

The minutes of the regular Public Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook held on August 4, 2016 at 7:25 PM at the Municipal Building, 93 Market Street, Saddle Brook, NJ.

Council President Camilleri called the meeting to order.

Township Clerk called the roll:

Councilman Cimiluca – present
Councilwoman Mazzer – present
Councilwoman D’Arminio – present
Councilman Accomando – present
Council President Camilleri – present

Mayor White – present
Mr. Suarez, Twp. Attorney – present
Mr. Lemanowicz – Twp. Engineer – present

Council President Camilleri asked everyone to please rise for the salute to the flag.

Council President Camilleri announced that adequate notice of this meeting has been sent to all Council members by police messenger on July 28, 2016 and to all legal newspapers in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

The Township Clerk announced that the public is hereby advised that any statements made during the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook may not be privileged or protected and that persons or entities who take issue with such comments or are offended by same, may, and have in the past, sought legal redress through the courts.

Any member of the public who addresses the Council speaks for themselves and not for the Council.

Mayor White announced that Scott Santora, the coach of the 5th and 6th Grade Rec Girls Softball Champions was present this evening. Mr. Santora spoke briefly about the three-town league and how they were able to win the 5th and 6th Grade Championship this year. Mayor White noted he would be distributing certificates to the team members at a later time.

Mayor White then asked Chief Robert Kugler to give an update on the 300th Anniversary. Chief Kugler mentioned the banners that were sponsored by local businesses and individuals and were placed throughout the township. He said we mounted 125 banners, and there are an additional five banners coming. He expressed his appreciation for the individuals and local businesses who sponsored them and added our goal is to take the banners down before the winter comes and present them to each and every individual and business that sponsored one for them to hang in their place.

Chief Kugler then mentioned the posters hanging on the walls that had been created by the middle school students. He thanked the representatives who did what they did to highlight the history of Saddle Brook.

Chief Kugler discussed the Pizza Party held in June and thanked every one who attended. He noted the Township Picnic would be held on August 27th – the last Saturday in August, and will start at 12:00 Noon and run until 5:00 PM. Prior to the Picnic will be the Mayor’s Walk. The first 100 people to sign up to walk around the lake will get a commemorative T-shirt. This will officially kick off the picnic day.

Chief Kugler thanked Councilwoman Mazzer and Councilwoman D’Arminio who head the picnic committee. He noted it’s residents only and said we are asking everyone to register beforehand at the Senior Center, the Library or at the Municipal Building. Residents will get coupons that will enable them to get food and refreshments at the picnic. He said if you don’t register before time, you can do it at the picnic, but we would like people to pre-register so we can get an idea how

many people are coming. There will be rides and games, and it will be a fun day. This is Saddle Brook's annual picnic, and from here on in, hopefully, the town will have a bigger and better picnic each and every year.

Councilwoman D'Arminio explained we are going to have three food trucks, and when you register you will get a ticket with perforated coupons for lemon ice, a taco, a hot dog and a slider. There will also be free pizza, snow cones, cotton candy, popcorn, a cake table, a DJ, a 40-foot obstacle course, a trackless train ride for the children, and at 3:00 there will be a live band. There will be registration tables at the park that day, but as the chief said, if you could pre-register and get your tickets, it would be a good idea.

Councilwoman Mazzer thanked all the contributors and said it's such a great turnout because of all of the people who have donated, whether they are organizations in town or businesses in town or private individuals, it has been an awesome turnout, and we appreciate it very much. It's going to be a great day.

Chief Kugler said it is a big task to do a picnic like this for the whole town. We have literally hundreds if not into the thousands that may come that day, and a lot of the resources that it takes to have these games and things cost money. He thanked every individual and business that has contributed as well as the Mayor and Council for their support.

Chief Kugler said the last thing on our agenda for the anniversary is a Gala. We're not sure what the date is right now, but somewhere after Thanksgiving or around the New Year. It's likely it will be December, January, February or even as late as March. He concluded by thanking Mayor White for giving him the opportunity to serve on the committee.

Mayor White reminded Chief Kugler about the Tri-Centennial Park. Chief Kugler said we have identified a location on the corner of Saddle River Road and Platt Avenue where we want to have a Tri-Centennial park with benches and pavers that people can sponsor with their name and have a big monument with a time capsule to be opened a hundred years later or maybe fifty years later. More information to follow on both of those things.

Council President Camilleri asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public.

Motion: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Second: Councilman Accomando

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

Mr. Emil Sudol of 412 Van Luyn Terrace said I've been attending a number of these meetings in the past, and I've been bringing up this issue the Township has with flooding on Fifth Street. I don't know if you know or not, it flooded again a few days ago. This has been an ongoing nasty problem, and I would just like to know if there is anything at all that can be done to remedy this. I know the last Township engineer was working on some sort of plan to help eliminate this problem, but I really don't know what happened or where it's at. I understand that the pipeline that runs under Route 46 has been cleaned out and apparently there is a brook that runs along the railroad tracks that had to be cleaned out, and I understand, I think Mr. Lo Dico had something to do with getting a crew in there to get that cleaned out recently.

Mr. Lo Dico said not yet; it's in the works.

Mr. Sudol said it is in the works? Mr. Lo Dico said Bergen County Mosquito.

Mr. Sudol asked is there any way we could get somebody like Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission involved. Mr. Lo Dico said the engineer could probably

answer that question better. Council President Camilleri said the engineer is here, and we are getting into the final phase of finally getting all that water to go under Route 46 and out to where it's supposed to go. If our engineer can answer your question for you.

Mr. Lemanowicz said the issue of the waterline that runs from Fifth Street, it goes down the property line, there's an auto body shop. Mr. Sudol said it's behind all the businesses. Mr. Lemanowicz said right, and it cuts across the block company to Route 46. The area under Route 46 was cleaned by the DOT. We put out for bids to clean the pipe from Fifth Street around the bend to that wall. We had some issues with pricing. We got some pricing that was a little over the budget. We went out to bid for that twice, and once you do that you're allowed to negotiate. We negotiated down another \$20,000 off the price of the lowest bid.

Mr. Sudol asked if this was through a public contractor, and Mr. Lemanowicz said yes. Mr. Sudol asked if we could get the Passaic Valley Sewerage commission. These people clean up rivers and streams. Mr. Lemanowicz said if it was a sanitary sewer that they owned, they would do it. Other than that, it's an expensive process.

Mr. Sudol said that's why I kind of recommended it. If we can get Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission involved. They have the manpower, they have the tools, the machines, they have everything. They clean the Passaic River; they do the Saddle River. They do all this stuff. I just can't see why we can't get them involved instead of running out to a contractor to have them do this. Is that at all possible?

Mr. Lemanowicz said I think if Passaic County had that capacity, they'd be doing it. Mr. Sudol said I don't even know if they know about it. Do they at least know about it? Mr. Lemanowicz said they know that the sewer – Mr. Sudol said that the street floods every time it rains? Mr. Lemanowicz said what I'm saying is, there's a lot of pipe and if every town starts tapping Passaic Valley to clean them, there simply isn't enough manpower.

Mr. Sudol said I think this thing ends in the Danhurst Lake, it ends in Garfield. Where it goes from there, I don't know. Anyway, I just hope that something can be done because this has been a long time problem and it's nasty.

Mr. Sudol mentioned Caldwell Avenue. This has been a thorn to a lot of people and I just feel that this project has been railroaded through by the past administration. There were many, many, many taxpayers against this and this thing was kind of forced down our throats. We spent an awful lot of money, and I think we got whoever the property owners are off the hook from trying to unload that piece of property. Here it is sitting there years now with nothing happening, nothing at all, and I'm sure we're losing tens of thousands of dollars in tax revenue that we're no longer collecting. There's nothing in sight. No plans. Nothing is happening. This is just going on and on and on month after month, and this was a really bad decision. That's the way I feel about it, and I'm not alone. I think that this property should probably even be sold. Some sort of deadline should be placed on this with the County. If they can't come up with the funds to build the building, let's move on, use it for something else. Put a new Fire Department there, give a new home to the Ambulance Corps. It looks like they're working out of a tent over here. I think there's other uses for that other than having the county – Mr. Cimiluca, you said this would benefit the taxpayers and the residents of Saddle Brook. That's not true. This is a County project. It would be open to every county, everyone in the County of Bergen, not just Saddle Brook residents. So I really can't see – this whole decision was a bad thing to do, and I really feel that we should put a deadline on this thing and move on.

