

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

April 1, 2014

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 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 Lewis 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, April 1, 2014, 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, Kownacki, Maffei, Powers and Mayor Lewis.

Absent: None.

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

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Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

There were no proclamations or presentations.

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Public Participation (5-minute limitation per speaker)

*Mr. Joseph Mislán, 4 Sunset Road, resident of Lawrenceville for 44 years* voiced his objection to the 08648 being used as a Trenton mailing address as well as the 08648 zip code being exclusive to Lawrence Township, and indicated he receives lots of mail with the Trenton Zip Code 08648 and just recently he ordered some chocolates that were sent back to the manufacturer stating

“undeliverable” due to it having a Trenton 08648 mailing address; a few weeks later they finally received the package damaged after going back and forth through the mail system and requested that the Township Council try again to eliminate the Trenton Zip Code from the Lawrenceville Zip Code.

Mayor Lewis advised that the matter was addressed long before she was on Council and according to the U.S Postal Service Trenton is not in the 08648 zip code...it is solely a Lawrence Township zip code. However, there continues to be companies that do not update their mailing address list on a frequent basis; therefore, when they run the 08648 zip code it is associated with Trenton. Unfortunately, the Township Council has no authority to make companies purchase new mailing lists so they have done all that they can do with regards to the matter and if he has any further complaints he should address them with the U.S. Postmaster. Additional dialogue took place relative to the Township Council putting more pressure on the Postmaster to help alleviate the problem.

There being no one else to address the Council, Mayor Lewis closed public participation.

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#### Review and Revisions of Agenda

There were no revisions to the agenda.

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#### Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Kownacki, seconded by Mr. Brame, the Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 16, 2013 and August 20, 2013 were approved without correction.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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On a motion by Mr. Kownacki, seconded by Mr. Brame, the Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 3, 2013 were approved without correction.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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On a motion by Mr. Kownacki, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 17, 2013 were approved without correction.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

There was no award of bids.

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Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Lewis read by title an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AMENDING CHAPTER 13 OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED 'MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC' - Handicapped Parking"

Mr. Krawczun stated the Ordinance will amend the Administration Code simply to delete and add handicapped parking spaces. The handicapped parking spaces to be deleted are 860-962 Spruce Street, 35 Myrtle Avenue, 758 Puritan Avenue, and 950 Lanning Avenue will be added.

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

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

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Mayor Lewis read by title an ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A SALT DOME BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$546,000 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$518,700 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF "

Mr. Krawczun stated that the Capital Ordinance authorizes the expenditure of funds for the construction and replacement of the salt dome at the Lawrence Public Works Facility on Bakers Basin Road. The project cost is estimated to be \$546,000 and authorizes the issuance of debt in the amount of \$518,000, and it is also part of the 2014 Capital Improvement Program that has been carved out so that the project could be done over the summer, ready for the fall and filled with salt for the winter.

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

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

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Mayor Lewis read by title an ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROAD REPAIR WORK IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$100,000 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$95,000 BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF"

Mr. Krawczun stated that the Ordinance authorizes capital expenditure of \$100,000 and \$95,000 of bonds or notes for the repair of sections of various roads in Lawrence Township that have been damaged from the winter weather conditions. The improvement is for repairs only and not resurfacing at any of the locations.

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

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

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Mayor Lewis read by title an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER"

Mr. Krawczun stated the Ordinance authorizes the establishment of an "appropriated CAP Bank". The municipal budget law permits a governing body to adopt a CAP bank ordinance up to 3.5% in order to retain authorization to increase appropriations in the current budget year or either of the two subsequent budget years. The CAP rate for 2014 is .5%. The statute limits appropriation increases to 2.5% or the Cost of Living Adjustment whichever is less. The additional authorization does not impact the current tax rate or require actual cash reserves it is simply retained for future use. A brief conversation followed relative to the CAP bank not being used for the 2014 budget but available for future use, and the 2014 municipal budget within the limits and not exceeding the CAP.

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

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

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Mayor Lewis read by title an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE PROHIBITING AGGRESSIVE PANHANDLING"

Mr. Krawczun stated the Ordinance establishes a prohibition against aggressive panhandling in Lawrence Township within the borders in hopes that it will aid the police in stopping any type of aggressive behavior that may be problematic for visitors or businesses in town; but the Ordinance does not prohibit groups or individual organization from fund raising activities provided they complete an application with the Municipal Clerk and get the proper approvals. The Municipal Attorney briefly commented on the Ordinance with regards to the legality of the ordinance and how it will be interpreted, utilized and enforced by the police department.

