



Mayor and Common Council Borough of Flemington

January 27, 2014

Council Meeting Room

I. Work Session Agenda 7:00 PM

A. Discussion: Proposal to Extend Council Work session from 30 Minutes to 60 Minutes (Fine) (up to 15 minutes)

Councilwoman Fine spoke on the subject of increasing the work session time from 30 minutes to 45 or 60 minutes. Ms. Fine said she feels there is not always enough time for dialog on subjects big and small. Ms. Fine also noted that, as only two or three Council members sit on individual committees, the longer session would allow time to update the other members.

Councilman Novick suggested an increase to 45 minutes, with a new start time of 6:45 pm.

Mayor Edwards agreed that 30 minutes isn't always enough time for discussion.

Councilman Greiner noted the Borough Clerk would have to re-notice the meetings in the newspaper.

Council Vice President Vellella reminded the work session is a venue to introduce and discuss new items.

Mayor Edwards also reminded Council members to be certain to adequately report committee updates in their Council reports.

Mr. Greiner agreed with a start time of 6:45, and a work session spanning 45 minutes, with the condition that Council revisit the idea in 3 months to determine if it is effective.

Council agreed to this new work session format.

B. Discussion: Impact to K-8 School Budget of Health Insurance for Teachers' Aides (Greiner) (up to 15 minutes)

Councilman Greiner presented Council with a handout outlining how the new school health insurance costs would impact the Borough. Mr. Greiner stated the impact was not great, but said he has concerns with how the school board makes decisions that affect the tax base without any input from the Borough.

Councilman Novick noted that many increases of "not that much" add up quickly. Mr. Novick also noted that better health benefits contribute to increased quality and longevity of teacher's aides.

Council Vice President Velella said he objects to this process, reminding the aides were originally cut to a 30 hour work week in order to save on healthcare costs. Mr. Velella noted that the new Obamacare laws require workers over 29 hours be provided with benefits, questioning why hours are not being reduced to continue saving this money.

Mr. Novick cited the benefit of more classroom time for these aides.

Council President Swingle also questioned the process, adding the Borough should express its opinion.

Mr. Novick suggested asking School Superintendent Nolan to attend the February 10th meeting to answer Council's questions.

Mayor Edwards agreed, adding Mr. Nolan would be first on the agenda, at 7:30pm, if he is able to attend.

Elaine Gorman, 34 New York Avenue - asked why, if the aides are employed by the ESC, does the school board pay their healthcare costs.

Councilman Greiner informed the ESC bills the school for all costs associated with the aids.

Robert Shore, 47 Broad Street - asked if it is mandated that the Borough contribute, and can an appeal be made.

Mr. Greiner explained that yes, this is mandated, and no, the Borough cannot appeal.

Michelle Oberst, 68 Broad Street - noted, as the aides are not receiving benefits now, the school is only paying a salary fee to the ESC.

Mayor Edwards stated Council needs to get to the bottom of what the actual facts are and be prepared with questions for Mr. Nolan.

Motion To: **Adjourn Work Session 7:30 PM**

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Velella, Council Vice President
SECONDER:	Phil Greiner, Councilman
AYES:	Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle

II. Regular Meeting Agenda 7:35 PM

Flag Salute

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Phil Greiner	Councilman	Present	
Joey Novick	Councilman	Present	
John Gorman	Councilman	Present	
Dorothy Fine	Councilwoman	Present	
Phil Velella	Council Vice President	Present	
Brian Swingle	Council President	Present	
Erica Edwards	Mayor	Present	

1. Public Comments -- Session I

Elaine Gorman, 34 New York Ave, Liaison Tricentennial Committee - informed the Borough has many copies of the Tricentennial calendar of events, adding the Hunterdon County Democrat will also be publishing events.

Ms. Gorman gave an update:

Tricentennial Report January 8, 2014

1. First 2 activities-Reenactment at the Courthouse and Mapping the County---great response, sold out, standing room only, good financially
2. Tickets going fast for the February events
3. Gala---March 29, 2014 at the Grand Colonial---tickets go on sale February 1, 2014 \$150.00 per person
4. Blanket sales good---ordered more
5. Magazine---have many articles---Will take more until January 31, 2014
6. Revolutionary War Militia group from Bergen County---will do encampments, parade, a hanging of King George III, and a skirmish
7. "FunFacts" lecture is sold out. An additional lecture is scheduled for January 28, 2014 at the North Branch Library
8. Flemington Borough Float for the Parade on March 22, 2014? The Borough needs to let the Committee know the plans.

