

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

March 5, 2013

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, March 5, 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, March 5, 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 the 2013 Municipal Budget as it relates to the \$200M budget, factoring in the County and School Board budgets, and the financial management of the budget being an enormous responsibility and the reporting of the budget being less than satisfactory over the past four years and suggested that the Township redo the financial accounting by outsourcing the reporting and recording of the finances of the community to a

service like H&R Block who can handle filling out State and Federal forms and supplying all the financial data needed being they do it for individuals. They have plenty of staff and legal services and proceeded to elaborate on other financial services they have available - such as Checkbook NYC that enables them to handle the day-to-day recording that provide comparisons to past years and developing trends and projections for the future for citizens to view.

In addition, Mr. Mislán presented a plan to the Council with regards to the Council Meeting Room being renovated as it is still setup for the Municipal Court and suggested that they also put in a big projection screen and make the room an open desk type forum that would provide means for people to come in and make financial and business presentations; and, at least once a month it should be required that all departments to give a monthly financial statement to include the Board of Education and Mercer County fiscal reports so that the taxpayers will know how and where their money is being spent in a clear and transparent way and urged the Council to consider his proposals. Afterwards, Mr. Krawczun suggested that Mr. Mislán stay for his 2013 Budget presentation that would address some of his comments and concerns.

Mr. James Cleak, 7 E. Darrah Lane, stated that he has a quick question regarding an article he read in Saturday's edition of the Trenton Times about the County tax burden variations which displayed all the different tax rate increases for the various municipalities in the County and with the exception of Hightstown, Lawrence had the highest rate on the list and he was confused by that because he thought that the tax increase is equally divided among each municipality or is it even by percentage or just different by amount and was advised by Mr. Krawczun that before the County tax levy is struck, the assessed values are equalized so that when he is looking at Lawrence Township versus Pennington Borough versus Hightstown there is an adjustment made based on a formula to equalize or create an equity of fairness so that if Lawrence Township had a higher assessment than a smaller municipality, the smaller municipality is not paying one-thirteenth (1/13) of the County's bill; they are just paying their apportionment and in 2012 Lawrence Township paid 12-percent of the apportionment of County taxes which was based on the taxable value.

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

Review and Revisions of Agenda

There were no revisions to the agenda.

Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Dr. Maffei, the Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 17, 2012 were approved without correction.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Lewis, the Minutes of Closed Session Meetings of January 22, 2013 and February 5, 2013 were approved with correction.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Dr. Maffei, the Minutes of Closed Session Meeting of February 19, 2013 were approved with correction.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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 Dr. Maffei, seconded by Mr. Powers, the following resolution was presented for adoption:

Resolution No. 115-13

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2013, bids were received for Bid No. 13-01, Six Wheel Broom Street Sweeper with Belt Conveyor; and

WHEREAS, one (1) bid was received and reviewed by the Township Manager and the lowest responsible bidder is Timmerman Equipment Company, 3554 Route 22 West, Whitehouse, New Jersey 08888 with a bid of \$266,760.00 (inclusive of option 26.4 – Manufacturer’s 3-year parts and labor warranty and option 26.6 – Left hand side broom tilt); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-14, a Certificate of Availability of Funds has been provided and the accounts to be charged are C-04-55-359-280 (Purchase of Street Sweeper), G-02-40-909-299 (2009 Clean Communities Grant), G-02-40-947-299 (2010 Clean Communities Grant), G-02-40-970-299 (2011 Clean Communities Grant) and G-02-40-864-299 (2007 Recycling Tonnage Grant), G-02-40-890-299 (2008 Recycling Tonnage), G-02-40-956-299 (2010 Recycling Tonnage);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the Township is hereby authorized to award Bid No. 13-01, Six Wheel Broom Street Sweeper with Belt Conveyor with additional options, to Timmerman Equipment Company in the amount of \$266,760.00.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Introduction of Ordinances

There was no introduction of ordinances.

Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Kownacki read by title an ordinance entitled, “ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PRIVATE SALE OF CERTAIN LANDS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE – Meriline Avenue”

Ordinance No. 2149-13

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PRIVATE SALE OF
CERTAIN LANDS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE,
COUNTY OF MERCER, NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE

WHEREAS, certain land as described hereafter more particularly as owned by the Township of Lawrence but not needed for public use, and said municipality desires to sell said land by private sale in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:12-12(b) and 40A:12-13.2; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence hereby determines that the said sale is in each instance a parcel both less than the minimum size required for development under the Land Use Ordinance, and without any capital improvements thereon, and must therefore be offered for purchase to the owner or owners of real property contiguous thereto on the basis of first refusal pursuant to N.J.S.A. 12-13.2;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, that:

(1) The Township Clerk is authorized, subject to the terms and conditions hereafter set forth, to offer for private sale pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(b) all of the Township's right, title and interest in and to the certain land at the assessed value, hereby determined to be the fair market value thereof, to the owner or owners of real property contiguous thereto, as per the attached list.

(2) This Ordinance shall be published twice in a newspaper approved for legal publications, once not less than seven (7) days prior to the public hearing thereof in accordance with law applicable to the adoption of ordinances generally, and a second time within five (5) days after adoption hereof, at which time it shall also be posted on the bulletin board in Town Hall of the Township of Lawrence and remain so posted for at least twenty (20) days thereafter. Sworn proof of such publication shall be filed by the Township Clerk with the Director of the State Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs.

(3) Offers by such contiguous owner(s) to purchase the said contiguous parcel may be made in writing addressed to the Township Manager, Township of Lawrence, 2207 Lawrence Road, Lawrenceville NJ 08648, for a period of twenty (20) days following the second advertisement hereof. The Township reserves the right to reject all bids in each instance where the highest bid is not accepted, and to re-advertise the parcel concerned for public sale following reconsideration within thirty (30) days of the date of adoption of this ordinance.

(4) In the event that more than one bid is received for the parcel from multiple contiguous owners thereof, only the highest such bid will be considered for acceptance or rejection.

(5) The conveyance of any such parcel to any successful bidder shall be for the total parcel without the subdivision of or sale of a portion thereof, shall be by standard municipal Bargain and Sale Deed without covenants of the Grantor, subject to any statement or facts which an accurate survey would show, subject to all covenants, conditions, easements, liens and restrictions of record, as well as applicable ordinances of the Township of Lawrence shall be without obligation of the Township of Lawrence to provide access, public private, or any improvements thereon or thereto, with all sales being "as is" without any representation whatever as to character, quality or condition or otherwise, bidder being deemed to have inspected the premises bid upon and waived any objections to the conditions thereon.

(6) The parcel to the conveyed shall be deemed to merge and become one parcel for all purposes, including taxation and land use control, with the adjacent parcel owned by the successful bidder. In the event the successful bidder is the owner or more than one adjacent lot, the successful bidder shall be entitled to designate which of the adjacent parcels shall be consolidated with the subject property. The deed of conveyance shall contain a restriction governing the subject property that neither it nor the property with which it is consolidated shall thereafter be subdivided or, without subdivision, utilized for the construction of an additional dwelling or other structure other than an accessory building (e.g. a storage shed), if otherwise permissible. The property offered hereunder shall not be utilized by the successful bidder to support an application for relief from prevailing land use restrictions (e.g. single-family residential vs. multi-family residential), other than bulk restrictions (e.g. set back requirements for structures otherwise permitted) which, by reason of the size of the previously owned property, would not reasonably qualify for consideration by the Planning Board or Zoning Board for a variance absent the additional property purchased hereunder.

(7) The acceptance of any bid by the Township shall be subject to receipt within ten (10) days of such acceptance of a certified deposit check of the bidder (or cashier's check) in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the accepted bid price, which shall be non-refundable, the balance to be paid not later than ninety (90) days from the date of bid, again by certified or cashier's check, at which time title shall be conveyed to bidder by the Township and the Deed delivered therefore by the Township. Concurrently, with payment of the ten percent (10%) deposit, bidder shall execute an agreement to accept the terms and conditions of sale set forth herein on a form to be prescribed by the Township. The Township and successful bidder may mutually agree to extend said dates.