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

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

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Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Lewis read by title an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$14,677.50 THEREFOR AND DIRECTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE COST THEREOF"

Ordinance No. 2175-14

ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$14,677.50 THEREFOR AND DIRECTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE COST THEREOF

WHEREAS, at the request of certain owners of properties identified herein, the Township of Lawrence has previously authorized and undertaken certain sidewalk improvements; and

WHEREAS, the understanding between the property owners and the Township was that these improvements would be specially assessed against the properties; and

WHEREAS, the Township now wishes to authorize the special assessment of the cost of such improvements;

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

Section 1. The improvement described in Section 3 of this ordinance is hereby authorized to be undertaken by the Township of Lawrence, New Jersey as a local improvement. For the improvement or purpose described in Section 2, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$14,677.50.

Section 2. (a) The improvement hereby authorized is the improvement of the sidewalks, curbs, and driveway aprons along the streets listed below. The affected properties, listed by name of record owner, street address, block, lot and assessment amounts are as follows:

<b>OWNER of RECORD</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>PROPERTY ADDRESS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
James Cleak, ux	7	E. Darrah Lane	\$705.00
James Kesilman	8	E. Darrah Lane	\$264.00

Daniel Zuckerman	11	E. Darrah Lane	\$1,222.00
Laurent & Michelle Cash	14	E. Darrah Lane	\$1,030.00
Ian A. Kops, et ux	20	E. Darrah lane	\$350.00
Thomas & Mary E. Tilton	88	Darrah Lane	\$1,270.50
Javid Jaraiedi	94	Darrah Lane	\$2,340.00
Schaen Fox, ux	100	Darrah Lane	\$890.00
Edward H. Wiznitzer, ux	118	Darrah Lane	\$2,338.00
Richard M. Friedman, ux	155	Darrah Lane	\$624.00
Barry Posner	284	Glenn Avenue	\$700.00
John & Sheryl Hutchison	2681	Princeton Pike	\$2,944.00
		TOTAL	\$14,677.50

(b) The estimated cost of the improvement or purpose is equal to the amount of the appropriation herein made therefor.

Section 3. The improvement described in Section 2 of this ordinance shall be undertaken as a sidewalk improvement and the cost thereof shall be assessed in the following manner. An accurate account of the cost of construction of the sidewalks shall be kept, and such cost shall be assessed upon the several properties fronting on the improvement in proportion to their respective frontage or square yardage thereon pursuant to and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:65-1 *et seq.*

Section 4. The owner of any land upon which any assessment for the local improvement shall have been made may pay such assessment in the number of equal yearly installments herein determined, with legal interest on the unpaid balance of the assessment. The first of the installments shall be due and payable two months after the confirmation of the assessment, and each subsequent annual installment and interest shall be payable in each successive year thereafter at such time as the governing body shall by resolution determine, provided that any owner of land so assessed shall have the privilege of paying the whole of any assessment or of any balance of installments with accrued interest thereon at any time. Whenever any such installment shall remain unpaid for thirty (30) days from and after the time it shall become due and payable, the whole assessment or balance thereof shall become and be immediately due and payable and shall draw interest at the rate imposed upon the arrearage of taxes in the Township and shall be collected in the same manner as provided by law for other past due assessments. Such assessment shall remain a lien upon the land described herein until the assessment with all installments and accrued interest thereon shall be paid and satisfied. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Township shall have the right to waive default as may be permitted by law.

Section 5. The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) The improvement or purpose described in Section 3 of this ordinance is not a current expense. It is an improvement or purpose that the Township may lawfully undertake as a local improvement the cost of which shall be specially assessed in the manner provided herein.

(b) The number of annual installments within which the special assessments are to be levied on the lots and parcels of real estate affected by the improvement is five (5) with an interest rate of six-percent (6%).

(c) The Township will not contribute to the payment of any part of the cost of the improvement.

Ordinance 2175-14 was approved on the following roll call vote:

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

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Mayor Lewis read by title an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13 OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED 'MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC'- Speed Limit on Province Line Road"

Ordinance No. 2176-14

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13 OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED "MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC"

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey that Chapter 13 of the Lawrence Township Administrative Code entitled "Motor Vehicles and Traffic" is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1.

Section 13-9 "Speed Limits Designated" is amended as follows:

Province Line Road, from Delaware and Raritan Canal to U. S. Route 206  
35 MPH

Section 2.

