

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
VIRTUAL ONLINE MEETING – MAY 4, 2020**

Mayor Heller *calls the meeting to order at 5:30 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 J. Heller, Deputy Mayor J. Huelsebusch, Mr. J. Albanese, Mrs. BA Fort and Mr. B. Smith

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator V. Mekovetz, Attorney S. Dragan, Engineer 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

<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Basis Of Public Exclusion</u>	<u>Date Anticipated When Disclosed to Public</u>
Personnel Matters	Personnel	Certain information at the discretion of the Township Committee tonight...other Information will remain confidential
Professional Services / Conflict Engineer	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Executive Session Minutes..... April 20, 2020	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	“ “ “
Affordable Housing.....	Potential Litigation.....	“ “ “
Block 48, Lot 23; Block 55, Lot 33; Block 56, Lots 1, 3, 6 & 8; Block 67, Lot 2 (Solberg Aviation).....	Litigation.....	“ “ “

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."

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Smith to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Heller led those present in the Salute to the Flag.

Executive Session:

Personnel / Personnel Matters

Mayor Heller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Professional Services / Conflict Engineer

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2020-51

***RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL
CONFLICT MUNICIPAL ENGINEER / INSPECTION SERVICES***

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire the services for a backup/conflict Professional Engineer on an as needed basis as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provision of *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5* and

WHEREAS, the term “non-fair and open contract,” for the purposes of the law, refers to a Professional Services Contract awarded to a contractor who has not made a political contribution as described in *N.J.S.A. 19.44A-20.5 et seq.* or in *N.J.S.A. 19.44a-8, et. seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Finelli Consulting Engineers, Inc., has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide Professional Engineering/Construction Inspection Services for rates as detailed in the contract for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/adopted budget.

WHEREAS, Finelli Consulting Engineers, Inc., has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Finelli Consulting Engineers, Inc., has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Readington in the previous one (1) year, and that the contract will prohibit Finelli Consulting Engineers, Inc., from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer’s Certification of the availability of funds is on file – *N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Finelli Consulting Engineers, Inc., as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service Contract including the rate schedule are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

Mr. Albanese	- Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Smith	-Aye
Mayor Heller	- Aye

Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / April 20, 2020

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 20, 2020 for content only, seconded by Mr. Smith with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Potential Litigation / Affordable Housing

Mayor Heller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

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 Heller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Heller 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.

1.* **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of meeting of April 20, 2020

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 21.12, Lot 26 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 \$1,061.12, plus a premium paid in the amount of \$1,500.00, known as Tax Sale Certificate #2019-007, to the lienholder, FIG Cust FIGNJ19LLC & Sec Pty

3.* ***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 36, Lot 77 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 \$13,315.14, plus a premium paid in the amount of \$20,100.00, known as Tax Sale Certificate #2019-009, to the lienholder, Christiana T C/F CE1/Firsttrust.

4.* ***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 36, Lot 117 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 \$927.79, plus a premium paid in the amount of \$2,000.00, known as Tax Sale Certificate #2019-010, to the lienholder, US Bank Cust/Pro Cap 8/Pro Capital Mgt II.

5. * ***Resolution for Certification of Availability of Funds for Professional Services Contract***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2020-52
TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION
CERTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

I hereby certify that funds are available for the following professional contracts for the year 2020: (All are provided for in the 2020 municipal budget unless otherwise noted) this Resolution replaces the following Resolutions adopted during the Temporary Budget term:

Resolution #R-2020-52 cont'd:

- #2020-16 Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, Municipal Auditors
- #2020-17 McManimon and Scotland, Bond Counsel
- #2020-18 Martin Allen, Tax Attorney
- #2020-19 Fischer and Phillips, Labor Attorney
- #2020-20 Scott Mitzner, Public Defender
- #2020-21 Anthony Rotunno, Esq., Alt. Public Defender
- #2020-22 Jennifer Toth, Esq., Alt. Public Defender
- #2020-23 Clarke♦Caton♦Hintz, Professional Planners
- #2020-24 Advanced Engineering Inspections (AEIS) Services
- #2020-25 Jeffrey Surenian Associates, Special Counsel
- #2020-26 River Net Computers LLC
- #2020-27 Stephen Davis, Esq., Municipal Prosecutor
- #2020-28 Gebhardt & Kiefer, Special Counsel
- #2020-29 Van Cleef Engineering and Associates
- #2020-30 Animal Control Solutions
- #2020-31 Sharon Dragan, Esq., Township Attorney
- #2020-47 Newhouse Associates, LLC

Certified by: *Thomas J. Carro, CMFO*

- 6. * **Release of Soil Witness Fees / Block 74, Lot 37.01 (Sikanowicz)**
- 7. * **Release of Hunting Lease Security Deposit / Block 63, Lots 19 & 64**
- 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	0-01	\$ 368,336.02
SEWER APPROPRIATIONS	0-02	\$ 166,622.91
CURRENT FUND	9-01	\$ 21,915.24
TRUST FUNDS	X-03	\$ 2,228.05
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	X-05	\$ 47,867.75
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 152,278.35
REG & LOCAL SCHOOL TAX	X-07	\$ 5,976,471.22
2014 CAP IMPROVEMENTS	X-14	\$ 14,108.90
2017 CAP IMPROVEMENTS	X-17	\$ 192.00
2018 CAP IMPROVEMENTS	X-18	<u>\$ 22,770.00</u>
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$ 6,772,790.44

A MOTION was made by Mr. Albanese to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Smith and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

- Mr. Albanese - Aye
- Mrs. Fort - Aye
- Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye
- Mr. Smith - Aye
- Mayor Heller - Aye

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC for items listed on the agenda only

John Broten, Dogwood Drive, noted that on the proposed airport ordinance no exhibits were attached and further commented that although the prohibited uses have been pointed out, the permitted uses have not been identified.

Bob Schoenfeld, Oldwick Road, asked if copies of the ordinances are available on the website.

Suzy Nagle, commented on the proposed ordinance with regard to the permitted uses and pointed out that there is another runway (1028) which has been reactivated.

Paula Baldwin, Morning Star Road, commented that the proposed ordinance should be made available to the public.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

Clerk read by Title:

***ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AN AIR SAFETY AND
HAZARDOUS ZONING ORDINANCE***

ORDINANCE #10-2020

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

Mayor Heller summarized a memorandum from Planning Board dated April 28, 2020 indicating that the ordinance was inconsistent with the Master Plan, further recommending that the ordinance be revised and re-introduced in the form attached to the memo.

Mayor Heller asked if there were any comments from the public.

Paula Baldwin, Morning Star Road, commented that she was unclear as to why the verbage “hazardous” is written into ordinance.

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

Clerk read by Title:

***ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AN AIR SAFETY AND
HAZARDOUS ZONING ORDINANCE***

ORDINANCE #10-2020

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

Mr. Albanese	- Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Smith	-Aye
Mayor Heller	- Aye

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Fort to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP AND ARTICLE IV “DISTRICT REGULATIONS” OF CHAPTER 148 “LAND DEVELOPMENT”, TO CREATE AN INCLUSIONARY HOUSING ZONE ALSO KNOWN AS AGE-RESTRICTED AFFORDABLE HOUSING-2 DISTRICT (ARAH-2)

ORDINANCE #12-2020

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

There were none.

Mayor Heller asked if there were any comments from the public.

John Broten, Dogwood Drive, asked if this location was the property behind The Rail on Main Street.