(8) In the event the bidder should for any reason not pay the balance due as above provided, the Township reserves the right to cancel the sale and retain

the ten percent (10%) deposit as liquidated damages for non-performance. The sale is subject to the buyers review of existing title and the ability to accept or reject same in its sole discretion. In the event title is not insurable by the bidder at prevailing rates by a reputable title insurance company, bidder's sole remedy shall be to give written notice of cancellation of the bid to the Township within ninety (90) days of the date of bid. The Township shall refund the deposit, and there shall be no further obligation by either party to the other respecting said bid or any obligations created by the giving or acceptance of said bid.

(9) In addition to the bid amount, made in accordance with the process outlined above, the Bidder must pay the Township \$1,000.00 for legal fees and other costs necessary for the property transfer, said cost to be paid prior to title conveyance.

(10) All ordinance or provisions thereof conflicting or inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

(11) If any section or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such determination shall not affect the remaining provisions hereof, which shall remain in full force and effect.

(12) This ordinance shall take effect after adoption and final publication in accordance with law.

Township Owned Property

PARCEL	ADDRESS	BLOCK	LOT(S)	ASSESSMENT	LOT SIZE
#1	Meriline venue	1306	48	\$3,500	60' x 70'

Ordinance 2149-13 was adopted 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						

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Mayor Kownacki read by title an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PRIVATE SALE OF CERTAIN LANDS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE – Rolfe, Glenn & Johnson Avenues"

Ordinance No. 2150-13

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PRIVATE SALE OF  
CERTAIN LANDS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE,  
COUNTY OF MERCER, NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE

WHEREAS, certain land as described hereafter more particularly as owned by the Township of Lawrence but not needed for public use, and said municipality desires to sell said land by private sale in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:12-12(b) and 40A:12-13.2; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence hereby determines that the said sale is in each instance a parcel both less than the minimum size required for development under the Land Use Ordinance, and without any capital improvements thereon, and must therefore be offered for purchase to the owner or owners of real property contiguous thereto on the basis of first refusal pursuant to N.J.S.A. 12-13.2;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, that:

(1) The Township Clerk is authorized, subject to the terms and conditions hereafter set forth, to offer for private sale pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(b) all of the Township's right, title and interest in and to the certain land at the assessed value, hereby determined to be the fair market value thereof, to the owner or owners of real property contiguous thereto, as per the attached list.

(2) This Ordinance shall be published twice in a newspaper approved for legal publications, once not less than seven (7) days prior to the public hearing thereof in accordance with law applicable to the adoption of ordinances generally, and a second time within five (5) days after adoption hereof, at which time it shall also be posted on the bulletin board in Town Hall of the Township of Lawrence and remain so posted for at least twenty (20) days thereafter. Sworn proof of such publication shall be filed by the Township Clerk with the Director of the State Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs.

(3) Offers by such contiguous owner(s) to purchase the said contiguous parcel may be made in writing addressed to the Township Manager, Township of Lawrence, P. O. Box 6006, Lawrenceville NJ 08648, for a period of twenty (20) days following the second advertisement hereof. The Township reserves the

right to reject all bids in each instance where the highest bid is not accepted, and to re-advertise the parcel concerned for public sale following reconsideration within thirty (30) days of the date of adoption of this ordinance.

(4) In the event that more than one bid is received for the parcel from multiple contiguous owners thereof, only the highest such bid will be considered for acceptance or rejection.

