

**TOWNSHIP OF PEMBERTON  
REGULAR MEETING**

**January 7, 2015  
6:30 P.M.**

**FLAG SALUTE**

Council President Allen led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, announced that notice of the meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, and followed by roll call.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT**

Norma Trueblood  
Diane Stinney  
Sherry Scull  
Letha Jackson  
Jason Allen

**ABSENT**

Also present: Mayor David Patriarca, Business Administrator Dennis Gonzalez, Solicitor Andrew Bayer, Engineers Chris Rehmann and Kathryn Cornforth, and Township Clerk Amy P. Cosnoski.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Allen called the meeting to order at 7:26 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Resolution 33-2015 Authorizes Council to go into Closed Session.

Personnel Appointment - Auditor

Attorney Client Privilege- Investigatory Committee

Motion by Jackson and Trueblood to approve Resolution 33-2015. Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes; Stinney, yes; Scull, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

Council President Allen recessed the open meeting at approximately 7:27 p.m. to go into Closed Session and reconvened the open meeting at approximately 8:04 p.m.

(Reference Note: Closed Session minutes are transcribed and filed separately and considered part of these minutes)

Council President Allen announced there would be formal action pursuant to Closed Session and Council will be returning to Closed Session at the end of the meeting.

Motion by Scull and Stinney to add Resolution 24-2015, Appointment of John J. Malley to Auditor, to the Consent Agenda. Scull, yes; Stinney, yes; Trueblood, yes; Jackson, no; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

**OTHER RESOLUTIONS**

34-2015 Recognition of Dedication of Public Service by Kenneth Cartier.

Council President Allen called Mr. Cartier to the front of the room and read Resolution 34-2015 into record.

Motion by Scull and Stinney to approve Resolution 34-2015. Scull, yes; Stinney, yes; Trueblood, yes; Jackson, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

Council President Allen thanked Kenneth Cartier for his dedication and service and expressed he has enjoyed working with him for the last four years. Stated he has learned a lot from him and thanked him for everything. Kenneth Cartier thanked everyone for their support and dedication and stated it has wholeheartedly been an honor and a privilege to serve. Council President Allen asked if any other Council members had comments. Councilwoman Stinney humbly thanked Mrs. Cartier for putting up with him. Councilwoman Scull thanked Mr. Cartier and stated it has been an honor and a privilege to work with him and thanked him for his dedication to the community.

24-2015      Appointment of John J. Malley to the position of Auditor.

Motion by Scull and Stinney to approve Resolution 24-2015. Scull, yes; Stinney, yes; Trueblood, yes; Jackson, no; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda: All items listed with an asterisk (\*) are considered to be routine by the Township Council and will be enacted by one motion. Should a Council Member wish to discuss a consent agenda item separately, that item can be removed from the consent agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the regular agenda.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Council President Allen opened the meeting to the public for comments on the Consent Agenda. Seeing no residents wishing to be heard, Council President Allen closed the meeting to the public.

Councilwoman Scull asked to pull Resolutions 36-2015 and 38-2015 and Councilwoman Stinney asked to pull Resolution 39-2015 from the Consent Agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**MINUTES FILED BY CLERK**

Regular Meeting, December 17, 2014.

**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS**

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 35-2015 | Awards contract to Midlantic Fire Protection for the provision of fire suppression design services for the Township Senior Center in an amount not to exceed \$14,350.00 |
| 36-2015 | <i>This resolution pulled from Consent Agenda and considered later in the meeting.</i>   |
| 37-2015 | Authorizes cancellation of property taxes on property qualifying for Veteran’s Property Tax Exemption for Hawkins on Block 82, Lot 33.                                   |
| 38-2015 | <i>This resolution pulled from Consent Agenda and considered later in the meeting.</i>   |
| 39-2015 | <i>This resolution pulled from Consent Agenda and considered later in the meeting.</i>   |
| 40-2015 | Affirms consent to the appointment of Paula Kosko as Director of Recreation & Senior Services.   |
| 41-2015 | Affirms consent to the appointment of Harold Sager as Director of Public Works.  |
| 42-2015 | Authorizes various routine refunds.  |
| 43-2015 | Appoints Amy P. Cosnoski as Registrar of Vital Statistics.   |

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Purchases over \$2,000
  - 1. Municipal Court – Municipal Court Recording System from Gramco Word Processing, Inc. in the amount of \$2,995.00.

**BILL LIST**

Approval by Council required for payment of vouchers on bill list dated 12/31/2014.

