

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP

Minutes

April 20, 2017

This meeting was opened and called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Fred MacDonald, who stated this meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, having been duly advertised.

This meeting was regularly scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2017, but was rescheduled due to the rescheduling of the March meeting.

Roll Call

The clerk was asked to call the roll. Present were: Committeeman George B. Harper, Jr.; Deputy Mayor Kamala M. Hull; Mayor Fred MacDonald

In attendance: Francis J. (Bud) Jones, Auditor – Nisivoccia LLP; Jessica M. Caruso, CFO/CTC

Also in attendance: George and Rebecca Swanson; Keith Utter; Wendy MacDonald; Tom & Nan Horsfield; Glenn Hull; Lou Frato; Jon Snyder; Hixon & Sharon Spangenberg; Hixon Spangenberg, Jr.

The Mayor MacDonald invited all to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ordinance:

**SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP
ORDINANCE 2017-02
CALENDAR YEAR 2017
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO
ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

**ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO
ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 0.5 % unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of Sandyston in the County of Sussex finds it advisable and necessary to increase its **CY 2017** budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of Sandyston hereby determines that a 3.0% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to **\$27,128.76** in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of Sandyston hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the governing body of the Township of Sandyston, in the County of Sussex, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the

CY 2017 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Sandyston shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to **\$31,650.22**, and that the **CY 2017** municipal budget for the Township of Sandyston be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

The Committee reviewed **Ordinance #2017-02**. Mayor MacDonald made a motion to open **Ordinance #2017-01** the floor for public comment, seconded by Committeeman Harper and unanimously carried.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Harper, Hull, MacDonald (3); Nays (0); Absent (0); Abstain (0)

The Committee reviewed **Ordinance #2017-02**. Committeeman Harper made a motion to open **Ordinance #2017-02** the floor for public comment, seconded by Mayor MacDonald and unanimously carried. There being no comment from the public, Mayor MacDonald made a motion to close the public comment portion on **Ordinance 2017-02**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried. Committeeman Harper made a motion to approve **Ordinance 2017-02**, seconded by Mayor MacDonald and unanimously carried. **Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Harper, Hull, MacDonald (3); Nays (0); Absent (0); Abstain (0).

**SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP
R-31-2017**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATING IN SELF-EXAMINATION PROGRAM OF THE
MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR THE 2017 BUDGET YEAR**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5, the Township of Sandyston has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial officer has determined that the local government meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2017 budget year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Township of Sandyston that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & 7.6b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
 - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
 - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
 - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
 - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
 - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
 - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes.

2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.3 et seq., are fully met (complies with CAP law).

3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.

4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:

- a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated,
- b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
- c. In itemization, form, arrangement and content, the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.

5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.

6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services upon adoption.

The Committee reviewed **R-31-2017**. Committeeman Harper made a motion to approve **R-31-2017**, seconded by Mayor MacDonald and unanimously carried. **Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Harper, Hull, MacDonald (3); Nays (0); Absent (0); Abstain (0).

**SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP
R-32-2017**

RESOLUTION FOR THE 2017 LOCAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

WHEREAS, Chapter 259 of the Public Laws of 1995 amends the "Local Budget Law", NJSA 40A: 4 et seq., to provide that the Local Budget may be read by its title only on the date of the public hearing under the following conditions:

1. At least one week prior to the date of the hearing, a complete copy of the approved budget:
 - a. shall be made available for public inspection to each person requesting the same, during said week, and during the public hearing; and
2. The governing body shall, by resolution passed by not less than a majority of the full membership, determine that the conditions set forth in subsection 1.a. of this section have been made; and

WHEREAS, the certification by the Municipal Clerk attesting to compliance with item 1.a. above is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and the Budget Summary as allowed by law was published in the Sunday New Jersey Herald on March 26, 2017.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee (not less than a majority of the full membership thereof affirmatively concurring) that the said 2017 Local Municipal Budget of the Township of Sandyston shall be read by its title only, all of the aforementioned conditions of P.L. 1995, c. 259 having been met.