(5) The conveyance of any such parcel to any successful bidder shall be for the total parcel without the subdivision of or sale of a portion thereof, shall be by standard municipal Bargain and Sale Deed without covenants of the Grantor, subject to any statement or facts which an accurate survey would show, subject to all covenants, conditions, easements, liens and restrictions of record, as well as applicable ordinances of the Township of Lawrence shall be without obligation of the Township of Lawrence to provide access, public private, or any improvements thereon or thereto, with all sales being "as is" without any representation whatever as to character, quality or condition or otherwise, bidder being deemed to have inspected the premises bid upon and waived any objections to the conditions thereon.

(6) The acceptance of any bid by the Township shall be subject to receipt within ten (10) days of such acceptance of a certified deposit check of the bidder (or cashier's check) in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the accepted bid price, which shall be non-refundable, the balance to be paid not later than ninety (90) days from the date of bid, again by certified or cashier's check, at which time title shall be conveyed to bidder by the Township and the Deed delivered therefore by the Township. Concurrently, with payment of the ten percent (10%) deposit, bidder shall execute an agreement to accept the terms and conditions of sale set forth herein on a form to be prescribed by the Township.

(7) In the event the bidder should for any reason not pay the balance due as above provided, the Township reserves the right to cancel the sale and retain the ten percent (10%) deposit as liquidated damages for non-performance. In the event title is not insurable by the bidder at prevailing rates by a reputable title insurance company, bidder's sole remedy shall be to give written notice of cancellation of the bid to the Township within ninety (90) days of the date of bid. The Township shall refund the deposit, and there shall be no further obligation by either party to the other respecting said bid or any obligations created by the giving or acceptance of said bid.

(8) In addition to the bid amount, made in accordance with the process outlined above, the Bidder must pay the Township \$500.00 for legal fees and other costs necessary for the property transfer, said cost to be paid prior to title conveyance.

(9) All ordinance or provisions thereof conflicting or inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

(10) If any section or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such determination shall not affect the remaining provisions hereof, which shall remain in full force and effect.

(11) This ordinance shall take effect after adoption and final publication in accordance with law.

**TOWNSHIP OWNED PROPERTIES**

| PARCEL | ADDRESS        | BLOCK | LOT | ASSESSMENT | LOT SIZE |
|--------|----------------|-------|-----|------------|----------|
| 1      | Rolfe Avenue   | 1314  | 4   | \$20,000   | 7,460 sf |
| 2      | Rolfe Avenue   | 1314  | 7   | \$20,000   | 6,300 sf |
| 3      | Glenn Avenue   | 2004  | 17  | \$25,000   | 7,500 sf |
| 4      | Johnson Avenue | 2301  | 19  | \$15,000   | 2,100 sf |

Ordinance 2150-13 was adopted 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   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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**Manager’s Report –**

Mr. Krawczun stated that he has a few quick items to review prior to his review of the budget and advised that the Township was contacted by the Department of Environmental Protection just this afternoon about additional work that will take place at the Pit Stop, 1175 Lawrence Road, where there will be two days of sampling work and within the next month 3 to 4 probes will be made through the slabs of the interior of the building to collect both soil and ground water samples. Additionally, there will be six locations outside the building where soil samples will be collected and they are working with the property owners to gain access and the information has been forwarded to the Greater Eldridge Park Neighborhood Association for dissemination through their network.

Mr. Krawczun distributed copies of a Memorandum from one of the Township Planners, Brian Slaugh, proposing amendments to the Land Use Ordinance Section 110 and the Highway Commercial District Repeal of the PVD-

3 District and advised that the first Ordinance came from both comments from the Zoning Board in their annual report as well as the Planning Board in an amendment to its Master Plan. The first ordinance talks about reviewing combined stations and convenience store uses and developing zoning standards that address the new land use. And, the second ordinance, that also comes from the Planning Board is, to repeal the Planned Village Development 3 District (PVD-3 District) and apply the Highway District (HC District) on Quakerbridge Road that is zoned PVD-3, as the Master Plan was amended and the Ordinance will correct the zoning for that location as well as the HC District. So, he is providing the Council with copies of the Ordinances for their review and consideration and if there are any questions kindly contact him as it is his intention to place the Ordinances on the next Agenda for introduction and after formal action by the Council there will be a consistency review by the Boards, then the final action by the Governing Body.

