

**Lebanon Township Committee
October 18, 2006**

Minutes of Regular Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Patricia Schriver 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 Schriver asked everyone to stand for the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present - Patricia Schriver George Piazza Francis Monahan
 Jay Weeks Ed Post

Absent

Also Present - Attorney Angela Vidal and Clerk Karen Sandorse and 5 members of the public.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Piazza, seconded by Mr. Post and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved the October 4, 2006 regular meeting minutes.

Motion by Mr. Post, seconded by Mr. Piazza and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved the October 4, 2006 executive session minutes.

GUEST SPEAKER – Assemblywoman Marcia Karrow

Ms. Karrow stated that she has been visiting all of the towns in the 23rd District since June 2006. The 23rd Legislative District has the most municipalities in it, more than any other District in the State, having 45. The next largest has 26. The District is 700 miles in diameter. The size of the District is based on population. Ms. Karrow noted that she has been in office for 10 months and has had 5 pieces of legislation signed into law, which, she believes, is more than any other republican this year.

Ms. Karrow said that tomorrow night she will be holding a town meeting to discuss education. All Elected Officials and Board's of Education in the 23rd District, along

with Tewksbury and Califon were invited. Ms. Karrow will be taking testimony in writing, emails or fax, on concerns with the education with through October 31, 2006. The correspondence will be delivered to the Education Funding Committee who is looking at property tax reform.

Ms. Karrow provided the Committee with background information on Assembly Bill 3115 which will be considered later in this meeting. Ms. Karrow stated that the Bill is very important to the towns in the Highlands, as it will help to offset the tax increases that are inevitable to every municipalities. Ms. Karrow stated that she has twelve additional bills that relate to the Highlands Act.

Discussion was held on the pros and cons of the Bill. Mr. Post and Mr. Weeks stated their concerns with raising taxes across the State to offset the tax loss in the Township.

Ms. Karrow offered assistance with any matters relating to the State.

Mayor Schriver stated that the Committee supports some sort of tax on the water; however, the Committee does realize that it is not the complete answer for Bill 3115. The cost does have to come from the entire State.

Mr. Darryl Schmidt stated that if the Bill accomplishes raising taxes in the State and the Highlands area receives it all, then he supports the Bill. Mr. Schmidt asked for clarification on the calculation of lost revenue.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 87-2006 Support of Assembly Bill 3115 Highland's Property Tax Stabilization Fund

Motion by Mr. Piazza , seconded by Mr. Weeks and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee moved to hold Resolution No. 87-2006 until the November 1, 2006 meeting for further consideration.

OLD BUSINESS

Appointment of OEM Coordinator

Discussion to be held in closed session.

Sydney Road Drainage Issue

Mr. Piazza stated that he went to Sydney Road to view the drainage problems, as stated by Mr. Mizzone of 7 Sidney Road, at the October 4, 2006 meeting. Mr. Piazza stated that the road is in

very poor condition with ruts. The Township Engineer, Steve Risse, had sent a letter to the builder, Mr. Arnold Yoskowitz and informed him that the design of the roadway had been significantly altered and that he must have his engineer contact Mr. Risse's office immediately to discuss resolution to the matter.

Freedom House Construction

Mr. Post stated that he had visited Freedom House and they are making substantial progress with the construction. Hopefully, the House will be ready for occupancy in May 2007.

NEW BUSINESS

Deer Carcass Removal

The County sent notification to the Township stating that they have entered into an agreement with Kelly Winthrop, LLC of West Palm Beach Florida, for Deer Carcass Removal. The cost is \$45.00 per carcass and the pricing has been extended to Hunterdon County municipalities also. The pricing is to expire on December 31, 2006 at which time the County may solicit bids. Morris County Co-op has entered into a contract with Deer Carcass Removal and Disposal at a cost of \$59.95, Monday – Friday, \$69.95 on weekends.

Approve Raffle Application – Voorhees High School Cheerleading Association

Motion by seconded Mr. Piazza, seconded by Mr. Post and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote the Township Committee approved a raffle application for the Voorhees High School Cheerleading Association.

Helicopter Noise – Forge Hill Road Resident Complaint

An email complaint was received from a Forge Hill Road resident regarding a low flying helicopter and the noise it creates. As the Township does not have further information, there is no action that can be taken at this time.

Mr. Post asked for Attorney Vidal to provide a legal opinion on the matter.

Appointment – Library Committee Member

Motion by seconded Mr. Piazza, seconded by Mr. Post and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote the Township Committee appointed Melanie Ryan as a member to the Library Committee.

North Hunterdon Municipal Court

Mr. Piazza distributed copies of the NHMC 2007 proposed budget and stated that there is an overall 3.3% increase from 2006, which amounts to \$25,000.00. There will be an additional 2% added which is based on what was generated by the Police Department in 2006. At this time it appears that the total budget for the Court in 2007 will be \$62,000.00. The Committee will be asked to vote on the budget in the near future.

PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

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

Motion by seconded Mr. Post, seconded by Mr. Monahan and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote the Township Committee approved the October 18, 2006 bill list in the amount of \$2,926,851.97 with the exception of the High Bridge Rescue Squad voucher in the amount of \$8,000.00, which will be held for discussion in executive session.

CORRESPONDENCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Mr. Anthony Casale questioned how court costs are used or distributed. Mr. Piazza stated that if a violation is issued based on a Township ordinance, we would receive more in return as opposed to a State violation. We contribute for the operation of the court and eventually receive a percentage of the court fines and fees in return.

Motion by Mr. Weeks seconded by Mr. Monahan and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote the Township Committee closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Piazza, seconded by Mr. Post and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote the Township Committee approved Resolution No. 88-2006 and convened in executive session at 8:12 p.m.

TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON
RESOLUTION NO. 88-2006

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:

Personnel Matters
Potential Litigation

Motion by Mr. Piazza, seconded by Mr. Weeks and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote the Township Committee reconvened the Regular Committee meeting at 8:45p.m.

OEM Coordinator Appointment - (Resolution 88A-2006)

Motion by Mr. Piazza, seconded by Mr. Weeks and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote the Township Committee appointed Warren Gabriel, OEM Coordinator, term expiring on September 30, 2009, at a salary of \$5000.00 per year.

ADJOURN

Having no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Mr. Weeks seconded by Mr. Monahan and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Sandorse, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Approved

Patricia Schriver, Mayor