The Committee reviewed **R-32-2017**. Committeeman Harper made a motion to approve **R-32-2017**, seconded by Mayor MacDonald and unanimously carried. **Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Harper, Hull, MacDonald (3); Nays (0); Absent (0); Abstain (0).

PUBLIC HEARING OF 2017 BUDGET/REVIEW OF 2016 AUDIT

- Francis "Bud" Jones, Nisivoccia LLP
- Jessica M. Caruso, CFO/CTC

Mayor MacDonald made a motion to open the meeting to comment on the 2017 Budget, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried. There being no comments from the public regarding the 2017 Budget, Mayor MacDonald made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.

Mayor MacDonald read the following statement into the record *"Be It Resolved by the Governing Body of the Township of Sandyston, County of Sussex, that the budget herein before set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of \$598,193."*

Committeeman Harper made a motion to approve the 2017 budget, seconded by Mayor MacDonald and unanimously carried. **Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Harper, Hull, MacDonald (3); Nays (0); Absent (0); Abstain (0).

Mr. Jones reviewed the 2016 Audit for Sandyston Township. Mr. Jones stated the Township is in very good financial position as of December 31, 2016 and as reflected in the 2017 Budget. Mr. Jones stated there are no new recommendations. Committeeman Harper noted the recommendation of segregation of duties. Mr. Jones stated the township has controls in place and shared duties that helps. Committeeman Harper also noted the tax levy is down two cents.

Minutes: The Committee reviewed the regular meeting minutes of **March 21, 2017**. Committeeman Harper made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for March 21, 2017, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.

The Committee reviewed the Special Meeting minutes of **April 13, 2017**. Committeeman Harper made a motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes of April 13, 2017, seconded by Mayor MacDonald, with an abstention from Deputy Mayor Hull.

Tax Collector Report: The Tax Collector Report was presented for the month of **March 2017** with total receipts Month-To-Date of \$115,704.73 and a Year-To-Date total of \$1,426,428.11. Mayor MacDonald made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report as submitted, seconded by Committeeman Harper and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for the month of **March 2017** was presented with a beginning balance of \$1,725,816.22 total receipts of \$172,353.76 and total disbursements of \$424,642.06 leaving an ending balance of \$1,473,527.92. Mayor MacDonald read the following balances: General Capital Account \$59,439.57, Animal Control Escrow \$12,630.65, Public Assist Escrow \$3,541.25, Unemployment Escrow \$25,251.69, COAH Trust \$41,0050.79, Security Asst. Fund \$18,617.75 and the Small Cities Master \$4,784.28. Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously approved.

Payment of Vouchers: The bills list was submitted for approval in the amount of \$439,729.60. Committeeman Harper made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mayor MacDonald and unanimously approved.

Departmental Reports: The Committee reviewed the departmental reports. Committeeman Harper noted a septic line repair at the Layton Post Office property. Mayor MacDonald noted the shared service

with Montague Township between the road departments, as Montague brought down their sweeper and cleaned up the parking lot of the grit from the winter.

Old Business:

Green Acres: Deeds of Devita Road: The Clerk advised the Committee there has been no change on this matter from the previous month. The Clerk advised the Committee the Title Searches have not been returned to the attorney.

The Clerk also advised the closing for the Flatbrook Road property took place on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 and we received \$40,000 on March 31, 2017.

Tri-State Steel Fabricators, Inc.: The Clerk advised the Committee there has been no change on this matter from the previous month.

In Rem Foreclosure of Properties: The Clerk advised the Committee there has been no change on this matter from the previous month.

New Business:

Tax Appeals Memo from Tax Assessor: The Committee reviewed the Memo from the Tax Assessor regarding the recently filed Tax Appeals. The Clerk explained that with Best Practices, a recommendation was that the Tax Assessor advise the Committee and the Chief Financial Officer of the Tax Appeals filed and this memo is an effort to comply with that request.

Quotes:

Lawn Mowing – Municipal Complex: The Committee reviewed two quotes received for the lawn mowing of the municipal Complex – Tanzola Farm and Lawn \$3,600 and Pierson Landscaping & Excavating \$5,200. Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve the quote offered by Tanzola Farm & Lawn in the amount of \$3,600, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.

