

**EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
REORGANIZATION MINUTES  
JANUARY 2, 2008  
7:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order** - Clerk Lovins called the 2007 Eastampton Township Council Reorganization Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Pledge to the Flag** - Everyone participated.

**Opening Statement** - Clerk Lovins

Notice of this meeting was published in the Burlington County Times on December 16, 2007. Notice was also published on January 9, 2007, sent to the Courier Post for information and notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board.

**Roll Call** - Mr. Maroccia Mr. Renzulli Mr. Nagler, Mr. Tafe and Mr. Hartman

**Nomination for Mayor**

Clerk Lovins asked for a motion to nominate the Mayor.

Motion by Councilman Nagler, seconded by Councilman Hartman to nominate Mr. Renzulli as Township Mayor. Upon roll call vote, all voted in the affirmative with Mr. Tafe voting no.

**Administration of Oath by the Honorable John Harrington.**

**Nomination for Deputy Mayor**

Mayor Renzulli nominated Councilman Hartman as Deputy Mayor. Councilman Maroccia asked if he could nominate someone. Mayor Renzulli stated that there was already a nomination on the floor and he could second if he would like.

Councilman Tafe asked if nominations needed a second. Clerk Lovins stated that she believed they did.

Motion by Mayor Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Nagler to appoint Councilman Hartman as Deputy Mayor. Upon roll call vote, all voted in the affirmative with Councilman Tafe voting no.

**Administration of Oath by the Honorable John Harrington**

**Professional Appointments**

Motion by Councilman Nagler, seconded by Councilman Tafe to appoint Eileen Fahey Township Solicitor for a term ending 12-31-08. All voted in the affirmative.

Motion by Councilman Nagler, seconded by Councilman Hartman to appoint Holman & Frenia Township Auditor for a term ending 12-31-08. All voted in the affirmative.

Motion by Councilman Nagler, seconded by Councilman Hartman to appoint Barbara Fegley and Environmental Resolutions, Inc. as Township Planner for a term ending 12-31-08. All voted in the affirmative.

Motion by Councilman Hartman, seconded by Councilman Tafe to appoint Krisden McCrink Public Defender for a term ending 12-31-08. All voted in the affirmative.

Motion by Councilman Hartman, seconded by Councilman Nagler to appoint Lee Dennison as Township Prosecutor for a term ending 12-31-08. All voted in the affirmative.

Motion by Councilman Nagler, seconded by Councilman Hartman to appoint BGIA Insurance Broker of Record for a term ending 12-31-08. All voted in the affirmative.

## **Resolutions**

Motion by Councilman Tafe, seconded by Councilman Maroccia to adopt the following resolutions:

- |         |                                                                                                                          |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2008-01 | Temporary Municipal Budget                                                                                               |
| 2008-02 | Award of Contract for Professional Services                                                                              |
| 2008-03 | Schedule of Township Council Meeting Dates                                                                               |
| 2008-04 | Designation of Signatories of Checks                                                                                     |
| 2008-05 | Designation of Signatories on Purchase Orders                                                                            |
| 2008-06 | Establish Hours of Operation for Departments                                                                             |
| 2008-07 | Designation of Depositories, Official Newspaper, Official Meeting Place and Rate of Interest                             |
| 2008-08 | Authorize Participation in and Payment of Fee for State of New Jersey's Cooperative Purchasing Program                   |
| 2008-09 | Appoint Municipal Collector of Arrears of Taxes (Doris LaVacca)                                                          |
| 2008-10 | Appoint Municipal Lien Search Officer (Doris LaVacca)                                                                    |
| 2008-11 | Authorize Township Solicitor to File Municipal Tax Appeals                                                               |
| 2008-12 | Appoint Municipal Assessment Search Officer (Linda M. Lovins)                                                            |
| 2008-13 | Establish Penalty of 4% in the Amount of a Tax Sale Certificates in Excess of \$5,000.00 and 6% in Excess of \$10,000.00 |
| 2008-14 | Establish Additional Penalty of 6% in the Amount of Delinquent Taxes in Excess of \$10,000.00                            |
| 2008-15 | Authorize Real Property Assessment Appeals                                                                               |
| 2008-16 | Designate Signatory on Township Clerk's Account                                                                          |
| 2008-17 | Appoint Municipal Clerk as Public Agency Compliance Officer (PACO)                                                       |
| 2008-18 | Cancel Property Tax Balances Under \$10.00                                                                               |
| 2008-19 | Appointment of Joint Tax Assessor                                                                                        |
| 2008-20 | Appointment or Deputy Registrar                                                                                          |

All voted in the affirmative.

**Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

**Mayor Renzulli advised of the following Mayoral Appointments:**

**Land Use Planning Board**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>	<u>Appointee</u>
I	1 year	12-31-2008	Keith Nagler
II	1 year	12-31-2008	M. Gene Blair
III	1 year	12-31-2008	Donald Hartman
IV	4 years	12-31-2011	Dan Chieco
IV	4 years	12-31-2011	Allan Campbell

**Environmental Commission**

<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>	<u>Appointee</u>
1 year term	12-31-2008	Richard Renzulli
3 year term	12-31-2010	Mark Searfoss
3 year term	12-31-2010	Patrick Flannery

**Route 206 Corridor Study Liaison**

<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>	<u>Appointee</u>
1 year	12-31-2008	Walt Tafe
1 year	12-31-2008	Joe Maroccia

**Emergency Management Council**

<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>	<u>Appointee</u>
1 year	12-31-2008	Keith Nagler - Mayoral Rep.
1 year	12-31-2008	Richard Parks – Public Works
1 year	12-31-2008	Brian Naulty - Fire Chief
1 year	12-31-2008	Sgt. Sawyer– Police Dept.
1 year	12-31-2008	Rep-Rancocas Creek Association
1 year	12-31-2008	Phil Polios – Haz Mat Coordinator
1 year	12-31-2008	Michelle Augustino – Emergency Squad -
1 year	12-31-2008	James White - School Representative
1 year	12-31-2008	Scott Carew, Township Manager
1 year	12-31-2008	Emergency Management Coordinator - Ken Haufbrau

As needed:  
Township Engineer – Nancy Jamanow

Construction Official – M. Gene Blair  
Communication Expert – Lloyd Price  
Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator 1 year term 12-31-08

### **Historic Preservation Commission**

<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>	<u>Appointee</u>
1 year term	12-31-2008	Richard Renzulli -Class B
1 year term	12-31-2008	Tarquini Organization, Architect - Class A
4 year term	12-31-2011	Larry Roth-Class C
Alt 1	12-31-2008	
Alt 2	12-31-2008	

### **Council Appointments**

Motion by Councilman Nagler, seconded by Councilman Hartman to appoint the following individuals to the Economic Development Advisory Board:

#### **Economic Development Advisory Board**

<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>	<u>Current Members</u>
1 year term	12-31-08	Donald Hartman
1 year term	12-31-08	Joseph Passalaqua ALTERNATE
unexpired term	12-31-09	Mike Marinelli

Councilman Tafe asked if there are only three members on the Economic Development Advisory Board. Mayor Renzulli stated that there are six positions. However, three of their terms are up.

All voted in the affirmative with Councilman Tafe abstaining.

Motion by Councilman Hartman, seconded by Councilman Tafe to appoint the following individuals to the Parks and Recreation Committee:

#### **Parks and Recreation Committee**

<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>	<u>Current Members</u>
1 year term	12-31-2008	Rich Renzulli
3 year term	12-31-2010	Jack Broderick

All voted in the affirmative.

Motion by Councilman Hartman, seconded by Councilman Nagler to appoint the following to the Land Use Planning Board.

**Land Use Planning Board**

Alternate I	12-31-2008	Ralph Taylor
Alternate II	12-31-2008	James Elliott

All voted in the affirmative with Councilman Tafe abstaining.

Motion by Councilman Hartman, seconded by Councilman Tafe to appoint the following Class II Special Officers:

**Class II Special Officers**

Krista Shields  
Scott Hamlet

All voted in the affirmative.

**Manager's Appointments**

Manager Carew made the following appointments:

Township Engineer - Environmental Resolutions w/Nancy Jamanow  
Dog Registrar - S. Carolyn Farrow  
Deputy Dog Registrar - Scott Carew  
Deputy Tax Collector - Scott Carew and Gerald Mingin

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Comments from Professionals and Council**

Mike Holt offered thanks for his re-appointment and wished all a healthy and Happy New Year.

