

REGULAR MEETING  
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM – UPPER LEVEL

July 16, 2013

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, July 16, 2013 at 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by the Municipal Clerk.

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Kownacki read the following statement of proper notice:

**STATEMENT OF PROPER NOTICE:** “Adequate notice of this meeting of the Lawrence Township Council being held on Tuesday, July 16, 2013 has been provided through the posting of the annual meeting schedule of said Council in accordance with Section 13 of the Open Public Meetings Act”.

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmembers Brame, Lewis, Maffei, Powers and Mayor Kownacki.  
Absent: None.

Also, in attendance were Richard S. Krawczun, Municipal Manager, and David Roskos, Municipal Attorney.

---

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

There were no proclamations or presentations.

---

Public Participation (5-minute limitation per speaker)

*Mr. Joseph Mislán, 4 Sunset Road*, discussed Lawrence Township becoming a more unified community by converting Council Chambers into a Conference Center format and getting away from the Courtroom atmosphere that has long since had its day. He further discussed the Council updating the style of the Conference Room by putting in a camera, large screen, overhead projector, new chairs for the audience and desk for Council and having one meeting each

month as a business meeting to discuss "Money-In-Money Out" with a spreadsheet format for presentations that shows taxpayers where and how their tax dollars are being spent. In addition, he discussed the School Board and Mercer County having meetings and presentations in the 'Conference Center' and the Township sprucing up the appearance of the front lawn by trimming the shrubs and making a wide pedestrian walkway from the end of the street to the front of the building with a sign "welcoming" everyone to Town Hall. He also suggested that Route 206 be renamed Main Street tying Lawrence together from north to south; Lawrence Township being renamed Lawrenceville and converting to one zip code, as everyone likes the Lawrenceville mailing address which is one of the strengths of the Township and something the Administration should try and capitalize on as real estate is the town's main product. A short discussion took place relative to the postal identity change that took place in 2007 distinguishing the 08648 zip code from the City of Trenton and changing the Lawrence Township mailing address back to Lawrenceville.

*Mr. Jose "Max" Ramos, 4 Woodlane Road*, asked for clarification on Resolution (8-A), Authorizing the Awarding of Bid for Small Cities CFBG 2012 Accessibility Improvements; Ordinance (10-A), An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2142-12 Chapter 6A of the Lawrence Township Administrative Code Entitled "FEES: The Consolidated License, Permit and Fee Chapter" Authorization of a Bulk Waste Collection User Fee; Resolution (17-J), Authorizing Amending the Professional Services Agreement for Special Counsel for Labor Relations and Resolution (17-W), Authorizing Rescinding Bulk Waste Fee.

Mr. Krawczun stated that the bulk waste fee was rescinded so there will be no fee for 2013 and Resolution (8-A) is a State grant for the installation of handicapped accessibility improvements at various intersections so that the Township will be ADA compliant and explained that the Resolution will be pulled from the Agenda for further review and rescheduled for future meeting. Additional discussion took place with regard to the differences between Ordinance (10-A), which amends the ordinance that established the bulk user fee to provide clarity that the fees will apply to each residential unit and Resolution (17-W) that rescinds the bulk waste fee for 2013.

Mr. Krawczun also discussed Resolution (17-J) which will increase the fee for legal services for special counsel and the multiple professional service contracts to be increased that are listed on the Agenda and explained when the Township does the temporary budget they limit the contract amount for that period of time and under the Local Budget Law there are requirements about the Certification of Available Funds and those funds being encumbered against an appropriation for said purpose. And, the purpose for legal services (17-J) original contract amount was held back during the temporary budget period.

Additional discussion took place relative to the amendment of the language in the Ordinance and to whom the bulk waste fees will be applicable.

There being no one else who wished to address Council, Mayor Kownacki closed Public Participation.

---

#### Review and Revisions of Agenda

Councilwoman Lewis requested that the Agenda be amended to include Resolution (17-DD), Authorizing Endorsement of the State Applications for the Septic System for Chapin School. The Municipal Manager further requested that the Agenda be amended to remove Resolution (8-A), Authorizing the Awarding of Bid for Small Cities CBDG 2012 Accessibility Improvements.

On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Brame, the Agenda was amended to include the above revisions.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Brame, Lewis, Maffei, Powers and Mayor Kownacki.  
Nays: None.

---

#### Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Powers, seconded by Ms. Lewis, the Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 18, 2012 were approved without correction.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Lewis, Maffei, Powers and Mayor Kownacki.  
Nays: None.  
Abstain: Councilmember Brame.