Motion by Jackson and Trueblood to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended. Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes; Stinney, yes; Scull, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

**OTHER RESOLUTIONS**

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 36-2015 | Approves amendment to collective negotiations agreement with the AFSCME Local 2783 for the term January 1, 2012 to |
|---------|--|

December 31, 2015. *Pulled from the Consent Agenda.*

Councilwoman Scull advised she needed to abstain from this resolution.

Motion by Stinney and Jackson to approve Resolution 36-2015. Stinney, yes; Jackson, yes; Scull, abstain; Trueblood, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

38-2015 Affirms consent to the appointment of Dennis Gonzalez as Business Administrator. *Pulled from the Consent Agenda.*

Councilwoman Scull asked for an individual vote on this resolution.

Motion by Jackson and Trueblood to approve Resolution 38-2015. Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes; Stinney, no; Scull, no; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

39-2015 Affirms consent to the appointment of David Benedetti as Director of Community Development. *Pulled from the Consent Agenda.*

Councilwoman Stinney asked if any of Council was aware who David Benedetti is and asked if all could meet with him. Mayor Patriarca advised that Councilwoman Stinney should be aware as she met and interviewed Mr. Benedetti and that he is the current Director of Community Development. Councilwoman Stinney advised she did know who he was but was asking the rest of Council. Councilwoman Stinney advised he is a great man and she remembers when he came in from Cherry Hill and the positive growth that occurred while he was there. Asked both Township Clerk, Amy Cosnoski, and Council President Allen if it has always been the Council's desire to waive the Township employee residency requirements and read a portion of the Resolution in reference to his residency. Ms. Cosnoski advised that the majority of the department heads are not Township residents. Mayor Patriarca advised that he was not a resident when he was appointed last time and he has not moved into the town.

Motion by Stinney and Trueblood to approve Resolution 39-2015. Stinney, yes; Trueblood, yes; Scull, yes; Jackson, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Discussion of Council Investigatory Committee**

Solicitor Bayer asked if Council wanted to wait until the outcome of the executive session to discuss this is in public since no decision was made in the first session. It was the consensus of Council to table until the end of the meeting.

### **Discussion of Redevelopment Committee**

Councilwoman Stinney noted she had requested this from the last meeting and advised that Mr. Cartier was on the redevelopment committee and maybe a replacement could be found at this meeting. Councilwoman Scull stated she would not mind serving on it. Councilwoman Stinney noted they would get some outlines and meet with the Planner and Mr. Benedetti and discuss and bring back to Council. Councilwoman Stinney commented that she believed they once had a Business Committee. Councilwoman Scull advised that they did and worked closely with Mr. Rehmann's firm putting together flyers with the information on what businesses needed to do. Councilwoman Stinney commented on a committee regarding the different forms of government and how to make it more adjustable for the community.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Proposed Sign Ordinance**

Solicitor Bayer advised that Council had discussed this Ordinance in December and some changes were requested which have been made. Councilwoman Scull commented on J1 which she thought they agreed would be 30 days. Solicitor Bayer advised he would make the change to 30 days. Councilwoman Scull on K1 should be 30 days also. This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting on January 21st.

## Jay's Studio Jewelers License

Councilwoman Trueblood recused herself from this due to a personal relationship. Solicitor Bayer noted that at the last Council Meeting, Chief Jantas made a presentation regarding his reasons for not wanting to renew. Council asked to hear from Mr. Marrero. Chief Jantas noted he just spoke to Mr. Marrero and he understands the Chief's position. Advised that Mr. Marrero had just completed a webinar on the same day as the meeting, for the RAPID system which is an online class on how to work the system, and he assured Chief Jantas that he is coached up on how to use the system and he will be emailed a sheet on how to use the system step by step. Mr. Marrero now admits the system is not as hard as he originally thought it would be. Chief Jantas noted he would remove his objection to the renewal of his license however advised that Mr. Marrero must understand that there will be no probation period and he will summons and citations if non-compliant. Chief Jantas stated they have the ability to monitor his use of the program and Mr. Marrero understands that he will be heavily scrutinized for his non-compliance with this Ordinance. Chief Jantas commented that Mr. Marrero has assured him that he will comply with the Ordinance so moving forward he will remove his recommendation to not renew the license. Councilwoman Jackson stated she will go along with what the Chief stated as long as the Chief is comfortable with it. Councilwoman Scull asked if Council could hear from Mr. Marrero directly. Mr. Marrero stated he did speak with the Chief and admitted he was having a little difficulty with the system and that he did go through the webinar, but he did keep paper records on file. Stated that with the webinar he took today he did get it and the system is going to send him a step by step cheat sheet on how to use the system. Commented that he does want to be compliant. Solicitor Bayer advised Mr. Marrero that in order to obtain the renewal, he would need to pledge that he will comply with the ordinance and if he does not comply he will need to go before the Municipal Judge for violations. Also advised that next year he will also need to come back before this same Council. Councilwoman Scull noted that one of the things that bothered her was that Mr. Marrero had purchased some stolen material and that it was no longer available when the Police found out about it. Stated that it is very important that he upholds the ordinance as they are taking him at his word that he will as they did last year, and it is expected that he will follow this ordinance. Councilwoman Stinney thanked Chief Jantas and to Mr. Marrero stated that she is sure he will continue to do the right thing here in Pemberton Township and hopes he will follow the rules and regulations.