Mr. Sudol said finally, this tax increase that is proposed or coming out soon. From what I understand this has been caused from the commercial tax appeals. This is ridiculous. Why don't we budget for this kind of stuff? I don't understand. We know these appeals are something that just didn't take a month or two. This has been going on for years. Obviously you knew that we were going to lose and have to pay back these companies. Why can't we budget for it? Why can't you put money aside for it instead of putting this on the backs of the taxpayers? What's going to happen with the next appeal? Is this the same thing? Another increase? We're going to get

hammered again? To me, it's fiscal mismanagement. You're just not doing the right thing here.

Mr. Sudol said finally, the last thing – mosquitos. Do they still have the Mosquito Commission or anything around town or the county or anything? Mr. Lo Dico said it's Bergen County Mosquito Commission. Mr. Sudol said everyone is talking and is kind of scared about this Zika thing that's going around, and now it's in Florida and there's a chance of it migrating up north. I just don't know if there's any kind of preparation or anything that the Township should be looking into possibly in the future for taking care of this kind of problem. It's something I just wanted to bring up. I don't know, like I said, if there is even a Mosquito Commission in the Township. You're saying it's just the County. This could be a possible major problem.

Mr. Lo Dico said we have already contacted the County Mosquito Commissioner. Certain areas they are coming in to spray. They do most of the towns if not all in Bergen County. They do have a schedule, and they will be in Saddle Brook in the future.

Mr. Sudol said I appreciate your time, and if there's anything, like I said, this flooding issue it's been an ongoing – if there's anything we could do to get the ball rolling and eliminate this problem once and for all, it's a real pain. Thanks again.

Councilman Cimiluca asked what area it was contained to and how long was it there for.

Mr. Sudol said from Hillside to Victor. Councilman Cimiluca asked Mr. Lemanowicz if he was aware of this. Mr. Sudol said usually after that it's both ends of Victor, then it turns into Kern, sometimes going up even Van Luyn and Kern to Hillside depending on the amount of rain. Sometimes it's there for a short amount of time. Water does recede quickly. Councilman Cimiluca asked how long was it there this time? Mr. Sudol said pretty quickly, I'm not sure as far as how many hours it was out there. But I personally experienced the issue of raw sewage coming up through the pipes into the flood waters, which is really nasty. I really feel sorry for those homeowners in that area there.

Mr. Larry Ratajczak of 92 Claremont Avenue said I'm going to speak here tonight, not as a Democrat, not as a Republican, but an unsatisfied resident. The increase in the taxes that we received is totally uncalled for. Just to bring something up – Emil, that building has been sitting for five years. It was \$850,000, and we lose approximately \$80,000 a year. You do the math. It's \$1.2 million that we're in the hole for. The increase, this 5½% - if you look at anybody's taxes in town, it's 5½% that our taxes went up. Like Emil said, it's poor planning on your people's part here. What actually is going on, and what is the problem? Can anybody answer me?

Council President Camilleri said commercial tax appeals.

Mr. Ratajczak said like he says, they been sitting there for years. We got to plan for this stuff. We don't plan for anything.

Council President Camilleri said you can never figure out what a building is going to sell for either. Mr. Ratajczak said yeah, but how long have they been sitting? Years. Joe, you know. They've been here five or six years they've been sitting there. It's not right. I also said two years ago or four years ago, the people that voted for the zero percent increase – you got it. You voted. I said Cimiluca, I'll be back, Ms. Mazzer, I said I'd be back. Mr. Camilleri, I said I'd be back. Camilleri, you voted no for it. The other two voted yes, so we got zero percent. So what did we get this year now? How many percent did we get? Isn't there a 2% cap? On certain items? We just do whatever we want. We write our own paychecks. We're giving the store away. You have to understand that the economy hasn't been good in the last five to seven years, and we're still giving raises out. How about a freeze? Freeze the wages. We just keep giving it away, giving it away. Eventually we're not going to be able to live here. That's what's going to happen. We're not going to be able to live here. It's not good for the seniors. It's not good for the young people coming in. Look and see how many houses are in foreclosure and see how many

houses are for sale. See how many people are underwater. It's astronomical. It's not getting any better, and by raising the taxes like this, you're not attracting any new people to come into the town. We didn't get any new services. What did we do? We got to start cutting things. We don't cut anything. We just keep hitting the resident, hitting the resident, hitting the resident. Eventually that's what the residents do, for sale sign or walk away, and it's you people up here that manage our money. You get our tax dollars, now you got to make it work. You just can't keep adding on and adding on and adding on.

Also the contract that we signed with the appraisal company – are we getting a re-evaluation or a re-assessment? What are we getting? Council President Camilleri spoke and Mr. Ratajczak interrupted and said you guys voted on it. Councilwoman D'Arminio said a rolling re-assessment. Mr. Ratajczak said okay, but we were told that it was a re-evaluation. A re-evaluation. Council President Camilleri said I want to address one question, Larry. As far as us, and I can speak for myself and I can pretty much speak for the whole council. We didn't excessively spend anywhere, Larry. The tax increase came directly from the commercial tax appeals.

Mr. Ratajczak said okay, that's still poor planning, though. It's still poor planning. If that's funny for you...

Council President Camilleri said I just tried to answer your one question. It's a broad statement that – Mr. Ratajczak interrupted and said, but I'm saying, have we made any cuts anywhere? Have we cut anything? Or froze anything? Put it this way, have we froze anything? Council President Camilleri said none that I know of. Mr. Ratajczak said no? Are other towns around us doing that? Council President Camilleri said I think other towns around us are all in the same boat. Mr. Ratajczak said same boat. And what they're doing is cutting things and freezing wages and stuff like that. You have to have some kind of answer for people when they get their tax bill now. So what is the answer going to be? Commercial real estate? And what's going to happen next?

Council President Camilleri said, hopefully what we put into play is one of the reasons why so we could be proactive instead of reactive with these big commercial appeals. That's one of the things that we all agreed on that would help us keep in check the commercial appeals that are killing us. Mr. Ratajczak said, but we can't keep going this way. We can't keep – I said it four years ago, and I'm saying it again. We can't keep going this way. We have to proact – not react. We're reacting now. Council President Camilleri said that's what we're doing now. This plan is – Mr. Ratajczak interrupted and said, whatever. I hope it works. Believe me, I hope it works, for our sake. Council President Camilleri said, Larry, I'm a resident here too. Trust me when I tell you, I hope it works too.

Mr. Ratajczak said okay, we'll get off of that topic. Maybe we'll get an answer for it later on. The other thing is, there was an editorial in the *Record* about the town of Dumont, and we just had an incident in our town here with a Police Department member retiring. There is no doubt they're entitled to that money. That was their contract, that was their wages, that was their deal. But going forward now, any new hires – we can't afford to pay a guy for a sick day that he make \$100 for that he's going to retire at \$800. We can't just afford to do that, so we need to look at things like that. They can't cash out with \$250,000 go away packages, because if three guys retire, we're in trouble.

Councilman Accomando said the state already caps most departments, so when you leave you can't get that. Mr. Ratajczak said I know, but in the editorial it says that the Council gave the excuse that it was a contract, and it's the state, it's the municipality that sets the rules in the contract, so any new hires, like I said, the guys that have it now, that's fine, that's their going away package, they're entitled to that. You can't take something away from them, but we should look – Councilman Accomando said Christie took it away from me. Mr. Ratajczak said we didn't take it away yet. Councilman Accomando said it depends on the department. Mr. Ratajczak said we didn't take it away, it depends on the department and the town. So we should really look into that and any new hirings. Start doing stuff like that; the private sector is doing that. You can't carry these astronomical amount of days over, 410 days, 310 days. We can't afford it. It happened in Rutherford a

couple of years ago where they had to borrow money. They had three guys retire at the same time. It didn't happen. It didn't happen. You're looking at \$700,000 - \$800,000. We don't have that laying around. Like I say, also in our budget this year, we depleted our surplus, right? Did we?

Councilwoman D'Arminio said yes.