Cleaning of Municipal Building – The Committee reviewed one quote for the cleaning of the municipal building – The Allen Companies in the amount of \$251.32 per month. The Clerk explained a quote was requested from Chelbus Cleaning Company with no response. Committeeman Harper made a motion to approve the quote from The Allen Companies in the amount of \$251.32 per month, seconded by Mayor MacDonald and unanimously carried.

Application for Social Affair Permits: The Committee reviewed three social affair permit applications submitted by the Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department for Saturday, June 10, 2017 “Sandyston Day”, Sunday, June 25, 2017 “Chicken Barbeque” and Saturday, August 26, 2017 “Tractor Day”. Committeeman Harper made a motion to approve the three social affair applications submitted by the fire department, seconded by Mayor MacDonald and unanimously carried.

Application for Raffle License: The Committee reviewed the following Applications for Raffle Licenses for the Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department for On-Premise 50/50 Cash Raffle:

- Saturday, June 10, 2017 “Sandyston Day” – Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve this application for raffle, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.
- Sunday, June 25, 2017 “Chicken Barbeque” - Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve this application for raffle, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.
- Saturday, August 26, 2017 “Tractor Day” - Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve this application for raffle, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.

Use of Building/Facility Request: The Committee reviewed a Use of Building/Facility Request received on Monday, April 19, 2017 by **Sandyston Recreation** for "Movie Night" to be held on the soccer field area of the Municipal Complex on Friday, May 5, 2017 featuring the movie "Sing". Mayor MacDonald stated this is the second "Movie Night" held by Sandyston Recreation and the first one was very well attended. Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve the use of the facility for this use, seconded by Committeeman Harper and unanimously carried.

Resolutions:

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION

R-24-2017

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF A LIQUOR LICENSE

WHEREAS, an application was received from **Mountain House Bar & Grill, LLC.** for a transfer of a liquor license from **Sandyston Spirit, LLC.** to **Mountain House Bar & Grill, LLC.;** and

WHEREAS, in accordance with New Jersey State Statutes, an investigation of the applicant was conducted by the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control Enforcement Unit, Division of New Jersey State Police, the result being no information that would impede that Sandyston Township Committee from approving the transfer of said license to **Mountain House Bar & Grill, LLC.;** and

WHEREAS, the Clearance Certificate for the Transfer is in the possession of the Municipal Clerk for the retail beverage license holder; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BET IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, hereby approves the transfer of liquor license number **1917-33-003-006** held by **Sandyston Spirit, LLC.** to **Mountain House Bar & Grill, LLC.**

The Committee reviewed **R-24-2017**. Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve **R-24-2017** and the **transfer of this liquor license to be effective the date of the closing for this entity**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION

R-26-2017

GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year **2016** has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and,

WHEREAS, R.S. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and,

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall by resolution certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations, and,

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed as a minimum the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and,

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and,

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board, and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52, to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52: A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his/her office.

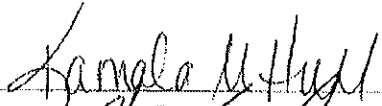
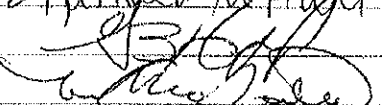
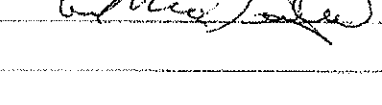
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

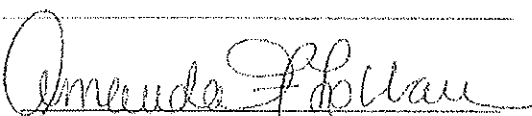
**CERTIFICATION OF GOVERNING BODY OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT
GROUP AFFIDAVIT FORM
NO PHOTO COPIES OF SIGNATURES**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTY OF SUSSEX

We, members of the governing body of the Township of Sandyston, in the County of Sussex, being duly sworn according to law, upon our oath depose and say:

1. We are duly elected (or appointed) members of the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston in the county of County of Sussex;
2. In the performance of our duties, and pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, we have familiarized ourselves with the contents of the Annual Municipal Audit filed with the Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6 for the year 2016;
3. We certify that we have personally reviewed and are familiar with, as a minimum, the sections of the Annual Report of Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations."

