

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor George Piazza called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated that in compliance with the "Open Public Meeting Act" this is a Regular Meeting of the Township Committee as published in the Hunterdon Review, the agenda has been posted at the Municipal Building and distributed to the Hunterdon Review, Courier News, the Express Times, the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Star Ledger.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Piazza asked everyone to stand for the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present - Patricia Schriver George Piazza Francis Morrison
 Brian Wunder Ron Milkowski

Absent

Also Present - Attorney Dick Cushing and Clerk Karen Sandorse and 15 members of the public.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Wunder and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved minutes of the Re-organization Meeting of January 5, 2011.

Motion by Mr. Wunder, seconded by Ms. Schriver and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved minutes of the regular meeting of January 19, 2011.

Motion by Mr. Wunder, seconded by Ms. Schriver and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved minutes of the executive session of January 19, 2011.

Mayor Piazza - Election Comments

Mayor Piazza stated that he will be running for re-election to serve on the Township Committee for a three year term, 2012-2014.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – for agenda items only.

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Morrison and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee opened the public comment portion of the meeting.

There were no comments from the public.

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Wunder and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

ORDINANCES

The public hearing for Ordinance No. 2011-03 has been postponed to the March 2, 2011 meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 25-2011 Transfers

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Morrison and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved Resolution No. 25-2011 as written below.

TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION NO. 25-2011

WHEREAS, under the provisions of the Local Budget Law, certain transfers are allowable in the 2010 Budget, if it shall become necessary to expend an amount in excess of the respective sums appropriated therefore; and there shall be an excess in one or more appropriations; and

WHEREAS, certain charges to be incurred that must be paid as designated by the credits herein shown and affected in the appropriations reflected are to be paid;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON THAT the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to make the following transfers so that the above mentioned bills may be paid from the 2010 budget year:

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Finance S/W	\$ 757.81	
Finance O/E	\$ 18.97	
Tax Collector O/E	\$ 22.51	
Engineering O/E	\$ 1,154.00	
Historic O/E	\$ 1,000.00	
Aid to New Hampton S/W	\$ 315.43	
Aid to New Hampton O/E	\$ 1,598.27	
Police S/W	\$ 2,892.55	
Police O/E	\$ 2,612.08	
Emergency Management O/E	\$ 455.39	
Fire Hydrant Rental O/E	\$ 209.18	
Road Department S/W	\$ 1,372.24	
Buildings & Grounds O/E	\$ 779.43	
Board of Health O/E	\$ 470.00	
Dog Regulation S/W	\$.56	
Dog Regulation O/E	\$ 500.00	

Contrib to Social Services	\$ 100.00	
Recreation Committee O/E	\$ 17.97	
Senior Citizens O/E	\$ 4,000.00	
Celebration of Public Events O/E	\$ 30.75	
Maint. of Parks O/E	\$ 813.60	
Social Security O/E	\$ 644.56	
DPW – Roads – Snow O/E	\$ 7,900.00	
Public Defender O/E	\$ 1,075.00	
Admin. O/E		\$ 78.87
Municipal Clerk O/E		\$ 213.55
Planning Board O/E		\$ 591.11
Board of Adjustment O/E		\$ 154.88
Employee Group Ins. O/E		\$ 805.40
Road Department O/E		\$ 199.43
Environmental Commission O/E		\$ 39.28
Aid to Library O/E		\$ 156.17
Tax Assessor O/E		\$ 7,140.83
Electric & Gas O/E		\$ 4,165.22
Legal O/E		\$ 9,795.56
Underground Tank Rem O/E		\$ 5,400.00
TOTAL	\$28,740.30	\$28,740.30

OLD BUSINESS

LTEOS- Fisher Property Acquisition

Ms. Nancy Lawler of the Lebanon Township EOS was present to continue the discussion with the Township Committee regarding the acquisition of the Fisher property. Mayor Piazza stated that he spoke to Kevin Richardson from Hunterdon County and he was informed that the Open Space money cannot be used to pay down debt, however, it can be used for other projects in the Township, such as historical sites and park areas.

