

**TOWNSHIP OF PEMBERTON**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**December 2, 2015**  
**6:30 P.M.**

**FLAG SALUTE**

Council President Allen led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, announced that notice of the meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, and followed by roll call.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT**

Norma Trueblood  
Jack Tompkins  
Letha Jackson  
Jason Allen

**ABSENT**

Diane Stinney

Also present: Business Administrator Dennis Gonzalez, Solicitor Dave Clark and Township Clerk Amy P. Cosnoski.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Allen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Council President Allen advised that they would be deviating from the Agenda slightly to go into Closed Session first.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Resolution No. 276-2015 Authorizes Council to go into Closed Session.  
Contract Negotiations - Auditor

Motion by Tompkins and Trueblood to adopt Resolution 181-2015. Tompkins, yes; Trueblood, yes; Jackson, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

Council President Allen recessed the open meeting at approximately 6:32 p.m. to go into Closed Session and reconvened the open meeting at approximately 6:40 p.m.

(Reference Note: Closed Session minutes are transcribed and filed separately and considered part of these minutes)

Council President Allen advised that there would be no formal action pursuant to Closed Session.

**PRESENTATION**

Council President Allen called Cecelia Cathers to the podium as well as Major Cook. Major Cook called Dr. Thomas J. Cathers to the front of the room. Mr. Cook noted that Dr. Cathers is a distinguished Veteran and wanted to correct the fact that he was never formally recognized for his service to our Country. Asked the audience to stand as he presented various awards and honors to Dr. Cathers for his service to the United States Navy. Dr. Cathers gave a short speech and read from his journals.

**MINUTES FILED BY CLERK**

Regular Meeting, October 21, 2015; Regular meeting, November 4, 2015

Motion by Jackson and Trueblood to table the minutes until the December 16, 2015 meeting. Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes; Tompkins, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FILED WITH THE CLERK**

- a. Police Reports – September 2015
  - Overtime and Compensation
  - Service Calls
- b. Public Works – October 29, 2015 – November 4, 2015
  - Streets & Roads
  - Buildings & Grounds
  - Fleet Status
  - Water Division
- c. Burlington County JIF
  - Quarterly JIF Loss Ratio Snapshot

Quarterly EPL/POL Loss Ratio Snapshot

Quarterly MEL Loss Ratio Snapshot

- d. PERC Decision – Removal of Titles from CWA Contract
- e. Engineer's Report

Councilman Tompkins commented on the Police report showing we are more than double on overtime and asked what the reasons were. Mr. Gonzalez advised that there were a number of reasons, the primary being that in 2015 they have had a substantial increase in the number of officers that have been out sick as well as out of workers compensation leave and military leave. Councilman Tompkins also questioned the lack of summonses and tickets. Mr. Gonzalez noted that the Mayor and he have had this discussion with the Chief and have asked for a further breakdown of those service calls so that they can have a better understanding of the nature of those calls. Councilman Tompkins stated he feels the amount of tickets is ridiculous and that more could be done. Councilwoman Jackson questioned the unscheduled late calls and the number of DWI's. Mr. Gonzalez noted that these are discussions he and the Mayor are having with the Chief and advised on other issues causing the overtime including the shootings that require a lot of overtime. Mr. Gonzalez noted that he will keep refining the reports to give clear information. Councilwoman Jackson also questioned the out of title pay category and the reason for it. Mr. Gonzalez noted that there is a Sergeant out on Workers Comp and another one that has retired and that when an officer performs duties outside of their title they are to be compensated and that represents the difference between patrolman and Sergeants pay. Councilman Tompkins asked why we would not just promote one. Mr. Gonzalez advised that there would be opportunity for that. Councilman Allen noted that before the vote he would need to abstain from the CWA contract vote.