A certified copy of this ordinance shall be forwarded to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for approval.

Section 3.

This ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after adoption or upon approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, whichever is later.

Section 4.

All ordinances, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

New Material Underscored \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance 2176-14 was approved on the following roll call vote:

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

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Mayor Lewis read by title an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY - Fees"

Ordinance No. 2177 -14

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER STATE OF NEW JERSEY

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the Land Use Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. Article IX – Fees, Guarantees, Inspections and Off Tract Improvements

The following fees shall be revised in §900 Application and Escrow Fees.

A. Fee Schedule:

Escrow Fee:

Minor Plat	[\$600.00]	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
Minor Plan	[\$600.00]	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
Variances, Hardship Non Residential	[\$2,000.00]	<u>\$4,000.00</u>
Use Variance	[\$2,000.00]	<u>\$4,000.00</u>

Section 2. Repealer

All other ordinances or parts of ordinances adopted prior to the date of this ordinance that we inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed insofar as they relate or concern the provisions contained herein

Section 3. Severability

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

Section 4. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after final adoption thereof.

Material Deleted [ ]  
 Material Inserted \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance 2177-14 was approved on the following roll call vote:

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

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**Manager's Report –**

Mr. Krawczun stated that the Council and he have been requested to participate in a meeting on Friday, May 9 from 3-5 p.m. with two individuals that Lawrence Township has had interaction with, Sarah James and Torbjorn Lahti, and Mr. Lahti has co-authored a book with Sarah James called "The Natural Step for Communities: How Cities and Towns can Change to Sustainable Practices" and they may recall about 8 years ago there was a community conversation held

at The Lawrenceville School and was one of the springboards for a lot of the sustainable activity that has occurred in Lawrence Township, kind of the birth of Sustainable Lawrence. Mr. Lahti, resident of Sweden, is going to be on a book tour of the United States about Eco-Municipalities and some of the experiences he has had with eco-municipalities and as part of his book tour he will be here in Lawrence on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of May. In addition, Sustainable Lawrence is holding an event both evenings and they were interested in speaking to elected and town officials about this process and their experiences, particularly, Lawrence because of their participation early on. He advised the Council that they do not have to make a decision this evening, but if any of them plan to attend kindly let him or the Municipal Clerk know so they can make the final arrangements.

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Mr. Krawczun advised that he had an opportunity last week to meet with Lawrence businesses, members of the New Jersey Chamber, to discuss issues of mutual interest and the meeting was helpful as they talked about some of things in the municipal budget just getting completed and the Revaluation as well as the processes for applications before the Planning Board, Zoning Board and the Construction Office and how they could maybe help individuals or businesses with that process to better inform them on what to be aware of and what to expect.

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Mr. Krawczun stated today there was an article on the front page of the newspaper, primarily, about the Lawrence Township Organic Recycling Program and he would like to clarify one piece of information stated in the article because his reading of the article was that Mercer County Improvement Authority was offering a Pilot Program for organic recycling and based on his and Mr. Whitehead understanding from the last meeting MCIA was not willing to have Lawrence participate. So, he did a follow-up with Dan Napoleon from the MCIA who was present at the meeting referenced in the newspaper article and he advised that MCIA does not have any Pilot Program going; however, if there is some kind of interest where a town would like to become involved in the program they will help them do so. Further, he inquired about the 300 residents needed to participate that was reported in the article and was advised that the number came from a private caller on an estimate of how many households would be needed to get the program going in Hopewell Township. Additional dialogue took place relative to the slow start of getting residents to signup, volunteers recruiting more people despite the harsh winter, the \$20,000 grant that will continue to help their efforts and Lawrence now one-third of the way with 100 interested parties.

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**Attorney's Report –**

There was no Attorney's report.

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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. Powers stated there are a number of good causes in Lawrence Township and it has been awhile since the Council did a Proclamation in support of those causes so he just wanted to get the opinion of the majority of Council about restoring that process.

Mayor Lewis stated she knows historical there has been some concerns about the impact of that and asked the Township Attorney to weigh in his legal opinion on the matter.

