

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP

Minutes

February 14, 2017

This meeting was opened and called to order at 9:00 am by Mayor Fred MacDonald. who stated this meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, having been duly advertised.

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: Michael J. Hanifan, Esq. (Township Attorney)

Also in attendance: Christopher Makowski; Jon Snyder; Lou Frato; Tom & Nan Horsfield; Glenn Hull; Hixon & Sharon Spangenberg; Jackie Espinoza, JCP & L

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

Minutes: The Committee reviewed the regular meeting minutes of **January 10, 2017**. Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for January 10, 2017, seconded by Committeeman Harper and unanimously carried.

Tax Collector Report: The Tax Collector Report was presented for the month of **January 2017** with total receipts Month-To-Date of \$401,230.59 and a Year-To-Date total of \$401,230.59. 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 **January 2017** was presented with a beginning balance of \$1,570,425.94 total receipts of \$415,751.62 and total disbursements of \$390,144.12 leaving an ending balance of \$1,596,033.44. Mayor MacDonald read the following balances: General Capital Account \$59,441.85, Animal Control Escrow \$11,480.53, Public Assist Escrow \$3,540.39, Unemployment Escrow \$25,162.82, COAH Trust \$41,040.86, Security Asst. Fund \$18,613.24 and the Small Cities Master \$4,783.12. 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 \$953,180.36. The Clerk noted the \$1.00 in the bills list for John Bonham Road Equipment and Supply should be removed. Committeeman Harper inquired about Service Plus, and the Clerk responded the company services our stove and dishwasher. Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve the bills list, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously approved.

Departmental Reports: The Committee reviewed the departmental reports.

Old Business:

Green Acres: Deeds of Devita Road: Michael Hanifan, Esq., Township Attorney explained the Township has been in the process of selling three properties to Green Acres which are on Devita Road. Green Acres has requested language in the deeds to reflect they are not responsible for the maintenance of

the road. Mr. Hanifan explained the State of New Jersey has several other properties on this road and he is going to resubmit the deeds to them for consideration.

Deeds of Flatbrook Road: The Committee reviewed the final draft of the deed for the sale of a property off Flatbrook Road to Green Acres. A Resolution is on the agenda for the consideration of the Committee for the execution of the deed.

Tri-State Steel Fabricators, Inc.: The Committee reviewed the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund application for the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection, Site Remediation Program wherein the Township is applying for the PA/SI/RI Grant. The Clerk noted we do not have to send the application fee until we receive notification from the Economic Development Authority. The Clerk requested the Township Attorney provide a proposal for fees associated with contacting the owners of Tri-State Steel Fabricators, Inc., for access of the property to be included in the grant.

In Rem Foreclosure of Properties: The Committee reviewed the current In Rem Foreclosure list. The Clerk explained we are working with Kittatinny Lake Club, Inc., Board of Trustees to provide a waiver of the fees owed on the property due to Professional Enterprises wishing to deed the property back to the Township. As stated previously, this is only possible because the State of New Jersey, Green Acres, owns other property which borders this location and we will work to sell this property to Green Acres as well. The Clerk asked the Committee if they wished to continue with the *In Rem* of the properties, without Tri-State Steel Fabricators, Inc., or would they like to wait to see how the investigation into Tri-State Steel Fabricators progresses and *In Rem* them all together at the same time. After a brief discussion, the *In Rem* foreclosure will continue on Catalano, Farino and Georginis and wait on the *In Rem* foreclosure on Tri-State Steel Fabricators, Inc., until we have more information regarding the contamination/grant.

Committeeman Harper questioned the assessment of Tri-State Steel Fabricators, Inc. Kathy Kieb, Tax Assessor, stated the current assessment is (Building \$229,200/Land \$82,800) \$312,000. Committeeman Harper asked Mrs. Kieb to review the current assessment and determine if a tax appeal is appropriate at this time.

New Business:

Chris Makowski: Land Sale Purchase 2015: Chris Makowski, 114 Route 645, came forward to discuss the property he purchased in 2015 and the added tax bill he received in 2016. Mr. Makowski felt he was not provided important information regarding the sale of the property, the taxes that would be owed and the procedure regarding tax appeals. Mr. Makowski stated he was informed that an appeal could not be filed in December of 2016 of the assessed value because of the date of the land sale. The Clerk clarified to Mr. Makowski that it was not the date of the land sale that hampered the ability to file a tax appeal, the Assessor could not file an Assessor Appeal in December of 2016 because the property was going from a tax-exempt property owned by the Township to a taxpayer. Mr. Makowski stated he felt he did research prior to the land sale and didn't receive important information in his discussion with the Tax Assessor and now he has a tax bill and property that he cannot utilize. Mr. Makowski stated he doesn't feel it was explained during the land sale how to file for a tax appeal. Committeeman Harper explained the Committee is unable to abate the tax due on the property. Committeeman Harper stated the Township sells the property as is and cannot advise purchasers on information regarding the land sale and any advice should be obtained by an attorney. Committeeman Harper thanked Mr. Makowski for coming to the meeting and discussing the matter with the Committee.