Mr. Ratajczak said yes, so that needs to be replaced next year also. So what are we looking at next year down the road? That's what I'm saying. You're robbing Peter to pay Paul. You're going to run out of Peters. There's not enough Peters in the world, and that's what we're doing here. We're just shuffling money, shuffling funds, doing three-card Monte tricks, and it's not working. It's not working. Believe me, it's not working. Like I say, when the people get their tax bills, like I say, the phone's going to be off the hook. And it's the end result of poor management. It's poor management. Like I say, you took the surplus out this year. We're down to zero. What do we do? Wait until next year to replenish it? It's not good business practice. It's not good. It's not good, and like I say, I don't know what we're doing up here. I don't know what we're doing. I hope you have answers when the rest of the residents come in and ask and call the Town Hall and call the Tax Assessor.

Mr. Ratajczak said that's another thing while the Tax Assessor is here today. I'm a little confused on how we have our Tax Assessor working for us. I know Mr. Carlson works full time for Hackensack. That should be a 40-hour week, correct? Or 35? Whatever? A normal week is 35 to 40 hours. He also works part time for three other towns. Saddle Brook, Richfield, Richfield Park and Edgewater that he just went back into. When does he work for us, and when can we meet him? Because I had somebody try to reach out to him two days ago and he wound up calling you, Pete, and he's not available.

Mr. Lo Dico said no one called.

Mr. Ratajczak said someone called and you returned a call back to somebody. Mr. Lo Dico said someone called about taxes. Mr. Ratajczak said, right that was the person that I reached out to, to try to help me. But when is he available? Or when does he work for us, and what do we pay him, and what are his hours of operation? Is he ever in town during the day like a normal day that a resident can speak to him? You people don't even know. You have employees working for you and you don't even know what his hours are.

Mr. Lo Dico said, Art, you can correct me if I'm wrong, but your hours for years go back. Mr. Carlson said Tuesdays 4:30 to 6:30, Thursdays 6:30 to 8:00, Saturday by appointment if you want to see me. Lunch time I run over to somebody in an emergency if they want to see me. I'm in Hackensack, I could run over here. Not a problem. Never a problem. I'm always there, and I make inspections.

Mr. Ratajczak said for the past couple of weeks I've gone there. Mr. Carlson said I've never seen you. Mr. Ratajczak said I've just gone and he's not there, and also we had a problem with the Zoning Secretary. She doesn't want to be in the building alone, so if Mr. Carlson was there, she wouldn't be in the building alone, and we wouldn't have a problem with Jayne staying late, but she does not want to stay in the building alone. So that tells me that there's nobody in the building.

Mr. Carlson said so what I'll do is I'll call you and check with you to make sure – Mr. Ratajczak said you might. I'm just telling you. I'm just saying that was the message that was sent to me, and it was sent to the Mayor. That there's nobody in the building, and she feels unsafe being in the building. So obviously there's nobody in the building.

Council President Camilleri said it's like he said, she said. Mr. Ratajczak said obviously it doesn't work. If someone wants to see the Tax Assessor. Council President Camilleri said we can answer the questions directly that we could answer. You wanted to know his hours. His hours were just explained. Mr. Ratajczak said I'm saying it would be better for the residents to have someone here during the day time instead of –

Mr. Carlson said there is somebody there currently in the office. Mr. Ratajczak said that's Pat Brantner. Mr. Carlson said she's the contact. Mr. Ratajczak said a lot of our problems are with the taxes. If we had a Tax Assessor in house and we knew – and could be easily approached, not by appointment only or not by phone call where he's got to run and meet you during his lunch time. It's not working. Obviously it's not working.

Mr. Carlson said that would cost a lot of money. You were just saying you want to save taxes. That would cost a lot of money.

Mr. Ratajczak said I'm just saying things like that don't work. Last month I didn't make the meeting. I came to the work session, and I asked Mr. Lo Dico for some ordinances and I'd pick them up the next day. It's like pulling teeth trying to get something out of here. I called you the next day, Joe, and I discussed it with you. What he gave me, which was absolutely nothing. Okay? He knew what I was looking for and everybody up there knew what I was looking for. He gave me the ordinance that says absolutely nothing. It says absolutely nothing. The three things, A, B and C say absolutely nothing. To me they mean absolutely nothing. There's no answers to the questions there. Then when I asked him for more, he photocopied like two pages out of the ordinance that also says absolutely nothing. So I don't know where you guys are getting these ordinances or these laws from that entitle people to certain things because it doesn't say it in the ordinance.

Council President Camilleri asked what specifically? Mr. Ratajczak said what specifically? When I asked about the ex-Mayor's years of service and who is entitled to the health care benefits. Karen Chamberlain. It doesn't say anything there. I mean, we spent time rewriting these ordinances so they would solve a problem, but yet you have to be a Philadelphia lawyer to interpret them. They don't say anything. There's no person in there that's recommended to or saying – the only thing it says is all full time employees are entitled to X, Y, Z. Like I say, the mayor is part time. The council is part time. It doesn't – where does it say that? We went all through this five years ago and rewrote the ordinance. You want me to pull it out? I know Pete last month I told him to call time out and go get it in his office, but he waited to give it to me. It doesn't say anything. It doesn't have any meaning to it. Do you want me to read it? What it says? Council President Camilleri said if you want to read it. Mr. Ratajczak asked did you ever read it? Council President Camilleri said yeah, I did. Mr. Ratajczak asked, how do you interpret it? Council President Camilleri said I don't know what you're looking for. Are you looking for years? Mr. Ratajczak said no, no, no. It specifically says the years, twenty-five. But it says who's entitled to it. All full time employees. That's what it says, full time employees. And it specifically says that. So you people are saying that you fall under the white collar. It doesn't mention anything in there.

Council President Camilleri asked can you be more specific, Larry. You people? Mr. Ratajczak said the Council said they fall under that thing, that they want to be covered under that thing. Council President Camilleri said I'm not covered. Mr. Ratajczak said I know that, I know that, I know that. Council President Camilleri said I'm speaking for myself. Mr. Ratajczak said, but I'm saying, how do we interpret that? Or who interprets that? Put it that way. Mr. Suarez?

Mr. Suarez said we discussed this in executive session, an open litigation with the former mayor, so I don't want anyone here saying too much with regard to interpretation, and if they're going to be – we've gotten notice, possibly go into depositions and there's discovery going on. Mr. Ratajczak said but the only thing I've got today is why did we spend so much time and energy the last time when we argued over it for years that Pete couldn't find it, couldn't find it, couldn't find it. Now we have one, and it says absolutely nothing. It still leaves the ends both open over who's covered and who's not covered. It doesn't specifically say in that ordinance which I'm going to read to you now because like I say, you're looking at me like I have two heads, but I'm going to read it.

Mr. Ratajczak said this was the real estate one. I'm looking for the one that says re-evaluation. All it says is re-assessment, re-assessment, re-assessment. I'm not going to read the whole thing. This is how Pete sent it to me. He gave me half a

sheet on this paper here. I don't know whether he didn't want me to read the rest of it or there was more to it.

Mr. Lo Dico said you didn't ask for it. You want the whole white collar contract? You had it already. You've asked for it.

Mr. Ratajczak said okay. It says all full time employees hired prior to January 1st 2012 with 20 years of service to the Township who retire at age 55 shall retain their health benefits coverage. Employees hired after January 1st 2012 with 25 years service with the Township who retire at age 55 shall retain their health benefits. What does that mean? Explain it to me.

Council President Camilleri said you just read it. Mr. Ratajczak said I know, I read it. It says full time employees hired after a certain date need 20 years of service. After a certain date they need 25 years of service. Why couldn't you write the ordinance or specifically say 'Council people will be covered?' It says full time employees. It specifically says it right there. Full time. What does full time mean? Full time? Howie is a bus driver, he works 30 hours. He don't get benefits. He's not full time. And he's a Township employee. Yes or no?

Council President Camilleri said I guess you're right, yes. Mr. Ratajczak said so how do we... Council President Camilleri said where are you going with this? Mr. Ratajczak said where am I going with this? I'm just saying, who is entitled to benefits and who is not? Council President Camilleri said I speak for myself, I am not.

Mr. Suarez said I really don't want to have the Council President or members of the Council start talking about interpretation with regard to this. I'm looking now at the Township code with regard to what presently the code says. Some of you may not have been on the council at the time some of these laws were passed, and the other thing is there have been so many changes that have occurred on the state level with regard to what is deemed and is not deemed to be a full time official – after a certain point – I don't remember the specific year. I know former Governor Corzine and then Governor Christie changed things so that elected officials wouldn't be covered, so I think in terms of interpretation, I don't know if that's a good idea being that there is a litigation hanging over us at this point in time. I understand he wants answers to the questions. There is right now, under section 41-1 and 41-2 of the Township code it does say exactly what the law is right now.