Mr. Roskos stated that he does not have the full history of the matter but he knows that the former Township Attorney had considered this issue and one of things that sprang from that was a policy regarding Cable Television and the website that made good sense, as it keeps the Township from becoming involved in partisan issues and from what Mr. Powers is asking he is not seeking an amendment to that policy. However, in reading the policy it does not deal with Proclamations but he can conclude that there has been a practice in the past where Proclamations were issued at one point being it is listed on the agenda; but, the problem becomes once you say "yes" how do you say "no" as the Council could be faced with numerous proclamations every public hearing and never get to the business at hand. Furthermore, he can envision some instances where they may have competing groups seeking a Proclamation and how do you deal with the problem with endorsing one group verses another because in most instances they are all trying to recognize some public good being undertaken...but it could be a slippery slope.

Mr. Roskos stated there are a couple of ways the Council could deal with the matter. They could decide tonight if they would like to issue Proclamations in some instances or not and make a decision on some type of procedure going

forward so they do not get bogged down with request or when the Municipal Clerk receives a request she could include it in the Council's Agenda Books for their review and they can decide if it is something they would like to support and for it to be placed on the Agenda. If none of those ideas appeal to them he is open to suggestions. After some discussion and valid concerns raised by the Council regarding inclusion of some proposed language relative to Proclamations under the existing policy, it was the consensus of the Council to await Mr. Roskos' legal opinion on the matter.

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

There was no public participation.

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**Resolutions**

Resolution Nos. 130-14 (17-A) thru 141-14 (17-K) with the exception of Resolution (17-G) were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

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Resolution No. 136-14 (17-G) was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

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**Introduction of the 2014 Municipal Budget**

Mr. Krawczun stated that there has been a lot of discussion about the 2014 Budget with the presentation by each of the Department Directors regarding their operations and budget request and he would like to highlight some of the significant changes that are refuted or effective in the 2014 Municipal Budget for Lawrence Township and proceeded to review the following: Surplus Balance & Revenue Increase (2013 versus 2014), Surplus Used as Revenue(\$3.45M), Cash Reserve for Future Tax Appeals (\$883,000),Continuing the Practice of New Capital Ordinance Authorizations at Less Than the Amount of Debt Service Principal Being Paid Down (Decrease from \$30.8M in 2010 to \$26.6M in 2013), Last 3-Year Decrease in Principal After New Authorizations (\$4.1M), No Workforce Reductions for 2014, Police Officers Staff Level Remaining the Same – Will Have a Large Class of Police Officers Going to the Academy, Amount to be Raised By Taxation (\$24.1M), Budget as Presented for Introduction \$15,425 below 2-percent Statutory Cap on Tax Levy, Increase in Appropriations for Uncollected Taxes Required by Statute (\$131,708), 2014 Increase in Operations 38,728 or .09-percent and 2014 Projected Tax Rate of .53 cents down from .94 cents of the 2013 budget.

In closing, Mr. Krawczun thanked the Departments for their cooperation and the adjustments they made to help accomplish the 2014 budget. A comment, question and answer period took place relative to Mr. Krawczun’s presentation, and the Council praised Mr. Krawczun and his staff for weathering the storm and for making tough decisions over the past several years as well as the excellent job they have done in preparing the budget, bringing the budget below the mandatory cap, lowering debt service and replenishing some of the surplus and giving the governing body somewhat of a buffer to work with in 2015.

The Introduction of the 2014 Municipal Budget recommended by the Municipal Manager was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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**Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –**

Councilmember Brame’s report:

- Stated last week he met with the Cable Telecommunication Advisory Committee and it was a wonderful meeting as they talked about the scope of moving forward given the conditions involved in the cable

networks negotiations are pretty much set in stone; but, there are other things that can be done by introducing technology into the governing body process to make them more efficient and effective in carrying out their day-to-day responsibilities of governing. So, the Committee is now trying to decide on the best approach of gathering information and data and getting the information computerized to key members of staff and Council, thereby, cutting down on the voluminous amounts of paper that is consumed in the course of the bi-monthly meetings as well as work out some methodology by which the Clerk can alert members of Council effectively through bulleting and broadcasting approach so that they can prepare beforehand without having documents and he is really happy with that. And, there are some work assignments that the Committee is going to undertake one in which is the fact-finding process where they will ask to meet with the Municipal Clerk to understand the procedure by which she records and makes documents available, etc.

Councilmember Kownacki's report:

- No Liaison Report.

Councilmember Maffei's report:

- No Liaison Report

Councilmember Powers' report:

- Advised that Diversity Day is scheduled for Sunday, May 4 and Pam Pruitt will be the Keynote Speaker this year.

Mayor Lewis' report:

- No Liaison Report.

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**Written Communications –**

- A. There was no written communication.

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

7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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Cathleen M. Lewis, Mayor