

**EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
April 14, 2008
7:30PM**

CALL TO ORDER. Mayor Renzulli called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT [N.J.S.A. 10:4-6] *In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this is to announce that adequate notice of this meeting was provided in the following manner: On January 9, 2008 advance written notice of this meeting was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board; was mailed to THE BURLINGTON COUNTY TIMES and to the CAMDEN COURIER POST; was filed with the Township Clerk and was mailed to all persons who requested and paid for such notice. The proceedings of this meeting are being electronically recorded and the tape will be on file in the office of the Township Clerk.*

ROLL CALL.

PRESENT: Mr. Maroccia, Mr. Nagler, Mr. Hartman, and Mayor Renzulli.

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Carew, Township Manager, Eileen Fahey, Township Solicitor and Barbara Sheipe RMC, filing in as municipal clerk.

ABSENT: Mr. Tafe.

PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Mrs. Arleini-12Suffolk discussed that in the news letter there was an article about safe routes to school. Mr. Carew explained that the DOT is doing a study to determine pedestrian safety route for children walking to schools. Mrs. Arleini inquired if there was a state law about the distance a child had to live before being bused to school? Mr. Carew explained that it is the school's policy to bus outside of 2 miles. Mrs. Arleini inquired as to why Carriage Park children have a bus to the high school and the children in the Vista's have to walk? Mr. Carew explained that only one street in Carriage Park has children that is bused due to being outside the required walking distance. Mrs. Arleini inquired as to what can the township do to make the high school bus the students? Mayor Renzulli explained that she should contact RV as it is the policies of the board of education for RV and not the township. Mrs. Arleini inquired if the money for the buses comes out of the Eastampton taxes. Mayor Renzulli explained that it comes from the school board budget and that the neighbors should attend the school board meetings and if they are not comfortable with the budget, they can vote against the budget. Mr. Carew explained that he has not received any studies that show if it is safe for the children from Carriage Park and the Vista's to walk to school. Mr. Arleini inquired if there will be a bus next year to Carriage Park? Mr. Nagler explained that the place to take their concerns is the board of education and that the more voices at RV the more they will listen. The board of education is elected by the taxpayers and should listen to the taxpayers.

Mr. Vadale-8 Suffolk discussed that the budget is being voted on tomorrow and that there is no additional busing in the budget. Mayor Renzulli explained that RV had

sent flyers home explaining the budget. Mr. Nagler discussed that the school board meets the third Tuesday of the month and that everyone wants the children to be safe going to and from school. Mayor Renzulli explained that the Vista's has not had a bus to the high school in years. Mr. Vadale explained that it is more of a concern now due to traffic volume. Mr. Hartman discussed that the best person to contact would be Mrs. Kraster on Manchester since she goes to all of the boards meetings.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT.

Mr. Carew discussed that the fence ordinance needs further clarification concerning corner lots. Ms. Newcomb is concerned about an application that is for a corner lot and the size of the fence does not meet the ordinance. The ordinance states that a corner lot has two front yards since it faces two streets. Mr. Hartman discussed that there are fences in the entire township that do not meet the ordinances and that they are grandfathered in. Mayor Renzulli requested that the additional issue be sent to planning board with the other concern for the fence ordinance, so that everything is reviewed at one time. The staff must enforce the current zoning regulations until they are changed. Mr. Nagler explained that the planning board will meet again in May and review the fence ordinance.

Mr. Carew discussed that he had met with the administrators of Hainesport,, Westampton, Mount Holly and Hainesport about shared services. At the meeting they outlines what services they felt could be included now on shared services. There will be another meeting on May 7.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Mr. Hartman made a motion to approve the minutes of March 24, 2008. Mr. Maroccia second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

PROCLAMATION: Mayor Renzulli declared April 25th as Arbor Day in the Township of Eastampton. K-5 grades will be planting trees provided by the environmental commission.

BUDGET. Mr. Carew and Mr. Mingin discussed the budget with council Mr. Carew explained that the budget is not ready to be introduced tonight. Also that he would like council to discuss an accelerated tax sale. Mr. Mingin explained that they had talked to Mrs. O'Dell about estimated tax bills and that it would allow the township to send out the tax bills on time and not lose the interest on the monies collected. Mr. Nagler discussed that there would be a cost to sending out two sets of tax bills, but that the cost would be offset by the interest collected on the money. The new bill sent out for the November payment would have the actual cost to it. The township would have to figure out a predicted cost for the taxes for the 2008 and advise everyone that this is only an estimated bill. Mayor Renzulli discussed that he would like to see the tax bills have the information about them being estimated but also have a news letter sent out to the taxpayers explaining the reason. Mr. Nagler made a motion to approve sending out estimated tax bills. Mr. Hartman second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Maroccia, Mr. Nagler, Mr. Hartman and Mayor Renzulli.