---

#### Awarding and/or Rejecting of Bids

Mayor Kownacki asked for comments from the public. There being none, Mayor Kownacki asked for comments from Council. There being none, public participation was closed. On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Lewis, the following resolution was presented for adoption:

Resolution No. 244-13

**WHEREAS**, on June 28, 2013, bids were received for Bid No. 13-05, Ambulance Billing Services; and

**WHEREAS**, six (6) bids were received and reviewed by the Township Manager and Director of Emergency Management; and

**WHEREAS**, the bids are being recommended for rejection due to the Township desire to revise the bid specifications.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the bids submitted for Bid No. 13-05, Ambulance Billing Services are hereby rejected.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Brame, Lewis, Maffei, Powers and Mayor Kownacki.  
Nays: None.

---

Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Kownacki read by title an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LICENSING AND REGULATION OF TOWING AND STORAGE SERVICES"

Mr. Krawczun stated that the Ordinance amends the regulations for the licensing and operation of authorized towers, private contractors, in Lawrence Township and the Ordinance has numerous similarities to the existing ordinance with the exception of a few items. The first being the Ordinance will now be considered a contract between the town and the tower for a period of three years, towers will be able to add new staff, as each staff person is checked for background purposes, the license fee will go from \$350 annually to \$400 for a three year period, contracted operators will be required to provide towing services of municipal vehicles at no charge to the Township, the fee schedule will increase the permitted service charge but eliminate many incidental type fees previously billed and operators will be required to be certified by the applicable nationally-recognized organizations for the type of towing services to be provided, which will strengthen the protection afforded to consumers of the service. A short question and answer period took place relative to the proposed amendments and penalties regarding contract violations.

The Ordinance was introduced and approved on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Brame	X						
Ms. Lewis	X						X
Dr. Maffei	X						
Mr. Powers	X					X	
Mayor Kownacki	X						

---

Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Kownacki read by title an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2142-13 CHAPTER 6A OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED 'FEES: THE CONSOLIDATED LICENSE, PERMIT AND FEE CHAPTER" AUTHORIZATION OF A BULK WASTE COLLECTION USER FEE"

Mr. Max Ramos, 4 Woodlane Road, asked for clarification on the bulk user fee and to whom the fee will apply and was advised by Mr. Krawczun that if a resident is currently receiving curbside collection they would receive a bill if the bulk user fee were to be reinstated and that he previously provided an analogy regarding the sewer billing as it relates to locations where a single property owner/landlord might have multiple tenants and need to bill separately for their sewer use based on the separate meters and the bulk waste fee will mimic the same for residential units using curbside collection.

Mr. Ramos further inquired about the Council's decision to not rescind the Ordinance in its entirety; but, instead opted to amend the Ordinance to rescind the fee for year 2013 and was advised by Mayor Kownacki that the Council might decide to rescind it in its entirety in the future, but for now it is their decision to rescind the fee for 2013 until further review. After a brief discussion relative to the unknown cost of eliminating white goods Mr. Ramos stated in his opinion the better choice would be for the Council to rescind the Ordinance instead of amending it.

ORDINANCE NO. 2160-13

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2142-12  
 CHAPTER 6A OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE  
 CODE ENTITLED "FEES: THE CONSOLIDATED LICENSE, PERMIT  
 AND FEE CHAPTER" AUTHORIZATION OF A  
 BULK WASTE COLLECTION USER FEE

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence has determined that it is appropriate to authorize a user fee for the collection,

transportation and disposal of bulk waste generated from property owners that receive curbside collection services.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey that Chapter 6A of the Lawrence Township Administrative Code is hereby amended as follows:

Section I.

Sec. 6A-27 Trash Receptacles

NEW PROVISION

Bulk Waste Collection Fee

Definition: Bulk waste consists of all items to be discarded which are too large for the Township-issued trash cart, including “white goods” such as washers, dryers, refrigerators and other metal products.

Curbside collection and disposal services for bulk waste shall be provided by a solid waste hauler contracted for such services by the Township of Lawrence.

Each [property owner] individual property unit within the Township of Lawrence that is provided curbside bulk waste collection and disposal services shall pay an annual fee between \$0.00 but not to exceed \$55.00 for the collection of bulk waste. The annual fee will be established by resolution of the Township Council for each respective fiscal year. The curbside bulk waste collection and disposal services fee will be billed to property owners annually.

