

**TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 2015**

Mayor Rae 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 electronically sent to the Echoes Sentinel and posted in the January 15, 2015 edition, and electronically sent to the Courier News and posted in the January 9, 2015 edition. The notice was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on January 6, 2015 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 #15-082
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

Potential Litigation

- Copper Springs

Property Acquisition:

- Kurz Property update
- Eberle property

Attorney Client

- DPW

Personnel

- Police Promotional Policy

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 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: Deputy Mayor Meringolo of the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill that Resolution #15-082 is hereby approved for Executive Session. **SECONDED** by: Committeeman Piserchia. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor

Mayor Rae opened the PUBLIC MEETING at 7:33 PM:

All present recited the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mayor Rae, Deputy Mayor Meringolo, Committeeman Dorsj, Committeeman Piserchia and Committeeman Schuler were present

PROCLAMATIONS:

Volunteer Service Award was presented to Mr. Ruggiero's family by Mayor Rae

Proclamation

WHEREAS, thousands of individuals offer their services and time to various endeavors without expectation of any personal remuneration other than the satisfaction in knowing they have helped others; and

WHEREAS, the untiring work and dedication of volunteers, while certainly appreciated, too often goes without adequate recognition of the valuable contribution that is made; and

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WHEREAS, Kenneth Ruggiero dedicated substantial volunteer time to the Township of Long Hill and his devotion and dedication has demonstrated in many ways his deep and genuine love for Long Hill Township, Morris County and the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Ruggiero demonstrated the true spirit of volunteerism since joining the Long Hill Township CERT Team in 2006 and was promptly selected as CERT Manager and trained and inspired scores of volunteers throughout his 9 years of service; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Ruggiero managed the day to day operations of the CERT team; and coordinated joint training exercises for the team and served on the Local Emergency Planning Committee; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Ruggiero's sense of caring and duty extended beyond the boundaries of Long Hill in deployment for disaster services with the American Red Cross and the Morris County Health Department; and;

WHEREAS, Kenneth Ruggiero did regard and hold true the traditions and patriotic values that symbolize the Long Hill Community as demonstrated by his unwavering commitment and participation at community Memorial Day services and events; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Ruggiero embodied the attributes all volunteers should strive for; never seeking accolades or recognition and remaining forever humble; and

WHEREAS, we are grateful for the many years of exemplary service Kenneth Ruggiero has provided to the Township of Long Hill. He will be greatly missed. All of us in Long Hill extend our heartfelt condolences to the Ruggiero family, and we thank you for his selfless volunteer hours.

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that on February 25, 2015 the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey on behalf of the residents of Long Hill Township, does hereby bestow to Kenneth Ruggiero posthumously:

THE PROMINENT VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Mayor Rae Proclaimed March as National Nutrition Month and presented the proclamation to Shoprite nutritionist, Rachel Simpser and Amanda Fisher of Village Supermarket's Public Relations Team.

**Proclamation
March is National Nutrition Month**

WHEREAS food is the substance by which life is sustained; and

WHEREAS the type, quality and amount of food that individuals consume each day plays a vital role in their overall health and physical fitness; and

WHEREAS there is a need for continuing nutrition education and a wide-scale effort to enhance healthy eating practices;

NOW, THEREFORE I, Brendan Rae, Mayor of the Township of Long Hill, County of Morris in the State of New Jersey;

DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the month of March as NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH in the Township of Long Hill, New Jersey and I encourage all citizens to join the campaign and become concerned about their nutrition and the nutrition of others in the hope of achieving optimum health for both today and tomorrow.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Township of Long Hill to be affixed on this 25th day of February, 2015.

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PRESENTATIONS:

- The Recreation Advisory Committee representative, Tim Dowd presented the Mary Thoms Award to Courtney Butler and her daughter Shannon Butler.
- Historic Preservation Advisory Committee Chairman Fred Rossi, and member Carol Prasa– presented a summary of the rehabilitation of Millington Schoolhouse to date and requested that the Township Committee approve their request to submit a grant application to complete the project. Mayor Rae made a motion seconded by Deputy Mayor Meringolo to approve the request to file the grant application for \$350,000. Voice Vote: All in favor
- Rick Sapor, of Hawkins Delafield and Wood, LLP did a presentation regarding the process of selling the Township Wastewater facility and system. The Township Committee agreed that they wanted a non-binding referendum question on the 2015 November ballot.