Mr. Krawczun stated that the Police Dispatch contract has being signed and he would like to publicly thank Mr. Roskos who was instrumental in helping the Administration get the contract and the language in the contract concise, as his efforts proved to be very beneficial to Lawrence Township and he thinks it is sometimes important to recognize the service of their professionals.

Mr. Krawczun advised that the Township employees and supervisors have all received harassment training and that the training was handled separately for each of the groups by Garden State Municipal Joint Insurance Fund; an insurance fund they recently joined and that the police personnel training will be handled through the Police Department.

Mr. Krawczun stated that there was a recent announcement regarding State aid and that the aid for Lawrence Township will remain the same for 2013, and there is language in the Governor's budget that refers to calendar year 2014 aid remaining constant, as well.

#### **A. Discussion of 2013 Recommended Budget**

Mr. Krawczun distributed copies of the 2013 Municipal Budget Report to the Council and stated that the Council has heard him speak many times over the last year about the fact that Lawrence Township receives 21-cents on each tax dollar and he wants to talk about that a bit to further illustrate the impact of that situation on the Township's budget and fiscal condition and that all of the information will be posted on the Township website tomorrow morning. He then proceeded to review in detail the following reports: 2012 Total Levy/Amount to be Raised by Taxes, 2012 Levies vs. Municipal Budget, Monthly Payment of Tax Levies, 2012 Tax Rates, Lawrence Township Share of 2012 County Taxes, Breakdown of Reserve for Uncollected Taxes, Apportionment of RUT, Apportionment of Tax Appeal Credits/Refunds Paid by Lawrence Township on 2012, 5-Year Total (2008-2012) and 2008-2012 Loss Revenue vs. Tax Increase

related to the School, County (including Library Tax), Municipal and County/Municipal Open Space taxes.

Additionally, Mr. Krawczun discussed the synopsis of the 2013 Capital/Priority Package Budget Requests that the Council heard from some of the Department Directors during their budget hearings which showed their requests and his recommendation to the Council for funding, and indicated the amount he is recommending for 2013 is \$2.2 million dollars which is about \$800,000 less than the Township is paying down as they are continuing the trend of authorizing Capital Programs that are less than the amount of principle the Township is paying down and the net effect will produce less debt each year going forward. Furthermore, he understands there will be some questions as to why the Township would want to spend any money at this particular time and his response to that is no matter what the economic condition of the Township, they still have to operate as a municipality and although authorizations are being requested, they are an amount less than the Township is paying down; therefore, the effect on future debt service will stay steady and they can accelerate the payment of debt and if they can stay on that plan they can get on a pay as you go basis as they are looking long-term at the Plan and proceeded to elaborate on some of the contents in the Plan – such as public safety emergency equipment, maintenance of the parks and playgrounds, limited road programs, etc.

Mr. Krawczun stated he knows this the first time the Council is receiving the information; but, they will see it again when the formal budget is introduced as the Capital Plan will be incorporated into the budget; but no item will be approved for purchase until the Council takes formal action on the Capital Ordinance. So, there will be plenty of time for the Council to review the proposed projects for approval or not. An at length comment, question and answer period took place relative to Mr. Krawczun's budget presentation as it relates to the economics, tax assessments, tax appeals and tax increases. Afterwards, the Council commended Mr. Krawczun on the well-presented presentation and his hard work and leadership.

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#### **Attorney's Report –**

Mr. Roskos stated that he has a few items for Executive Session, but nothing for the open session.

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#### **Clerk's Report –**

There was no Clerk's report.

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**Old Business –**

There was no old business.