Motion by Tompkins and Jackson to accept the reports listed under A, B, C, and E and communications filed with the Clerk. Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes; Tompkins, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Tompkins and Jackson to accept the reports listed under D - PERC decision, and communication filed with the clerk. Tompkins, yes; Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes; Allen, abstain. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING  
AND/OR ADOPTION *Public Hearing held at November 4, 2015 Meeting.***

ORDINANCE 16-2015

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WATER UTILITY INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE RECONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR OF WELL #11, BY AND IN THE TOWNSHIP OF PEMBERTON, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE "TOWNSHIP"); APPROPRIATING \$1,000,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$900,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COSTS THEREOF

Councilman Tompkins questioned the age of Well #11. Mr. Gonzalez noted that he does not know the age but knows it has been shut down except for brief instances since 2010 and that it has been our best producing well. Explained that the State has already approved the project and further explained the financing and that we would be getting a loan/grant but does not know how much will be a loan and how much is a grant. Mr. Gonzalez explained how the financing of the project works. Councilman Tompkins questioned the interest on the loan and if it would be 100%. Mr. Gonzalez noted they are hoping for a large grant portion and a 0% interest loan. Councilman Tompkins asked if this was the well that the Township put the granite around the casing back in 2010. Mr. Gonzalez stated he was unsure if this was the same well where that occurred. Noted that some effort may have been made as the radium was intermittent, but high enough that treatment was needed in order to use it. Mr. Gonzalez advised of the issues at Well #4 and the options that were considered there and it was noted the costs would be far more than building the treatment facility at Well #11. Councilman Tompkins commented on doing geological studies. Mr. Gonzalez noted that these were things they have been discussing with the Engineers. Councilman Tompkins noted he has a concern over the functioning of the well and other problems since it has not been operating. Mr. Gonzalez noted that it is a functioning well and is maintained by the Water Division and that the Supervisor noted that it is in good working condition. Councilman Tompkins question Well #4. Mr. Gonzalez advised that Well #4 would be shut down completely after the process

is complete. Councilman Tompkins commented on the different aquifers and why we haven't tapped into other ones. Mr. Gonzalez noted that he believes there are wells in both aquifers that are within the Township boundaries. Noted that the availability of water will affect the townships ability to grow and develop. Councilman Tompkins questioned what area of town this serves. Mr. Gonzalez noted he was not sure. Councilman Tompkins questioned what the water rates are and how long they have been in place. Mr. Gonzalez noted they have not changed in the last 10 years. Mr. Gonzalez and Councilman Tompkins discussed the operations of the Water Division and the MUA, discussion of rates and if they should increase continued. Councilman Tompkins stated that this bond will be paid by the taxpayers. Mr. Gonzalez correct this would not be paid by the taxpayers but rather by the system users. Council President Allen went over some of the benefits of the well. Councilman Tompkins commented on Presidential Lakes and part of Country Lakes not having city water and they have fire protection. Mr. Gonzalez advised that there is no city water out there because Pinelands won't let the town put water out there. Noting it would be better to have water and sewer services in those communities but the Pinelands will not allow it. Mr. Gonzalez advised that although the debt of the town is looked at in total, the payment for the water utility budget is attributed to the water utility budget for the water projects. Noted that this bond will ultimately be paid for by the water utility and he is not saying that next year or the year after the rates may or may not need to be increased as they have been sufficient for the last 10 years. Councilman Tompkins asked for the total debt of the water department. Mr. Gonzalez noted he does not have that information off the top of his head but that information is available in the annual budget and financial debt statement.

Motion by Trueblood and Jackson to adopt Ordinance 16-2015. Trueblood, yes; Jackson, yes; Tompkins, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

#### ORDINANCE 17-2015

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PEMBERTON, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE "TOWNSHIP") PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$750,000 TO FUND THE PREPARATION AND EXECUTION OF A COMPLETE PROGRAM OF REVALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY IN THE TOWNSHIP

Councilwoman Trueblood commented that the County Tax Board has requested this be done and that it is essential they comply. Mr. Gonzalez explained the County Tax Board and advised of their authority and responsibility. Noted that the County Tax Board has ordered the Township to do this revaluation as they have not done one in 20 years or more. Advised the Townships assessed values are at approximately 60% of the market value, noting that the revaluation company will reassess everyone to 100% of the market value and then a new tax rate will be formed. Noted that assessments will go up and tax rates will go down. Advised that he hopes to have a company to present to Council at the first meeting in January. Noted that this will be done between January and October 1, 2016 and the firm hired will conduct everything and explained what that would be. Councilman Tompkins commented on being told about this back in June and why this was not addressed in July or August. Mr. Gonzalez noted he did not bring this to Council before now. Councilman Tompkins questioned the length of the bond. Mr. Gonzalez was unsure. Councilman Tompkins noted the statute says 5 years.