Motion by Scull and Jackson to approve the 2015 Secondhand Jewelry License for Jay's Studio Jeweler's. Scull, yes; Jackson, yes; Stinney, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carries.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

**Mr. Bayer reported:** 1. No report.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

**Mr. Rehmann reported:** 1. Mr. Rehmann noted that he submitted a report for tonight's meeting and that if there were any questions for this report he would be glad to answer them.

Councilwoman Stinney commented on their being no planner and stated that in every municipality she knows of there is a Planner and she was hoping that the Planner could answer some questions she had. Mayor Patriarca noted that there was no appointment of the Planner at this time as he does not have any planning projects at this point and when he does he will bring one to Council for consent. Councilwoman Stinney asked about the Dialysis Center. Mayor Patriarca noted it is still closed. Councilwoman Stinney asked if we are still looking for a developer for the shopping center. Mayor Patriarca stated that they are always looking for a developer.

### **MAYOR'S AND/OR BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

**Mayor Patriarca reported:** 1. Commented on the statement made that decisions are made by personality, yet the Business Administrator resolution was pulled by Council to be voted on separately. Stated he has to believe that the only thing it could have been pulled for was work performance and that he would question what has the Business Administrator not been doing that he should know about because he reports directly to him and he is very upset to know that something must be going on that he is unaware of. Stated he does not believe that at all because he knows how

hard he works and the hours he puts in. Noted the Agenda that is prepared for every meeting and the contents coming from the Business Administrator and is not something that is given by the Council but rather from the Business Administrator to the clerk and then after the clerk puts it together presents it to Council. Stated he is not sure what the reason is other than personality and he knows it is personality that calls for the pulling of the resolution. Commented on the questioning of Mr. Benedetti's credentials and stated he was questioned because it is a Mayor's appointment. Stated it is fine to have issues with the Mayor but here is a gentleman who comes to work every day, works hard for the Township and he knows that 4 out of the 5 Council members know who he is, and there is no reason to question his credentials unless you didn't know him and he knows that is not the case. Commented that he is sure it is embarrassing to the individuals to be questioned in this way because they can only believe it is because of their work performance. Stated if they are not doing their job he would not bring them to Council for consent.

**2.** Commented on the appointment by Council of the CFO. Stated that this is done for a reason so that Council has the ability to monitor and control what is going on with the Townships finances. Advised that Council also has the ability to appoint the Auditor and the Auditor is the Council's tool to make sure that their CFO and Administration are following the rules. Stated that he is appalled at the implication that the minutes distributed at the last minute, implying that it was coming from Administration and not the Clerk's office because he knows the Clerk didn't do anything that would have shook Council up, so it had to be Administration holding back information and bringing it at the last minute, when that is just not the case. Advised that the information was given when it was requested. Stated that this is a case where Council should be contacting the CFO throughout the year and asking how the finances are and how the Auditor is doing as it is their responsibility not Administrations. Councilwoman Scull asked if the Mayor was stating that Council did not need the Mayor's permission to talk to the CFO because he is their appointment because Council was told that they are not allowed to talk to employees. Mayor Patriarca advised that Administration is open and not holding anything back. Stated he takes offense that Council is always trying to make it look as though Administration is always trying to undermine the Council. Commented that Councilwoman Scull tells the story that Council has no idea what is going on in Administration and he affirmed that they have not at any time presented something to Council that was not factual or not in the best interest of the Township. Stated that Administrations doors are always open, anything can be found on the website and they are not afraid to put it out there whether good or bad it belongs out in the public.