Eileen Fahey thanked council for her re-appointment and said that looks forward to the year ahead.

Nancy thanked everyone for her appointment and advised that Council has received a few grants and thanked Council for the opportunity to work together again this year.

Manager Carew congratulated Rich and Don and said that he is looking forward to a great new year.

Councilman Nagler wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for their help in 2007.

Councilman Tafe stated that the year started out for him and Councilman Maroccia as a new learning position and it has been a tremendous learning experience as they start out. Mr. Nagler started the year with a very well-received speech about bi-Partisian government and he believes that he has done his part and tried very hard to make that happen. Mr. Nagler met with Mr. Tafe on numerous occasions and he appreciates what he has done to try to make that happen.

Councilman Tafe further stated that as the year progressed letters started circulating in the community about all of the accomplishments made by three members of Council, totally ignoring the fact that there are other members of the Council sitting in the Township, and it becomes disheartening because it can be very easily done that way if you are excluded from every committee and commission that the town has. Councilman Tafe believes that is the case and they have not been appointed to a committee or a commission and he thinks that has been a very well organized effort. He noticed when he received the agenda - he had asked at the last meeting how these appointments worked. Mr. Nagler stated that he wasn't sure because he has only been Mayor for a year and finally Mr. Renzulli said that you make your desires be known. Mr. Tafe made his desires be known as did Mr. Maroccia. Councilman Tafe found it funny that Mayor Nagler responded by saying that the new mayor will make the appointments and Councilman Tafe never received a response to his request from the Mayor. Councilman Tafe notes that he and Councilman Maroccia were put on the 206 commission and while he and Joe will work hard to find out exactly what is going on with it. That is a County corridor study that the Township is liaisons for not anything directly related to the Township. They will, however, do their very best and be committed to doing that. It is disheartening not to be allowed an appointment on any committee within the Town. With that being said he and Mr. Maroccia will continue to try to work as best as they can as a bi-partisian council but opinions may be voiced when they need to be. Quite frankly, Mr. Tafe finds it a little bit insulting to he and Joe and to the voters of this Township in that they elected us to represent them and they are not put on any committee to represent them and Councilman Tafe finds it very disheartening. Mr. Tafe will not stand in front of everybody and say it is all bi-partisian politics because he doesn't see it that way and he believes that the Township deserves better. Councilman Tafe hopes that as we move forward there will be less speeches about a bi-partisian government and more action to make it a reality.

Councilman Hartman thanked Mayor Nagler for his service. Councilman Hartman has been on board since 1986 and it has been quite a few years. He enjoys working for the Township and working for the people.

Mayor Renzulli thanked Council for the appointment as Mayor. He also thanked family for allowing him to be Mayor. It is very time consuming and he also thanked his boss at Lockhead Martin.

It is more than a simple avocation to do this job and then walk away. It takes a lot of time and a lot of effort and Mayor Renzulli does not think that too many residents truly appreciate the amount of effort that goes into. The result may not always be what they want. Mayor Renzulli knows every member of this Council spends a lot of time and puts in a lot of effort for the good of the people. Mayor Renzulli believes all council members have done a good job from what he can see. The residents should be proud that they have elected this group.

**2008 Challenges** - It's going to be another challenging year. If it is not a challenging year, then he believes that they are doing something wrong up there. The Township budget is super tight.

It has been for the 11 years that he has been up there. There is no waste in the budget. There is no place to absorb additional costs.

Mayor Renzulli recollects a few years back when there was a government auditor that came in and recommended that the Township hire more people. That makes Mayor Renzulli feel good that the staff are outstanding in excellence and can do the job of many more people.

This year the State has mandated a 4% spending cap. Please note that in anything the government does from the state — there are enough loopholes to drive a truck through. The Governor has led everyone to believe that a 4% cap is all the taxes will go up. We will do our best to keep it below that level if we can. One of the loopholes says that the township can raise taxes about 4% if the state cuts funding to the township. So when the State that has a 5 billion dollar deficit decides that they need more money, they cut aid to municipalities and then allows the township to raise taxes and then you hear from the state how the Townships are raising taxes and it is out of control.