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

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP AND ARTICLE IV “DISTRICT REGULATIONS” OF CHAPTER 148 “LAND DEVELOPMENT”, TO CREATE AN INCLUSIONARY HOUSING ZONE ALSO KNOWN AS AGE-RESTRICTED AFFORDABLE HOUSING-2 DISTRICT (ARAH-2)

ORDINANCE #12-2020

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

Mr. Albanese	- Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Smith	- Aye
Mayor Heller	- Aye

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Fort to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP AND ARTICLE IV “DISTRICT REGULATIONS” OF CHAPTER 148 “LAND DEVELOPMENT”, TO CREATE A NEW INCLUSIONARY HOUSING ZONE ALSO KNOWN AS MULTI-FAMILY AFFORDABLE HOUSING-5 DISTRICT (MFAH-5).

ORDINANCE #13- 2020

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

There were none.

Mayor Heller asked if there were any comments from the public.

John Broten, Dogwood Drive, inquired if sewer capacity and water was available for this proposed site.

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

Clerk read by title:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP AND ARTICLE IV “DISTRICT REGULATIONS” OF CHAPTER 148 “LAND DEVELOPMENT”, TO CREATE A NEW INCLUSIONARY HOUSING ZONE ALSO KNOWN AS MULTI-FAMILY AFFORDABLE HOUSING-5 DISTRICT (MFAH-5).

ORDINANCE #13- 2020

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

Mr. Albanese	- Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Smith	- Aye
Mayor Heller	- Aye

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Smith to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by title:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP AND ARTICLE IV “DISTRICT REGULATIONS” OF CHAPTER 148 “LAND DEVELOPMENT”, TO CREATE A NEW INCLUSIONARY HOUSING ZONE ALSO KNOWN AS MULTI-FAMILY AFFORDABLE HOUSING-4 DISTRICT (MFAH-4).

ORDINANCE #14- 2020

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

There were none.

Mayor Heller asked if there were any comments from the public.

Andrew Roth, County Road 523, asked if there was a site plan that the developer would need to comply with and also expressed concern over the residents currently living at the Gables in conjunction with the issue of an access road.

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

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP AND ARTICLE IV “DISTRICT REGULATIONS” OF CHAPTER 148 “LAND DEVELOPMENT”, TO CREATE A NEW INCLUSIONARY HOUSING ZONE ALSO KNOWN AS MULTI-FAMILY AFFORDABLE HOUSING-4 DISTRICT (MFAH-4).

ORDINANCE #14- 2020

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

Mr. Albanese	- Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Smith	- Aye
Mayor Heller	- Aye

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Smith to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mrs. Fort with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP AND ARTICLE IV “DISTRICT REGULATIONS” OF CHAPTER 148 “LAND DEVELOPMENT”, TO CREATE A NEW INCLUSIONARY HOUSING ZONE ALSO KNOWN AS MULTI-FAMILY AFFORDABLE HOUSING-2 DISTRICT (MFAH-2)

ORDINANCE #15- 2020

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

There were none.

Mayor Heller asked if there were any comments from the public.

John Broten, Dogwood Drive, questioned the location and size of the property and also if sewer capacity is available.

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

Clerk read by title:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP AND ARTICLE IV “DISTRICT REGULATIONS” OF CHAPTER 148 “LAND DEVELOPMENT”, TO CREATE A NEW INCLUSIONARY HOUSING ZONE ALSO KNOWN AS MULTI-FAMILY AFFORDABLE HOUSING-2 DISTRICT (MFAH-2)

ORDINANCE #15- 2020

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

Mr. Albanese	- Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Smith	- Aye
Mayor Heller	- Aye

CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION

1. Notice from Public Service Electric and Gas Customers in the *Matter of the Petition of Public Service Electric and Gas Company for Approval of the Next Phase Modernization Program and Associated Cost Recovery*. No action taken.
2. Memorandum from Denise Filardo, Planning and Zoning Board Secretary, Township of Clinton, regarding *Public Hearing and Adoption of the 2020 Periodic Examination Report of the Master Plan & Development Regulations and Land Use Plan Amendment*. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *An Ordinance to Adopt the Requirements of the Air Safety and Zoning Act of 1983, N.J.S.A. 6:1-80, et seq., and its Accompanying Regulations, N.J.A.C. 16:62-1, et seq.* - Memorandum dated April 28, 2020 from Ann Marie Lehberger, Planning Board Secretary

Mayor Heller announced that based on information received from the Planning Board and the professionals, this ordinance is being tabled until a later date.