Collection of Fee and Enforcement

The bulk waste collection service fee shall be due within sixty days of receipt of billing from Lawrence Township. There will be a ten day grace period at the expiration of the sixty days in which payment can be made without a penalty. Nonpayment of fee shall be enforced in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:66-12 and applicable provisions of enforcement for nonpayment contained under New Jersey Title 54.

Section II. Repealer

All ordinances or parts of same inconsistent with any of the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section III. Severability.

If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phase of this ordinance shall be declared invalid for any reason, the remaining portions of said ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.

Section IV. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) days after adoption thereof.

The Ordinance was introduced and approved on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Brame	X						
Ms. Lewis	X						
Dr. Maffei	X						X
Mr. Powers	X					X	
Mayor Kownacki	X						

~~~

Mayor Kownacki read by title an ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE 1747-03 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN"

Ordinance No. 2161-13

BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE 1747-03  
 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER,  
 STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE  
 DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence County of Mercer, State of New Jersey (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) as follows:

Section 1:

- a. Section 3 of Bond Ordinance 1747-03, finally adopted May 6, 2003, amended by Ordinance 1765-03 finally adopted October 7, 2003, amended by Ordinance 1995-08 finally adopted December 2, 2008, amended by 2039-09 finally adopted December 1, 2009 be and are hereby amended to add the following purposes:

Various Public Works Equipment: "Top Dresser"

Section 2:

The capital budget of the Township of Lawrence is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director of Local Government Services is on file with the Clerk and is available there for inspection.

Section 3:

This amending bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

The Ordinance was introduced and approved on the following roll call vote:

| COUNCIL        | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVE | SECOND |
|----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Mr. Brame      | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Ms. Lewis      | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Dr. Maffei     | X   |     |         |        |         |      | X      |
| Mr. Powers     | X   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Mayor Kownacki | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

~~~

Mayor Kownacki read by title an ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE 1894-06 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN"

Ordinance No. 2162-13

BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE 1894-06  
BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER,  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE  
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) as follows:

Section 1:

- a. Section 3 of Bond Ordinance 1894-06, finally adopted June 7, 2006, amended by Ordinance 1913-06 finally adopted December 19, 2006, amended by Ordinance 2039-09 finally adopted

December 1, 2009 be and are hereby amended to add the following purposes:

Acquisition Fire/Rescue Equipment: "Various Diameter Hose and Fittings"

Section 2:

The capital budget of the Township of Lawrence is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director of Local Government Services is on file with the Clerk and is available there for inspection.

Section 3:

This amending bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

The Ordinance was introduced and approved on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Brame	X						
Ms. Lewis	X						
Dr. Maffei	X						X
Mr. Powers	X					X	
Mayor Kownacki	X						

---

**Manager's Report –**

Mr. Krawczun submitted invoice listings for the month of July 2013 in the amount of \$707,238.57.

Mr. Krawczun stated that he attended a meeting at Hamilton Township with various area mayors and Trenton Water Works who provided an update of the issue of the trihalomethanes (TTHM) that were discovered in the Groveville area of Hamilton Township and during the course of the meeting it was reported that the parts per billion were reduced and for the first quarter the readings were 69 parts per billion below the 80 billion mark. And, for the second quarter the reading was only 51 parts per billion and Notices were sent out to Groveville residents because of the running average over a six month period. So, Trenton Water Works is confident that after the next reading that the average will be reduced and proceeded to discuss the report he gave at the last Council meeting regarding some of the maintenance and infrastructure changes that TWW was working on - such as lining pipes, flushing pipes and tank repairs which were also

discussed at the meeting; but, the most important thing he would like for everyone to understand is that the incident was isolated to the Groveville area, a dead-end part of the run, and the condition there is improving. Further, Lawrence, Hopewell and Ewing Township locations were all tested and all were below the standard of 80 parts per billion.

Mr. Krawczun advised that the Administration received a brief update from New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection on the Pit Stop location that all the soil and groundwater samplings were completed. However, the results will not be available until September and once the results are received NJDEP, along with their consultant, will prepare a Remedial Investigation Report, which is the next step necessary to come up with a remedial action plan, detailing what will actually be done to correct any deficiencies. So, they do not expect the feasibility study to come out until the latter part of the year with the test results coming back in September.