Mr. Ratajczak said, but I mean we just redid this. Why couldn't we make it clear? We argued over it for years. We argued and argued and argued. Why couldn't we just put it in black and white here? Instead of leaving it gray. We left it for more arguing now, that's what we did. We left it for arguing. The other thing, we'll get off of that. If you want to answer me later, you can answer me. Mr. Cimiluca, I think you're eight years too late asking the engineer for bi-weekly reports. We should have been on top of the other engineer. I think this guy is doing a great job getting our projects done, and it was the other thing that we had a problem with, you know what I mean? I think you're eight years too late. This guy we don't have to watch like we had to watch the other one. This guy and his company is doing a good job. Other than that, like I said, I would just like an answer on that ordinance and how you guys interpret it or who is entitled to what. Thank you.

Mr. Lou D'Arminio introduced himself as a former mayor of Saddle Brook. He said contrary to what some political gadflies say at this podium, I'm very proud to be part of the 300th Anniversary of this community. Being mayor is a coveted elected position, and I want to take the opportunity to say Mayor and Council, you have done a great job over the last two years you have been in office. Mayor, congratulations and Council, congratulations on a job well done for the National Night Out. It was so wonderful to be part of that and to see that back here in our community. Now, the easiest thing for me to do is to get up here and criticize. The hardest thing to do is for you guys to lead. Having sat in every one of those seats, I know how difficult it is to lead this Township, and you guys have done a great job, each and every one of you. You've got people that will come up here and try and embarrass you about health care benefits and take this away and take that away, but it's very difficult to lead a community. It's what we are all about. You guys are

all part of this, you guys are part of this community. You guys lead this community and you do a good job. Back in '96 when Flo Mazzer and myself ran for political office, we didn't look at what we can take from the town or get from the town, whether or not we'll get healthcare benefits or a paycheck. All we cared about is what we wanted to put in to the Township and give to the Township. I know Ms. Mazzer at some point in time over the last 20 years has probably gave about 48 scholarships, I think over her period of time. Forty-eight scholarships to residents, for kids in this community. That is amazing to me. We've had our political differences, and we can agree to disagree. But we don't have to get up to this podium every month, doom and gloom and get the gotcha questions or get the animosity that certain people have and personal animosities they have against individuals. Mr. Cimiluca back in '96 – he too, he didn't ask what he can take from this Township. He gave to this Township of his legal ability to this community. Mr. Camilleri ran for political office, as did Ms. D'Arminio and Mr. Accomando, not for any benefits. They knew they weren't going to get benefits. It wasn't about benefits. It was about doing what we can do for our community and maybe if the residents who get up at this podium month after month looked at what a positive is in this Township, we'll become a better Township. It's so easy to criticize. We have one individual who comes up here, Mr. Ratajczak, as he said, he don't like the taxes. He complained when it was zero taxes. You got zero taxes, you got to raise taxes, he's on record saying. Now when the taxes get raised he's complaining. We're all going to complain about taxes, we're all going to complain. It's a matter of getting together and making this township good. This is what we need to do in this township, and it starts here at the podium. It's starts here with the residents that come here each and every day. I want to take this opportunity again to thank each and every one of yous for your time and the efforts that you put in to this community. Chief Kugler is here. I want to take the opportunity to thank him and all the first responders who did the National Night Out. Let's come together as a community again, it's easy to criticize but it's very, very difficult to lead. Thank you very much for the time.

Mr. Omar Rodriguez of 275 Madison Avenue, introduced himself as eight years as Councilman, four times Council President. He said my predecessor right here just did a verbal political brochure. Since I'm one of the candidates running in November I'm forced to – Council President Camilleri spoke and Mr. Rodriguez interrupted and said Council President, I think I have the floor. There should be some kind of respect. Council President Camilleri asked do you have questions, Omar? Mr. Rodriguez said if I have the floor, if I'm trying to engage the public, I will do that and you might not like it. I'm talking to the residents right now, I'm talking to the council. With all respect, I'm not going to engage the public in the auditorium.

Mr. Rodriguez said therefore since I'm a candidate running in November, I just want to assure the residents of Saddle Brook that by coming to this podium it's not being negative, it's just exercising our freedom of speech, our rights and to ask the questions that you as leaders should have before you vote in every single one of your decisions. It's not to find out later on after the decisions have been made, and I believe, and I'm proud of the town where I live, that I've been serving for so many years in every single capacity, however, I'm not going to stay down or stay away just because by speaking here I'm going to be called negative, no. It's actually a way to educate the public and the public at home got the right to know where the taxes are going. I wasn't prepared today to ask any specific questions, but by what I just heard tonight, I'm just going to piggy back on some of those issues.

Mr. Rodriguez said depending on the block in Saddle Brook some residents would be receiving in the mail some tax increases depending on the block from \$1200 to \$1500, some others from \$650 to \$850. The question is, if that is the pattern, and I heard tonight –

Council President Camilleri asked if he could ask Mr. Rodriguez a question. Mr. Rodriguez said yes. Council President Camilleri said you already threw out all these figures. Where did you get them from? You threw out figures that people's taxes are going to increase.

Mr. Rodriguez said it depends on the assessment value of the home. Council President Camilleri said absolutely. Mr. Rodriguez said let me go back to this. As

Council President can you tell me what is the tax levy? Council President Camilleri said he was asking. Mr. Rodriguez said you are asking another – that should not be the point. I'm just trying to close with this, just in this particular case about taxes. I want the public at home to make sure just because we are going to hire a re-assessment company, which I've got nothing against them. I just want them to understand, and I've just been hearing the taxes are going up because of the commercial tax appeals, that is not the case. That is not the case, and that's another misnomer. Back when I was here the last meeting, I heard one of the Council members saying that this company will go into the businesses and I keep arguing that that is not the case and the people are here and they can correct me if I'm wrong, business and industrial areas will be done with a Chapter 91, which is an income and estimates ... which is totally different than the homes. Now for those homes, you're going to do a kitchen or a living room, what's going to happen is that the town will not wait for next year to kick in to increase your taxes. As soon as they get the permits and they get the CO, the new tax value will go into the system, and you're going to start paying right away. That is the difference. But the residents are not – I want to close, and I want to emphasize this. The taxpayers, the residential taxpayers, are not the problem. We've been losing our shirts with commercial and industrial. What are we going to do? What is the plan, what is the business plan for the future? That is what the question should be about. This system is not going to lower our taxes.

Council President Camilleri said it will keep them in check. Mr. Rodriguez said, but it doesn't mean they are going to come down. That commercial might, might – it's a big question mark, might – just have fewer appeals, but it just takes one large appeal from one of the largest land developers in town and again, we the homeowners will have to end up paying the bills. So please, let's try to tell the public, and this is not about being negative. We're working together. We're going to do better, but then in the meantime what are the measures that we are taking in order to stop the bleeding? That is the question that the Council has to do, the main function are the taxes.

Council President Camilleri said can we answer that? What we're doing is being proactive instead of reactive, and we all voted unanimously. We all voted together on this plan to keep the commercial accounts in check, put the football in our hands, and it will help the residents because the residents aren't going to get the burden. If we could just not settle one commercial account, Omar, we're going to save millions. And that won't be passed on to the homeowners with this process that we're putting into place.

Mr. Rodriguez said Council President, once again, it's just wishful thinking. We're going to be here five years later, and I can assure you I will be here, and I will be coming back after that contract expires, and I can tell you that commercial appeals are not going to stop. Council President Camilleri said they're not going to stop. Mr. Rodriguez said they're not going to stop. Council President Camilleri said I'm going to come and – Mr. Rodriguez interrupted and said, if you'll let me finish, one thing you just keep on saying that's proactive. That is not a resolution for taxes. That is just a way of how to have a system actually being checked every single year, 25% of the homes. Then again like I explained the last time, now you're going to see inspectors most likely going to your house more often than ever, but that's a different situation. Now the solution for this should be – are we okay in giving pay raises of \$10,000 or \$15,000? Are we okay to keep on increasing the pay...

Councilwoman D'Arminio asked what is the question? She said I'm sorry, through the chair, I'm sorry. You're just pontificating. I don't know what you're trying to say. I really don't.