2. ***Special Permit Application for Festival of Ballooning***

Mayor Heller stated that in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic to adhere to the Executive Orders with regard to maintaining social distancing and avoiding mass gatherings, it would be premature to approve this special event permit application and recommended tabling the request until the Executive Order have been lifted. The Committee concurred with Mayor Heller's recommendation to table this request to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Ken Staats, Chief Operating Officer of the Festival of Ballooning, Inc., pointed out that the application was the first step to begin the process and agreed with Committee's decision that it would be premature to approve this request at this time; however, requested that the Committee continue to list this matter on future agendas for consideration, if and when, the Executive order has been lifted.

3. ***Resolution in Recognition of Benjamin Melanson Attaining Eagle Scout***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2020-53

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION***

WHEREAS, Benjamin Melanson a valued member of his Boy Scout Troop 186, is a dedicated young man who has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow scouts through his active participation in the many programs sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Scout Benjamin Melanson's Eagle Project involved reestablishing the Wood Duck habitat in the County parks as many of the old boxes installed have either disappeared in harsh weather or fallen apart over time due to rotting material; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin led to a team of fellow scouts and adults to build fifteen (15) boxes and installed ten (10), providing GPS coordinates for monitoring and provided the remaining boxes to the Parks Department for future use; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin and his team installed the boxes on trees and tall metal poles to keep the Wood Ducks safe from predators and harsh weather; and

WHEREAS, the environmental impact of Benjamin's project will bring Wood Ducks back to Hunterdon County Parks for years to come.

WHEREAS, the Eagle Scout is the highest rank of recognition offered in Scouting; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2020 Benjamin Melanson will be presented with the coveted Eagle Scout Award and is well deserving of this recognition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington hereby commends Eagle Scout Benjamin Melanson for his diligence, determination, and dedication in pursuing the highest honor awarded by the Boy Scouts of America and congratulates him on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

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

4. *Resolution for Alternatives to Proposed Roundabout*

Mr. Huelsebusch stated that in meeting with Freeholders Holt and Van Doren, as an alternative to the proposed roundabout at the intersection of Route 523 and 629, there was a discussion to reduce the speed limit through the intersection, update the signage and also lower the speed limit through the Village of Stanton along with relocating signage to effectively warn passing motorists. Mr. Huelsebusch maintained that the Freeholders requested a resolution from the Township to proceed with addressing the speed limit changes.

Mrs. Fort countered that there are proper procedures in place prior to lowering speed limits on County roads, including traffic studies and consultations with the police department and could not support the resolution at this time.

Mr. Huelsebusch proposed that, if more discussion is needed, would the Committee consider moving forward with a separate resolution to reduce the speed limits in Stanton Village. Mrs. Fort indicated that there are actually two separate issues being addressed here and she would support asking the County to look into reducing the speed limits in Stanton Village, after a traffic study expert and the Police Department have provided input.

Mayor Fort stated after the initial proposed roundabout public presentation in the municipal building a while ago, it was her understanding that County would be returning for a second public presentation and also present less intrusive alternatives which has still not happened.

Mr. Smith opined that other than the proposed roundabout or reducing the speed, the Freeholders are not interested in other options and also spoke to the necessity of hiring an additional officer to enforce reduced speed limits, further adding that the decrease in speed limits may impact the input of navigations systems for those seeking alternatives routes.

Mr. Albanese concurred that he would like to hear more from the traffic experts and the Chief of Police on how the lowered limits would have a positive impact and that there are no unintended consequences.