Mr. Krawczun advised that he is required to provide a Certificate of Determination and Award to Council after they have a Sale of Debt and what he is providing to the Council this evening is not the official Determination of Award Report; but, he thought that the Council might be interested in knowing that the Township did go out today for an issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes that are Notes being rolled over. Also, they may recall when he last talked about the budget he discussed the Township going from bonds to notes thereby creating an opportunity for the Township to have short term borrowing instruments and to pay down the debt over a accelerated period of time. Secondly, for the last four or five years the Township has been in a position where each year of new debt authorized is at least \$1M less than what is being paid down. Additionally, what is quite interesting, was the amount of the bid interest rates they received; six bids with five out of the six bidders coming in at 1.25% and one coming in at 1.00%, and the premium being paid by the bidders to the issuer that is cash back and lowers the net interest cost to the Township and proceeded to discuss the successful bidder, Jeffrey's LLC, who provided the Township with a net interest cost of .40299% and the competitiveness and interest in Lawrence Township debt.

Mr. Krawczun advised that he and Jim Parvesse, Township Engineer, have had a couple of meetings with New Jersey American Water and New Jersey Department of Transportation regarding the water company's plans to install an additional water main connection from Province Line Road south to Fackler Road and to a connection they already have along that roadway. And, as the actual event gets closer he will have more specific information regarding the water company's plans. Mr. Krawczun stated that he is bringing the matter to the Council's attention because NJDOT is requiring that the work be done at night and there will be a need for lane closures as DOT did not authorize the water company to do a detour because it will send possible truck traffic onto residential streets. Further, the length of the work will be approximately 60 days with most of

work taking place in the existing roadbed and a small portion going off road. But, during their analysis they did discover that under the blacktopped surface of the original path is actually a concrete slab that runs in that area which they will try to avoid as much as possible. In addition, Notices will be sent to residents and they were very careful to ask New Jersey American Water when working on individual properties to not impact the trees as best they can and so far they have been cooperative with most of the Township's requests. A short discussion took place relative to the noise concerns, possible solutions and a possible start date sometime in September after the resubmission of plans are reviewed by NJDOT.

Mr. Krawczun provided the Council with a Report that was completed by Mercer County Planning Division for their review regarding Mercer Crossings; the redevelopment and revitalization of the Spruce Street/Princeton Avenue areas that started out with various focus groups that included Capital Plaza, Halo Farms, Trenton Farmers Market, Ewing residents, Lawrence residents along Spruce Street and other businesses as well as an Advisory Committee that included the County, State and area municipalities together with a series of public meetings and proceeded to review the main objectives and recommendations that were discussed relative to the roadway designs that were compatible with the redevelopment of that area, address traffic congestion and preserve pedestrian mobility.

Mr. Krawczun distributed the 2012 Audit Report to the Council that showed the Township's financial position as of December 31, 2012 and advised that he would like to point out a couple of important items in the Audit. The first being the "Unqualified Opinion" that is very significant in their world because it means that there are no material weaknesses that would impact the Township's financial position or the town's ability to borrow funds or have any limits on the borrowing or buyers of the Township's debt, which is very important going forward. Furthermore, this year unlike last year, there are no recommendations by the Auditor signifying that the Township is in compliance with the Statutory provisions that they are mandated to follow, which are many of the laws the Council hears him reference in his explanations and during the budget proceedings; and, due to the fact they had no recommendations that needed to be addressed there will be no Corrective Action Plan necessary.

Mr. Krawczun stated that they were also in compliance under the Single Audit with regards to the Grant requirements and they had no internal control deficiencies noted and although he serves as the CFO and he gets to present this report it is very, very important for the Council to understand that this does not happen by accident, as takes a very big effort by the staff in the Finance Department – Peter Kiriakatis, Linda Lutes, Debbie Monroe and Yvette Martinette – who are intimately involved every day in the town's financial operations as well as other using departments that are subject to be tested in various capacities, which he thanked for their cooperation and congratulated everyone on a job well done and indicated at the next Council Meeting the Governing Body will receive

a Resolution to adopt certifying that they have read, at a minimum, the recommendations in the Report of Audit. Thereafter, Councilman Brame thanked Mr. Krawczun and his staff for their hard work and for putting together such a wonderfully clean audit.

---

**Attorney's Report –**

Mr. Roskos stated that he will save his comments for Closed Session.

---

**Clerk's Report –**

There was no Clerk's report.