Motion by Trueblood and Tompkins to adopt Ordinance 17-2015. Trueblood, yes; Tompkins, yes; Jackson, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

#### ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

*None for this meeting.*

#### RESOLUTIONS

257-2015 Authorizes contract with McGrath Municipal Equipment, for the purchase of a Four Ton Diesel Fired Asphalt Hauling Trailer for an amount not to exceed \$36,495.00.

258-2015 Authorizing the renewal of the Township's Sports Accident Insurance Policy through QBE Insurance Corporation for an annual premium of \$2,808.00.

259-2015 Authorizes a contract for CY2016 for the Administration of the Pemberton Township Employee Medical Benefits Plan with Stop

Loss Coverage to Core Source, Inc. with Stop Loss coverage provided by Aetna.

- 260-2015 Authorizes the transfer of funds within the CY 2015 Budget totaling \$45,500.00.
- 261-2015 Authorizes the purchase of tree services from Nelson Tree Services under State Contract #80906 in the amount of \$9,000.00
- 262-2015 Authorizes liens on certain private properties in violation of the Pemberton Township Property Maintenance ordinance.
- 263-2015 Authorizes the purchase of uniforms for the Pemberton Township Police Department under State Contract #A78923 in the total amount of \$13,850.91
- 264-2015 Authorizes cancellation and refund of property taxes on property qualifying for Veteran's Property Tax Exemption for Alonso, Block 87, Lot 37.
- 265-2015 Authorizes cancellation and refund of property taxes on property qualifying for Veteran's Property Tax Exemption for Barr & Chung, Block 1096, Lot 3.
- 266-2015 Authorizes transfer of funds into Reserve for Storm Recovery & Snow Removal in the amount of \$50,000.00.
- 267-2015 Authorizes Change Order #1 of the contract awarded to Layne Christensen Company for Rehabilitation of Well #2 for a net increase of \$16,120.00.
- 268-2015 Authorizes the release of the Performance Bond for the Family Dollar Project conditioned upon the posting of a Five-Year Maintenance Bond and Two-Year Bond.
- 269-2015 Authorizes various routine refunds in a total amount of \$95.00.
- 270-2015 Authorizes the purchase of Castings with Grates from Campbell Foundry Company under State Contract #84205 in the amount of \$22,110.00.
- 271-2015 Authorizes the purchase of Thirty (30) Catch Basins from Oldcastle Precast in the amount of \$14,940.00.
- 272-2015 Authorizes the purchase of a Skid Steer Loader for \$38,050.00 from Groft Tractor New Jersey, LLC, through Nation Joint Powers Alliance Cooperative Purchasing Agreement.
- 273-2015 Authorizes the purchase of an Asphalt Roller for \$88,450.00 from Groft Tractor New Jersey, LLC through National Joint Powers Alliance Cooperative Purchasing Agreement.
- 274-2015 Opposes application of Elcon Recycling Services facility to be located in Falls Township, Pennsylvania.
- 275-2015 Opposes Application of Waste Management application for proposed Landfill to be located in Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania.
- 276-2015 Authorizes Council to go into Closed Session  
Contract Negotiations - Auditor

Councilman Tompkins motioned for this portion of the meeting to be opened to the public for comments. There was no second. Councilwoman Jackson questioned Resolution 258-2015 and it being insurance for volunteers. Mr. Gonzalez advised that it was a separate insurance policy for volunteers in case of injury as they are not covered by the Townships employee insurance. Councilwoman Jackson questioned Resolution 261-2015 and what area would be getting trees cut and how many trees. Mr. Gonzalez stated that they anticipate 20-25 of the extra tall trees in Lake Valley. Noted they do not have the equipment

