

DECEMBER 31, 2007

A Special Meeting of the Kingwood Township Committee was called to order at 10:00 A.M. with Mayor Burke presiding

Also present at the meeting were Committeewomen Augustine and Niemann, Tax Collector and CFO Laudenbach and Clerk MacConnell. Following the salute to the Flag, Mayor Burke read aloud the following:

NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publication of the notice in the Delaware Valley News and Express Times on December 27, 2007 and by telefaxing copies of the notice to the Courier News and Star Ledger on December 20, 2007. Copies of the notice were also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Baptistown Post Office on December 20, 2007.

In order to ensure full public participation in this meeting, all members of this Committee or Board, and also members of the public, are requested to speak only when recognized by the Chair so that there is no simultaneous discussion or over-talk, and further, all persons are requested to utilize the microphones which are provided for your use by the Township. Your cooperation is appreciated.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-26-2007 TO AMEND THE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS OF THE TOWNSHIP, SPECIFICALLY “CHAPTER 115 – SUBDIVISION OF LAND” AND “CHAPTER 132 – ZONING” OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP, VOL. 14, PG. 14-26 – Public Hearing and Final Adoption

Mayor Burke read the Ordinance aloud by title and briefly reviewed the contents. This Ordinance was introduced and adopted on first reading at a meeting of the Kingwood Township Committee on December 4, 2007. The Ordinance was published in the Delaware Valley News on December 20, 2007 and has been posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on December 18, 2007. Copies of the Ordinance have been available for inspection by the public since December 18, 2007. A recommendation has been received from the Planning Board for adoption of the Ordinance.

It was moved by Mrs. Augustine, seconded by Mrs. Niemann and carried to open the hearing to the public. **All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.** There were no comments from the public. It was moved by Mrs. Augustine, seconded by Mrs. Niemann and carried to close the public comment portion of the hearing. **All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.** There was no additional discussion from the committee members.

It was moved by Mrs. Niemann, seconded by Mrs. Augustine and carried to adopt on final reading **AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF KINGWOOD, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND THE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS OF THE TOWNSHIP, SPECIFICALLY “CHAPTER 115 – SUBDIVISION OF LAND” AND “CHAPTER 132 – ZONING” OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP.**

Roll Call Vote: **AYE – Augustine, Niemann, Burke**
 NAY – None
 ABSTAIN – None
 ABSENT – None

2007 BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS – Resolution No. 2007-122

The following Resolution was introduced:

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 122
2007 BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Kingwood, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to make the following transfers within the 2007 Budget Appropriations:

From:

Administrative & Executive – Salary and Wages	\$ 900.00
Financial Administration – Salary and Wages	\$ 1,700.00
Tax Map Maintenance – Other Expense	\$ 2,000.00
Bulk Expenses – Heating Oil	\$ 1,000.00

To:

A & E - Other Expense	\$ 100.00
Financial Administration – Other Expense	\$ 150.00
Tax Assessment – Other Expense	\$ 125.00
Planning Board – Other Expense	\$ 1,250.00
Insurance – Dental Benefits	\$ 1,350.00
Municipal Court – Other Expense	\$ 150.00
Buildings and Grounds – Other Expense	\$ 175.00
Construction – Other Expense	\$ 300.00
Parks and Recreation – Other Expense	\$ 1,000.00
Bulk Expenses – Electricity	\$ 1,000.00

It was moved by Mrs. Augustine, seconded by Mrs. Niemann and carried to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

Roll Call Vote: **AYE – Augustine, Niemann, Burke**
 NAY – None
 ABSTAIN – None
 ABSENT – None

CANCELLATION OF CURRENT YEAR APPROPRIATION – Resolution No. 2007-124

The following Resolution was introduced:

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 124
CANCELLATION OF CURRENT YEAR APPROPRIATION

WHEREAS, New Jersey State Statutes allow the cancellation of unused current year appropriations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Kingwood, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, that the balance of the following appropriations are hereby cancelled:

911 Coordinator – Salary and Wage	\$ 2,699.99
Compliance with COAH – Salary and Wage	\$ 7,500.06

It was moved by Mrs. Augustine, seconded by Mrs. Niemann and carried to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

Roll Call Vote: **AYE – Augustine, Niemann, Burke**
 NAY – None
 ABSTAIN – None
 ABSENT – None

INSURANCE RENEWAL

The committee members agreed that upon reviewing all of the information submitted it seems it would be best to stay with the current carrier. It was moved by Mrs. Augustine, seconded by Mrs. Niemann and carried to authorize the clerk to notify the current insurance carrier, PAICF – Public Alliance Insurance Coverage Fund, and the current insurance agency, Herder-Tarricone Associates, that Kingwood Township will be renewing with PAICF for the next three years. The renewal Resolutions will be adopted at the January meeting. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

It was moved by Mrs. Augustine, seconded by Mrs. Niemann and carried to approve and pay the bills and claims that are in order and attached as **Bill List of December 31, 2007.**

Roll Call Vote: **AYE – Augustine, Niemann, Burke**
 NAY – None
 ABSTAIN – None
 ABSENT – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Ronald Pignatello, Fitzer Road – Mr. Pignatello referred to the Ordinance previously adopted at the beginning of the meeting, and commented that he guessed a lot of the background work has already been done on it as this is the final adoption. Mayor Burke responded by briefly explaining the process of an Ordinance that deals with the land use regulations, including the role of the Planning Board. Mr. Pignatello asked if the Ordinance previously adopted meant any zoning changes to Fitzer Road. Mayor Burke commented this Ordinance does not change the zoning, but noted the Planning Board is now reviewing the Master Plan which could lead to zoning changes in the Township in the future.