Mr. Huelsesbusch proposed drafting a resolution focusing on reducing the speed limits in Stanton Village as a first step, concurrent with having a meeting with experts on the intersection.

Mrs. Fort maintained she supports lowering the speed limits in Stanton Village and through proper protocols, would like to include the Chief of Police, traffic officer and possibly traffic expert, Jay Troutman, as part of the process.

5. * *Resolution for Certification of Availability of Funds for Professional Services Contract (2020)*

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

6.* *Release of Soil Witness Fees / Block 74, Lot 37.01 (Sikanowicz)*

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

7. * *Release of Hunting Lease Security Deposit / Block 63, Lots 19 & 64*

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Mekovetz stated that she had nothing further to report.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Dragan stated that she had nothing further to report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer O'Brien reported that the application for State aid is due July 1st and to start the process, recommended Kline Boulevard for the improvement application. Mr. Huelsebusch asked if a second State aid application is permissible to propose another road. Engineer O'Brien responded that although this would be acceptable, the Township would have to prioritize the road since it is unusual that two grants would be given.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Smith to approve Kline Boulevard for the State aid application, seconded by Mrs. Fort with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Engineer O'Brien also provided a status update on the Toll/Farm property matter.

JOHN ALBANESE

Mr. Albanese reported that the parks have re-opened for residents to enjoy while continuing to maintain social distancing; however at this time, playgrounds, playing fields, tennis courts and pavilions remain closed.

Mr. Albanese reported that Chris Dey, Social Services Director, is working diligently to help those in need with the assistance of the Department of Public Works, Frank Veneziale and members of Emergency Management.

Mr. Albanese stated that the Recreation Department is continuing to offer creative stay at home activities and Director Gabrielle Bolarakis was instrumental on getting the parks reopened

BETTY ANN FORT

Mrs. Fort praised the efforts of all the areas of Emergency Services and healthcare workers during these difficult times. Mayor Heller added that since the Emergency Services fundraising events have been cancelled, donations to assist these volunteer departments would be much appreciated to offset normally realized revenues.

Administrator Mekovetz added that the museums and library are looking to offer virtual activities as well.

JUERGEN HUELSEBUSCH

Mr. Huelsebusch reminded everyone that the trails are open and the Department of Public Works is working on mowing the trails. Mr. Huelsebusch added that the Open Space volunteers have been working to clear out invasive plants, following appropriate social distancing rules.

BENJAMIN SMITH

Mr. Smith reported that the courts will be going virtual to reopen the court process.

JONATHAN HELLER

Mayor Heller reminded everyone to continue the 6-foot social distancing and thanked the emergency services workers, teachers and municipal staff while working in these adverse conditions.

Mayor Heller addressed Executive Order No. 130 which was signed by Governor Murphy allowing municipalities to extend the grace period for the payment of 2nd quarter 2020 property taxes to June 1, 2020, stating that the Township Committee has made the difficult decision to not extend the grace period to June 1st. Mayor Heller explained the Township still has the legal obligation to pay the Hunterdon County, regional and local school taxes in addition to collecting the taxes for salaries, medical benefits, pensions and operating budgets for each of these organizations. Mayor Heller continued that Township does not carry surplus cash to make these payments without the collection of quarterly taxes; therefore, Readington would be required to borrow the money and incur more debt. A statement indicating the Committee's decision will be posted on the Township website.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Andrew Roth, County Road 523, voiced a concern relative to ordinance #14-2020 as it goes forward with regard to the individuals that reside at the Gables.

Nathaniel Roth, County Road 523, asked about the access codes and meeting identification numbers for the virtual meeting.

Adam Muller, Pine Bank Road, commented on the proposed roundabout, adding that the Freeholders are continuing to move forward with the design.

John Broten, Dogwood Drive, inquired if the airport ordinance will be re-introduced at a later date.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

There were none.

As there was no further business, ***A MOTION*** was made by Mr. Albanese at 9:25 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Fort with vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

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