

**MARCH 6, 2014, GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF MT. EPHRAIM**

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wolk called the meeting to order at 8:01pm.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

All present pledged their allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll with Commissioner Gilmore, Commissioner Greenwald and Mayor Wolk all present.

OTHER OFFICIALS ON THE DAIS

Borough Solicitor – Stuart Platt
Borough Engineers – Joe Federici and Doug Akin
Borough Clerk – Terry Shannon

“OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW” ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Wolk announced that “This meeting has been advertised and notices posted in accordance with the “Open Public Meetings Act.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mayor Wolk asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2014, caucus meeting and the February 6, 2014, commission meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, seconded by Commissioner Gilmore, the minutes were approved with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mayor Wolk announced that vouchers in the amount of \$1,308,570.94 were submitted for approval. On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the vouchers as submitted were approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Greenwald-yes; Wolk-yes.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Mayor Wolk asked the Clerk to read the following ordinances that are being introduced on first reading:

01-14, Authorizing a Special Emergency Appropriation for Property Revaluation and Reassessment

02-14, To Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank for Calendar Year 2014.

On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the first reading of the ordinances was approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Greenwald-yes, Wolk-yes. Mayor Wolk announced that these would be considered for adoption after advertisement and following a public hearing to be held during the March 6 commission meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Wolk announced that the resolutions would be approved as a Consent Agenda and asked the Clerk to read the resolutions as follows:

- 13-14 Authorizing the Borough Assessor to Perform 2014 Property Reassessment
- 14-14 Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement with Barrington for Municipal Clerk Services
- 15-14 Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement with Salem County Improvement Authority for Solid Waste Disposal Services
- 16-14 Authorizing Submission of an Application for Year 36 CDBG Grant Funding
- 17-14 Authorizing Submission of a Camden County Open Space Grant Application
- 18-14 Appointing an Interim Electrical Sub-Code Official
- 19-14 Approving NJDOT Bus Stops Located on Black Horse Pike (Rt. 168)
- 20-14 Setting the Interest Rate for Delinquent Taxes for 2014
- 21-14 Introduction of the 2014 Municipal Budget for the Borough of Mount Ephraim

On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, seconded by Commissioner Gilmore, the consent agenda was approved with the following poll vote: Gilmore-yes; Greenwald-yes; Wolk-yes.

MERCANTILE LICENSES FOR APPROVAL

Mayor Wolk read the following mercantile licenses that are for approval:

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| Walgreen's Store #10156 | 20 W. Kings Highway |
| Kimberly Mecca Tax Preparation LLC | 106 W. Kings Highway |
| Auto Zone Store #3289 | 221 S. Black Horse Pike |

On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the mercantile licenses were approved with all in favor.

BINGO/RAFFLE LICENSES FOR APPROVAL

Mayor Wolk announced that the following bingo/raffle licenses are on for approval:

- RA-411, RA-412 & RA-413 for Emmaus Catholic Community
- BA-414 & RA-415 for Barrington Girls' Softball

On a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the bingo and raffle licenses were approved with all in favor.

MOTION BY THE MAYOR FOR PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENT

Mayor Wolk announced that he is appointing Chuck Zettlemyer as an alternate member to the Planning Board to serve the unexpired term of Stanley Witkowski. Mayor Wolk spoke to Stanley, who was in the audience, and thanked him for his service.

REPORTS

Commissioner Gilmore read highlights from the February report for the Mt. Ephraim Police Department. They had 456 calls resulting in 245 case numbers including the following: 35 ambulance assists, five animal complaints; four death investigations; six domestic violence, ten harassments, 20 calls for information, two juvenile complaints, 21 suspicious vehicles or

persons, ten shoplifters. Arrests for the month were 41 adults and 1 juvenile and they served 11 out-of-town warrants. They issued 266 motor vehicle summonses. Commissioner Gilmore then read a press release from the police chief in reference to a recent home invasion that took place on January 24. This was an armed home invasion where two men entered a home with a man and his adult son and daughter in the home. The police arrived and saw the suspects fleeing. One of the suspects was arrested immediately and the second was arrested a short while later while he was breaking into another home. The arrests resulted in many charges for both individuals. Because of the fast response of the police department, the suspects were apprehended quickly and without incident and it was a great job done by all. The following officers were given special recognition for their quick response—Captain Brian Conte, Sgt. William Errigo, Patrolmen Michael Beach and Jonathan Reichelderfer.

Commissioner Gilmore then read highlights from the February report from the Fire Department. They answered two alarms, one EMS assist, one PD assist, one dwelling fire, one highway hazard, five mutual aids, two motor vehicle accidents. Total calls for service were 16. Total man hours for the department was 757.75 volunteer hours. He thanked the Fire Department for their service this past winter. They man the stations all night long during storms and we appreciate their service. He then offered condolences to the family of Howard McCormick Sr, who died at the age of 91. He was a 63 year member of the Fire Department. He was also a World War II veteran. We extend our condolences to his family.

Commissioner Greenwald began by adding his congratulations to the Police Department for the job done on the home invasion. He then reported that that the Construction Department in February issued nine permits and three CA's and total fees were \$6,114.00. He then read highlights from the public works report as follows: single stream recycling was almost 78,000 pounds. In addition to trash and recycling, they set-up for the rabies clinic, jetted and cleaned inlets, helped Little League with quotes for an Open Space grant application. Between January and this past week, there were four major snow storms they dealt with and in spite of having a small staff, they did brining, salting, plowing and still kept up with the regular trash schedules. We appreciate the job they do. I also want to thank Brian Beppel for his help in coordinating a NJAWC project that is being done around the school. He was able to arrange it so their work won't interfere with school traffic.

Engineer Joe Federici reported that the Roosevelt Avenue project will start around April 15. MedExpress construction will begin as soon as the weather breaks.

Mayor Wolk read the receipt totals from the Tax Collector report for the month of January, 2014, and reported that total receipts were \$1,234,379.38. He then reported that the Tax Collector submitted the report for the whole of the year 2013 and total collections were \$12,007,572.35. He added that the total tax collection rate for 2013 was 97.78% and commended Marie Darlington on a job well done. We approved the resolution for property reassessment. This will be done in-house and residents should prepare for a visit from the assessor's staff. He asked Terry for a timeline and she reported that letters will go out to homeowners the week of March 10. After that the fieldworkers will be taking photos of the fronts of homes. The first week of April is when field visits will start. Most of that should be done by the end of April. The new valuation letters will go out after Thanksgiving. Residents who want a review meeting will be able to do so in December. The new tax list will be filed with the County in January.

Mayor Wolk added that we introduced our 2013 Budget tonight. Next month our auditor will be here to answer questions during the public hearing. He read the budget summary prepared by Richard Schwab. The public hearing will be during the April 3 commission meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Wolk opened the meeting to the public and asked that residents state their name and address for the record.

Stan Witkowski, 104 Fourth Avenue, asked when the new assessments will be effective and the Clerk answered they will apply to the 2015 taxes.

Diane Vilardo from Lincoln Avenue thanked Chief Beppel for reaching out to the Sacred Heart folks regarding their safety issues in getting kids home safely after school.

Seeing no further public comment, on a motion by Commissioner Greenwald, second by Commissioner Gilmore, the public portion was closed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Shannon
Borough Clerk