(L.S.)		(L.S.)
(L.S.)		(L.S.)
(L.S.)		(L.S.)
(L.S.)		(L.S.)
(L.S.)		(L.S.)


Amanda F. Lobban, RMC
Municipal Clerk

The Committee reviewed **R-26-2017**. Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve **R-26-2017**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP

R-33-2017

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF SANDYSTON TO EXECUTE A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE PROVISION OF CERTIFIED RECYCLING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO SUBMIT THE 2016 RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORT TO THE NJDEP

WHEREAS, the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (hereinafter “SCMUA”), among other things, employs a District Recycling Coordinator as the designated operating agency within Sussex County as provided in the Sussex County District Solid Waste Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act (N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, et. seq.) (hereinafter, “the Act”) provides that local units of government may enter into a contract to provide or receive any service that either local unit participating in the Agreement is empowered to provide or receive within its own jurisdiction, including services incidental to the primary purposes of any of the participating units (N.J.S.A. 40A:65-4); and

WHEREAS, the Township of Sandyston will prepare the 2016 Township of Sandyston Recycling Tonnage Report; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Sandyston has requested the services of the SCMUA in the form of the District Recycling Coordinator as a Certified Recycling Professional to certify and submit the required 2016 Township of Sandyston Recycling Tonnage Report to NJDEP by April 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS, SCMUA has the qualified staff to certify the Recycling Tonnage Report prepared by the Township of Sandyston and electronically submit it to NJDEP on behalf of the Township of Sandyston under the terms and conditions set forth in the Shared Services Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston hereby approves this agreement and hereby directs the following:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a Shared Services Agreement with the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority Board of Commissioners, a copy of which is attached hereto, for the provision of Certified Recycling Professional Services to certify and submit the 2016 Recycling Tonnage Report to NJDEP.
2. The Township of Sandyston shall pay an annual fee of \$250 to the SCUMA for the Certified Recycling Professional’s services upon 30 days of finalization of the report.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The Committee reviewed **R-33-2017**. Committeeman Harper made a motion to approve **R-33-2017**, seconded by Mayor MacDonald and unanimously carried.

Ordinances:

**SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP
2017-03**

ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$5,850.00 CURRENTLY LOCATED WITHIN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SANDYSTON FOR THE PURCHASE OF THREE (3) SETS OF TURNOUT GEAR

WHEREAS, there is currently the sum of \$5,850.00 in the Capital Improvement Fund; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed appropriate to make use of the \$5,850.00 for the purchase of turnout gear; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, that

SECTION 1: There is hereby appropriated from the Capital Improvement Fund of the Township of Sandyston the sum of \$5,850.00 for the purchase of turnout gear.

SECTION 2: All ordinances or parts of ordinances, which are inconsistent with the terms of this Ordinance, be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

SECTION 3: This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon proper passage and publication in accordance with the law.

The Committee introduced Ordinance **2017-03**. Committeeman Harper made a motion to approve Ordinance **2017-03** for introduction, seconded by Mayor MacDonald and unanimously carried. The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 9 am.

Correspondence: The Committee reviewed the correspondence. Committeeman Harper noted the lot on Flatbrook Road owned by Sandyston Township has been sold to the State of New Jersey in the amount of \$40,000.

The Clerk noted the Board of Public Utilities is working on the problem of the vegetation on the phone and cable lines within the Township.

Committeeman Harper noted the email from Eric Olsen of The Natures Conservancy declining offer to purchase Block 1101 Lot 16.01 located on Route 206 in Sandyston.

Committeeman Harper noted the Thank You letter received from Father Wayne Varga of the St. Thomas the Apostle Church thanking the Road Department for their services this winter.

Committeeman Harper noted the email received from Larry Cohen, County Legislative Leader, The Humane Society of the United States regarding Ordinances against Pet Shops, which he believes was sent to everyone in the State.

Committeeman Harper noted the letter from the Construction Official regarding the property on Jenkins Road with unsafe structures and the lack of cooperation on the part of the management company. The Clerk noted the property has recently been through the Sheriff's Sale and now the bank is working with the Construction Official on the matter.