Michelle Oberst, 68 Broad Street - wished to thank the DPW for their thorough plowing job during the recent snowstorm. Ms. Oberst asked that Council remind business owners and residents to shovel their sidewalks.

Robert Shore, 47 Broad Street - wished to commend Council on their previous year's work. Mr. Shore questioned the 4 year terms set for Borough Subcode Officials.

Councilman Greiner informed the terms are set by the State.

Mr. Shore inquired of the new appointments to the Fleming Castle board.

Councilman Novick informed that some long term members had resigned and the Mayor would be appointing new members this evening.

John Anderson, JCP&L - gave Council an update on recent work being done by his company in the Borough:

1. They are working with the owner at Mine Street and Dewey Avenue to relocate a wire that is now located on a dead tree. The tree will then be removed.
2. The street light at Mine and Main Streets will be converted to high pressure sodium within the week, which will increase illumination.

Mr. Anderson informed JCP&L are proud sponsors of the Tricentennial.

Councilman Gorman, and Council thanked Mr. Anderson for coming to the meeting.

Bob Schwade, 12 Park Avenue - questioned a possible plan, recommended by the FBID, to connect Park Avenue and Brown Street. Mr. Schwade asked that Council not pursue this, as it will create more traffic on Park Avenue.

Councilman Gorman, noting he is the Roads Commissioner, said this is the first he is hearing of this plan. Mr. Gorman informed the FBID does not make decisions like this for the town.

Council President Swingle informed he attended the FBID meeting where they spoke of this, noting many ideas were discussed. Mr. Swingle asked that the public does not read too much into these suggestions.

Council Vice President Velella reminded these ideas come from studies that are looking into ways to bring prosperity back to the Borough. Mr. Velella informed that public comments and concerns will always be a part of the equation.

Mayor Edwards agreed, noting "we need all the brainstorming we can get", but informed a lot of vetting will be done before any action is taken. Ms. Edwards added that the vetting will be a very public, open process.

Edna Pedrick, 17 Capner Street - agreed with Mr. Schwade, and asked that Council not consider this plan.

Jeff Fleisher, 56 Main Street, Chairman, Planning and Development Committee, FBID - informed there are two suggested plans concerning Park Avenue, noting one does not include Brown Street. Mr. Fleischer added that the public can view these plans in the FBID office.

Lois Stewart, 26 Spring Street - questioned Resolution 2014-47.

Mayor Edwards explained that the Borough website, Facebook page and newsletter are currently being maintained by governing body members. Ms. Edwards said that in acknowledging the governing body's commitment to the community to keep them informed, there is a need to dedicate staff hours to maintaining these outlets. Ms. Edwards informed that, if additional hours are left after all updates are made, this staff member will assist with other notices, making sure they are sent out more efficiently. Ms. Edwards said the pay is in line with that of an administrative assistant, in the \$15-\$17 range.

Ms. Edwards informed the newsletter is currently being produced by Printech, adding that the new hire will result in a reduction in the desktop publishing fee paid to Printech.

Ms. Stewart asked what "redemption of tax sale" means.

Mayor Edwards informed this is when the property owner pays off a lien holder.

Ms. Stewart questioned Resolution 2014-32.

Mayor Edwards said this information is available from the Borough tax department.

Ms. Stewart questioned Resolution 2014-33.

Attorney Goodman said this is just a clarification. These duties are already handled by an attorney.

Ms. Stewart questioned Resolution 2014-38.

Mayor Edwards informed municipal court cases have increased, noting Attorney Gonzalez has not had a raise in many years.

Ms. Stewart questioned Resolution 2014-39.

Mayor Edwards informed that the current Deputy Court Administrator, Linda Force, is retiring. Ms. Edwards stated this is a replacement at the current Teamster contract rate.

Ms. Stewart inquired about the increase in Social Security payments for 2014.

CFO Hance explained there was not enough money allotted in the 2013 budget for Social Security, adding there is no increase this year.

Ms. Stewart questioned the Borough's legal expenditures.

Mayor Edwards informed the Borough is a "very busy" place with many projects underway but only consults with professionals when necessary.

Ms. Stewart questioned the status of the right-turn-on-red signs at East Main Street and Route 31.

Mayor Edwards informed she is planning to get State legislators involved, adding the DOT owes the Borough responses on a handful of issues.

