

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
MEETING – December 18, 2017**

Mayor Smith *calls the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.* announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

**PRESENT:** Mayor B. Smith, Deputy Mayor B. Fort, Mr. J. Broten, Mrs. M.E. Duffy, Mr. S. Tropello

**ALSO PRESENT:** Administrator Mekovetz, Attorney S. Dragan, Engineer R. O'Brien

**ABSENT:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Clerk read the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 *et seq.*, the Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist and desires to authorize the exclusion of the public from the portion of the meeting in accordance with the act;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the specified subject matter as set forth in the following Exhibit "A."

**EXHIBIT A**

<b><u>Subject Matter</u></b>	<b><u>Basis Of Public Exclusion</u></b>	<b><u>Date Anticipated When Disclosed to Public</u></b>
Construction Code .....	Personnel.....	Certain information at the discretion of the Township Committee tonight...other information will
Police .....	Personnel.....	“ “ “
Recreation.....	Personnel.....	“ “ “
PBA 317 .....	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Patrolmen & Sergeants		
Darts Mill (Block 73, Lot 15)....	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Blue Sky (Block 81, Lot 1).....	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Lorenzen (B 44, p/o Lt 4.02).....	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Insurance.....	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Shared Services / .....	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Readington Township Board of Education		

Executive Session Minutes.....	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	“	“	“
• December 4, 2017				
Affordable Housing.....	Potential Litigation.....	“	“	“
101 Sorrel Court.....	Contract Negotiations.....	“	“	“
Block 48, Lot 23; Block 55, Lot 33; Block 56, Lots 1, 3, 6 & 8; Block 67, Lot 2 (Solberg Aviation).....	Litigation.....	“	“	“
388 Route 22 Readington Realty.....	Litigation.....	“	“	“
Holdings, LLC v. Twp of Readington				

*It is anticipated at this time that the stated subject matter will be made public on or about the time set forth in Exhibit “A.”*

2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Broten to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mrs. Fort with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

Mayor Smith led those present in the *Salute to the Flag*.

***Executive Session:***

***Personnel / Construction Code***

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Duffy to authorize Administrator Mekovetz to advertise for the position of part-time Fire Sub-Code Official, seconded Mr. Broten with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

***Personnel / Police***

Mayor Smith stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

***Personnel / Recreation***

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Broten to approve the 480 hour unpaid internship for Jhonny Campos, beginning 12/22/17 through 4/30/2018, seconded by Mrs. Duffy with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

***Contract Negotiations / PBA 317 / Patrolman & Sergeants***

Mayor Smith stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

***Contract Negotiations / Darts Mill / Block 73, Lot 15***

Mayor Smith stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

***Contract Negotiations / Blue Sky / Block 81, Lot 1***

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Broten to approve the contract with Quest Engineering to conduct a Phase II Environmental Assessment in the amount of \$2,555, seconded by Mrs. Fort and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Broten	- Aye
Mrs. Duffy	-Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Tropello	- Aye
Mayor Smith	- Aye

***Contract Negotiations / Lorenzen / Block 44, p/o Lot 4.02***

Mayor Smith stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

***Contract Negotiations / Insurance***

Mayor Smith stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

***Contract Negotiations / Shared Services / Readington Township Board of Education***

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to approve the Shared Services Agreement with the Readington Township Board of Education, seconded by Mr. Broten and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Broten	- Aye
Mrs. Duffy	-Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Tropello	- Aye
Mayor Smith	- Aye

***Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / December 4, 2017***

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to approve the minutes for content only as amended, seconded by Mrs. Duffy with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

***Potential Litigation / Affordable Housing***

Mayor Smith stated that nothing was discussed.

***Contract Negotiations / 101 Sorrel Court***

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Duffy to approve the affordable housing agreement to extend the affordability controls on this unit, seconded by Mrs. Fort and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Broten	- Aye
Mrs. Duffy	-Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Tropello	- Aye
Mayor Smith	- Aye

***Litigation / Solberg Aviation / Block 48, Lot 23; Block 55, Lot 33; Block 56, Lot 1, 3, 6 & 8; Block 39, Lot 24 and Block 67, Lot 2***

Mayor Smith stated that nothing was discussed.

Mayor Smith noted that he heard the sad news of Thor Solberg's passing.

***Litigation / 388 Route 22 Readington Realty Holdings, LLC vs. Twp. of Readington***

Mayor Smith stated that this matter remains in Executive Session although noted that there was a trial on Monday regarding attorney’s fees on the litigation.