to reach the taller trees so a contractor is needed to take down the trees, adding that our employees would be working right behind them to grind the stumps and prepare the area for possible sidewalk work in the spring that is badly needed. Councilwoman Jackson questioned Resolution 270-2015 and how many grates are being purchased. It was noted that it would be 30. Council President Allen clarified that Resolution 263-2015 mentions uniforms and ammunition, but is only for uniforms. Councilwoman Jackson questioned Resolution 272-2015 and what type of equipment this was for. Mr. Gonzalez advised what types of projects a skid steer loader would be used for. Councilman Tompkins requested Resolution 257-2015 be pulled. Questioned Resolution 260-2015 and what the transfers were. Mr. Gonzalez advised on what would be transferred and where from. Councilman Tompkins questioned Resolution 266-2015 and the current trust balance. Mr. Gonzalez advised that the current balance is around \$10,000 due to some bad winters and explained the reason for the transfer. Councilman Tompkins questioned Resolution 269-2015 and not refunding the full amount and recommended a full refund of 120.00 be given. Councilwoman Jackson asked if there was something in the rental agreement regarding this. Mr. Gonzalez noted that this was an Administration determination and they are asking Council to refund the \$95.00 and does not think Council can authorize more. Mr. Clark confirmed. Mr. Clark advised Resolutions 272-2015 and 273-2015 would need to be pulled so that a notice could be published and public comment would be required.

Motion by Tompkins and Jackson to approve all Resolutions with the exception of 257-2015, 272-2015 and 273-2015. Tompkins, yes; Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

Councilman Tompkins questioned resolution 257-2015 and this coming from the Capital Improvement Bond and noted this was not called out specifically. Mr. Gonzalez noted it does fit the definition as set forth in the bond document. Council President Allen added that this goes along with the Road Program. Mr. Gonzalez noted that it is a heated trailer and will enhance our ability to do a better job using hot material for patching roads.

Motion by Jackson and Trueblood to approve Resolution 257-2015. Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes; Tompkins, no; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Clark advised on Resolution 272-2015 and gave an explanation of the purchase and advised on the regulations and noted that Public Comment would be needed.

Council President Allen opened this portion of the meeting for Public Comment. Seeing no residents wishing to be heard, Council President Allen closed the meeting.

Motion by Tompkins and Trueblood to approve Resolution 272-2015. Tompkins, yes; Trueblood, yes; Jackson, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Clark advised on Resolution 273-2015 and gave an explanation of the purchase and noted that Public Comment would be needed.

Council President Allen opened this portion of the meeting for Public Comment.

**Anne Quinn, Country Lakes** - Reiterated her objection to purchasing this piece of equipment as we already have a roller and questioned why another one needed.

Seeing no other residents wishing to be heard, Council President Allen closed the meeting.

Motion by Jackson and Tompkins to approve Resolution 273-2015. Jackson, yes; Tompkins, yes; Trueblood, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **a. Review and discussion of Council By-Laws.**

Council President Allen advised that this was tabled from the previous meeting to allow other Council Members to voice their opinions. Councilman Tompkins commented that Councilwoman Stinney has been on Council for a long time and her comments may be valuable and he would not object to putting this off until the next Council meeting. Councilwoman Jackson agreed with Councilman Tompkins. Council agreed to postpone until the December 16th meeting.

#### **b. Discussion and possible introduction of proposed Ordinance to amend Chapter 132 of the Code of the Township of Pemberton, Entitled 'Noise'.**

Council President Allen asked Mr. Gonzalez to explain the changes. Mr. Gonzalez explained the issues with the noise ordinance as it is currently written, specifically with enforcement. Explained how they came about the current version and separated it into two sections. One for calculable noises and then other nuisances that do not need a machine to calculate them and can be addressed by an officer such as parties and barking dogs. Noted that the ordinance had been shared by Chief Jantas and he also incorporated some changes. Councilman Tompkins noted in the second part, 132-7 Enforcement, he has a concern over the fine amount as he feels it is steep and he would like it to say, "Not to exceed \$500.00". Commented on hearing peoples TV's and noted that elderly people need their TV's higher to hear them. Commented on drums for the school band and fines for them as well. Commented on snow blowers and lawnmowers. Council President Allen added that this is for 11pm through 7am. Councilman Tompkins commented on not using snow blowers after dark and getting fined for not doing his sidewalk. A discussion then ensued on the items in the proposed ordinance. Mr. Gonzalez advised on the two sections and the language as opposed to the penalties is all very typical language that mirrors the jurisdictional limit of a Municipal Court. Noted that typically a Municipal Judge will not go that far unless they are a substantial repeat offender and this gives the judge discretion to determine what fits the particular circumstance. Council President Allen referenced N.J.S.A. 40:49-5. Councilman Tompkins expressed again his concern over the fine amount. Mr. Clark advised Councilman Tompkins, in regards to the bands, to review section 132-12 there are exceptions to the ordinance including the band or orchestra. Mr. Gonzalez advised that this ordinance amendment was to be responsive to various residents who have come to Council expressing concern about noise from neighbors that infringe on their rights to peace and quiet. Noted that the argument could go both ways. Stated that the Police have advised residents there was nothing they could do because, of the way the ordinance was written, it would not allow them to do anything. A discussion ensued on the police officers being used for this with already limited resources.