---

**Old Business –**

Mr. Powers commended and thanked Mayor Kownacki for donating his wedding ceremony fees to the Township Fireworks and extended big kudos and appreciation from Council to Steve Groeger, Superintendent of Recreation, and his staff for the long beautiful fireworks display.

---

**New Business –**

Mr. Brame stated that he noticed that Resolution (17-W), Bulk Waste Fee, is being rescinded and it seems to him that it might be a good opportunity for the Council to consider rather it is appropriate at this time to re-bid the contract for bulk waste given the budget and revenues are not static, they are kinetic, and this may be a good time to see whether they can benefit from the economy of scale as a result of better competition and more efficiency in those service providers that would result in a cost-savings to the Township, after which he posed the question to Mr. Krawczun whether or not that would be possible given their contractual obligation; and, if so, how can they go about undertaking such a procedure as well as a review of alternatives that would benefit the Township. Mr. Krawczun advised that "yes" they can re-bid the contract which is renewable December 31<sup>st</sup> and requires a 60-days notice to bidders. In addition, the Local Public Contract Law allows them to enter into an agreement for five years and the Township does that...but with an annual renewal in the event they may need to make a change.

---

**Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –**

Mr. Joseph Cermele, 528 Drexel Avenue, stated that he and some of his co-workers are present from the Greater Eldridge Park Neighborhood Association (GEPNA) and they would like to bring the Council up-to-date on some of their initiatives as well as ask for the Council's support in some of the things they are doing to better the quality of life in the Eldridge Park area rather it be verbal, hand responsive or help with funding; but, indicated that is not what they are here to speak on tonight. He then introduced the Officers of the Association, Brett Smith, Tahirih Smith, and he, who is the Secretary of the Association, and advised that the first item of discussion on his Agenda is the Pit Stop which Mr. Krawczun already updated them on. The second, Decorative Lighting & Banners which is a goal that was established a long time ago that they hope to continue and may require some action on the part of Council in terms of the sign ordinance to enable them to do some of things they would like to do if there is some common ground they can come to that would allow them to do their Banner Program along Lawrenceville Road in the business district of the Eldridge Park area.

Mr. Cermele continued to discuss their goals with the respect to the Banner Program and the Greater Eldridge Park area, which is to make the business area more appealing to pedestrian traffic and initiatives that they will be bringing to the Council's attention as they are working on various projects to honor their commitment to improve the quality of life in their area and indicated GEPNA was created to establish new relationships and build on existing connections to develop a sense of belonging and community pride in the Greater Eldridge area and that the Neighborhood Beautification Initiative was created to raise visibility of the GEPNA area by enhancing the curb appeal and streetscapes. They also started an initiative where they will be having their monthly meetings on a rotating basis at various eating facilities within their area and that the last meeting was held at Bossio's Deli & Catering and the next one will be at the Tastee Sub Shop located on Lawrenceville Road.

Ms. Tahirih Smith, President of the GEPNA, stated that they have previously come before the Council and they are glad to be back and proceeded to reiterate some of the initiatives that Mr. Cermele spoke on with regards to improving the quality of the Greater Eldridge Park area and them supporting and promoting their local businesses. She further discussed an ongoing project they have with Willis Greenhouse to grow vegetables and food inside one of the greenhouses, and Mr. Willis making a proposal for a grant to improve that site and upon talking with him they realized that there is tax burden that he has endured for a long time because of the situation of where the Greenhouse is located and indicated that Mr. Willis has three acres and there are four big greenhouses on the land; but, he does not qualify for the farm assessment because the property is not five acres; therefore, causing him to have a pretty high tax burden and a matter they want to bring to the Council's attention since

Willis is a local business that has been operating in that location for over 35 years and they want to keep the business there. And, with the younger generation wanting to use the greenhouse and perhaps move it into the next phase of development they would like to know how they can help Willis reduce that tax burden so he can stay in business and hopefully move the business into the next phase of operation.

Mr. Brett Smith, GEPNA Officer, stated that he has been a part of GEPNA from the beginning and at the request of Council they formed the Association to get organized being there was a lot of work being done to improve the neighborhood and indicated his topic of discussion is a very pragmatic one regarding the appearance of the Pit Stop, as it is a unmanaged property right in the middle of the neighborhood that is not getting the maintenance it needs and proceeded to discuss the Township having an Ordinance regarding owners cleaning up after their dogs; yet, the dog owners take advantage of that area because there is no one at that location on a day-to-day basis to make a complaint about the situation, which is pretty bad, aesthetically and as a health hazard. Furthermore, the site at the Pit Stop has not been managed for a long period of time because of long-standing problems with NJDEP and some of the maintenance issues that exist at the Pit Stop and asked the Council's guidance on how to approach the situation with regards to the Council working with them or their organization working the Public Works Department to address some of the concerns with funding, painting and projects they can legally do to improve the appearance of the privately owned site.