***CONSENT AGENDA:***

Mayor Smith read the following statement:

All items listed with an asterisk “\*” are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a committee member or citizen requests, in which event the item will be removed from the General Order of Business and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

Mr. Broten requested to remove *Item #2* from the Consent Agenda.

- \* 1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of meeting of December 4, 2017
  
- \* 2. ***Tax Lien Redemption***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

***READINGTON TOWNSHIP***  
***HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY***

***RESOLUTION***

***WHEREAS***, an interested party has paid to the Tax Collector the amount necessary to redeem the lien on Block 63, Lot 31.03 and,

***WHEREAS***, it is the desire of the Tax Collector to refund to the lienholder the redemption amount.

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** by the Township Committee that the Treasurer be authorized to refund the redemption amount of \$35,470.11, plus a premium paid in the amount of \$68,100.00, known as Tax Sale Certificate #2017-014, to the lienholder, US Bank – Custodian for BV002 Trust & Creditors.

- \* 3. ***Tax Exemption***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

***READINGTON TOWNSHIP***  
***HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY***

***RESOLUTION***

***WHEREAS***, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the property owner of Block 55, Lot 22 is a 100% permanently disabled veteran (date of determination – July 25, 2017) and,

***WHEREAS***, the property owner purchased the property on September 23, 1956.

***Tax exemption resolution continued:***

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** by the Township Committee that the Tax Collector be authorized to cancel the 2017 property taxes for the time period of July 25 – December 31, 2017 and refund the owner \$2,774.44, the amount of taxes overpaid for 2017.

- \* 4. ***Release of Board of Health Escrow / Greco*** (Block 55, Lot 13.15)
- \* 5. ***Release of Stormwater Review Inspection Escrow / Hartman***  
(Block 4, Lot 57.01)
- \* 6. ***Municipal Alliance Renewal Application – Grant Year: July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

***#R-2017-105***

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON  
RESOLUTION***

***Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2014 – June 2019***

***WHEREAS***, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

***WHEREAS***, the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

***WHEREAS***, the Township of Readington, further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

***WHEREAS***, the Township of Readington has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Hunterdon;

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** by the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township of Readington Committee does hereby authorize the submission of a strategic plan for the Central Hunterdon Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2019 in the amount of :

<i>DEDR</i>	<i>31,844</i>
<i>Cash Match</i>	<i>7,961</i>
<i>In-Kind</i>	<i>23,883</i>

2. The Township of Readington Committee acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

- \*7. ***N.J. State Firemen’s Association Membership Application***  
♦ Matthew R. Williams

\* 8. *Payment of Bills* – (Complete bill list is on file in Clerk’s Office)

<u>Fund Description</u>	<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>Received Total</u>
CURRENT FUND	7-01	\$ 1,308,746.77
SEWER APPROPRIATIONS	7-02	\$ 2,356.82
TRUST FUNDS	X-03	\$ 106,871.05
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	X-05	\$ 24,092.37
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 148,062.46
2016 CAP IMPROVEMENTS	X-16	\$ 34,727.06
2017 CAP IMPROVEMENTS	X-17	\$ 719,651.55
<b>TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS</b>		<b>\$ 2,344,508.08</b>

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to approve the *Consent Agenda with the exception of Item # 2*, seconded by Mr. Tropello and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

- Mr. Broten - Aye
- Mrs. Duffy -Aye
- Mrs. Fort - Aye
- Mr. Tropello - Aye
- Mayor Smith - Aye

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** for items listed on the agenda only

Scott Scammell, Dreahook Road, requested some background information on the Blue Sky property that the Township is considering for affordable housing.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

*Mr. Broten recused himself from the Public Hearing.*

As it was after 7:45 p.m., A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mrs. Duffy with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

***AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF OPEN SPACE PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 44, LOT 15 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY FROM DUKE FARMS FOUNDATION***

**◆ ORDINANCE #17-2017**

Mayor Smith asked if there were any comments from the governing body.

Mrs. Duffy commended the Open Space Advisory Board for their hard work on obtaining the property for our Open Space inventory.

Mayor Smith asked if there were comments from the Public.

There were none.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Duffy to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Tropello with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

***AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF OPEN SPACE PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 44, LOT 15 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY FROM DUKE FARMS FOUNDATION***

**◆ ORDINANCE #17-2017**

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Fort to adopt this ordinance, seconded by Mrs. Duffy and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mrs. Duffy	-Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Tropello	- Aye
Mayor Smith	- Aye

***CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION***

1. Letter dated December 7, 2017 from Township of Clinton Board of Adjustment regarding ***Notice of Hearing on Application for 182 Stanton Mountain Road, known as Block 16, Lot 73 and Block 73 Q0092.*** No action taken.