Mr. Rodriguez said through the chair, can you tell me what is the tax rate for this year please? Councilwoman D'Arminio said the tax rate for this year is – my blood pressure is up or else I would know it right off the top of my head. Mr. Rodriguez said that should be an 'ABC' for every single council member. I'm going to tell you why, because every single taxpayer tonight, they are going to learn how to pay the taxes and how much, how much it went up or is going to go up. I'm going to skip that because I don't want to hold up. I just want to close with this, to the taxpayers – you're just going to have to multiply -

Council President Camilleri said Omar, we have an answer for you, the tax rate. Do you want the answer to that? Okay, 2.865.

Mr. Rodriguez said all right. We were just told the new tax rate, with these new increases, for you to compare the taxes from one year to the other how much it went up. You would just have to multiply the assessment of your property value that is going to be inside this here and multiply that by 0.02865. That number will be the yearly total taxes for the year, and we will just compare them with last year's taxes which comes in a post card, and you will see whether your taxes went up \$800, \$1200 or \$2000. And I want to just close with this because it's not about being negative or not. You as leaders, all of you, including me, I guess, when you determine that this is the best way, the best course for Saddle Brook residents that you have done your best, I want to propose you something, that if any of the elected officials appeal their taxes, they should, in a public meeting raise their hand and say they are appealing their taxes and the reason why. Even though it is not illegal, I believe that it's hypocrite because if you are telling all the residents in Saddle Brook this is the best I did, this is what we have to pay, we tighten our belts, we told the police to tighten their belts, now it's time to tighten yours, and everybody says well, that person is saying that, then I'll pay that. Guess what, they appeal this tax rate, and elected officials are appealing the taxes in the county. That's not fair. You should live with it. If that's the best that is for Saddle Brook, they should lead by example, and if they're going to appeal the taxes they should have to have the courage to come to the council meeting and say they are appealing the taxes because that will tell us that that was not the right decision. Thank you all for listening. Have a good night.

Council President Camilleri thanked Mr. Rodriguez and then said I still have some questions for you. You're making some pretty big accusations on Council members up here. You're throwing things out there to the general public that we're appealing our taxes, and to protect myself, because that's what you do, you come up here and you throw things at me, and I will protect myself. I'm not appealing my taxes, Omar, okay? So you're painting with a very wide brush when you speak.

Mr. Rodriguez said just to let you know, the reason why I'm not mentioning names is because of respect. But it's public information, and again I'm not going to do that, but then it's up to every single council member to say it.

Mr. Anthony Halko of 297 East Lanza Court asked if the Caldwell Avenue property was purchased with COAH money. Council President Camilleri said yes. Mr. Halko said that did not come out of the taxpayers' pocket. It came out of the COAH fund that builders paid when they decided to build and the builder's remedy. Mr. Lo Dico said that is correct, yes. Mr. Halko said, so the taxpayers are not on the hook for that. The property on Legregni Street, the other old nursing home, that was purchased by a non-profit I believe. Is that correct?

Mayor White said I believe so.

Mr. Halko said, so a non-profit, they don't pay taxes either. Is that correct? Mr. Lo Dico said in this case, they're still paying taxes. Mr. Halko asked, do you know the rate that they're paying? Because it was said that we're losing \$80,000 a year in taxes. Mr. Lo Dico said I don't know what they're paying. Mr. Halko asked do you know the rate that Caldwell Ave was paying before the Township purchased the property? Mr. Lo Dico said there was a tax appeal, but I don't remember what. Mr. Halko said, so they also appealed their taxes? Mr. Lo Dico said they had appealed. Mr. Halko said a lot of businesses appeal taxes, is that correct? It's in your best interests if you're paying millions of dollars and the value of your property has decreased drastically the way the economy is, the way the country is, that you are going to appeal your taxes. If you're paying \$20 million in taxes, and your building is now worth \$10 million, there's a \$10 million difference. You're going to appeal your taxes. You have to. You'd be foolish if you didn't. And just because you're an elected official, if you're paying more than your fair share of taxes for your home, you have every right to appeal your taxes. How could you not appeal your taxes? It makes sense. Every resident and homeowner, business owner, has a right to appeal their taxes. If you feel you're paying more than your fair share, you have a

right to appeal your taxes. Nobody should belittle you for that. It's your right, it's your right as a United States citizen, as a resident of Saddle Brook, you have that right. Just because you're an elected official you're held to a higher standard for taxes? Everybody pays their fair share, you're required to. I just wish you guys the best of luck. You're doing a good job, and with the re-assessment, you have to do that. You have to and you have to maintain it year after year after year because to eliminate these high tax appeals, you just can't afford it. Thank you.

Hearing no one else, Council President Camilleri asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

Mayor and Council Comments

Mayor White said, regarding the flooding on Fifth Street, that is being worked on as the engineer said. We just signed the contract so that probably should be cleaned out, hopefully that will alleviate a lot of problems. The senior center, we've been on top of them, the county. You can differ on whether or not we made the right move. That wasn't my administration. I said it many times, I agree with it. I think this town needs senior housing and I do believe now that they're not going for funding at the federal level, any grants to pay for it with the exception of the COAH money, the COAH units, Saddle Brook residents will get preference on those other units, the non-COAH units. So we believe that it will be mostly Saddle Brook people that are going to be occupying that senior housing.

Regarding the tax increase, Omar mentioned about making cuts. We talked about the tax appeals, commercial tax appeals. If those commercial tax appeals were not there and we've taken care of and resolved quite a few of them. It's a bad year. None of us up here want to burden tax payers, but it had to be done. Some of them date back to 2011, so they weren't taken care of. I'm not looking to blame any previous administration, but there was a zero percent increase that one year. It was two years ago, and maybe that should have been looked at when it came to those commercial tax appeals then. Maybe it should have been addressed, but I can tell you this, I don't put the blame on these council members either. Because they don't always know everything either that's going on. So – that's the truth because your professionals, you deal with them every day, there's decisions that are made. Some of the decisions really do fall squarely on the mayor, so with that being said you could take that whatever way you want it. If we didn't have these tax appeals, we would have a zero percent tax increase on the municipal side without the tax appeals. It's easy to go around and say oh, let's make cuts. You know what, former Mayor D'Arminio said it, we're here to lead. It's easy for people to say let's make cuts. Who are you going to cut? Who are you going to cut? And what is it going to affect when you make that cut? Really. The police – we're going to cut police? They're our first line of protection. They're out there every day. They keep us safe. That's important, right? So we don't want to cut police. Let's look at the building department. We've gotten so many complaints lately – oh, property maintenance, nobody is looking at that. Well, if you were to cut that person you would have no one doing property maintenance. So it's easy to say, it's easy to say we're going to make cuts but it's very difficult to make that decision.

Mayor White said the tax bills will be mailed out next week, and there will be some people that are unhappy. The total increase on the municipal side is \$169.74 on a house appraised at \$295,000. On the school side, the tax impact for that same \$295,000 is \$188.00. The majority of the increase, I said it before, and I'll say it again, is because of the commercial tax appeals which require immediate action to address and resolve and that's one of the other things I wanted to say. We are

trying to do our best. We're being proactive with these commercial tax appeals. It will, I believe, and the Council believes that this will alleviate a lot of the commercial tax appeals. And if we continue to manage the budget properly I think we're not going to have big increases. This year we had a zero percent increase. Nothing else went up. If we managed to do it, we could do it next year. I'm not saying it's going to be zero because I think we should raise it a little bit incrementally. I think that's as our auditor had said, that's the proper way to do it. Property owners will all receive a letter from me with their taxes explaining the current state of the budget and the reason for the increase.

Mayor White said there was a Mayor's youth Group meeting on Saturday, July 12th – and we had a bowling/pizza party for them at Parkway Lanes on July 26th. We did it to show appreciation. This group is wonderful. They get involved and volunteer for all the projects and activities that we have in the community. They participated in National Night Out, which we brought back and really was a fantastic event. It was a beautiful night weather wise, we had a great turnout, and it did my heart a lot of good to see how people responded. The biggest reason we have this event is to show appreciation for our first responders, for our police, our fire, our ambulance and the volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Corps, they're volunteers, they do this day and day out for no pay, and I said at the National Night Out, I really do believe that we're second to none. I think of all the towns around us, we have the best volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Corps, hands down.