NAYES: None.

Accelerate Tax Sale-Mr. Carew explained that he had done a lot of research on the issue along with Mr. Mingin. Mr. Mingin explained that the down size is on the administration of the tax sale by the tax collector. There will have to be additional work done this year to get everything ready. The notice for the sale will have to go out immediately after the tax payments in November. Mr. Nagler discussed that senior citizens usually come in the day after they receive their tax bills and that business usually are the last to pay. Mr. Mingin explained that many of the seniors live on a fixed income and have a hard time paying their taxes. Mr. Mingin explained that the first year there would actually be two tax sales and after that there would be still one per year. The accelerated tax sale would be in the beginning of the year. Mr. Nagler inquired about the ratio comparing residential to commercial for paying their taxes on time. Mr. Mingin explained that if a business is failing they will pay their taxes at the last minute to save on their spending money. Mr. Mingin discussed that at the last budget meeting it was discussed about a tax rate of hike of 6.4 cents, the tax sale usually produces about \$200,000 and that it will also reduce the amount of reserved taxes needed in the budget. Last year the township received extra money in the construction permits due to new developments that is not anticipated this year. Mr. Mingin explained that if money is returned by the state it will go to lower the tax rate. Mr. Nagler discussed that 95% of the residents pay their taxes on time and that the township should not be concerned about the 5% who do not. The township should list them for tax sale, so that the other taxpayers are not hurt by the ones who do not pay. Mr. Mingin explained that by doing an accelerated tax sale this year it will help to build the surplus back up. Mr. Mingin explained that very few towns do an accelerated tax sale, but that more are moving in this direction. Mr. Nagler discussed that he felt that council is being fiscally sound by doing this. Mr. Nagler thanked Mr. Mingin who's numbers are constant week to week. Mr. Hartman inquired as to how many residents will this effect? Mr. Mingin explained that he does not know how many properties, but that it is around \$229,000 in outstanding taxes for this year. Mr. Hartman inquired as to when the tax sale notice would be sent out? Mr. Mingin explained that they have to be given notice for three weeks prior to the fourth week being the tax sale and that the notices would be done in December. Mr. Mingin explained to council that once they agree to an accelerated tax sale, they can not revert back unless there are two consecutive years of 100% tax collection. Mr. Hartman inquired about how many non-residential owners are usually on the tax sale list. Mr. Mingin explained that there are usually 16 total properties on the tax sale list. The county is looking at acquiring more creek properties and canceling the taxes on those properties. Mr. Nagler made a motion to approve the accelerated tax sale, Mr. Hartman second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Maroccia, Mr. Nagler, Mr. Hartman and Mayor Renzulli.

NAYES: None.

Property Liens-Mr. Carew discussed that the county has reached out to the property owners along the creek area and that some have express in interest. Mayor Renzulli discussed that the county would like the township to forgive the tax liens on the property. Ms Fahey explained that by law the county has to pay the full lien unless it is a township lien. Mayor Renzulli inquired as to how the county would

acquire the properties? Ms .Fahey explained that they would have to acquire the tax liens and foreclose on the properties.

Phone System-Mr. Carew explained that he had a meeting tomorrow with the company. Mr. Mingin explained that a formal proposal of everything needed would be present before making a decision.

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-44, Resolution to Approve Emergency Temporary Appropriations. The resolution was read by title. Mr. Nagler made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Hartman second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Maroccia, Mr. Nagler, Mr. Hartman and Mayor Renzulli.

NAYES: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-45, Resolution To Approve Issuance of Special Emergency Note In the Amount Of Sixty Three Thousand Two Hundred Dollars. The resolution was read by title. This resolution was regarding the financing for the reassessment. Mr. Nagler made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Hartman second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Maroccia, Mr. Nagler, Mr. Hartman and Mayor Renzulli.

NAYES: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-46, Resolution In Support of Application For 2008 Recreational Trails Program Grant For Buttonwood Nature Preserve. The resolution was read by title. Mr. Nagler made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Maroccia second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Maroccia, Mr. Nagler, Mr. Hartman and Mayor Renzulli.