***NEW BUSINESS***

1. ***Acceptance of Performance Bonds / Ridge Road Realty, LLC and Michael Renda and Maria Renda / Blocks 38, Lots 54.11, 54.12 and 54.02***

Attorney Dragan explained that there were three more bonds required pursuant to the Developers Agreement.

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Fort to accept the additional performance bonds for Ridge Road Realty, seconded by Mr. Broten and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Broten	- Aye
Mrs. Duffy	-Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Tropello	- Aye
Mayor Smith	- Aye

2. ***Annual Resolution to Bank & Reserve the 2017 Municipal Allocation of Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Funds***

Mr. Broten opined that the thirteen (13) acre Loughlin parcel and the Lorenzen property, which has no connection to any of our open space properties, adds no value to the Township's open space objectives therefore he opposes this funding. Mrs. Duffy countered that both parcels were proposed by the Open Space Advisory Board along with the numerous discussions of the reasoning behind the purchases and was in favor of these acquisitions. Mayor Smith also commented that the Loughlin property will provide better legal access to the Open Space.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

**#R-2017-106**

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON**

***Annual Resolution to Bank & Reserve the 2017 Municipal Allocation of Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Funds***

**WHEREAS:**

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders has approved an Open Space Trust Fund and established a Municipal Grants Program to provide Program Funds in connection with municipal acquisition of lands for recreation, conservation and general open space purposes; farmland preservation; preparation of plan elements of a municipal Master Plan, and restoration of county owned or municipal owned historic properties, buildings, structures or facilities, etc.

The Governing Body of Readington Township desires to obtain Open Space Trust Funds for preservation projects as follows:

Lorenzen	\$85,000
Loughlin	\$38,000

leaving a balance to be banked of \$318,605.61 for future projects.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Governing Body resolves:

1. Vita Mekovetz is authorized to: (a) make an application to the County of Hunterdon for Open Space Trust Funds, (b) provide additional application information and furnish such documents as may be required for the Municipal Grants Program and (c) act as the principal contact person and liaison of the above named municipality.
2. If the County of Hunterdon determines that the application is complete and in conformance with the Hunterdon County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Plan and the Policies and Procedures Manual for the Municipal Grants Program adopted thereto, the municipality is willing to use the approved Open Space Trust Funds in accordance with such adopted policies and procedures, and applicable state and local government rules, regulations and statutes thereto. And;
3. The Mayor is hereby authorized to sign and execute any required documents and agreements with the County of Hunterdon for the approved Open Space Trust Funds.

**A MOTION** was made by Mrs. Duffy to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mrs. Fort and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Broten	- Nay
Mrs. Duffy	-Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Tropello	- Aye
Mayor Smith	- Aye

- \* 3. ***Release of Board of Health Escrow / Greco*** (Block 55, Lot 13.15)

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- \* 4. ***Release of Stormwater Review Inspection Escrow / Hartman***  
(Block 4, Lot 57.01)

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.



\* 5. ***Municipal Alliance Renewal Application – Grant Year: July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019***

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

\* 6. ***N.J. State Firemen’s Association Membership Application***  
♦ Matthew R. Williams

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

***ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT***

Administrator Mekovetz reported that the Township received information from Green Acres under the Planning Incentive Grant that an acquisition payment form was received for Block 63, Lot 66 and 68. Administrator Mekovetz continued that the Township was approved \$100,790.29 for the Yard Property and \$43,272.65 for the Csepi property.

Administrator Mekovetz also reported that she was provided a resolution from the Police for their National Night Out to replace a previously adopted resolution since the amount for the grant was not the full amount that was spent and they were advised they should put that amount in.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

***#R-2017-107***

***A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A STATE GRANT APPLICATION BY READINGTON TWP. POLICE TO RECEIVE FUNDING FROM THE DETECTIVE MATTHEW L. TARENTINO COMMUNITY POLICING GRANT PROGRAM OF THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL***

***WHEREAS***, Readington Twp. Police has qualified for and has carried out activities described for award number: CP-9-18 between 8/1/2017 and 12/31/2017 in the state grant application for; and

***WHEREAS***, the activities set forth in the grant application for the National Night Out 2017 in Readington Twp. was successful in strengthening relationships between Police Department and the community, and,

***WHEREAS***, Readington Twp. Police Department is authorized to accept and does accept said grant totaling \$6,041.00.

***WHEREAS***, in this action the Readington Twp. Committee agrees that all funding from the awarding of said grant is subject to all Federal and State statutes and regulations, as well as the requirements set forth in the application authorization, the approved project budget, required certifications, and all general and special conditions attached to the grant program. Furthermore, Readington Twp. agrees that this award is also subject to all applicable Federal, State and Local financial accounting requirements, including the filing of single audits, as required under 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F, Audit Requirements (2 C.F.R. Sec. 200.500, et seq.) and State Circular Letters 15-08-OMB, as amended.

***IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT:*** The Readington Township Committee requests the funds and assistance available from the Detective Matthew L. Tarentino Community Policing Grant Program of the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General to reimburse said incurred costs to the Township, and,

***HEREBY AUTHORIZES*** the authorized representative Joseph J. Greco, Chief of Police, to submit and sign an application, and produce documents, to the Matthew L. Tarentino Community Policing Grant Program for financial aid for Community Policing activities set forth in the grant, and,

***Resolution #R-2017-107 cont'd:***

***HEREBY AUTHORIZES*** The Readington Twp. Police Department to accept funding from the Matthew L. Tarentino Community Policing Grant Program for purposes described in said application.

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Fort to adopt this resolution and rescind the previous resolution (***#R-2017-85, adopted 9/18/17***), seconded by Mr. Broten and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Broten - Aye  
Mrs. Duffy -Aye  
Mrs. Fort - Aye  
Mr. Tropello - Aye  
Mayor Smith - Aye

***ATTORNEY'S REPORT***

Attorney Dragan stated that she had nothing further to report.

***COMMITTEE REPORTS***

**JOHN BROTEN**

Mr. Broten stated that he had nothing further to report.

**M. ELIZABETH DUFFY**

Mrs. Duffy reported that a memo was received from a resident of Lazy Brook Road, Bob Kloss, regarding new proposed regulations by the Department of Agriculture which would restrict beekeeping in urban and rural areas. Mrs. Duffy continued that he is asking the Township to consider a resolution informing the League of Municipalities that the Township is opposed to the proposed beekeeping regulations and provide any comments to the State Board of Agriculture by January 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Broten requested more time to make an informed judgment prior to offering support.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

***#R-2017-108***

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON  
RESOLUTION***

***WHEREAS***, New Jersey's state insect is the honey bee; and

***WHEREAS***, honey bees are of benefit to mankind, and to New Jersey in particular, by providing plant pollination, recreation for the beekeeper, honey, wax, and other beneficial hive products; and

***WHEREAS***, even according to the Department of Agriculture's website, "without a healthy honey bee population, successful fruit and vegetable production would be at risk since New Jersey's 20,000 bee colonies, valued at \$350 per colony, represent a \$7 million honey bee industry for the State and contribute to successful production of nearly \$200 million worth of fruits and vegetable annually"; and

***WHEREAS***, domestic strains of honey bees have been selectively bred for desirable traits, including gentleness, honey production, tendency not to swarm and non-aggressive behavior, which are all characteristics desirable for fostering and maintaining honey bee colonies within all populated areas; and

***WHEREAS***, gentle strains of honey bees can be maintained within populated areas in reasonable densities without creating a detriment to public health and safety if the bees are properly located, managed and maintained; and

***Resolution #R-2017-108 cont'd:***

***WHEREAS***, many New Jersey residents desire to provide sustainability and value for New Jersey's home gardeners, farms, and all homeowners with a variety of locally grown vegetables and fruits for New Jersey residents; and

***WHEREAS***, the honey bee assists the agricultural community to increase productivity and through sustained productivity maintain an environment that promotes agricultural land use as opposed to development; and

***WHEREAS***, these new regulations include a section on Apiary Standards which states that bee colony density will be regulated as follows: on a residential lot of less than one-quarter acre where agriculture has not otherwise been determined as permitted new (not already in existence) hives are not permitted; on a residential lot of less than one-quarter acre where hives are in existence as of July 31, 2015, the hobbyist beekeeper may seek a waiver; on a residential lot of one-quarter acre to less than five acres, a person wishing to keep bees as a hobbyist may seek a waiver to keep two hives per lot; and

***WHEREAS***, these new regulations include a section on Apiary Standards which states that bee colony density will be regulated as follows: on a residential lot of less than one-quarter acre where agriculture has been determined as permitted, new (not already in existence) hives are not permitted; on a residential lot of less than one-quarter acre, where agriculture has been determined as permitted where hives are in existence as of July 31, 2015, the hobbyist beekeeper may seek a waiver; on a residential lot of one-quarter to less than five acres, where agriculture has been determined as permitted, a person wishing to keep bees as a hobbyist may keep two new hives; on a residential lot of one-quarter to less than five acres, where agriculture has been determined as permitted where hives are in existence as of July 31, 2015, a person wishing to keep bees as a hobbyist may seek a waiver to keep more than two hives; and