Ms. Stewart questioned the promotion of Policeman Godown.

Council President Swingle informed this is an appointment to fill a vacancy.

Ms. Stewart inquired on the Cut Glass property status.

Councilman Greiner informed has been back to the Historic Preservation Commission and that plans are to move ahead with the project, which will include presenting final site plans to the Planning Board. Mr. Greiner said the Planning Board has not yet heard from the applicant concerning a time frame.

Tony Previte, 45 North Main Street - wished to voice his displeasure with the FBID for not including the Steve's Store site in their list of areas recommended for redevelopment. Mr. Previte informed that he observed very poor plowing being done by the company contracted by Steve's Store during the recent snowstorm.

Elaine Gorman, 34 New York Avenue - informed that she, and many other residents, had no knowledge of the recent FBID public meeting, asking Mr. Fleisher if more advanced notice can be made in the future.

Mr. Fleisher informed all meetings will be published on the FBID website and in the Hunterdon County Democrat.

2. Mayor's Report (up to approximately 3 minutes)

Mayor Edwards informed that the previously postponed Reorganization Dinner would be held at 6:30 pm, February 6th, at Gallo Rosso. Ms. Edwards asked that those who have not already RSVP'd, please do so by this coming Friday.

Elaine Gorman, 34 New York Avenue - informed the Fleming Castle mail had just been retrieved from their Borough Hall mailbox, which contained all their member invitations. Ms. Gorman asked if there is another, more efficient, way to distribute them in the future.

Mayor Edwards said the staff was trying to be efficient by putting the invitations in the corresponding mail folders at Borough Hall.

Councilman Greiner asked if the invitations were also sent out electronically.

Mayor Edwards informed the same process was used as for the first mailing. Ms. Edwards asked that all Council liaisons remind their board and commission chairs to please check their mail folders regularly.

Mayor Edwards then continued with her report by informing work is still being done regarding the Hunter Hills matter. Ms. Edwards informed there will be a meeting in February with residents of the complex, noting this is a rescheduling of the meeting that was to occur in January. Ms. Edwards explained this is due to expanding the effort to include participation by representatives of the Hunterdon Interfaith Outreach Coalition and Hunterdon Helpline. Ms. Edwards also informed that attorneys for Hunter Hills had reached out to the Borough, stating a meeting would be occurring with the Redevelopment Committee in attendance.

Mayor Edwards stated the Planning Board is working on the expanded Global Ag study, and will have results to present to Council by April.

Mayor Edwards informed that a resolution regarding extending the area in need of redevelopment south from the Union Hotel would be on the February 10th agenda.

Regarding the draft noise ordinance, Mayor Edwards asked that all suggested revisions be submitted by February 3rd, noting she has not received many to date.

At the suggestion of Council Vice-President Vellella, Mayor Edwards informed the draft noise ordinance would be discussed during the work session at the February 10th meeting.

Mayor Edwards reminded the Tricentennial parade would be held in the Borough, which is the County Seat, on March 22nd.

Regarding the issue of an RFP for professional services, Mayor Edwards informed the last time this was done was in 2010. Ms. Edwards explained that there seem to be two schools of thought concerning the frequency with which such an RFP is issued. One view is that issuing an RFP every few years enhances fairness and transparency by demonstrating that no professional has a lock on their position. The other view is that the efforts of a good team of professionals who are performing or even exceeding Borough expectations should be maintained without interruption. Mayor Edwards asked Council members to touch base with the boards and commissions they supervise concerning their recommendation on issuing an RFP and to report back at the February 10th meeting.

3. Council Members' Reports

Councilman Greiner

Councilman Greiner informed the Borough Construction Official is working with the FBID concerning installation of poles to hang banners across Main Street.

Mr. Greiner informed Planning Board had met on January 6th. Mr. Greiner added that the Union Hotel expanded area in need of redevelopment matter is on their January 28th agenda.

Mr. Greiner informed he had attended the recent HPC meetings.

Mr. Greiner informed he had attended the recent library board meeting. Mr. Greiner informed that Anne Thomas was retiring from the board after 41 years of service, remarking on her commitment to the library.

Councilman Novick

Councilman Novick also commented on Ms. Thomas' commitment to the Borough library.

Mr. Novick informed he had attended the FBID's TerraNoble presentation, noting he only heard of the meeting that morning.