Mayor White said the Youth Group created posters for National Night Out that said thank you to the Police, Fire and Ambulance Corps. They did it to thank all of those volunteer groups because they protect the citizens of Saddle Brook every day. That idea didn't come from me. It came from one of the youngest members of the group. She's in the sixth grade, and she sees what's going on all over the country, especially with the police, how there is turmoil, and she said to me at one of our meetings, I think we should do something to recognize the Police and Fire and Ambulance Corps because they really do a great job for us. So here's a sixth grader that said that, and I'm very proud of that group. We also signed up a couple of new members at National Night Out.

Mayor White said I had a meeting with all the other mayors and Congressmen Bill Pascrell on Wednesday, July 20th. The Congressman was a former mayor of Paterson, so he likes to get together with the mayors and business administrators in his congressional district. We discussed a variety of topics including the police and fire grants that are available, roads and bridges, New Jersey transportation trust fund, flooding issues. It was good because he does listen. He goes down to Washington DC, and tries his best to do what he can for us at the local level. We spoke about National Night Out; it's meant to increase awareness about police public safety programs. It was a great opportunity for the community to get together, to show support. I want to thank all the sponsors, especially the local Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Mayor's Youth Group and CASA – Citizens Against Substance Abuse.

Mayor White mentioned Sarah Malonek who started a blue ribbon campaign with the assistance of his office and the council. Using her own money, she got ribbon and made up these blue ribbons and asked the public to take them and display them on their doors in support of law enforcement. The Community School was there and many law enforcement and emergency services agencies were there. We have the Township 300th Anniversary Picnic – it's going to be a fun-filled day. In the morning we have the Mayor's Walk at 9:00 AM sponsored by Ferrara's Spine and Rehab. It's four times around the lake, so it's not too difficult for most people. The first 100 participants get a t-shirt, and it promotes exercise and wellness, so it's going to be a good thing. The picnic is going to be great food, entertainment, DJ, bands, lots of games and activities for the children. Open to Saddle Brook residents only, admission is free. You can register at the Town Hall, Library, Senior Center, so please come and join us, it's going to be a lot of fun.

Mayor White thanked Councilwoman D'Arminio and Councilwoman Mazzer for their help along with Christine Genuario and Pete Lo Dico.

Mayor White said he met the Chief at St. Philips' Church. They're going to have a community 9/11 ceremony on Sunday, September 11th from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. It's going to be a memorial processional and observance to mark the 15th anniversary of 9/11. He explained we're going to process from Saddle Brook High School parking lot and walk to St. Philips', and once at St. Philips' there's going to be a blessing, a special keynote speaker, flag retirement ceremony. The Saddle Brook band is going to be there, the church choir, live music and food vendors there. This idea came from Father Theesmus, and he wants it to be more of a community event than a church event, and we're excited to enter into that with him.

Mayor White mentioned the Community Rating System. We have contacted the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), advising them of our interest to participate in this Community Rating System. Pete Lo Dico is our Community Rating System coordinator. Basically, we're getting assistance from the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management and their shared services. By participating in this program, it's taking part in flood plain management activities that exceed the normal standards, and it's a way of trying to reduce and mitigate flooding, but if we get involved in this and we do certain things, some of them, the most basic thing is just community awareness. Insurance premium rates for residents that are in the flood area will be lowered 10% just for the community awareness aspect of it, but it can go all the way up to 40%, which is difficult to achieve, but this is a start. We want to try to help our residents to alleviate some of the burden, but it's going sky high. Flood insurance is very, very high for those residents that are in that area.

Mayor White mentioned the sign board. Many of you might have seen the frame that is up on the front lawn of Town Hall. Tomorrow they are going to deliver the actual sign boards and attach it to the frame. It's a beautiful sign, full color, two sided. You can put two different things on each side or the same thing on each side. It's a way to communicate more with the public. You're not going to be able to miss it and we want to make sure – that's one of the things with this administration and this Council – we're really trying to do our best to communicate and be open and transparent to the public and we do everything we can through social media, website, Facebook, Community News; we have Matt Milsop here. We keep in contact with him – every kind of media outlet that's there we try to give them the information, put it out there, our town TV, we put everything there too as well. I think it's a good thing to keep everybody informed. Thank you.

Council President Camilleri said I want to talk about a few positive things. He mentioned the Saddle Brook Little League 13- and 14-year-olds won their district and sectional play and took fourth in the state of New Jersey, an amazing achievement. He congratulated all the participants and mentioned the Girls' Softball team. He congratulated them and thanked all the coaches.

Council President Camilleri then mentioned completely keeping trucks off of Erie Street and not letting them turn right on Market or left, and if we don't let them make a left on Erie from Mayhill that will make those trucks in that route. He said I actually spoke to someone in town who came up with the idea, and I think it will work because if you can keep trucks off of Erie period they're not going to turn down that one street. That make help there. I hope we can do something positive again and work on that.

Council President Camilleri said he was still the head coach of the senior team of recreation football. He mentioned taxes and Veterans' field. He said he talks to a lot of parents, and a resident who lives near Veterans' field had nothing but positive things to say. He said the man said Veteran's field is gorgeous and he's proud to live there, he's proud to have the lights on and see kids playing and doing positive things instead of hanging out doing destructive things. The resident said he came from another town, and he was very happy to come to Saddle Brook because it is affordable, the housing is affordable, and the taxes are reasonable. Nobody wants to pay excessive taxes. I don't, and I don't want to see any resident paying them as well, but they're a necessary evil and things happen that are out of our control and that's why rates go up. Council President Camilleri said the resident was a total gentleman and had nothing but praise for everyone up here on the Council that we're all doing a good job, and we do work very well together.

Councilwoman Mazzer thanked former Mayor D'Arminio for his kind words. She mentioned there were another crew of 4th and 5th grade Girls Softball that actually made the playoffs. They had to play at Washington School. She thanked the DPW for coming to their aid because they had that field which was not scheduled to be played on. They did a great job.

Councilwoman Mazzer went on to say they say it's the silly season. I could use other words for it. It's amazing when your opponents come up and they complement the job you're doing, but yet the people that you think are going to be in your corner, they're out there bashing you. All I can say and speak for all of us is, you know what, we try to do our best. If you think you can do a better job, come up and put your name on, get on the ballot. Try it. I've been sitting up here for 16 years. I'm proud, having made mistakes. We didn't do it purposely, that's for sure. It's a learning process. We have all our professionals that guide us and we just try our best. If you read the *Wall Street Journal* there's a beautiful article about Saddle Brook in there. Take the time to do that because there are a lot of positive things going on in this town and win or lose in November I'll be here anyway to help you guys any way I can. Again, I'm proud to be a resident of our town, and I'm also proud to be part of the 300 Year Anniversary, and everybody that is part of it has come out, all different ages, all different organizations have made it what it is and again, thank you everyone.

Councilman Cimiluca said in regard to the three ordinances that we're going to vote on tonight, the first one is banning the sale of dogs and cats, basically from puppy mills. We are following the lead of several other communities, you see in the paper – it seems like there's this domino effect of towns following this banning of the puppy mills. The preference is that dogs and cats be obtained through certified breeders because the conditions as you see in the puppy factory in Paramus and also in Emerson – they're in the process of being shut down, the horrific conditions. I know in my job, we prosecute a lot of SPCA violations and sometimes it's really disheartening. You also see kids being injured – I'm sure the Mayor in his position as a policeman saw that. Councilman Cimiluca described abuses of animals.

Councilman Cimiluca then discussed the no knock policy where you can sign up and get on a registry not to have people come and knock on your door and solicit without your express invitation to do that. I think that's a good idea. I support that.

Councilman Cimiluca said the third one is something I brought up with Councilwoman D'Arminio with the full support of the Council, and that is to enact the social media policy. More and more we have – everything is being affected by social media, even the presidential election seems like it's a Twitter war. Every time somebody says something someone blurts out this 180 characters, and it's kind of silly. We may have had a policy in effect in the handbook, it was not codified, so it wasn't the law of Saddle Brook. Now we're going to enact. I would assume it's going to pass. I think we have full support of that and now it's going to be codified.

Councilman Cimiluca said we believe demolition at Veterans' field is going to start possibly on Monday. I think the pre-construction meeting – there's a 7-month, 210-day deadline for the completion of the project. Mr. Lemanowicz said I believe it was 210. Councilman Cimiluca said about seven months which brings us into the beginning or prior to the next sports cycle. Hopefully the construction is not going to interfere too much with the fall sports. We're going to get it done, and we have to get it done, if we wait until next year, we'll ruin all the spring sports.