Quotes: CCTV System: The Committee reviewed the quotes for the Closed-Circuit Television System quotes. The Committee asked for these quotes to be placed on the agenda for the March meeting to allow the Committee to review the quotes.

Quote: Farmside Contract: The Committee reviewed the quotes for the Lawn Care/Plant Health Program for the municipal grounds (\$2,700) and the ballfield area (\$1,320) from Farmside Landscape and Design, Inc. Committeeman Harper made a motion to approve the quotes, seconded by Mayor MacDonald and unanimously carried.

Shared Service: Certified Recycling Coordinator: The Committee reviewed the Shared Service Agreement for the Certified Recycling Coordinator with Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority and its County Recycling Coordinator who is a Certified Recycling Professional. Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve the Shared Service Agreement, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.

Application of Fire Department/Junior Member: J. Voss: The Committee reviewed the Application for Junior Member of the Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department. Committeeman Harper made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Mayor MacDonald and unanimously carried.

Use of Meeting Hall:

- **Sussex County Office of Public Health Nursing, Tuesday, October 3, 2017 2 pm – 5 pm “Flu Clinic”:** The Committee reviewed the request from the Sussex County Office of Public Health Nursing for use of the meeting hall for the “Flu Clinic”. Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve, pending receipt of the Certificate of Insurance, seconded by Committeeman Harper and unanimously carried.
- **Sussex County Board of Elections, Poll Worker Training, Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10 am to 2 pm:** The Committee reviewed the request from the Sussex County Board of Elections for use of the meeting hall for poll worker training. Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve, pending receipt of the Certificate of Insurance, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.
- **Kittatinny Little League, March 1 – July 31, 2017, Baseball Practices and Games:** The Committee reviewed the request from the Kittatinny Little League for use of the ballfield from March until July. Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.
- **Hampton-Sandyston Wrestling Club, Sunday, March 26, 2017 12 pm – 7 pm:** The Committee reviewed the request from the Hampton-Sandyston Wrestling Club for use of the meeting hall for their year-end celebration. Committeeman Harper noted the Certificate must be corrected to show correct NAIC code and description of operations. Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve, pending receipt of corrected Certificate of Insurance, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.
- **Sandyston Recreation “Kids Yoga”, Thursdays 4:30 – 5:15 pm 2/9 – 4/6/2017:** The Committee reviewed the request from Sandyston Recreation for Kids Yoga with Julie Lain-Trilling. Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve, seconded by Committeeman Harper and unanimously carried.

Resolutions:

**SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION
R-18-2017
RESOLUTION TO APPOINT BUILDING SUB-CODE**

WHEREAS, on January 5, 2017, Robert W. Huber received a Notice of Licensure Award which has placed him qualified under the authority of the New Jersey State Uniform Construction Code Act for Building Subcode Official; and

WHEREAS, said Building Subcode Official shall be authorized to administer and enforce the Uniform Construction Code of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Robert W. Huber has the proper license to be appointed Building Sub-Code, **License #009388**; and

WHEREAS, Robert W. Huber shall receive a \$1,000 increase in his salary for obtaining his Building Subcode Official License; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that **Robert W. Huber** be appointed and designated Building Sub-Code Official for Sandyston Township effective January 5, 2017 and receive a \$1,000 increase in his salary for obtaining his Building Subcode Official License.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs; Eileen Klose, Hampton Township Administrator; Eileen DeFabiis, Montague Township Clerk and Jessica M. Caruso, Sandyston Township Chief Financial Officer.

The Committee reviewed **R-18-2017**. Committeeman Harper made a motion to approve **R-18-2017**, seconded by Mayor MacDonald and unanimously carried.

**Township of Sandyston
R-19-2017**

**RESOLUTION FOR THE APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND
EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FLATBROOK ROAD PROJECT**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sandyston Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2017-Flatbrook Road-00437 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Sandyston Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of Sandyston Township and that their signatures constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approve the execution of the grant agreement.

The Committee reviewed **R-19-2017**. Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve **R-19-2017**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.

**Township of Sandyston
R-20-2017**

**RESOLUTION FOR THE APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND
EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION FOR THE HOTALEN ROAD – SECTION III PROJECT**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sandyston Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2017-Hotalen Road – Section III-00178 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Sandyston Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of Sandyston Township and that their signatures constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approve the execution of the grant agreement.

The Committee reviewed **R-20-2017**. Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve **R-20-2017**, seconded by Committeeman Harper and unanimously carried.

**SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP
R-21-2017**

RESOLUTION PROVIDING WRITTEN CONCURRENCE FOR SUSSEX COUNTY APPLICATIONS FOR ROADWAY OCCUPANCY FOR SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP RECREATION EVENTS AND REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE FOR GOBBLE HOBBLE 5K

WHEREAS, the Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department will hold three Charitable Solicitations Fundraisers (a/k/a Coin Toss) on the following dates:

- **May 25, 26 & 27, 2017**
- **June 29, 30 & July 1, 2017**
- **August 31, September 1 & 2, 2017; and**

WHEREAS, the Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department will hold a Tractor Parade Event on **Saturday, August 26, 2017**; and

WHEREAS, Sandyston Township Recreation will hold their annual "Gobble Hobble 5K" fundraiser on **Thursday, November 23, 2017**; and

WHEREAS the Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department and Sandyston Township Recreation are required to fill out the appropriate Applications for Road Occupancy for each event with Sussex County, Division of Engineering; and

WHEREAS, each application requires written concurrence of the municipality affected by Traffic Control Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department has provided, as part of their application, an engineer's drawing of the parade route which takes place on County Route 645, 646 and 560 and the area of charitable solicitation which takes place on County Route 560; and

WHEREAS, Sandyston Township Recreation has provided, as part of their application, an engineer's drawing of the Gobble Hobble 5K Route which takes place on County Route 645 and hereby requests County Route 645 be temporarily closed from 9:00 am to 10:30 am.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston hereby provides this written concurrence of the above events held by Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department and Sandyston Township Recreation which take place in Sandyston Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston hereby requests the temporary closure of County Route 645 from 9:00 am to 10:30 am for the Gobble Hobble 5K event sponsored by Sandyston Township Recreation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Certified Copy of this Resolution shall accompany each application made to Sussex County for Road Occupancy for each event.

The Committee reviewed **R-21-2017**. The Clerk explained Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department and Sandyston Recreation are required to submit applications to the County for upcoming Coin Toss, Tractor Parade

and Gobble Hobble 5K events. The Clerk stated this Resolution will go with each application providing the municipalities concurrence of the events. Mayor MacDonald made a motion to approve **R-21-2017**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION
R-22-2017
A RESOLUTION APPOINTING PRESIDENT TO SANDYSTON RECREATION

WHEREAS, Kerry Deckert has submitted her resignation as Sandyston Recreation Secretary effective December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee accepted this resignation, with regret, at the Township Committee meeting held December 13, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Jenna Valleau has volunteered for the position of President of Sandyston Recreation; and

WHEREAS, Jenna Valleau has been actively involved in Sandyston Recreation for several years, helping with fundraisers and activities and attending recreation meetings; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey that Jenna Valleau be appointed President for Sandyston Recreation effective February 14, 2017.

The Committee reviewed **R-22-2017**. Committeeman Harper made a motion to approve **R-22-2017**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION
R-23-2017
A RESOLUTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONVEYING REAL PRPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 502 LOT 39 TO THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston has authorized the conveyance of unimproved real property to the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection for Block 502 Lot 39 by Ordinance 2016-04 in the amount Forty Thousand dollars (\$40,000); and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the transaction herein referred to, being herewith approved, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston authorize and direct the Mayor and Municipal Clerk of this corporation to deliver such documents, instruments and papers and perform such acts as may be legally, properly and reasonably required or necessary for the purpose of conveying real property known as Block 502 Lot 39, Sandyston Township, Sussex County, New Jersey to the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection for a consideration of Forty Thousand dollars and 00/100 (\$40,000.00).

The Committee reviewed **R-23-2017**. Committeeman Harper made a motion to approve **R-23-2017**, seconded by Mayor MacDonald and unanimously carried.

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 **A & G Tavern, L.L.C.**; 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 Clerk explained this Resolution will be placed on the agenda for the March meeting, as the necessary Tax Clearance Certificate was not provided to the Clerk as required.

Ordinances:

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE

2017-01

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SALARIES AND WAGES FOR THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SANDYSTON AND TO PROVIDE THE METHOD FOR THE PAYMENT OF ANNUAL SALARY INCREMENTS IN THE DISCRETION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The ordinance shall be known as “The Minimum and Maximum Salary and Wage Ordinance”.