NAYES: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-47, Resolution to Adopt Temporary Capital Budget. The resolution was read by title. Mr. Hartman made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Nagler second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Maroccia, Mr. Nagler, Mr. Hartman and Mayor Renzulli.

NAYES: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-48, Resolution to Award Lease/Purchase Contract for 2008 Chevrolet Suburban. The resolution was read by title. Mr. Nagler discussed that this was part of the replacement for the police department. Mr. Mingin explained that as one vehicle was paid off, the township would purchase another one to keep the rotation of the vehicles. Mr. Vadale inquired as to the use of a Dodge Durango compared to the SUV for gas reasons. Mr. Mingin discussed that the Durango is too small for all of the necessarily equipment and that the SUV is needed for certain areas of the township. Mr. Mingin explained that it would be

monthly installments of a three year period. The last Durango was passed down to the construction department. Mr. Vadale discussed that the township should check with other towns and see what vehicles work for them. Mr. Vadlae also recommend a test run of the SUV before purchasing it to see if it really fit the special needs of the department. Mr. Nagler made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Maroccia second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Maroccia, Mr. Nagler, Mr. Hartman and Mayor Renzulli.

NAYES: None.

Mr. Mingin requested that the open space tax be lowered for this year. Mr. Nagler made a motion to reduce the tax 2cents, Mr. Maroccia second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Maroccia, Mr. Nagler, Mr. Hartman and Mayor Renzulli.

NAYES: None.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 28, 2008.

A. Ordinance No. 2008-03, An Ordinance To Amend the Township Code at Section 103-“Zoning” Section 103-48 Fence Regulations Setting Forth The Requirements for Fences. The ordinance was read by title. Mr. Nagler made a motion to introduce the ordinance and have it heard for public hearing on April 28th, Mr. Hartman second the motion. All members present voted in favor. Mr. Nagler inquired about sending the ordinance to the planning board? Ms. Fahey explained that council introduces the ordinance and than the planning board reviews it and suggests changes or comments. Mr. Nagler made a motion to amend this motion to hold the ordinance for second reading at the May 27th meeting, to allow the planning board time to review the ordinance, Mr. Hartman second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the amendment. The ordinance will be heard on second reading at the council meeting of May 27th.

B. Ordinance No. 2008-4, An Ordinance of the Township Of Eastampton Amending Chapter 29 of the Code of the Township of Eastampton with Respect to Bingo and Raffle. The ordinance was read by title. Mr. Nagler made a motion to adopt the ordinance on first reading, Mr. Maroccia second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Maroccia, Mr. Nagler, Mr. Hartman and Mayor Renzulli.

NAYES: None. The ordinance will be heard on second reading at the council meeting of April 28th.

C. Ordinance No. 2008-05, An Ordinance of the Township Of Eastampton in Burlington County, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter I, Article II entitled “Penalties and Violation of the Township of Eastampton Code Establishing Penalties for Violation of any Provision of the Township Code or Ordinance of the Township Code of any Ordinance of the Township for Which No Other Specific Penalty is Provided. The ordinance was read by title. Mr. Hartman made a motion to adopt the ordinance on first reading, Mr. Maroccia second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Maroccia, Mr. Nagler, Mr. Hartman and Mayor Renzulli.

NAYES: None. The ordinance will be heard on second reading at the council meeting of April 28th.

d. Ordinance No. 2008-6, An Bond Ordinance of the Township of Eastampton Providing for Capital Improvements by the Township Of Eastampton and Appropriating Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars Therefore Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds and Notes in the Amount of \$332,500.00 The ordinance was read by title. Mr. Hartman made a motion to adopt the ordinance on first reading, Mr. Nagler second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Maroccia, Mr. Nagler, Mr. Hartman and Mayor Renzulli.

NAYES: None. The ordinance will be heard on second reading at the council meeting of April 28th.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS. Reports were submitted from the public works department, tax assessor, court and construction for March. Mr. Hartman made a motion to accept the reports, Mr. Nagler second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS..