Councilman Cimiluca said National Night Out was awesome. He commended the Chief and the Mayor for bringing it back and said hopefully this will be a yearly event. He said there were many people there, and he hoped it would be the same for the picnic. The people on the committee are doing a great job. This will bring back what it used to be years and years and years ago.

Councilman Cimiluca said we are voting tonight to extend the contract of our grant writer. I initially was a little bit wary about signing off on that because the money brought in versus the money that we're spending wasn't overwhelming to me, however I was advised tonight and that's why we have these meetings ahead of

time and have work sessions, that there is a lot of money in the hopper we haven't received yet, but it's on the way. I think next year, if we give it a shot again, I will fully support doing it again, and we'll see what the numbers are next year, but I would think that the numbers are going to be great. We have a couple hundred thousand dollars that we believe we're going to get based on this grant writer who is there.

Councilman Cimiluca said the Mayor addressed some of the things that were said. We are limited to 2%. We have a 2% cap. We talked about the money, and I know Omar, years ago, when he was Council President one of those four times, had the pie chart, and he used to say, it's not us, it's them. Well, I'm not going to say it's not us, it's them because we're all in this together, Board of Ed, Saddle Brook Council, we're all doing what's in the best interest of Saddle Brook. If you threw out a number of \$1200 and my calculations is – yes, your taxes will go up \$1200 if you have a house that's assessed at a million dollars plus. So for those that have a house that is assessed at a million dollars, God bless you for having such a nice house, and I apologize for you having to spend another \$1200. You have a hell of a nice house. The Board and the Municipal and the County – all of it adds up. But there was criticism when we had a zero percent tax increase, and it was said that it was a political ploy. Well, it's the worst political ploy in history because all three people who were proposing that were not voted in. So I don't think it was a political ploy. I think it was nice to have one year where you had a respite from tax increase after tax increase after tax increase. Let's do the math. If there was a 1% tax increase, and now we're saying its' going to be higher. Well you should have put the money in surplus. Well, it evens out, the money has to come out. Poor planning is a load of garbage. It's not poor planning. Some people think it's poor planning; you don't know what you're going to get. Putting the money aside by raising taxes, eventually we're paying the same amount when you average it out over the years. But you're never going to convince some people. Again, zero percent was bad, but the tax increase this year is bad, so which way are you going to have it. Do you want to cut things or do you want to add another position which is a full time assessor? You can't have it both ways. These zero percent tax increases and the tax increases that we've had have been done without the need of furloughs. Years ago it was just a necessity. You had furloughs. No one wanted that, and especially the township residents that worked here. There were furloughs and their families were hurt. I asked everyone there who is running a household when you talk about keeping taxes stable, keeping taxes low. I never promise that. I would never ever be silly enough to say as I'm campaigning and knocking on doors, your taxes are going to be lowered. Look at your house now from 10 years ago. Are you paying more for your car insurance now? I'm sure you are. Are you paying more for your lease on your car? I'm sure you are. Is your cable bill higher than it is now? Is your car insurance higher? Yes, all of these things in your personal life are going up. We have the same issues here. Most of what we do, almost all of what we do in terms of budget is contractual. Now – and for those people out there that have a job, people say you should cut and freeze and do this. How many people out there would like to work for somebody and not get a pay raise at all for five or six years? You wouldn't work there anymore. We have good workers here. We have great workers here. We want to keep them. It's a negotiating issue. The Mayor is in charge of negotiation and somebody said – and I don't disagree with that point, some of the payouts are very very high, and in the future you just can't keep that up, and that's part of the negotiation process. I'm sure the Mayor will do a good job and bring us back some good contracts for us to review and approve.

It was said about taxes going down – maybe there is a town in Bergen County that the taxes have gone down in the last five years. Somebody show it to me. I don't think we're any different than any other town. I only care about Saddle Brook. We try to keep taxes as stable as possible. Again, the rolling re-assessment that we are implementing has been implemented in other towns, and it's been proven to work. We hope that we are not going to get hit by these commercial tax appeals by doing this again. As Joe said, it is proactive. We're not reacting to this. It's proactive. It's a good contract, we all agreed. When five people agree, the Mayor, our auditor agrees, our tax assessor agrees. Everybody agrees. Our legal counsel gave an opinion as to it; everybody agrees that it's a good idea, so maybe we're all – I think it's a good idea, and I think you're going to see over the next few years the number of tax appeals is going to go down.

In terms of the Little League, they're only two wins away from going to Williamsport. We're going to bring them in and recognize them and they get a day in the sun. I wish everyone a happy rest of the summer. It's almost over, and we'll be back in September. I'll see you at the picnic. Thanks.

ORDINANCES

1. ORDINANCE #1610-16 – FINAL READING AN ORDINANCE OF SADDLE BROOK BANNING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS FROM PET SHOPS

The Council President announced that a motion is in order that the Township Clerk proceed to give same ordinance a second reading.

Motion: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

The Township Clerk then reads the Ordinance by title on second reading:

AN ORDINANCE OF SADDLE BROOK BANNING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS FROM PET SHOPS

The Council President announced that the motion was in order and that the Public Hearing on this ordinance be opened.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Cimiluca

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

Ms. Robike Noll introduced herself as a resident of Westwood. She said I'd like to thank Jen Colgan in your borough offices. You were talking about appreciating Borough employees. I don't usually mention this. I'm a part-time land-use administrator in Old Tappan. One of the things that's really really important to us is employees in Town Halls to be appreciated by the Mayor and Council. It's good to hear you guys speak so highly of your staff because I frequently have to call as another borough employee, but I don't often get to call as a citizen from another town, and your town is wonderful to communicate with. Dealing with this ordinance, my full time thing is I'm a travel agent, but my real passion in life is animal rescue. I'm a volunteer with Animal Aid USA, I foster, I place adoptions. In my spare time on top of all that, I visit towns like yours to see if anybody has questions or concerns about this ordinance. I was thrilled to find out that you guys were passing it. Some towns need a lot of information, they have a lot of questions. We were involved in what was going on in Emerson, and I'm proud to say he is closed in Emerson. Four locations out of five have been closed, and this gentleman – he purchased dogs from the horrible hundred list put out every year from the Humane Society. Ms. Noll spoke about conditions for breeder dogs and she thanked everyone for this legislation and said this movement is getting steam across the United States and especially in New Jersey where towns like Saddle Brook are now saying enough is enough and demanding humane treatment of animals. You're saying by putting this ordinance in place number one you're going to support Senator Lesniak's S-63, which is going to be statewide. It just went through legislation. It's got to go to the house and then Governor Christie has to sign it. Until then each and every town putting this ordinance in place solidifies the fact that

we are becoming a very humane nation. We won't stand for abuse and also protecting residents from the greed and deception of these pet store owners who source their animals from these unscrupulous commercial breeders. A lot of people came forward with very sick puppies that they bought from these stores and they're out the money, that's it. They've had dogs die in their children's arms, they've had horrible things happen, and this is putting a stop to things like that.

Ms. Noll listed the towns and counties in New Jersey that have passed similar legislation and said we're all doing the right thing town by town, and I'm glad that Saddle Brook joined us in this endeavor. On behalf of all the folks that I've been volunteering with, I just want to thank you again. She said Mayor White can be proud that his town did this and mention to other towns to get this underway.

Hearing no one else, the Council President announced that the motion was in order and that the Public Hearing on this ordinance be closed.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

CR# 816-161

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that the ordinance entitled: **AN ORDINANCE OF SADDLE BROOK BANNING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS FROM PET SHOPS**

does now pass on second and final reading and that the Township Clerk be directed to advertise said ordinance or Title thereof, in the press, together with a notice of the date of passage of said ordinance according to law.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

2. ORDINANCE #1611-16 – FINAL READING AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 149, “PEDDLING AND SOLICITING”, OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK

The Council President announced that a motion is in order that the Township Clerk proceed to give same ordinance a second reading.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

The Township Clerk then reads the Ordinance by title on second reading:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 149, “PEDDLING AND SOLICITING”, OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK

The Council President announced that the motion was in order and that the Public Hearing on this ordinance be opened.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

Hearing no one, the Council President announced that the motion was in order and that the Public Hearing on this ordinance be closed.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca Second: Councilman Accomando

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

CR# 816-162

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that the ordinance entitled: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 149, “PEDDLING AND SOLICITING”, OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK**

does now pass on second and final reading and that the Township Clerk be directed to advertise said ordinance or Title thereof, in the press, together with a notice of the date of passage of said ordinance according to law.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer Second: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

Councilwoman Mazzer thanked the council for passing this ordinance. She asked residents don't hesitate to register for this. It's really important. The canvassers in town and the people who are going door to door are supposed to be registered, and even though they may be, that doesn't mean they have to come to your house. If you register - on our website there will be a form so you can register that you do not want them actually to even come to your house. It's another level of privacy and also safety.