**3.** Asked about the Redevelopment committee on the Council and what have they done since it was formed and what their plans are. Would caution them not to get into any negotiations with a redeveloper because that is not the Council function which he knows Council is aware of. Stated he knows that Redevelopment is a very important subject to Administration and they are constantly meeting with developers, and the Director of Community Development is constantly bringing individuals to Administration as well as the Business Administrator who has brought developers to the Mayor to discuss projects in the Town. Commented that redevelopment is a very touchy subject and a buzz word throughout all communities and gave examples of other issues in other communities. Advised that redevelopment is not going to come until you have someone is willing to spend the money to redevelop the town and feels Pemberton waited too long to start redevelopment. Stated that redevelopment will always be on the front burner for this Administration and he is always communicating with Mr. Benedetti. Stated he believes that everyone needs to stop being so suspicious of Administration and thinking they are doing evil because they are not and all you have to do is ask and they will answer your questions. Whether you like the personality or not, it's not about that it's about the business of the town and all must remember why they were elected, to serve the Township and do what's right for the people and it doesn't matter if it's right for any individual it's what's right for the Township overall. Stated that sometimes people get hurt, not everyone wins in this game, you can't please everybody but you have to make the decisions based on what you believe is right overall. Noted that this is what needs to be done moving forward and he believes it can be done with this Council and he believes this Council wants to work with Administration and they will get nothing but cooperation and their answers, but don't think they can just tell Administration what you want done and it will get done if it's not the right thing as they are always working towards the best interest of the Township. Advised Council that he would be happy to entertain any questions they may have at this time. Councilwoman Stinney stated that at the previous meeting they rescinded Resolution 281-2014 which authorized an insertion of revenue into the 2014 budget for the New

Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" grant, because the money was not received as they were too late in submitting the application. Councilwoman Stinney asked what the process is and who is responsible for submitting these and was the ball dropped. Mayor Patriarca advised that this grant came to him from the Police Department and is an annual grant. Mayor Patriarca noted that the oversight was the responsibility of Administration as the Police did give it to them on time. Advised that the Police will be out there doing the job but will not have the funding for the overtime. Councilwoman Stinney noted that she just wanted to know the process and clarified that at all times it eventually comes across the Mayor's desk. Council President Allen noted that it is unfortunate that we missed out on the money but thanked the Mayor for his honesty.

### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Council President Allen opened the meeting to the public for general comments.

**Norma Waters, Pemberton Heights– 1.** Passed out her comments to the Council and then read her statement aloud. Ms. Waters stated that at the last meeting she asked the Council to work to restore the dignity and hope of the people of Pemberton Township. Advised that tonight she is asking Council to restore the dignity of this government. Stated she believes that members of Council, Professionals and Citizens can be politely, but firmly, asked to respect the work of Township Council and to avoid tedious prattling, extended hemming and hawing, side conversations, scorn and name calling. Noted that more seriously the last Council meeting degenerated into a shouting match with an aggressive rush to the citizen microphone followed by loud hostile threats to publicly announce information which purportedly could compromise public safety. Stated that after a blistering war of words, there was a long silent glaring standoff and then Council meekly granted the demand for an unscheduled private audience. Commented that obviously meeting protocols are needed and that these might include, being first recognized by the Council President before speaking, accepting guidance when off of topic, meandering or being inappropriate as well as being gaveled to silence when seriously out of order and being removed from the premises if threats are made. Stated that Township government fiascos are not limited to Council chambers and that heavy handed tactics by Administrators against citizens, Council members, employees, and civic groups have been too numerous to reiterate here but are well documented in the press, Council minutes, and numerous courtroom histories. Stated that neither rooster strutting, cowering, intimidation or abject whining belong in democracy from the Council, Administration, or the workforce. Commented that Council must defend and exercise it's powers and both hear and redress grievances and officially admonish or rebuke abusers. Stated that Council has the duty to inform the people as well as assure that postings of the Council minutes and Police logs are up to date. Advised that Council should energetically seek to clear blockades against solutions to Township decay and can start with something like a super WaWa in place of the Browns Mills Shipping Center eyesore. Stated that the people need pride in this Township and should no longer suffer being a laughingstock because of the blustering, bumbling, madcap government.

**Beatrice Black, Pemberton - 1.** Stated that she has been a resident of Pemberton Township for 36 years, and the past President of the Democratic Club of Pemberton Township and wanted to congratulate all the Council Members, especially Council President Allen for becoming the President of the Council, as well as Councilwoman Jackson for being nominated to the Council. Advised that she is so happy to have new faces and new ideas coming into the Democratic Club. Congratulated the Mayor and stated she is glad he was re-elected. Thanked everyone and stated she appreciates them all.