Motion by Trueblood and Jackson to introduce Ordinance 18-2015 with a Public Hearing to be held on December 16, 2015. Trueblood, yes; Jackson, yes; Tompkins, no; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

- c. Discussion and possible introduction of proposed Ordinance to establish residency criteria and preference for the selection of Police Officers for employment within the Township of Pemberton.

Councilwoman Jackson questioned why this was being introduced and what the basis was. Mr. Gonzalez advised that we are a civil service community and the Civil Service Commission wants its Municipalities to tell them how they want them to rank the people who have taken the civil service test. Noted that the current ordinance provides that the Civil Service Commission gives a statewide test for Police officers and when we are hiring they send us a 'certification of eligibles' to be interviewed and then potentially hired based on the residency criteria that we provide to them which is in an ordinance. Mr. Gonzalez then explained the criteria and the process, noting they are requesting the residency criteria to be changed to County preference rather than Township. Mr. Gonzalez added that Chief Jantas has requested this be done before the next test is taken.

Motion by Tompkins and Jackson to introduce Ordinance 19-2015 with a Public Hearing to be held on December 16, 2015. Tompkins, yes; Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Social Affair Permit Applications (one day liquor license)

1. VFW Post 6805, for New Year's Eve Party, at 247 Mt. Misery Road, on December 31, 2015, from 6:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m.

Motion by Trueblood and Jackson to approve Social Affair Permit for VFW Post 6805 for a New Years Eve Party. Trueblood, yes; Jackson, yes; Tompkins, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

- b. Purchases over \$2,000

1. Public Works – for the purchase of curb stops and repair couplings from Atlantic Plumbing Supply Corp. in the total amount of \$2,920.11.

Motion by Trueblood and Jackson to approve the Purchase over \$2,000 for curb stops and

repair couplings. Trueblood, yes; Jackson, yes; Tompkins, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

2. Tax Assessor – for purchase of notice of assessment post cards from Micro System – NJ.Com, LLC, in the total amount of \$5,987.35.

Motion by Trueblood and Tompkins to approve the Purchase over \$2,000 for assessment postcards. Trueblood, yes; Tompkins, yes; Jackson, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

2. Pemberton Township Alliance Group – for purchase of presentation from Pemberton Township High School in the total amount of \$2,500.00.

Councilwoman Jackson noted this has been a long time coming for TAG to partner with the schools and hopes it opens other doors as well.

Motion by Trueblood and Tompkins to approve the Purchase over \$2,000 for a presentation. Trueblood, yes; Tompkins, yes; Jackson, abstain; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

4. Public Works – purchase of uniforms from A&A Glove & Safety Co. in the total amount of \$10,943.40.

Motion by Tompkins and Jackson to approve the Purchase over \$2,000 for uniforms. Tompkins, yes; Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

5. Fire Department – purchase of new 10KW generator for Ladder Truck #1815 from Blaze Emergency Equipment in the total amount of \$9,783.40.

Councilman Tompkins asked how old the truck was. Mr. Gonzalez advised he was not sure but it had been evaluated by the Fire Chief and a refurbished one had been looked at but a new one had a warranty and includes parts and labor.

Motion by Trueblood and Tompkins to approve the purchase over \$2,000 for a 10KW generator. Trueblood, yes; Tompkins, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

#### **APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

Approval by Council required for payment of vouchers on bill list dated 11/25/2015.

Motion by Jackson and Tompkins to approve all vouchers. Jackson, yes; Tompkins, yes; Trueblood, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

#### **ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Council President Allen noted that this was approved under Reports and Communication. Mr. Gonzalez advised why the Engineer's are not at the meetings. Councilman Tompkins asked if the Engineer's could look at drainage at Eldridge.

#### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

**Mr. Clark reported:** No report.

#### **MAYOR'S AND/OR BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

**Dennis Gonzalez reported:** Noted that the Mayor is out of town and he will be back for the next meeting.

#### **INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Council President Allen opened the meeting to the public for general comments.