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**New Business –**

Mr. Kownacki reported that the Township received a letter from Monmouth University Polling Institution and the Graduate Program in Public Policy, who launched an e-government review of how municipalities in New Jersey use their website to inform citizens, provide services and encourage public engagement. During the past year they analyzed 540 municipal websites for availability of contents and ease of use; and, as a result of the study Lawrence Township's website was found to be among the Ten Best Municipal Websites in New Jersey and he will be attending and an E-Government Awards ceremony on March 21<sup>st</sup> at Monmouth University and proceeded to thank Mr. Krawczun and his staff for the excellent job and encouraged residents to utilize the Township's website for up-to-date information. Thereafter, Mr. Krawczun publicly thanked Steve Groeger, Superintendent of Recreation and his secretary, Yvette Martinette, who took on the full responsibility of the website and deserve the full credit.

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

Mr. James Cleak, 7 East Darrah Lane, inquired as to why is it that the School Board does not bear any of the brunt of the tax levy increases and the County bears some of the tax burden the following year because they do not know what it is going to be until then and questioned if that is a State law or something. Mr. Krawczun replied "yes". He further inquired about the impact it will have as it is his understanding that the School Board will be operating on a different budget cycle because of their election being changed from April to November and how hard is it going to be for the Township to reconcile the School's budget year with their budget year and was advised by Mr. Krawczun that their budget approval process is the same and the vote on the tax levy will only take place if a district that holds its election in November exceeds the "cap"; otherwise, there would be not be a need to vote. Some discussion took place relative to the Board of Education not bearing the brunt of the tax increases and the State rationale for allowing them to "bank" the amount not raised by taxation, as well as, Lawrence being able to keep excess taxes collected in a normal economic environment as the reasoning.

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Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 107-13 (17-A) thru 114-13 (17-H) with the exception of (17-E and 17-F) were approved by 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   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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

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Resolution No. 111-13 (17-E) was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Cited Resolution is spread in its entirety in the Resolution Books of the Township of Lawrence.

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Mr. Krawczun advised that Resolution 17-F, Authorizing a Professional Agreement to Parson Brinckerhoff for the Johnson Trolley Line Missing Link Feasibility, study was funding by a grant from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.

Resolution No. 112-13 (17-F) was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Cited Resolution is spread in its entirety in the Resolution Books of the Township of Lawrence.

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## **Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –**

### Councilmember Brame's report:

- No report.

### Councilmember Lewis' report:

- Advised that the new Greenways and Open Space Committee had a good first meeting and they are mapping out a number of ambitious goals for the New Year.

### Councilmember Maffei's report:

- No report.

### Councilmember Powers' report:

- Advised that the Shade Tree Advisory Committee did some research and found that they have a dedicated Fund, sort of like a snow removal Trust Fund, that is dedicated to shade trees and any private citizens or corporations can make a donation to the fund to help plant and maintain trees in Lawrence Township. And, one of the things they would like to do once they get the Council's blessing is promoting the memorial of that Shade Tree Fund and getting the donations made to it with the idea of creating a Memorial Tree Program similar to what they have done in some of the parks with regards to donations of benches and memorial plaques honoring the deceased. They would also like some input from Council on having an area on the newer part of the Dyson Tract, not an active recreation area, designated as a memorial to plant trees where people can go in solitude and remember their loved ones. A brief comment and question period took place relative to some future concepts regarding the proposal.

Mr. Powers asked for the consensus of the Council regarding the proposal. After a short discussion relative to the Shade Tree Committee identifying several locations within the Township to make the donation of trees to the Memorial there was no objection from Council with regards to the committee moving forward on the matter.

- Stated that the Human Relations Committee is moving forward with Diversity Day which is scheduled for Sunday, May 5 from 12 Noon to 4:00 p.m. at the Lawrence High School Cafeteria and the Lawrence Jubilee has also been moved to May 5<sup>th</sup> because of a

scheduling conflict with Princeton University and as the following Sunday is Mother's Day so they decided to keep the May 5<sup>th</sup> date for Diversity Day.

Mayor Kownacki's report:

- No report.

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**Written Communications –**

- A. Communication from David Matthews Resigning from the Environmental Resources and Sustainability Green Advisory Committee – No Discussion.

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

7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

James S. Kownacki, Mayor