Mr. Novick informed of the Paul Robeson re-enactor, who will be performing at the Flemington Presbyterian Church on February 22nd. Mr. Novick stated the cost of this presentation was being paid for by the FBID, Robert Shore and Robert Benjamin.

Councilman Gorman

Councilman Gorman wished to thank the DPW for their hard work during the recent snow storm. Mr. Gorman informed the Borough ran out of salt and had to purchase some from Raritan Township, as the State refused the sale due to the upcoming Super Bowl.

Mr. Gorman informed he had attended the recent Raritan Township Reorganization Dinner.

Mr. Gorman informed he had attended the Tri Centennial event held at the Frenchtown Inn. Mr. Gorman said it was a very informative lecture along with a nice lunch. Mr. Gorman recommended attending one or all of the upcoming events being held at Hunterdon County inns.

Mr. Gorman informed he had attended the recent First Aid Squad appointments and dinner.

Mr. Gorman informed that the well at Liberty Village is up and running and the well at Borough Hall is ready, but waiting for inspection by the State.

Councilwoman Fine

Councilwoman Fine informed she had attended the recent FBID presentation.

Ms. Fine informed she had attended the recent Shade Tree Commission meeting, noting she learned of the many trees in the Borough needing care.

Regarding the Environmental Commission, Ms. Fine informed they are in the process of reapplying for bronze status. Ms. Fine said they are also following the pilot study in Lambertville concerning food scrap recycling.

Council Vice President Vellella

Council Vice President Vellella informed he had attended the Raritan Township Reorganization Dinner.

Mr. Vellella informed he had attended the recent FBID Board meeting, informing of their current projects:

1. The TerraNoble report
2. Work on better communication to residents
3. A banner pulley system
4. Purchase of an electric traffic sign

Mr. Velella said he has asked for an FBID representative to attend the 1st Council meeting each month to present a current report.

Mr. Velella informed he had attended the FBID Executive Board meeting, noting very interesting ideas in were in their redevelopment report, such as establishing a parking authority and revamping zoning to encourage new projects.

Mr. Velella informed he had attended the recent Shade Tree Committee meeting.

Concerning water and sewer, Mr. Velella informed consumption had gone down almost 2 million gallons in 2013, while revenue was higher (new connections, etc.). Mr. Velella said he would have hard numbers to present to Council in February.

Council President Swingle

Council President Swingle informed he had attended the Raritan Township Reorganization Dinner.

Mr. Swingle informed he had attended the FBID TerraNoble presentation.

Mr. Swingle informed he had attended the First Aid Squad Dinner.

Mr. Swingle informed there are two new police officers on the street, as the newest recruits have completed training.

Mr. Swingle informed the FBID has purchased an electronic traffic sign, which the Borough will house and have use of. Mr. Swingle noted this is a good sharing of resources.

Mr. Swingle informed Robert Motzel is the new Fire Chief.

Concerning the Hunter Hills fire, Mr. Swingle informed two units were severely damaged, caused by a maintenance worker using a blow torch. Mr. Swingle commended the fire crews, who did an outstanding job. Mr. Swingle noted that prevalent overcrowding was discovered in the process, which holds the potential for major casualties in an event such as this.

Concerning the Good Neighbor Ordinance, Mr. Swingle informed two cases had gone to court. One case resulted in a \$1,000 bond, while the other resulted in stipulations being placed on the owner.

Mr. Swingle said work in underway on a new version of the Borough website.

4. MAYOR'S 2014 SUPPLEMENTAL NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS

Environmental Commission

Carla Tabussi (Unexpired 3-year term of Karen Walsh)

Robert M. Martucci, P.E., C.M.E. (Unexpired 3-year term of Jeff Doshna)

Justine Levine - Alternate I (Unexpired 2-year term of Carla Tabussi)

Samuel Fleming House Board of Trustees

Doris McGivney (3 years)

Rose DeMario (3 years)

Alan Brewer (1 year)

William DiTrolio (1 year)

Dianne Potter (1 year)

Motion To: Accept Appointments

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Greiner, Councilman
SECONDER:	Brian Swingle, Council President
AYES:	Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle

5. RESOLUTION 2014-27: CREATING THE PART-TIME STAFF POSITION "COMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT " AND AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT OF THE AVAILABLE POSITION

Councilman Novick, doing the math, suggested there may be better uses for this money. Mr. Novick said he believes Council would not be receptive to a department, such as water & sewer, asking for a new employee. Mr. Novick said Council should seek volunteers first.