**Glen Malpetta, Presidential Lakes - 1.** Asked how we are doing on the firehouse. **2.** Noted that he spoke to the owner of Kay's Laundromat on Trenton Road and her concern over the poor lighting as there is lighting in front of her business that is not working. Stated she has not gotten any help on how to get this addressed and is getting complaints from customers. **3.** Commented that he went to the Township website and received a notice that the site might download malicious software so he did not go any further. **4.** Commented on the introduced noise ordinance and agreed with Councilman Tompkins that the fine was too much. **5.** Commented on the revaluation and questioned if the \$750,000 would cover everything. **6.** Questioned the purchase over \$2,000 for TAG purchasing the presentation in

partnership with the High School. Mr. Gonzalez advised that this was grant money received from TAG for drug education. **7.** Asked about the status of the Presidential Lakes Firehouse. Mr. Gonzalez advised that it is still being evaluated but is in bad shape and the roof is bad. Mr. Malpetta said he is upset at the thought of the cost of repairing the building. Mr. Gonzalez said they are looking at various options to see what needs to be done as well as concerns they have with the winter coming. Mr. Malpetta said there is a hole in the door as well.

**John Shaw, Browns Mills - 1.** Noted the issue with Ms. Kay's Laundromat and stated that the Township installed the lights and went and repaired the lights and they are owned by the Township. Noted an incident at the 7-11 and a problem with the lights and the darkness being an issue. **2.** Stated he is the President of the Lion's organization here in the Township and they have provided the Christmas tree at reflections park. Advised he had approached Paula Kosko, Recreation Director, at the beginning of November about having sold the Christmas tree due to financial hardships within the club. Stated they had an offer made to them by her ex husband and she was yelling and screaming in her office because of who he had sold the tree to and that he did not offer the Township to purchase it first. Stated that he heard a rumor that the Mayor would have paid \$5,000 for it. Commented on the things that the Lion's Club does for the tree lighting and being told they are no longer allowed to participate in Pemberton Township functions. Advised on reasons they could no longer put the tree up and it killed him to get rid of it. Stated he offered to still put up a live tree and continue to offer their services. Commented on the Mayor joining the Lion's Club for political reasons. Stated his biggest issue is being kicked out of Township functions that they have participated in for years. Councilwoman Jackson questioned if Mr. Shaw approached Paula about the offer and why the tree was sold. It was noted that the tree was sold the first week of November and it was because of various reasons it needed to be sold. Councilwoman Jackson questioned why he believed he was kicked out of Township events and if he was told this. Mr. Shaw advised he was told. A discussion ensued on the issues with the tree and the Lion's Club attending Township functions. Councilwoman Jackson asked if the tree functions could have been helped with by the Township or was this something the Lion's Club wanted sole responsibility for. Mr. Shaw stated it was decided to do to help replenish funds. It was noted it was sold for \$3,000 and it was purchased for over \$20,000. Councilman Tompkins commented on the Lion's Club being told they could not participate in Township events. Mr. Gonzalez noted he will contact Ms. Kosko and report back to Council. Mr. Shaw noted he did not want to say anything until tonight because he did not want any rumors flying around and he wanted all to hear it straight from him.

**Clare Wadsworth, Browns Mills - 1.** Congratulated Councilman Tompkins. **2.** Stated she was happy to see that the Sawyer lawsuit was settled and asked Council if they knew what the legal fees were. Mr. Gonzalez noted he has not been provided that information by the insurance company. Ms. Wadsworth asked if Council knew had any idea how this would affect the JIF and noted the more expenses we incur, that the JIF pays out, affects how much is paid. Mr. Gonzalez noted the JIF is not affected by this. **3.** Commented on being involved in Operation Yellow Ribbon and at this time of year, organizes a drive for comfort items and special requested items for the troops in the Middle East. Noted that she had a fundraiser in June to help and that just by reaching out through Facebook, she still was able to get more than half of what she would have gotten through the Township schools as they did not participate like they had in previous years. Stated she will have more than a vehicle full of items going to Senator Addiego's office on Saturday. Noted that she also received 48 pounds of dog treats for their service all from Officer Sawyer. Commented that there is also a cookie drive and she received 37 tins of cookies. Councilman Tompkins thanked Ms. Wadsworth for her services and noted that he was overseas for 14 years and that those things meant so much.