SALARY AND BUDGET WORKSESSION

The committee members reviewed the budget requests, including salaries, that were received from the various boards, committees, commissions and from the Rescue Squad. This included some discussion regarding the special emergency appropriation last year, and requests from Open Space Advisory Committee, Board of Adjustment, Zoning Officer, Environmental Commission. There was some discussion on the information submitted by the Rescue Squad concerning the remediation problems with their building, and their truck fund. Last year the committee members appropriated to the Rescue Squad \$32,000 for other expenses, \$5,000 for remediation and \$10,000 for renovations. Following some discussion, it was moved by Mrs. Augustine, seconded by Mrs. Niemann and carried to reserve \$5,000 from the year 2007, which was not utilized, and also set aside \$5,000 for the year 2008. **All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.** The committee members continued reviewing the budget requests including Municipal Court, Construction Department, Buildings and Grounds. Mayor Burke suggested the committee members put in an amount today, but look at it again as things go along as there are some big problems with our Township owned buildings. Some of them are in severe disrepair and we will need to address the problems, he has visited all of them and they are substandard. Perhaps we will have to address the situation on a separate line as a capital expense. Following some additional discussion it was moved by Mrs. Augustine, seconded by Mrs. Niemann and carried to reserve the existing amount in Renovations to Municipal Building. **All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.** The review of requests continued, including Board of Health, Recreation, Parks & Playgrounds, the request from the New Jersey Water Supply Authority for two monitoring wells.

2007 - 291

Mayor Burke brought up and read aloud a proposal from Amy Greene Environmental Consultants for Thatcher Road work, and this in turn led to a general discussion of Oak Grove Road and other Township roads.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Resolution No. 2007-123

At approximately 11:00 A.M. the following Resolution was introduced to enter into closed session:

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 - 123

WHEREAS, Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975 (R.S.10:4-13) permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting or a portion of a meeting of this public body in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Kingwood, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from the meeting or a portion of a meeting at which this public body discusses the hereinafter specified subject matter.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

Appointments/Personnel

3. The time when the circumstances under which the discussions conducted in closed session of this public body can be disclosed to the public is as follows:

The minutes of the closed session will be made public upon conclusion, dismissal or settlement of litigation; or final Resolution of agreements or personnel matters; and in any event, when appropriate pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-7 and-13.

4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.
5. The Township Committee may take additional action upon returning to regular session.

It was moved by Mrs. Augustine, seconded by Mrs. Niemann and carried to adopt the foregoing Resolution. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

It was moved by Mrs. Niemann, seconded by Mrs. Augustine and carried to return to regular session at 12:12 P.M. **All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.**

CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL/BUILDING INSPECTOR

It was moved by Mrs. Augustine, seconded by Mrs. Niemann and carried to accept the resignation of Wayne Degan as Construction Official/Building Inspector, effective today, December 31, 2007. **All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.**

It was moved by Mrs. Niemann, seconded by Mrs. Augustine and carried to employ Mark Fornaciari as the Construction Official/Building Inspector, effective immediately, on a temporary basis until such time as a permanent official can be determined, at the current rate of pay.

Roll Call Vote: **AYE – Augustine, Niemann, Burke**
 NAY – None
 ABSTAIN – None
 ABSENT - None

PLANNING BOARD AND HOUSING BOARD

It was moved by Mrs. Niemann, seconded by Mrs. Augustine and carried to accept the resignation of William Kastening from the Planning Board and from the Housing Board. **All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.**

AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Mrs. Niemann, seconded by Mrs. Augustine and carried to authorize the Township Attorney to prepare ordinances to amend the membership of the above captioned committees, as per the recommendation received. **All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.**

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER AND DOG LICENSING AGENT

It was moved by Mrs. Niemann, seconded by Mrs. Augustine and carried to employ Traci Fleming as Animal Control Officer and as Dog Licensing Agent, effective immediately. The salary for Animal Control Officer is \$9,000.00 and for Dog Licensing Agent the salary is \$2,275.00.

Roll Call Vote: **AYE – Augustine, Niemann, Burke**
 NAY – None
 ABSTAIN – None
 ABSENT - None

2008 TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed the regular monthly meetings will remain on the first Tuesday of each month, except for any months when an election takes place on that day, in which case the meeting will be the night before. It was also decided to begin the meetings next year at 7:00 P.M.

NEW REGULATIONS FROM COAH

Mayor Burke commented that in case the committee members have not already seen or heard anything by e-mail or mail, the new figures from COAH are going to basically double the number of units the Township is now required to provide, and the minimum fee has not been increased. He briefly reviewed the new figures.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Augustine, seconded by Mrs. Niemann and carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 P.M. **All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. MacConnell, RMC
Township Clerk