Mayor Edwards explained that, for more than a decade, Council has tried every different type of service provider. Ms. Edwards informed that, in the case of a critical function such as this, it is a challenge to use anyone other than a dedicated staff member.

Council Vice President Velella reminded that giving access to the Borough public identity must be done with care.

Mr. Novick said that any employee or volunteer would have oversight.

Council President Swingle said this position needs dedication of 15 hours per week, noting a volunteer may not make it a priority.

Councilman Greiner noted these tasks are time consuming. Mr. Greiner questioned the pay scale, as web designers are paid at a much higher rate.

Mr. Swingle informed some coding is involved, but this is minor.

Councilwoman Fine said she thought a consultant could do that part, adding the savings from Printech should be calculated into the pay for a staff employee.

Councilman Gorman noted changes to the website must be made in a timely manner.

RESULT: **ADOPTED [5 TO 1]**
MOVER: John Gorman, Councilman
SECONDER: Brian Swingle, Council President
AYES: Greiner, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle
NAYS: Joey Novick

6. RESOLUTION 2014-28: AUTHORIZING THE REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE 2012-003 HELD ON BLOCK 6 LOT 5

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Brian Swingle, Council President
SECONDER: Phil Velella, Council Vice President
AYES: Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle

7. RESOLUTION 2014-29: AUTHORIZING THE REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE 2013-001 HELD ON BLOCK 1 LOT 6.30

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Phil Velella, Council Vice President
SECONDER: Brian Swingle, Council President
AYES: Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle

8. RESOLUTION 2014-30: AUTHORIZING FOUR OFF PREMISE RAFFLES FOR ST. MAGDALEN'S CHURCH TO BE HELD ON MARCH 17, 2014, JUNE 13, 2014, AUGUST 31, 2014 AND DECEMBER 19, 2014.

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Dorothy Fine, Councilwoman
SECONDER: Phil Greiner, Councilman
AYES: Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle

9. RESOLUTION 2014-31: APPROVING AN OFF PREMISE RAFFLE FOR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HUNTERDON COUNTY TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: John Gorman, Councilman
SECONDER: Phil Greiner, Councilman
AYES: Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle

10. RESOLUTION 2014-32: AUTHORIZING THE TAX ASSESSOR TO FILE CORRECTIONS OF TAX ASSESSMENTS FOR 2014

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Joey Novick, Councilman
SECONDER: John Gorman, Councilman
AYES: Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle

11. RESOLUTION 2014-33: AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY TO FILE CORRECTIVE APPEALS AND COUNTER CLAIMS INSTEAD OF MUNICIPAL TAX ASSESSOR

RESULT: ADOPTED [5 TO 0]
MOVER: Joey Novick, Councilman
SECONDER: John Gorman, Councilman
AYES: Novick, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle
ABSTAIN: Phil Greiner

12. RESOLUTION 2014-34: APPOINTING MICHAEL ABBATIELLO TO A FOUR-YEAR TERM AS THE ELECTRICAL SUB CODE OFFICIAL

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Phil Greiner, Councilman
SECONDER: Joey Novick, Councilman
AYES: Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle

13. RESOLUTION 2014-35: APPOINTING RICHARD JONES TO A FOUR-YEAR TERM AS THE FIRE SUB CODE OFFICIAL

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Greiner, Councilman
SECONDER:	Phil Velella, Council Vice President
AYES:	Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle

14. RESOLUTION 2014-36: APPOINTING BASIL KULICK TO A FOUR-YEAR TERM AS PLUMBING SUB CODE OFFICIAL

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Greiner, Councilman
SECONDER:	John Gorman, Councilman
AYES:	Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle

15. RESOLUTION 2014-37: APPOINTING JEFFREY KLEIN TO A FOUR-YEAR TERM AS THE CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL AND BUILDING SUB CODE OFFICIAL

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Greiner, Councilman
SECONDER:	Joey Novick, Councilman
AYES:	Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle

16. RESOLUTION 2014-38: AUTHORIZING A SALARY INCREASE OF \$2,500.00 FOR JEFF GONZALEZ, PUBLIC DEFENDER, FOR A TOTAL ANNUAL SALARY OF \$5,500.00

Councilman Greiner requested statistics on the Municipal Court case load.