A few residents were present to state their support for the acquisition.

The Township Committee decided that they would like to see the Open Space money used on another project in the Township. Julie Hajdusek of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority asked the Township Committee if they would be amenable to applying the Green Acres Funds to the project if the team seeks the remainder of the funding elsewhere.

The Township Committee agreed to the request.

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Morrison and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee requested that the Township Attorney draft an ordinance authorizing the participation in the acquisition of the Fisher property, Block 49, Lot 4.02, conditioned upon certification of funds through the Green Acres Grant exclusively. AYES: Morrison, Schriver, Piazza, Wunder NAYS: Milkowski

NEW BUSINESS

Re-appointment of MCNH Judge

Mayor Piazza stated that the Town of Clinton Mayor Christine Shaumburg has asked that each participating municipality send a letter recommending that Judge Robert Schaul be reappointed to the Municipal Court of North Hunterdon.

DPW Commendation Letter – Gordon Beam

Mayor Piazza read a letter that was received by the Committee from Township resident Phillip Richard. Mr. Richard wrote to commend DPW employee Gordon Beam for his efforts in assisting Mr. Richard when he was stuck on an icy roadway. Mr. Richard's truck was sliding down the road and Gordon instructed him how to steer, when to apply gas and how to obtain traction in the snow on the side of the roadway. Gordon then safely directed Mr. Richard back onto Musconetcong River Road. Mr. Richard stated that it is a good feeling to know that Lebanon Township has dedicated, caring and hard working employees such as Gordon. Mr. Richard also commended the entire DPW staff for the exceptional job they do in clearing away the snow and ice on the Township roads.

Lebanon Township School District Employee Contracts

Mayor Piazza stated that he attended a Key Communication meeting for the Lebanon Township School District. Mayor Piazza noted that he spoke with Superintendent Judith Burd and was informed that the teachers and administration had settled their contracts. The teachers will receive 1.5%, 2.0% and 2.0%, respectively, for the three (3) year contract. The administration agreed to freeze their salaries for one (1) year.

Fire Chief – Request to Purchase a Stretcher

Fire Chief Warren Gabriel has requested approval to purchase a Stryker Power Stretcher for the Township's ambulance. There were two stretchers left in the squad building and one of them was corroded and broken. The manufacturer felt that it would be more costly to repair and recertify it than to replace it. The second stretcher is not a Lebanon Township stretcher and will not fit in either of the ambulances.

The Fire Department requests a power stretcher to make it easier for members to load and unload patients. They have been using a demo stretcher for a week now. The cost to purchase the demo stretcher would have been \$13,000.00 dollars, however, they have now agreed to \$11,000.00. If purchased, the demo will have the same warranty as a brand new stretcher. The Fire Chief has spoken to the CFO and he was advised that the cost of the stretcher can be taken from the \$15,000.00 which was put in the 2010 Capital budget.

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Piazza and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved the purchase of a Stryker Power Stretcher at a cost of \$11,000.00.
AYES: Schriver, Piazza, Wunder ABSTAIN: Morrison, Milkowski

Approve Application – Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

The DPW Manager, Warren Gabriel, is requesting that the Township Committee approve an application for an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant for the 2010 and 2011 years. The

grant will assist in upgrading the lighting, heating, and air conditioning in as many Township facilities as the grant money allows. Energy audits were performed at the Firehouses, the Library, the Squad Building, and Municipal Building. The 2010 Grant is for \$50,000.00, which will cover the two firehouses and the library. The cost for the three buildings is \$52,615.52. The Township will be responsible for \$1,046.21 as it is over the \$50,000.00 grant limit. The 2011 Grant is for \$125,000.00 dollars and would cover the costs for the Municipal Building and the Squad Building. The cost for these two buildings is \$109,009.90. There would be no out of pocket money for these two building because they fall under the grant allowance.