The State Department of Community Affairs inflation for governments in New Jersey last year was at 5%. The township has a 4% spending cap and inflation is at 5% which means the township is 1% in the hole. That means the township has to work really hard to find places to save money. Health care increases are in double digits, again that is above 4%. The state has mandated pension payments. Again, increases of more than 4%. Gotta find ways to make up that difference. Gas prices effects Townships even more than it effects homeowners. The police department is on the road 24/7 using huge amounts of gasoline.

The Township budget has always been very austere. The staff in the building at any one time is four people. Laying off personnel to reduce the budget may be an option. We may have to but that would mean dramatic cuts in services. If the Township lays off one person who has many hats, that is many departments that get shut down. Mayor Renzulli does not want to go there. He believes Scott and Jerry and Mike Holt are creative enough to find ways that the Township can make ends meet and still keep the staff in tact.

Along those lines, one of the public works gentlemen, Nick, is moving on effective the middle of next week. He has taken another job in a local town simply because of money. The Township is just not paying enough to keep the employees. That will be another challenge to make sure that the Township is paying their staff what they are worth, staying under the 4% cap. Training a new person is a learning curve which costs the Township effort and time.

The County has increased tipping fees at the landfill. Burlington County is recycling more so the County is raising the tipping fees because they have to make ends meet. The more we recycle, the more they are going to raise tipping fees. Mayor Renzulli does not fully understand that one.

How austere is the budget? Public Works ran out of money in September. We have been shuffling money around to keep them open. The Engineering Department ran out of money in June. Again had to shuffle money around.

The good news is that on the horizon Village Center is being built which is Phase I. Phase II is the Township owned piece at the end of Knightsbridge Road which will dramatically help our ratable base and overall help the property taxes.

The Township has a large developer interested in developing a continued care community facility. That is a mega million project if it actually ever comes to fruition. The Township talks to a lot of developers. Some things come about, some don't. Some get all the way through the Planning Board for all of their approvals and then decide not to build. Until there is actually a building up, Mayor Renzulli won't count his chickens.

The good news about the downturn in the housing industry is that the developer pressures on residential housing have backed off. With that comes the ability to seek out developers to build what we want them to build in this time. The Township needs to be on their doorstep now and Mayor Renzulli will be working very hard on. Interest rates are down.

There are capital projects that need to be done. The leaf vacuum has broken down and the Township has been flooded with calls regarding leaf pickup. It is eight years old and needs to be replaced. The Township has to figure out how to come up with the money for it.

Developers and contractors are looking for work really hard. Nancy has never been off by more than 10% in her estimates of what a project will cost. Student Drive sidewalk came in 66% below what Nancy thought it was going to be. These contractors just want to keep their people employed. Now is an opportunity for us to figure out what projects we want to get done and take advantage of the low interest rates and low demand in the market to see if the Township can get some projects done now in a cost-effective manner.

Grants are going to be the Township's lifeblood. Unfortunately they come from the State. The State is 5 billion dollars in the red. They are going to be hard to come by because there are going to be fewer of them from the State and more towns applying for them. The Township received word from Martha Bark late last week that the Township received the necessary funding to complete Knightsbridge. Nancy is working on that.

2008 is going to be full of challenges. But what's new? That's the way small town government works. Every dollar is spent as if it is our own. Because it is. We have worked very hard to ensure that the taxpayer's money is not wasted in any way, shape or form.

Bob Vignidi, 10 Stafford Court asked why it has taken so long to pick up leaves. Mayor Renzulli explained that the leaf vacuum is going in the shop every week. Councilman Hartman asked if the Township could borrow one from a neighboring Township. Mayor Renzulli stated public works is behind as a result of it. Mr. Vignidi asked if the blower was being repaired by our in-house shop. Mayor Renzulli advised that the Township does not have an in-house shop. Mayor Renzulli advised that it has been brought to Council's attention that we need a new machine, but the problem is that it costs a lot of money. Approximately \$70,000. Mayor Renzulli stated that it is being prioritized accordingly with the limited spending.

Motion by Councilman Nagler, seconded by Councilman Hartman to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. All voted in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Lovins, RMC  
Township Clerk