Mayor Edwards informed that court fees provide funding for the public defender, so there is money in the budget from the increased case load; she also noted that Mr. Gonzalez has not had a raise in years. Ms. Edwards said she would ask the Court to give Council the case load numbers.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Phil Velella, Council Vice President
SECONDER: Brian Swingle, Council President
AYES: Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle

17. RESOLUTION 2014-39: APPOINTING JAYNE PARSONS AS THE DEPUTY COURT ADMINISTRATOR AT A SALARY OF \$ 36,357.00 EFFECTIVE 2/1/14

Council President Swingle noted that the adoption of e-ticketing may eliminate the need for the part-time staff person in this department in the future..

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Dorothy Fine, Councilwoman
SECONDER: John Gorman, Councilman
AYES: Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle

18. RESOLUTION 2014-40: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FLEMINGTON BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR STORAGE AND TRANSPORT OF A MOBIL MESSAGING SIGN

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Brian Swingle, Council President
SECONDER: Phil Velella, Council Vice President
AYES: Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle

19. RESOLUTION 2014-41: AUTHORIZING THE COMBINATION OF TWO NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LOCAL AID GRANTS FOR THE WILLIAM STREET, SPRING STREET AND MAPLE AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: John Gorman, Councilman
SECONDER: Phil Velella, Council Vice President
AYES: Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle

20. RESOLUTION 2014-42: AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH ENGINEER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE FOR THE WILLIAM STREET, SPRING STREET AND MAPLE AVENUE ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: John Gorman, Councilman
SECONDER: Phil Vellella, Council Vice President
AYES: Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Vellella, Swingle

21. RESOLUTION 2014-43: AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Joey Novick, Councilman
SECONDER: John Gorman, Councilman
AYES: Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Vellella, Swingle

22. Public Comments -- Session II

Tony Previte, 45 North Main Street - asked, concerning the fire at Hunter Hills, if the maintenance worker who caused it was on site.

Council President Swingle said yes.

Mr. Previte asked, concerning overcrowding at the complex, why the Borough didn't demand to inspect all surrounding units.

Councilman Greiner informed the Fire Marshal had cited the units in violation, and the property manager issued a cease notice. Mr. Greiner stated the Borough can't just 'sweep' apartments. By State law, inspections may only be done every five years. Mr. Greiner said one issue is getting people to report overcrowding, but noted this is getting better. Mr. Greiner informed nine cases have recently been remediated by the Fire Marshal, who is being very aggressive.

Mr. Swingle added that the Fire Marshal is doing an outstanding job.

Mr. Previte spoke of a letter to the editor of the Hunterdon County Democrat, by Carl Kettler, concerning the pressure Mayor Edwards is putting on the apartment complex landlords.

Mr. Previte questioned the law concerning loitering in regard to Steve's Store.

Attorney Goodman informed the law protects private property owners.

Councilman Novick noted that people congregate at the WaWa also, adding that, unless a crime is being committed, they are allowed to do so.

Mr. Previte challenged that this is not the same as what occurs at Steve's Store.

Mayor Edwards said the reason congregating does not happen at WaWa to the same extent is because management won't allow it.

Alan Brewer, 1 Coppermine Village - announced that he is the new Borough member of the Flemington-Raritan School Board.

The Mayor and Council welcomed him.

Lois Stewart 26 Spring Street - informed that she knew about the recent FBID presentation, stating she thought they communicated it properly. Ms. Stewart asked that the number of hours stipulated for the new hire be lowered.

Mayor Edwards informed the Resolution states "up to 15 hours".

Ms. Stewart inquired about the impact Home Goods will have on the residential tax base.

Councilman Greiner informed residential taxes will be only slightly reduced.

Councilman Gorman added that Home Goods must pay taxes for a year before any impact can be determined.

Ms. Stewart questioned why some properties are not in the tax base.

Mayor Edwards informed these could be county, school or railroad properties, which are exempt.

Ms. Stewart said the county should be paying the Borough for use of its property.

Mayor Edwards informed Council has been discussing this issue with county leaders.

23. Attorney's Report

No Attorney report.

24. Payment of the Bills

Motion To: **Pay The Bills**

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: John Gorman, Councilman
SECONDER: Phil Greiner, Councilman
AYES: Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle

Executive Session For Any Other Applicable Matter Identified During the Regular Meeting (Action May Be Taken)

No items for Executive Session.

Adjournment

Motion To: Adjourn at 9:55 PM

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Brian Swingle, Council President
SECONDER: John Gorman, Councilman
AYES: Greiner, Novick, Gorman, Fine, Velella, Swingle

February 10, 2014

Robin M Hughes
Acting Deputy Clerk
Borough of Flemington