3. ORDINANCE #1612-16 – FINAL READING AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 29, “PERSONNEL POLICIES”, OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK (AS AMENDED)

The Council President announced that a motion is in order that the Township Clerk proceed to give same ordinance a second reading.

Mr. Suarez asked if he should read the proposed sentence to be added to the ordinance.

Mr. Lo Dico asked if he wanted to amend it now, and Mr. Suarez said there would be a new section S, which would state: Any violation of this ordinance shall result in the offenders being subject to the Township's policy on employee discipline.

Motion: Councilwoman D'Arminio Second: Councilman Accomando

Mr. Lo Dico said if the council had no objection we could make Resolution #9 {CR# 816-172} for Bruno Associates which was under new business and resolution #8 {CR# 816-171} would be voted on separately.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

*** MINUTES**

1. July 14, 2016 – Regular Public Meeting

*** RESOLUTIONS**

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK
RESOLUTION**

CR# 816-164

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that it hereby agrees to enter into an agreement between the Township of Saddle Brook and Swiftreach Networks for Swift 911 service for one year beginning August 1, 2016 and hereby authorizes the Mayor to sign said agreement. The renewal rate is \$1,600 for the year.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK
RESOLUTION**

CR# 816-165

WHEREAS, the Township Annual Picnic will be held on August 27, 2016; and

WHEREAS, each year purchase must be made to obtain various services needed for a successful event; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that the Business Administrator is hereby authorized to issue off-line checks if needed to vendors for the Township Picnic.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK
RESOLUTION**

CR# 816-166

WHEREAS, the Township of Saddle Brook fire vehicles required inspection, maintenance and repairs; and

WHEREAS, after an inspection of the fire vehicles from Fire and Safety Services, Ltd, it was determined that there was an emergency situation providing public health and safety to the citizens of the Township of Saddle Brook and the public at large, due to necessary maintenance and repairs of the Fire vehicles' ability to function and operate properly; and

WHEREAS, per 40A:4-54 of the Local Public Contract Laws, a municipality is given the authority to let contracts without advertisement in emergency situations when the public health, safety and welfare is involved in the delay of acquiring inspection and repairs for operation for its "citizens"; and

WHEREAS, based on pricing from existing contractors an emergency Purchase Order (PO # 80746) has been issued, not to exceed \$37,414.99, to Fire and Safety Service, Ltd., 200 Ryan Road, South Plainfield, New Jersey, 07080.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that:

- 1) The foregoing emergency purchase has been ratified and approved
- 2) The Township Council hereby ratifies emergency Purchase Order #80746 in the amount of \$37,414.99
- 3) That the Chief Financial Officer has certified that the funds are available in Account number 01-2010-25-2652-404 of the 2016 Budget
- 4) This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

(This resolution confirms the council action approving for over \$2,500.00 but needed due to the amount)

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK
RESOLUTION**

CR# 816-167

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that the following requisition(s) submitted to the Township Council for purchases over \$2,500.00 be approved providing funds are available:

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
POLICE	NEW SADDLE BROOK AUTO BODY (INSURANCE CHECK REC'D \$2,884.23)	REPAIRS TO CAR 8	\$3,051.67
SB 300	AAA LAWN SPRINKLERS, LLC	TRI-CENTENNIAL PARK	\$3,500.00
ORD.	RAPID PUMP & METER SERVICE	PUMP-REPAIR- MAYHILL	\$14,610.00

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Roll Call:

- Councilman Cimiluca - yes
- Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
- Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
- Councilman Accomando - yes
- Council President Camilleri – yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK
RESOLUTION**

CR# 816-168

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY THAT THE PROPER WARRANTS BE DRAWN AND THAT THE ATTACHED BILLS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE BILLS NOT APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL, BE PAID TOTALING \$125.00 PROVIDING FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE AND ALL BILLS SUBMITTED COMPLY WITH N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-1 ET. SEQ AND ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE STATUTES.

THESE ARE THE BILLS PAID THROUGH OFF LINE CHECKS

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Roll Call:

- Councilman Cimiluca - yes
- Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
- Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
- Councilman Accomando - yes
- Council President Camilleri – yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK
RESOLUTION**

CR# 816-169

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY THAT THE PROPER WARRANTS BE DRAWN AND THAT THE ATTACHED BILLS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE BILLS NOT APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL, BE PAID TOTALING \$5,772,555.52 PROVIDING FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE AND ALL BILLS SUBMITTED COMPLY WITH N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-1 ET. SEQ AND ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE STATUTES.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK
RESOLUTION**

CR# 816-170

WHEREAS, the Township of Saddle Brook entered into an interlocal agreement with the Borough of Fair Lawn since 2001 that extended to residents of Saddle Brook use of Fair Lawn's municipal swimming pool; and

WHEREAS, the fees charged residents of Saddle Brook will remain the same in 2016 as well as all terms and conditions; and

WHEREAS, a number of residents took advantage of this agreement and they and their families utilized Fair Lawn's municipal pool during 2015,

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to sign an interlocal agreement with the Borough of Fair Lawn for the year 2016.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION CR# 816-171 IS NOT PART OF THE
CONSENT AGENDA**

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK
RESOLUTION**

CR# 816-171

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY THAT THE PROPER WARRANTS BE DRAWN AND THAT THE ATTACHED BILLS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE BILLS NOT APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL, BE PAID PROVIDING FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE AND ALL BILLS SUBMITTED COMPLY WITH N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-1 ET. SEQ AND ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE STATUTES.

P.O. #	VENDOR	AMOUNT
80871	STONE BROOK GARDEN	\$70.00

Motion: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Second: Councilman Cimiluca

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - abstain
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK
RESOLUTION**

CR# 816-172

WHEREAS, Bruno Associates, Inc., 1373 Broad Street, Suite 304, Clifton NJ, has agreed to extend their contract with the Township of Saddle Brook for a period of one year, commencing August 1, 2016 and ending July 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Bruno Associates will continue to act as the grants writer on behalf of the Township of Saddle Brook during the term of the contract,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that it hereby approves extending the contract with Bruno Associates for one year at \$34,000 providing funds are available and authorizes the Mayor and Township Clerk to sign said contract.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

Through the approval of this agreement and all future agreements, the sponsor is required to provide phased submission updates that are to be tracked through the on-line SAGE System in accordance with the State Aid Checklist (see attached) for this project. Please note, that the Sponsor is responsible for continued updates with respect to the construction administration/management phase of the project in the SAGE System. The preparation of contract documents shall use the 2007 Standard Specifications as amended by the 2011 Special Provisions for Local Aid Projects. All requirements of this program can be found in the State Aid Handbook, available at the above website.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact me at 973-877-1500.

*** RAFFLES/APPLICATIONS**

Livery

1. MESH Transport, Inc. – 160 Market Street, Suite 5 - NEW

*** REPORTS**

1. Municipal Court Monthly report – June 2016
2. Hotel Room Tax – July 2016
3. County Animal Control report – May 2016
4. Engineer's Mid-month report – July 2016
5. Budget Status Monthly report – June 2016

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

Mayor White recognized the 13- and 14-year old Little League championship team and said he would invite them to come to the next meeting.

Councilwoman Mazzer mentioned the 4th and 5th grade Girl's Softball that almost got to the championships. Mayor White recognized and congratulated them as well.

Council President Camilleri asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public on agenda items only.

Motion: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Second: Councilman Accomando

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

Seeing none, Council President Camilleri asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

Council President Camilleri asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Councilwoman D'Arminio - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President Camilleri – yes

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Lo Dico, R.M.C. CMC
Township Clerk

Approved:

Joseph Camilleri
Council President