**America Phillips, Presidential Lakes - 1.** Commented on the leaf pickup and 4 empty houses next to her and asked who was going to force them to clean up their leaves. **2.** Commented on boarded up houses and busted pipes in one of the houses. Commented on getting people into the community when the Township doesn't force people to take care of the houses. **3.** Commented on the firehouse and noted that at the November meeting it was stated that the Engineer was supposed to go out and asked if they had inspected the roof. Councilman Tompkins commented on the house across the street from Ms. Phillips that had flooded and asked Mr. Gonzalez if there was a mechanism in place to keep that from occurring. Mr. Gonzalez advised that there is no public water in Presidential Lakes so the Township could not shut the water down. Stated he knows that people were called and they did try to address the issue. Advised on the process for a home that has public water.

**Anne Quinn, Country Lakes - 1.** Commented that the taxpayers have questions they want answers to and are entitled to. **2.** Commented on the revaluation by the County under State Law. Stated there are several abandoned homes in the town and does not want to see those that do have homes and take care of them be penalized because they take care of their homes. Commented on the registry of abandoned homes and banks not taking care of them. Noted that this drags down other property values because they are not kept up. **3.** Commented on Well #11 and not everyone paying for the debt but that the Township is putting the debt in place and questioned how the rest of the town will not be responsible for this. Mr. Gonzalez explained how the process works and the difference between budget lines. **4.** Commented on the proposed budget for 2016 and hope's that there will be a better way for the Council and Administration to solve this town's money problems.

**Tom Jardine, Browns Mills - 1.** Commented on the library and a spotlight they have up that illuminates his property all night long all the way to the back street. Stated he has tried getting darker curtains but that is not working. Noted that now he has tried putting Christmas lights up and they are not going to work because of this light. Mr. Gonzalez noted he would look into it and let Council know. **2.** Commented on the issue with Office Sawyer and asked if there has been any disciplinary action against the employee that removed that officer from work. Mr. Gonzalez advised the Township Administration acted 100% lawfully and appropriately under the circumstances.

Seeing no other residents wishing to be heard, Council President Allen closed the meeting to the public.

#### **COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**Councilwoman Jackson -** Thanked Chief Augustoni and Matt Jakob for their assistance at the October meeting and noted she was truly grateful to both of them for acting so fast and taking care of her. Thanked everyone who was praying, calling and texting her. Noted she is thankful to say she is doing much better, still has a long road ahead of her, but that Craig and Matt were her heroes. Commented that the Winter Festival will be held on December 5th. Thanked Ms. Wadsworth for the wonderful job she is doing with Operation Yellow Ribbon and if she does this more than just this time of year. Also wondered why the school did not participate. Thanked everyone for coming out and for their comments and being here. Also thanked Council, Mayor and everyone who has been there for her over the past month.

**Councilman Tompkins -** Thanked everyone that voted for him and hopes he can do the right thing for the people. Commented that sitting up there is a little different and admitted to a few sleepless nights over the Bond. Noted he attended the MUA meeting and stated that he is a customer and happy with there operation. Commented on the budget and some things he would like to see in town including speed humps. Thanked everyone for coming out and to drive safely.

**Councilwoman Trueblood -** Thanked everyone for coming out. Congratulated Councilman Tompkins and welcomed him to Council. Noted that she had attended a town hall meeting for Burlington County College/Rowan, and there are still no affirmative decisions that have been made. Stated the timeframe is about 12 to 18 months and more buildings are expected to go up. Stated that the Mayor is very involved and that the County agreed to keep him advised of all that is going on. Asked all to have a good evening.

**Council President Allen -** Noted that December 5th is the County Shredding and Waste event from 9am until 1pm at the Burlington County Resource Recovery Complex. Noted that on January 5th Life Opportunities would be having their 6th Annual Kick Off Celebration at Dominique Johnson Center. Thanked all for coming out and looks forward to the next meeting.

#### **CLOSED SESSION AND FORMAL ACTION PURSUANT TO CLOSED SESSION**

*Held at the beginning of the meeting.*

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

*Amy P. Cosnoski*

Amy P. Cosnoski, RMC, Township Clerk