warren as there were not enough fields in LHT to support the league. Three quarters of the fields their league plays are turf and in his opinion is a very big advantage for their players. He recommended selling the Laura Drive property to help fund the turf project.

Mr. Piro of ALT was asked to estimate the cost of a regulated size turf field = \$1.2 million with lights for a property that had already been graded.

Joe Kozinski noted that either property, Kurz or MGK Field 1 could take 1.5 to 2.5 years to complete, depending on the drainage.

- Anthony Tomaro, Gillette resident, Coach in LHT and Warren – supports turfing Field 1 at MGK

Paul Martino ALT, 10 out of 10 turf fields that they have installed have lights = estimate of \$250,000. New technology lights do not shine into the surrounding residential homes,

- Rob Cunningham, Meyersville supports turfing Field 1 at MGK
- Paul Scanlon, 40 year resident and Soccer Coach supports turfing Field 1 at MGK. Member of the Board of Directors of Watchung Hills Soccer. Their Soccer League will certainly be amenable to donating money for some of the expenses. The current grass filed at MGK cannot be properly maintained due to continued use.
- Lisa Scanlon, LHT Recreation Director
- Karen Millette 19 year resident, does not support turfing

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- Chris Ruby, Millington, concerned about the traffic impact for the Kurz property supports turfing Field 1 at MGK
- Dennis Sandow – 80 % of tax payers of Long Hill Township will not use a turf field! Are we certain that artificially turf immune form fungus growth? Have we fully considered the cost of scrubbing contaminates out of the field each year?
- Paul Scanlon reiterated that maintenance is \$2,500.00
- Steve Scrobocks, Meyersville – does not support turf. 50% of the town is currently open space, and would like the township to reconsider reducing the tax to fund the open space trust.

Comm. Meringolo made a motion, seconded by Comm. Roshto to allow the extension of the Township Committee meeting beyond 11:00 PM. Voice Vote: all in favor

As there were no further comments from the public, Public session for this item was closed. The Mayor asked the Committee to approve soliciting a bid for turfing Field 1 at MGK Park Extensive discussion ensued between the Committee members, the CFO and the Engineer. Atty. Pidgeon recommended not going out to bid at this point, The Committee agreed to get better estimates on the cost of the MGK turfing vs. the Kurz property building a new recreation park. Mr. Henry was instructed to find out if an egress point onto Valley Road is possible. After a straw poll, the majority of the Committee members were not ready to commit to spending any funds on this project at this point until sufficient information can be gathered, i.e., more accurate estimates, the out come of the Kurz eminent domain hearing, etc.

**COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:**

Comm. Meringolo reported that the School Board is currently going thru their budget cycle and will remain under the 2% cap. There will be a school board referendum question present to the public in March regarding a bond for roof replacement.

Comm. Schuler reported that the Recreation Element of the Master Plan had been completed by the RAC and was being sent to the Planning Board

**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

*The following items are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be acted upon in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Committee member so requests. In this event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in the normal sequence of the Agenda.*

**MOVED** by: Comm. Rae by the Township Committee of Long Hill Township, that Resolution #13-359 through #13-364 and 13-366, 13-370 and 13-371 are hereby approved with changes.

**SECONDED** by: Comm. Meringolo .**ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor; with Comm. Roshto abstaining from Resolution 13-364.

**RESOLUTION #13-359**  
Tax Overpayment Refunds

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill upon the advice and recommendation of the Tax Collector does hereby authorize a refund to the following due to overpayment of 2013 taxes:

Block	Lot	Name	Refund:
14602	22	Crisall, Jacqueline/Dominic A.	\$1389.73

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772 Meyersville Rd  
Gillette, NJ 07933

10411      1      1221 Valley Road. LLC      \$8546.63  
1221 Valley Road  
Stirling, NJ 07980

11804      9.83      Saddington, Edwin G.      \$2666.88  
51 Brookside Rd  
Millington, NJ 07946

13006      22      Millington Savings Bank      \$3395.69  
Lending Dept  
[H & M Associates]  
675 Martinsville Rd  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

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**RESOLUTION #13-360  
Tax Refund B. 12807/L. 6**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill upon the advice and recommendation of the Tax Collector, does hereby authorize a refund of 2013 Tax in the amount of \$1379.78 due to Closing overpayment for Block 12807 Lot 6; 178 Bungalow Terrace, to; Tedesco Brothers, LLC, 29 Gillette Rd., Gillette, NJ 07933

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**RESOLUTION 13-361  
APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS**

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill does hereby approve the payment of the bills as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the bills list be appended to the official minutes.

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**RESOLUTION 13-362  
RATIFYING AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL & LONG HILL PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION**

**BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, that it hereby ratifies and affirm the Agreement between the Township of Long Hill and Long Hill Public Works Association for a period of January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2017 and authorize the Mayor and Township Clerk to execute the Agreement.

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**RESOLUTION 13-363  
APPROVAL AND RELEASE OF REGULAR SESSION MINUTES AND APPROVAL OF  
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES (AS REDACTED)**

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill does hereby approve and release the Township Committee Minutes of the November 27, 2013 Regular Meeting.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Committee hereby approves the November 27, 2013 Executive Session Meeting Minutes as redacted by the Township Attorney.

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**RESOLUTION 13-364**

Contract for 2014 Emergency 911 and Dispatching Services

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill having reviewed the contract with Morris County for the 2014 Services for Emergency 911 and Dispatching Services; give approval for the Mayor and the Clerk to execute said agreement for the Township of Long Hill.

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**RESOLUTION 13-366**

Tax Lien Redemption B. 12806 / L. 24

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill upon the advice and recommendation of the Tax Collector does hereby authorize the Redemption of Tax Title Lien # 1264 for Block 12806 Lot 24 dated 11/26/2012 in the amount of \$1543.38 and refund of premium paid in the amount of \$500.00 to: Ridgeback Ventures, LLC , P.O. Box 503, Mount Freedom, NJ 07970.

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**RESOLUTION #13-370**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill that the Mayor and the Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the refunding bond and release for Block 11202/Lot 23, in the matter of the Estate of Estelle K. Wilhelm.

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**RESOLUTION 13-371**

**TAX LIEN REDEMPTION B. 10908/ I. 4.09**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill upon the advice and recommendation of the Tax Collector does hereby authorize the Redemption of Tax Title Lien # 1238 for Block 110908 Lot 4.09 dated 12/06/2011 in the amount of \$15800.96 and refund of premium paid in the amount of \$12000.00 to: Phoenix Funding, Inc., 2 Liberty Place-TLSG, 50 South 16<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 19, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

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There was no OLD BUSINESS to discuss.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Announcements/Correspondence:**

- Bear Hunting Season thru Dec. 14, 2013

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** There were no remarks from the public

**ADJOURNMENT:** Comm. Schuler made a motion, seconded by Comm. Rae to adjourn the Open meeting and return to Executive Session. Voice Vote: All in favor. The Open Public meeting adjourned at 11:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Reese, RMC  
Township Clerk

Approved: October 14, 2020 – Megan Phillips, RMC