Mr. Powers advised that in the past the Township did get permission from the owner to paint the property and that the last time it was done it was by private volunteers. Mr. Krawczun further stated that the Township has run into the same situation given the property is privately owned and it is not as simple as knocking on the owner's door and letting them know what the problem is. So, they have had to maintain the weeds growing on property...money they will never recoup. But, if there is a group that GEPNA wants to get together they can help.

Mr. Max Ramos, 4 Woodlane Road, stated he has two questions for the Council and the first question concerns the School Board taxes, and indicated when the school first announced their tax rate for the year about a month later they came up with an additional tax of \$500,000 to implement the Affordable Care Act and during the Joint School Board Meeting he asked if any of that was being absorbed by anyone other than the taxpayers and the answer was "yes". Now, the White House has released a statement saying that they are delaying the employee mandate of the Affordable Care Act for one year, which means to him that the School Board is not required to implement the Affordable Care Act, and given that information he thinks the taxpayers should have that money (\$500,000) back, and when the School Board has its next open meeting he plans to ask for the money back; but, before he proceeds he would like the thoughts

and opinion of the Council as to whether they think taxpayers are entitled to the money back and will they help him pursue the matter with the School Board.

Mr. Krawczun explained that the Township has already received a Certified Tax Levy and that cannot be changed unless the County Board of Taxation directs them to do so. Further, if the School District does not utilize the money they can reserve the funds for future use and suggested that he speak with the School Board Administrator, Tom Eldridge, to find out the procedure for that. He then explained the process for Lawrence which would be to cancel the appropriation; the appropriations would then go into the surplus and be available for use in the next budget year, if needed. Additional discussion took place relative to Mr. Ramos soliciting the support of Council to try and get the money back from the School Board for the taxpayers.

Mr. Ramos stated his second question has to do with employee benefits and advised last year he was on a Sub-committee that helped examine the budget after the Referendum to exceed the 2-percent cap was defeated and one of the things they all agreed upon that would actually put a dent in the budget was the elimination of longevity pay; something he calls bonuses...but coded in the union contracts as longevity pay. And, in some cases the unions mandate it and the benefit has be memorialized for non-union employees of the Township and the only thing that has been done to address the problem is in the new police contract only new hire will not be subject to longevity; however, existing employees will be grandfathered in and questioned how much is being budgeted for longevity for fiscal year 2013.

Mr. Krawczun advised that he does not have the exact numbers on hand but he will get them for him. However, he would like to point out that new hires under the new contract will not get longevity and all existing officers' longevity will be frozen with only cost of living adjustments... so existing officers will not climb on the longevity scale and that the cost-savings related to that was reviewed during his budget report and that the other union contracts will mirror the same as the police contract when re-negotiated. He then discussed a memo that was written by Princeton Township Administrator regarding the elimination of longevity, the cost-savings going forward and extensive laws that dictate the negotiation process. Additional dialogue took place relative to the differences between the union contracts in Lawrence Township versus other municipalities.

There being no one else who wished to address Council, Mayor Kownacki closed Public Participation.

---

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 214-13 (17-A) thru 245-13 (17-DD) with the exclusion of Resolution (17-J- Pulled from Agenda) were approved by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Brame	X						X
Ms. Lewis	X					X	
Dr. Maffei	X						
Mr. Powers	X						
Mayor Kownacki	X						

Cited Resolutions are spread in their entirety in the Resolution Books of the Township of Lawrence.

---

**Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –**

Councilmember Lewis’ report:

- Stated in terms of the resident who raised the subject of banners in the business district, that matter has come up frequently in Growth & Redevelopment meetings due to the Special Olympics that will be taking place and urged him to bring his suggestions before the Committee and they will be happy to review and consider his proposal.
- Advised that the Economic Development Award applications and nominations are due on August 9<sup>th</sup>, so if anyone has a business they would like to nominate they must submit it by that date.

There were no further Liaison Reports.

---

**Written Communications –**

There was no written communication.

---

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned.

8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

---

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

---

James S. Kownacki, Mayor