Mr. Gabriel informed the Township Committee that the Grant allows for the replacement of equipment that needs to be replaced and which is not energy efficient. In total, the Township will be replacing \$160,000.00 worth of equipment at a cost of \$1,046.21.

Mr. Gabriel also noted that there should also be an estimated annual saving of \$26,000.00 in energy and fuel costs. If approved by the Township Committee the company that performed the energy audit will carry out the replacement and removal of the equipment as listed in the audit.

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Morrison and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee authorized Warren Gabriel to apply for the 2010 and 2011 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

Approve LT Historian's Request for Appointment

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Wunder and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee appointed Tom Burrell as a Lebanon Township Historian.

Approve LT Park Committee's Request for Appointment

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Morrison and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee appointed Jen Maytas the Lebanon Township Park Committee.

Geese Nuisance

Ms. Schriver informed the Township Committee that she has received complaints from residents on Raritan River Road that a neighbor is causing a huge problem by feeding geese. The geese population is growing and it has become a nuisance. Discussion was held on the option to adopt an ordinance restricting the feeding of geese in the Township, however, the majority of the Committee was not in favor of doing so.

Attorney Cushing stated that someone could reach out to the League of Municipalities for a sample ordinance or his office could draft one if the Committee desires such.

It was agreed for a letter to be sent to the homeowner by the Township Clerk requesting that they cease feeding the geese as it has developed into a problem.

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Morrison and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee requested that the Township Clerk send a letter to the residents requesting that they put an end to feeding the geese.

Schedule Budget Meeting

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Morrison and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee scheduled a budget meeting to be held on March 2, 2011, at 5:30 p.m., prior to the regular meeting of the Township Committee.

PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

Committee Members provided a description of vouchers exceeding \$1000.00.

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Morrison and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved the February 16, 2011 bill list in the amount of \$1,580,931.24.

CORRESPONDENCE

Tax Collector's 2010 Annual Report
Tax Collector's Report for the Month of January 2011
Jeanne Boyer – 2002 Tax Sale

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Milkowski and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Ms. Nancy Darois questioned if the Squad matter has been settled. Mayor Piazza stated that hopefully there will be a settlement shortly.

Ms. Darios inquired on the Township Garage project. Mr. Milkowski stated that he met with the contractor last week and the project should begin within three weeks.

Mr. Anthony Casale stated that relative to the geese matter, in Pompton Lakes, they had a dog that helped to move the geese on.

Mr. Anthony Casale inquired on whether the Township is looking into alternative electric providers. The Clerk stated that she and the DPW Manager will be meeting with vendors in the near future.

Mr. Casale inquired on the status of the Cell Tower project. Mayor Piazza stated that he has not received an update from Attorney Bernstein's office recently and requested approval from the Township Committee to make contact with Attorney Bernstein to discuss outstanding legal matters. The Township Committee agreed that an inquiry was in order.

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Wunder and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Wunder and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved Resolution No. 26-2011 and convened in executive session at 8:53 p.m. Action may be taken at the end of the meeting.

**TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON
RESOLUTION NO. 26-2011**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Lebanon, that in compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, this meeting will be closed to the Public to discuss the following matters:

PBA Negotiations – Collective Bargaining
Contract Negotiations

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Wunder and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee reconvened the Regular Committee meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Attorney Cushing stated that during the executive session PBA Negotiations were discussed. Also discussed was the concerns the Township Committee has with the dangers of employees driving when tired or on medications.

Motion by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Milkowski and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee authorized the Clerk to contact Statewide Insurance Company's Loss Control Officer to schedule a meeting for the Township DPW employees to be counseled on the dangers or driving when tired or on medications.

ADJOURN

Having no further business to come before the Committee a motion was made by Ms. Schriver, seconded by Mr. Wunder and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Sandorse, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Approved: March 2, 2011

George Piazza, Mayor