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: Deputy Mayor Meringolo of the Township Committee of Long Hill Township, that Resolution #15-076 through #15-078 and #15-080 and #15-081 are hereby approved.

SECONDED by: Committeeman Piserchia. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor

**RESOLUTION 15-076
CERTIFYING ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP WITH STIRLING VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR
NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION ELIGIBILITY**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill does hereby certify that the following is an active member of the Stirling Volunteer Fire Company and is eligible to be a member of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association:

George J. Alto

**RESOLUTION 15-077
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.

**RESOLUTION 15-078
APPROVAL AND RELEASE OF MINUTES**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill does hereby approve and release the Township Committee Minutes of the February 11, 2015, Township Committee Meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee hereby approves the February 11, 2015 Executive Session Meeting Minutes as redacted by the Township Attorney.

**RESOLUTION 15-080
APPROVING SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE
[LONG HILL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE]**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey upon the advice of the Township Clerk, that all documents have been reviewed and are in good order, does hereby authorize the Township Clerk to approve

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and sign the application and approve License Number S-15-01 for the event to the "Sponsor" Long Hill Chamber of Commerce, for their Special Event "Millington Downtown Day" to be held 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM on June 7, 2015 (rain date: June 14, 2015); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Police Department has determined that the applicant is exempt for the cost of police coverage required for this event.

**RESOLUTION 15-081
A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE CONTRACT FOR SLUDGE HAULING FROM THE
WASTE WATER FACILITY**

WHEREAS, The Township of Long Hill received bids for the hauling of sludge waste on March 1, 2013 and subsequently awarded the contract to R & D Trucking of West Milford, NJ based on their low bid; and

WHEREAS, the specifications allowed for the extension of the contract for additional two (2), one (1) year terms without re-bidding provided the performance was acceptable; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of the Waste Water Facility has recommended the extension of the contract per the specifications at the price of \$0.0279 per gallon; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has filed a certification of availability of funds in the office of the Township Clerk, as required by the Local Budget Law; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill in the County of Morris, as follows:

1. The contract is hereby extended to R & D Trucking, Inc., 1874 Rt. 23 North, West Milford, NJ 07480.
2. The contract shall be in the amount of \$0.0279 per gallon of sludge removed and delivered to the designated disposal facility.
3. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the contract for Sludge Removal.

**ORDINANCES:
ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING/CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION**

**TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL
ORDINANCE #346-15**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL JOINING THE MORRIS AREA ENERGY COOPERATIVE PROGRAM PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:3-93.1 ET SEQ.

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has been engaged in a process to establish a competitive market place through deregulation and restructuring the electric utility market and natural gas market; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a government aggregator and an energy aggregation program to purchase electric generation service and natural gas pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-93.1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 14:4-6.1 et seq. will increase competition for the provision of electric power and natural gas to residential and non-residential users, thereby increasing the likelihood of lower electric rates and natural gas rates for these users without causing any interruption in service; and

WHEREAS, under the aggregation process the residential and non-residential ratepayers may likely receive a direct reduction in their electric bills and gas bills; and

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WHEREAS, the Borough of Wharton passed a resolution on June 9, 2014 establishing an Energy Aggregation Program and thus becoming the Lead Agency and aggregator of electricity and natural gas pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-91.3 to 98 for all member municipalities to achieve maximum energy cost savings; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Wharton shall only award a contract for service to consumers where the rate is the same or lower than the price of basic generation service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-57 at the time of award;

WHEREAS, the realization of energy cost savings is in the best interest of all residents of the Township of Long Hill; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Long Hill's governing body has determined that aggregation could benefit their residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the aggregation consultant administers the bid process at no risk or cost to the Lead Agency, municipality or consumer; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Long Hill wishes to join the Morris Area Energy Cooperative Program¹ in order to realize maximum energy cost savings

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill, in the County of Morris and the State of New Jersey, duly assembled in public session, as follows:

1. That the Township of Long Hill shall participate in the Morris Area Energy Cooperative pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-93.1 et. seq.;
2. That the Mayor of the Township of Long Hill be and is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to participate in the Morris Area Energy Cooperative and the Township of Long Hill Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to attest to the execution of said documents; and
3. All ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.
4. If any portion of this ordinance shall be deemed invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder shall survive in full force and effect.
5. This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon adoption and publication in accordance with law.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as required by law.