**Anne Quinn, Country Lakes - 1.** Advised that she attended the last several Township meetings and does not care for the rhetoric going on between Council and Administration as she feels they are acting like 2 year olds. Stated that she has raised one daughter and sitting here listening to what she has heard is unprofessional. Stated this meeting is to solve Township problems and not to pick a fight with the Mayor and vice versa. Stated that she has heard this for the last four meetings and feels that everyone needs to grow up and fix the problems of the town. Stated she decided to step up and be more visible in the township because she cares about where she lives and doesn't like what she sees and so far with the exception of one person on Council, no one else has cared to hear what she has to say. Advised that the infighting has to stop as it does not resolve anything. **2.** Questioned the Mayor on

how many Police officers are currently on the roster in the Township. Mayor Patriarca advised here that there are 52 officers with the 2 they just hired and there are 2 more coming in. Ms. Quinn asked if the Sergeants, Lieutenants and Captains patrol like the patrolman do. Mayor Patriarca advised that is an operational question for the Chief but he believes the patrol Sergeants do patrol roads at times. Ms. Quinn asked the Mayor to ask the Chief the next time he speaks with him, that if it is found that the Lieutenants and Captains do not patrol, given the fact that they should have more police than what they have now, that it might be a good idea to put them out on the street as well. 3. Stated she was offended by the circus that took place at the meeting on December 17th. Commented that she knows the Police officers have a suit against the Township for alleged unpaid overtime, however the stunt that was pulled by the Police officers Counsel was merely a tactic to scare the residents of the Township and nothing more. Stated that unfortunately the lawsuit has to resolve itself through the course of the lawsuit. Noted that in the future there has to be a better way for the Township to work with it's Police force and it's emergency workers to prevent issues like this. Commented that lately she feels that everyone has forgotten about the taxpayers and even though they say they haven't and they care, but they do not stand in their shoes. Stated the lawsuit needs to be resolved and not at the expense of the taxpayers as it is her fear that is what it will be. 4. Asked the Mayor about the Browns Mills Shopping Center and stated she heard his comments, and that it is not the governments responsibility to get into the area of redevelopment, and asked how much longer can they play the game in hopes of getting a developer before it still comes down to the Town having to put the money up to redevelop that center. Stated she is afraid that if it is not figured out soon, it will get to a point where it will be un-developable because there will be no town left and the residents won't stay because they are behind the times. Advised she does not want her taxes to go up and doesn't understand how much money is actually in this towns budget. Advised it is a new year and has there been any discussions with any new developers since the last meeting. Mayor Patriarca advised that they are looking at other developers but have not been at the table with them and are exploring all options. Clarified a comment made by Ms. Quinn and stated he is not against redevelopment, but he believes that the government shouldn't be in the real estate business, but rather buying properties and flipping properties. Stated it is an option they have and will continue to explore and if the time comes to where they feel that is the only option they have then maybe they will pursue it, but that will come on the backs of the taxpayers and if he spends the money he knows he will hear it from the residents because the taxes will go up, so he would like to do this without the taxpayers spending any money if he can, abut advised he will say that this could be their only option. Ms. Quinn clarified that she hears what he is saying but is afraid that too much time is going to by where had this been done sooner than later, that maybe the impact would have been far less than it might be. Advised that she has lived here for 14 years and nothing has been done with the center and he has been Mayor for 7 of those years. Stated she is not trying to imply that he has not been doing anything with redevelopment but stated that the residents don't see anything and that is what the biggest problem is, no movement. Stated that the owner of the property has made many statements about being hit hard by the economy yet maintains 2 beautiful shopping centers in Toms River and Colts Neck, so he's not hurting. Mayor Patriarca agreed with Ms. Quinn's comment and how hard redevelopment is and that it has been close to 30 years that they have been trying to get it done and if it was that easy to do it would have been done before he was even Mayor. Mayor Patriarca noted that Wrightstown is currently fighting with developers on property they own so you have to know what other towns have such as location to larger highways and more traffic. Developers are looking at their captive audience and how much money they can make off of the town. Stated that he has told the developers the money is here in the town with people spending it across Route 206 and that this is your captive audience, but they don't believe it because they are used to these other areas that are already thriving like Eastampton and Mount Laurel, and they know that there are 250,000 cars going by that business every day. Advised that here they do studies and are lucky to get 30,000 cars at the busiest time of the day to go by the main intersection and when they see that number they say you don't have it Pemberton, but we know different. Stated they will continue to try and it will not be easy, but they won't stop. 5. Ms. Quinn commented that the Township has a website and wanted to know if it would be possible to grant some type of limited funding for a community newsletter. Stated that there are many residents that truly don't know what's going on and that a newsletter is something someone wants to read instead of the website or minutes to the meetings and stated she would be happy to be part of getting it together. Stated that when she wasn't

coming to meetings, she didn't feel that her voice mattered and would like Council to consider it for those that can't make it to the meetings. Commented that it would be nice to consider a Town Hall meeting once a month where the residents can come and tell how they feel because people don't think that the township meeting is the place for that. Mayor Patriarca advised that they did put out a newsletter last year but it pertains more to services provided in the town and it is costly.