Manager Carew discussed shared services and that he had met with Mount Holly, Eastampton, Hainesport and Westampton to explore departments that could possibility be shared. The first department would be the construction office. Most of the employees in these departments already work for other municipalities. The discussion was to have two physical offices one in Hainesport and one in Westampton. The offices would be opened forty hours a week and have a zoning officer and technical assistant available. Mayor Renzulli inquired as to what office the residents would go to acquire a permit? Mr. Carew explained that Westampton is looking at making an outline and the files from each town would be assigned to a particular office. The residents could go to either location for questions and to pick up the permit applications. Mr. Nagler inquired as to why Lumberton was not at the meeting? Mr. Carew explained that Lumberton is interested in working on shared services in the construction department, but he is not sure of their interest in other areas. Mr. Carew discussed that every town has its good years and lean years in the construction office, the percentages of everything would have to be pro-rated. Mr. Hartman inquired if Lumberton is being cooperative with the shared services? Mr. Carew explained that they seem anxious to share services. Ms. Fahey inquired if the fee schedule would remain the same for each town or would there be a general fee. Mr. Carew discussed that he is not sure and that they are in the beginning stages of the discussions. Mr. Hartman made a motion to continue to meet with the other districts to do shared services for the construction office. Mr. Nagler second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

The second department discussed was the court office. Mr. Carew explained that Westampton would be the host if Eastampton and Westampton shared courts. Ms. Fahey inquired if they were looking at sharing the facilities or the courts? Mr. Carew explained that the lead agency would appoint the professionals and have a support staff to work as one court. Mr. Nagler inquired if the township would receive the fines from the court? Mr. Carew explained that the fines that are charged in Eastampton would still come to the township as usual. Mr. Maroccia made a motion to continue the discussion with other towns for shared courts, Mr. Hartman second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

The third department discussed was the public works department. Mr. Carew discussed that everyone agreed that their own public works department was important. The public works departments from surrounding towns already share equipment and personnel when needed. There could be an agreement about sharing equipment. The Directors of Public works would meet during the year to share ideas and keep a list of what equipment is available. Mayor Renzulli discussed that the public works departments work together including working with the county many times especially in emergencies. Mr. Hartman discussed that purchasing and training for public works is another way to do shared services. Mr. Nagler made a motion to continue the discussion of public works departments working together. Mr. Hartman second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

The third department discussed was the police department. Mr. Carew discussed that Westampton at the current time has no interest in giving up their police department. They will work with another town to merge their departments with Westampton being the lead department. Hainesport Township is exploring their choices as a receiving agency for a police department. Mount Holly is looking to do a grant to study shared services for the police department with a neighboring town. Mr. Nagler discussed that he is against anything to do with losing the police department and that little or no coverage could occur if another town covers Eastampton. Mr. Nagler discussed that the young teens in the town relate to the current officers and he would like to see that continue. Mr. Carew discussed that Mount Holly had discussed that if merging with another towns that police departments would maintain the police vehicles and officers to identify them as belonging to their own town. The vehicles would still say Eastampton Township as well as Mount Holly. Mr. Nagler discussed that he felt that Eastampton is a different culture than the surrounding towns and that he would like to see the police department stay in Eastampton. Mr. Hartman discussed that he is interested in the study so that there is something to back up a decision on the police department. Mayor Renzulli inquired as to what town would negotiate the contracts for the employees? Ms. Fahey explained that the salaries would come under the lead agencies contracts. Mayor Renzulli discussed as to what dollar amount is worth losing the police department. Mr. Hartman explained that the decision is an emotional item and that there needs to be something concrete to show the numbers. Mr. Nagler discussed that he is not in favor of doing a study and that the decision should be put to a referendum of the voters. Mr. Nagler made a motion to not participate in the study with Mount Holly, Mr. Hartman second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Nagler discussed that he will

only consider shared services with another town if Eastampton remains the lead agency. Mr. Maroccia discussed that the township should look at it both ways, one as the lead agency and also has merging. Mr. Maroccia discussed that the cost needs to be a factor. Ms. Fahey inquired if the council was willing to do the study if Eastampton was the lead agency. Mr. Nagler discussed that a regional police department could be formed. Ms. Fahey discussed that the council may want to participate in the study to find out if Eastampton being the lead agency would save cost. Mr. Nagler made a motion to withdraw this motion not to participate in the study. Mr. Hartman second the motion. All members present vote in favor of the motion. Mr. Maroccia discussed exploring shared services to save money with the police department. Mr. Maroccia made a motion to continue the discussion for shared services, Mr. Nagler second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Maroccia and Mr. Hartman.

NAYES: Mayor Renzulli.

ABSTAIN: Mr. Nagler. The motion passed with two yes votes.

OLD BUSINESS.

Mayor Renzulli discussed that on May 28 they will do the annual volunteer of the year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION. Mr. Hartman made a motion to go into executive session for the discussion of personnel and contracts, Mr. Nagler second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT.

The acting clerk was not present for the adjournment vote.