Committeeman Harper noted the email received from Stonefield Engineering requesting to meet with the Mayor regarding 299 Route 206. The Clerk advised this email was referred to Beth Brothman, Land Use

Administrator and the engineers will be appearing before the Land Use Board on May 1, 2017 for an informal concept.

The Clerk noted the property of 18 Cemetery Road has been through Sheriff's Sale and the previous owners have left garbage, personal property and debris. The Clerk has reached out to the management company for the bank and is in the process of trying to get this property cleaned up.

Open Meeting To Floor:

Mayor MacDonald made a motion to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.

Jon Snyder, 1A Woods Road, came forward and referred to the recent happening in Frankford Township where a resolution was made considering doing away with the construction department and turning the office over to the State and asked if Sandyston Township had ever considered the same. Committeeman Harper explained Sandyston Township currently has shared services with Hampton, Montague, and Branchville where we are the lead and we control the personnel which still gives us local control and responsiveness to the residents.

Mr. Snyder asked about the property on Mountain Trail in Kittatinny Lake to be sold to the State. The Clerk explained the Township is working with Kittatinny Lake Club on a property in the lake to be deeded to the Township and later offered for sale to Green Acres. Committeeman Harper also explained the property on Flatbrook Road which was recently sold to the State of New Jersey in the amount of \$40,000.

Glenn Hull, Bevans Road, came forward and stated he has requested a letter from the township regarding property ownership of a section of Old Mine Road and asked if the Township had sent him the letter.

Committeeman Harper stated on the advice of counsel there would be no comment on the matter. Mr. Hull stated the litigation is not over and it has come out that a person who testified for the United States has perjured themselves and it is in writing.

Mr. Hull read the following letter into the record and stated this was his last request before any action comes on:

"After many requests by the Hull family, past and present Sandyston Township officials have failed to fulfil their responsibility as elected officials to report to law enforcement a fabricated sale of property from Sandyston Township to the United States. This fabrication involved records tampering, deed fraud, etc.

This is property that Sandyston Township did not and does not own, and currently taxes the rightful owners, the Hull families.

This criminal act involved the fabrication of a sale price and a fabricated NJ real estate transfer tax as evidenced in the recording stamp on the 1989 quitclaim deed filed on June 16, 2008 by Cynthia Branley and recorded on June 17, 2008 at Sussex County Hall of Records. This quitclaim deed was later used as Exhibit A in a lawsuit by John Donahue in federal court against the Hulls in 2009 claiming a property transfer from Sandyston Township to the US. Due to the lack of cooperation by Sandyston Township officials, this suit remains unsettled.

This letter is served to put the Sandyston Township Committee and all on notice for official misconduct for failure to perform its lawful duties, and for ignoring many requests to disclose rightful property

ownership, and for continuing to hide the truth about rightful property ownership involving this quitclaim deed previously rejected by the US Solicitor with Sandyston Township's knowledge. This quitclaim deed was written in 1989 by Sandyston Township, stating "Interest if Any" and "No Consideration", and did not contain a lot and block number and signed by George Harper. 19 years later this same rejected quitclaim was fabricated as a conveyance of property through sale by Cynthia Branley at filing on June 16, 2008. And on that same day, Sandyston Township's former attorney signed a Seller's Residence Certificate/Exemption to assist the filing."

Mayor MacDonald made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.

Upcoming events:

Regular Township Meeting:	Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 9:00 am
Planning Board Regular:	Monday, May 1, 2017 at 7:00 pm
Seniors Meeting/Lunch	Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 12:00 pm
Recreation Meeting:	Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 6:30 pm
St. Thomas Tricky Tray	Friday, May 5, 2017
DVUMC Fish & Chip Dinner:	Saturday, May 20, 2017
Clean Communities	Sunday, May 21, 2017
Sandyston Rec Daddy/Daughter Dance	Friday, June 2, 2017
Primary Election:	Tuesday, June 6, 2017 6 am to 8 pm
Sandyston Day:	Saturday, June 10, 2017
STVFD Chicken BBQ:	Sunday, June 25, 2017

Adjournment: Mayor MacDonald made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Amanda F. Lobban, RMC
Municipal Clerk