**Michael Truckwitz, Pemberton - 1.** Advised that he owns properties in Sunbury Village and is the Vice President of One by One Non-Profit, and asked what everyone's thoughts were on Sunbury and what can be done by owner's to help the Township to make it better because he has money in it and wants to put more money in it. Stated he has talked with another owner and they are at a point where they would like to put everything together to move forward. Advised he is not looking for answers tonight but wanted it to be on the forefront because there are many empty units and they are in real estate and want to get the units. Stated they are here to help and know they have responsibilities as owners. Councilwoman Scull commented she thinks it is a wonderful idea to bring the owners together to work to make a better community, with the police department and thinks it is wonderful that he is stepping up and doing that. Stated there are a lot of good people living in there that do not deserve what they are living in every day. Mr. Truckwitz stated that they are trying to work on the parking on the front lawns which brings everyone's property values down along with other issues he sees throughout. Council President Allen asked him to get the Township Clerk a report with the issues he sees. Mr. Truckwitz agreed to do so. Councilwoman Stinney commented about talking on the phone with one of the largest owner's in Sunbury. Advised that when she came on Council, Sunbury was one of the topics that she had asked how they could make better and asked the owner she had spoken with if he would be willing to give up one of his properties for a sub police station. Stated that several people she knows that have properties out there, including a woman who came a few meetings back, talked about what they can do, so maybe Council can put some of those things down and address. Councilwoman Stinney stated that there are many wonderful people out there and thanked him for coming to Council.

**America Phillips, Presidential Lakes - 1.** Congratulated Councilwoman Jackson. **2.** Questioned Council President Allen about the missing stop sign on the corner of Tennessee Trail and New York road and that she has been waiting several weeks. Council President Allen asked Administration if anyone had been out to check on this. Mayor Patriarca advised he will check on why they have not been out yet as they should have been. **3.** Question the dam and the sign that has not been put up referencing the weight limits. Stated she was told that this is a County road and feels Administration should contact the County about this issue. Stated if the dam goes they will have only one way out. Stated she wants to preserve the dam and knows that as a taxpayer they paid for it. Mr. Rehmann stated they have contacted the County in the past and the weight limit that is the concern is not on the dam it is actually the bridge and this is owned by the County and when a bridge is properly rated there is no weight limit sign required, because all vehicles are to be operating within their weight limit, so the weight limit on that bridge is unlimited and it is inspected every 2 years to make sure that it is properly maintained. **4.** Asked Mr. Rehmann about checking Tennessee Trail, Florida Trail and New Hampshire Road for drainage issues and asked if he did check. Mr. Rehmann advised that he did check and noted his concerns on the yield signs. Ms. Phillips noted that when it rains she has water in her basement and hopes by spring it can be fixed. Mr. Rehmann advised that after the meeting she could meet with William England who is a new member of the ARH staff. **5.** Ms. Phillips commented on the empty houses and New Hampshire road. **6.** Commented on traveling on Rhode Island and the drainage issues with big holes in the road marked by cones. **7.** Questioned the Mayor about the Police department and the amount of officers presently working and how many they are supposed to have, 54 or 57. Mayor Patriarca advised it is as many as the budget will handle. Ms. Phillips stated that with the 3 shifts right now, if the 52 officers can't cover the 64 square miles she doesn't think they can. Mayor Patriarca believes that they can. Ms. Phillips asked what would happen in an emergency which can come at any time and if there aren't enough officers what will they do. **8.** Asked if they are still in the lawsuit with the officers. Solicitor Bayer advised that it is still pending. Stated that it is time to stop the lawsuits and start working together. Solicitor Bayer advised that this is not litigation initiated by the Township but rather the officers filed suit against the Township. **9.** Asked the Mayor what he has in store for them this year since he was re-elected, what memories. Mayor Patriarca stated all



good ones he hopes. Council President Allen advised clarified that during the budget address the Mayor provides a statement with this information. **10.** Ms. Phillips asked Mr. Bayer if he can say what occurred behind closed doors when the attorney was here because he stated that it was in reference to public safety. Solicitor Bayer advised that Council could vote to have the minutes released but he can not disclose as it is against the law and explained why it could not be discussed. **11.** Ms. Phillips asked the Mayor about the \$7,500.00 grant and advised him to advise his workers keep their eyes open. Mayor Patriarca explained they missed it and it slid by and they lost the opportunity to get the money and they will not be paying the \$7,500.00. Mayor Patriarca asked Mr. Bayer if he could state that there was not a public safety issue.