NOTICE

The foregoing ordinance having been introduced and passed on first reading by the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill, in the County of Morris on Wednesday, January 28, 2015, will be considered for final passage and adoption at a public hearing held at a meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at the Municipal Building, 915 Valley Road, Gillette, New Jersey when and where or at such time and place to which said meeting may be adjourned, all persons interested will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

Cathy Reese, RMC, CMR,
Township Clerk

Mayor Rae Opened the Public Hearing for Ordinance 346-15

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Stacia Scaduto from Concord Energy Services was present to answer questions from the public and the Township Committee. Ms. Scaduto answered all the questions and as there were no further questions or comments from the public, Mayor Rae Closed Public Hearing.

MOVED by: Committeeman Piserchia of the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill that Ordinance #346-15 is approved for final adoption. **SECONDED** by: Deputy Mayor Meringolo. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** All in favor

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

Committeeman Piserchia announced that the Shade tree Commission would be participating in the Challenge Grant this year, trees should be available for \$175.00.

Deputy Mayor Meringolo announced that the Environmental Commission would be hosting a presentation by the Great Swamp in April. Seniors can work out a tax payment schedule with the Tax Collector if they cannot pay their taxes as billed.

Committeeman Schuler noted that the Recreation Advisory Commission has completed their calendar of events for 2015 and are currently working on changes to the fee schedule.

Committeeman Dorsi read the DPW report, 1300 tons of salt has been used to date for 16 winter events, 900 Christmas trees have been picked up and will be used for mulch in the spring. Stirling Lake currently has 13.5 inches of frozen ice and the DPW has been maintaining it for ice skaters.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

- **Right of Way request** – 26 Hickory Tavern Rd.

After a discussion and Atty. Pidgeon noting that the land was not owned by the Township, Committeeman Piserchia made a motion, seconded by Committeeman Dorsi to deny the request to vacate. Voice Vote: All in favor

- **Goals 2015**

Sale of Wastewater system

Establish a long term plan for recreation, with the Kurz property being the primary focus.

Continue upgrading Long Hill Infrastructure - With emphasis on completing the Gillette Walkway, paving and repairing Whitebridge Road and Sidewalk repairs at south end of Main Ave and Valley Road as well as the Northfield sidewalks.

Mayor Rae made a motion, seconded by Committeeman Piserchia to accept these goals for 2015. Voice Vote: All in favor

- **Monthly Reports from Fire Companies** - will be requested for the Township Committee in no set format, copies of the state reports would suffice.
- **Millington Schoolhouse Noise remediation** – The current HVAC unit exceeds the DEP standard for night time hours, the Township is required to build 7 foot structure as a sound barrier. Mr. Henry was instructed to reach out to the architect to absorb the cost.
- **Rental Stirling Lake** – Request from Pam Sasso to rent the Stirling Lake for a graduation party was considered and approved. Recreation Director was asked to analyze this event for the prospect of renting the lake out in the future for private events.
- **Budget 2015**

After a brief discussion the Township agreed to the final draft of the budget and will schedule the introduction at the March 11 Township Committee Meeting.

- **Replacement OEM Director and Police Admin. Asst. Replacement**

The Committee agreed with Mr. Henry to keep options open for part time for both positions however the Township Committee will choose the OEM Coordinator.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business

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NEW BUSINESS: Planning Board Member, Guy Roshto addressed the Township Committee with regards to the Morristown Road overlay which is to correct a zoning issue which has been ongoing since 2008. He requested that the Township Committee approve of the direction the Planning Board is going to correct the problem. Straw poll vote: The majority (4 out of 5) of the members of the Township Committee were in favor of the concept.

Announcements/Correspondence:

- Annual Egg Hunt – March 28 at 10:00 AM Matthew G. Kantor Memorial Park
- Drive thru Medicine Disposal by Bernards Board of Health Sat., March 28, 10 AM – Noon
- Long Hill Township Community Shredding Day April 25, 9:00 AM to Noon

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Remarks and Statements Pertaining to Any Matter

- Charles Arenowitz thanked the Committee for approving the re-assessment for 2015
- Dennis Sandow asked the Committee to take part in the “Dunk Tank” for Millington Downtown Day and to participate in the Freedom Bike Race by forming a team

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, Committeeman Piserchia made a motion, seconded by Committeeman Schuler to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Reese, RMC, CMR
Township Clerk

Approved March 11, 2015