***WHEREAS***, these new regulations include a section on Location of Hives, which requires that all hives must be located at least 10 feet from any property line and at least 25 feet from any roadside, sidewalk, or path and 85 feet from any public place including playgrounds, sports fields, schools or churches, unless permission is granted for educational or research purposes, as well as establishing a Flyway Barrier at least six feet in height consisting of a solid wall, fence, or dense vegetation parallel to the property line and extending 10 feet beyond the colony in each direction; and

***WHEREAS***, the NJ Department of Agriculture is proposing beekeeping regulations that would severely restrict beekeeping in the State of New Jersey and consequently in Readington Township; and

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** by the Township Committee of Readington Township wishes to go on record with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture that the Township of Readington is opposed to the proposed beekeeping regulations which would have a detrimental effect on beekeeping in Readington Township as well as throughout New Jersey and urges the New Jersey State League of Municipalities to work towards creating legislation with straightforward regulations based on facts, science, and best management practices which will protect both beekeepers and non-beekeepers within the State of New Jersey; and

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*** that copies of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities; the New Jersey Beekeepers Association; and all Hunterdon County municipalities, urging them to oppose the adoption of the new beekeeping regulations as proposed by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

***A MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Fort to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mrs. Duffy with a vote of four (4) ayes all, nays one (1) recorded.

**BETTY ANN FORT**

Mrs. Fort stated that she had nothing further to report.

**BEN SMITH**

Mayor Smith stated that he had nothing further to report.

## **SAM TROPELLO**

Mr. Tropello stated that he had nothing further to report.

### ***COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC***

Bob Schoenfeld, Oldwick Road, thanked and recognized Mr. Broten and Mr. Tropello for their time and effort in helping the Readington Township community.

Donald Baldwin, Morning Star Road, echoed the sentiments of Mr. Schoenfeld and personally thanked Mr. Broten and Mr. Tropello for their time and sacrifices in serving. Mr. Baldwin thanked Mr. Broten for serving without compensation.

Rob Baumgaertner, Blue Flag Court, reiterated comments previously made and thanked Mr. Broten and Mr. Tropello for their service. Mr. Baumgaertner especially thanked Mr. Broten for his support in attempting to notify residents on the Nelson Street Redevelopment plan.

Scott Scammell, Dreahook Road, thanked Mr. Broten and Mr. Tropello for their service and bringing new thoughts and ideas to the Township Committee.

Maureen Baumgaertner, Blue Flag Court, also thanked Mr. Broten and Mr. Tropello for their service and expressed hope that the new Committee would work together for the better of the community.

### ***COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY***

Mr. Tropello commented that he enjoyed his stay on the Township Committee and expressed his reasons for not running again. Mr. Tropello continued that it has been an honor and privilege to serve Township and citizens of Readington, adding that he hoped he has been able to meet the criteria and responsibility entrusted to him and wished all the best to the incoming members of the Committee. Mr. Tropello thanked Mayor Smith for his hard work and efforts in greater transparency.

Mrs. Fort commented on the Municipal Alliance Renewal Application Grant on the Consent Agenda and asked Administrator Mekovetz to find out if anything is being done in Readington. Mrs. Fort also thanked Mr. Broten and Mr. Tropello for their service and stated they will be missed.

Mr. Broten thanked everyone for their kind words for Mr. Tropello and himself. Mr. Broten commented on the learning experience of being a Committee member and trying to have a voice. Mr. Broten continued that he has been honored to be a part of this Committee and work for the residents and expressed gratitude for the friendships he has made along the way. Mr. Broten also expressed his reasoning for not seeking re-election since he is uncertain of future plans. Mr. Broten commented on his vision for the future of Readington and wished the incoming members of the Committee well.

Mrs. Duffy commented that she enjoyed working with Mr. Tropello and Mr. Broten and thanked them for their time and effort for serving.

Mayor Smith thanked Mr. Broten and Mr. Tropello for all the times they agreed and disagreed, adding that those challenges were very beneficial to the town. Mayor Smith continued that in times when few people volunteer he was happy that they stood up and made their voices heard.

Mayor Smith announced that Merck is under contract to sell their headquarters with an expected closing in 2018. Mayor Smith stated that the purchaser is Unicom Global, a large privately held software and hardware company.

Mrs. Fort wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and hoped that 2018 is a healthy, positive and prosperous new year.

As there was no further business, *A MOTION* was made by Mrs. Fort at 8:41 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Duffy with vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vita Mekovetz, *RMC/MMC/QPA*  
Municipal Clerk