**Loretta Bader, Pemberton - 1.** Congratulated Councilwoman Jackson, Council President Allen and Mayor Patriarca. **2.** Asked if anything was being done with the base to get housing out in the town, Stated she knows that the base is sending their housing all over but not to Browns Mills, and there are a lot of people moving out of town because of the crime and the old Acme, so we are losing good people. Councilwoman Stinney commented that she is serving on the committee to elect the new Superintendent and it is the image the base has of Pemberton Township. Councilwoman Stinney advised that she was hurt because one of the military wives pulled her child out of the school because she didn't like what was going on. Stated that when base families are invited to the town they call it Murder Mills, so this is one of the challenges they have set forth to the new Superintendent. Ms. Bader asked if they are reaching out to the base. Councilwoman Trueblood stated that perhaps meeting with the local Realtors and maybe find out from them. Ms. Bader noted she had 50 guests come from all over the United States and she called 2 restaurants in town and was turned away by both and told they did not need the business, so they had to go to Mount Holly. **3.** Commented on the first time home buyers program and is there someplace where classes are or is this offered. Councilwoman Scull doesn't think they offer that the way they should be and doesn't think many people have taken advantage of it, and the base is included. Stated she does not believe the Realtors push it the way that they should be and have had meetings with them about this. Councilwoman Scull commented on military wives discouraging people from moving here and we have to improve our image and the Burlington County Times does not print the good things. Councilwoman Stinney noted that when she was on the Board of Education they did videos of the town and gave them to the Realtors which worked back then and she doesn't know what is going on now. Councilwoman Stinney stated she asked Mike Pinto who is the director now and he said those videos are still going out and being updated. Stated one other thing they did was invite all of the Realtors out to meet with the Planning Board and asked if they would give an update on what is going on and how the planning is done. **4.** Ms. Bader asked what is available for the 17-20 age group besides canoeing and water sports. Stated she has been told by the young adults that there is nothing for them to do in Browns Mills. Council President Allen noted that he believes that is not true and is a matter of opinion and has heard that but he believes there are a lot of things including TAG and life opportunities. Ms. Bader commented on what is there for these kids to do after the recreation events are over. Councilwoman Scull noted that this has been an issue and is something that needs to be discussed and mentioned a Frisbee golf game and that maybe we could get recreation to look into this. Councilwoman Jackson noted that there was a teen center through the recreation department and attendance was very low even after sending out a lot of information. Also added that as far as the TAG meetings, she is there with Council President Allen and it is open to anyone and it is very welcoming but people don't come out, so the problem is that the mentality becomes that there is nothing to do and it is unwelcoming. Councilwoman Jackson added that if the teens she is involved with have suggestions to go to the Recreation Center and present those ideas and start new. Council President Allen noted they did advertise throughout the schools and he doesn't feel that it is not the people trying but rather people not attending. Council President Allen reiterated Councilwoman Jackson's comments and to make those suggestions to the Recreation Department. Councilwoman Stinney added that when the teen center was open years ago there was an issue of transportation so some responsibility is on the parents to car pool and get the kids out there.

Council President Allen seeing no other residents wishing to be heard, closed the meeting to Public Comments.

## COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:

**Diane Stinney** - Councilwoman Stinney asked to publicly apologize if there were any actions that she has done to disrespect her community or her residents as it is never her intention to embarrass the residents. Stated that she was going to address some of the things that the Mayor had said, and she is entitled to her opinion and her vote, and takes voting very seriously, but because of the comments made by Ms. Quinn she is not going to say anything. Stated that Ms. Quinn stated that Council needed to exercise its powers and again she feels that she has a right to vote the way she needs to and it doesn't mean that someone is going to accuse her of not liking someone because that is not the situation, and she should not be reprimanded for the vote she takes. Noted that for the record she wanted to make it public that she certainly does not want to embarrass her residents as she sits here as a Councilwoman representing Pemberton Township as she has sat on many boards throughout the County and the Township and if she is wrong pull her to the side and tell her. Stated to Ms. Waters that she promised that she would carry the first letter she wrote with her to every Council meeting as a reminder of the things that she had stated. Stated that there are residents out there that are willing to help and applauds her for coming out along with Ms. Quinn. Noted that she will refrain from her comments. Commented about a resident in Oak Pines, Ms. Mary Ruff who had water settled in her front yard and she was supposed to bring it to Council President Allen. Advised that she has sent emails to Amy who has passed them on to Administration and many have gone unanswered. Asked again for her apology to be accepted as she is a humble person and asks God to order her steps and direct her in the way she should go but it doesn't always go that way. Stated she is honored that Councilwoman Jackson has joined Council and is grateful to Council President Allen that he prayed before he stepped out. Thanked everyone for coming out and to have a blessed and safe evening.

**Letha Jackson** - Councilwoman Jackson noted she has a flyer for the 5th Annual Women's Health Expo on Saturday February 7th from 10am until 2pm at the BCC Enterprise Center in Mount Laurel. Thanked everyone for coming out and have a safe evening. Thanked everyone for the comments and encouragement.

**Norma Trueblood** – Councilwoman Trueblood stated to drive home safely and stay warm as it is slippery out there. Invited everyone to a Martin Luther King Day Service on January 19th at the AME Friendship Church on Lakehurst Road. There will be a representative from the Department of Human Resources there as well. The theme will be "All People Matter".

**Sherry Scull** - Councilwoman Scull asked for a report on the cameras at the last meeting and has yet to receive it. Stated she was told that the leaf pick ups did not finish in the area that they were in and went elsewhere. Commented that people have asked her if they are going to come back and finish. Stated she is going to address some of the issues as respectfully as she can but will say that they were given emails that occurred earlier in the year that were in reference to a position and did not understand why they were given when they were instead of at the time of the occurrence. Stated that they are expected to respect Administration for the every day operations and she understands the form of government very well and also believes that the public expects their Council and the Mayor and Administration to work very closely together which they did do the first four years. They had goals they set and accomplished an awful lot. Wished she could say that they have accomplished a lot the last couple of years but instead feels they have spent an awful lot of money on litigation where there should have been conversation taking place. Stated she has made it clear that if she supports an issue she will support it and if she disagrees with you she is going to disagree with you and unfortunately some people can not handle disagreement and still move on and respect you and move on to the next day to deal with other issues. Feels that it is very unfortunate that this has happened. Advised that when they are told that they are transparent and they as Council do not get the information but hear about it in the streets. Stated her opinion is that she doesn't have to agree with what Administration does but there is a responsibility to keep the Council informed. Commented that she should not be chastised for her votes and she votes based on what she believes is best for the community. Could have gone into detail why she wanted a separate vote and believes most people in the community now understand why she votes no. Thinks the disrespect has been well documented and shown to the community. Stated that she should not be told by the Police attorney tell her that they are not hearing grievances because they have been told by

an Administrator that they will not be heard on the Council. Advised that there are contracts and should be honored until they are deemed not to be. Commented that if she is expected to respect Administration then Administration needs to learn to stop chastising Council and respect them for how they voted and work with them instead of constantly treating them with disrespect and telling us it doesn't matter what we say. Stated she will not roll over and play dead as she is here to represent the community and she will do that. Asked Mr. Bayer about an issue where the former Council President put in an OPRA request for the MUA and she has not received a clear clarification why they need that information and who is going to go through it and what the purpose is and is costing the MUA quite a bit of money. Asked if Council can come to a consensus whether or not every document is needed that the MUA has produced in the last 3 years or can they find out if there is a specific issue. Solicitor Bayer stated that Ken Cartier did not seek a consensus from Council and he is not sure what the answer is or where it stands. Councilwoman Scull asked if he knew exactly what information is being looked at or looked for as Mr. Cartier stated it was for Best Practices and that Council should review the MUA. Stated they do get the minutes and approve the budget and she doesn't understand what the purpose would be for the documents. Asked Mr. Bayer if this could be withdrawn and if he could look into this. Thanked everyone for coming out and to stay warm.

**Jason Allen** – Council President Allen thanked everyone for coming out and that they will be returning to Closed Session.

Council went back into Closed Session at approximately 10:26 p.m. and returned and reconvened Open Session at approximately 11:12 p.m.

Council President Allen advised there was no formal action pursuant to Closed Session.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Amy P. Cosnoski*

Amy P. Cosnoski, RMC, Township Clerk