Section 2. All ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance, shall be, and are hereby repealed.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Minimum Annual Salary</u>	<u>Maximum Annual Salary</u>
Mayor	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,600.00
Committeemen	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 4,000.00
Municipal Clerk	\$27,000.00	\$46,000.00
Deputy Clerk	\$ 500.00	\$ 5,000.00
Registrar	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
Tax Collector	\$15,000.00	\$25,000.00
Assessor	\$11,000.00	\$24,000.00
Deputy Tax Assessor	\$ 50.00	\$ 4,500.00
Chief Financial Officer	\$ 5,000.00	\$15,000.00
Treasurer	\$ 5,000.00	\$15,000.00
Sec. To Bd. Health	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,500.00
Emergency Management Coord.	\$ 800.00	\$ 2,600.00
Animal Control Officer	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,000.00
(\$1.00 per dog license issued payable to Municipal Clerk)		
Dog Pick-Up		\$ 25.00
Dog Boarding Fee (per day)		\$ 25.00
Const./Bldg. Sub-Code	\$15,000.00	\$25,000.00

(plus mileage)		
Sec. To Cons. Official (per hour)	\$ 9.00	\$ 18.00
Fire Sub-Code Official (per hour)	\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00
(plus mileage)		
Plumb. Sub-Code Official	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
(plus mileage)		
Electrical Sub-Code Official	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
Housing Officer Per Inspection	\$ 35.00	\$ 50.00
(plus mileage)		
Code Enforcement Official	\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00
(plus mileage)		
Fire Prev./Life hazard Per Inspection	\$ 40.00	\$ 60.00
Shared Service Agreement	\$ 7,000.00	\$12,000.00
Road Foreman, hourly	\$ 16.00	\$ 33.00
Roadman, Senior Employee (hourly)	\$ 12.00	\$ 24.00
Roadman, Junior Employee (hourly)	\$ 10.00	\$ 22.00
Laborers, per hour, monthly	minimum wage	
Temporary Truck Driver per hour	\$ 15.00	\$ 25.00
Temporary Driver with CDL	\$ 15.00	\$ 25.00
Township Attorney	\$15,000.00	\$25,000.00
Planning Board Secretary	\$10,500.00	\$20,000.00
Land Use Administrator	\$12,000.00	\$20,000.00
Tax Search Officer	100% of all search fees	
Official Improvement Search	100% of all search fees	

Vouchers for mileage shall be prepared and submitted monthly. All those eligible for car allowance, shall be allowed \$.51 per mile.

All employees whose appearance is necessary in a court case shall be paid \$20.00 per appearance.

This ordinance shall take effect after publication and passage according to law.

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

Jon Snyder, Woods Road, came forward and questioned the different ranges of the positions, for example, the Deputy Clerk and the Registrar. Committeeman Harper explained this was not the salary resolution which outlines what employees are paid, rather an ordinance setting the minimum and maximum for each position. Committeeman Harper explained the ranges are useful depending on the type of employment in any given situation that might arise.

Committeeman Harper noted four changes occurring in this Minimum/Maximum Ordinance:

Housing Officer Per Inspection	\$ 35.00	\$ 50.00
(plus mileage)		
Code Enforcement Official	\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00
(plus mileage)		
Temporary Truck Driver per hour	\$ 15.00	\$ 25.00
Temporary Driver with CDL	\$ 15.00	\$ 25.00

The Clerk noted that the Ordinance can be prepared to just show the changes in the Minimum/Maximum Ordinance, but felt it was better to advertise the entire Ordinance to the public. There being no further comment, Mayor MacDonald made a motion to close the public comment portion on **Ordinance 2017-01**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried. Committeeman Harper made a motion to approve Ordinance 2017-01, seconded by Mayor MacDonald and unanimously carried. A Roll Call followed: Ayes: Harper; Hull; MacDonald; Nays (0); Absent (0); Abstain (0)

Correspondence: The Committee reviewed the correspondence.

Committeeman Harper noted the correspondence from the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection regarding a spill of gasoline on Mountain Trail.

Mayor MacDonald noted a Safety Meeting was held with Statewide Insurance on January 31, 2017.

Committeeman Harper asked if there was any updated information regarding the Tufaro matter in Frankford Township. The Clerk noted no new correspondence has been received.

Committeeman Harper noted the letter received from Blue Ridge Rescue Squad regarding our yearly donation and asked for that letter to be addressed during the budget discussion at the March meeting.

Open Meeting To Floor:

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

Jackie Espinoza, JCP & L, came forward and provided an explanation regarding the Global ETR Outage Map. Ms. Espinoza explained this is an estimation of the time until the last person experiencing an outage shall be restored. Mayor MacDonald complimented JCP & L and the work they have done since "Sandy" to improve communication and vegetation maintenance.

Glenn Hull, Bevans Road, came forward and stated several years ago Sandyston Township purchased property from Ryan Earley and Kim Cosgove and questioned why this sale did not appear in the Realty Index. Mr. Hull stated this is way past the time as required by administrative code. Michael Hanifan, Esq., requested to know the administrative code to which Mr. Hull was referencing so he may look into the matter and advise the Committee. Mr. Hull stated he did not have the information at this time but would provide this information.

Mr. Hull stated that on October 14, 2014, Mayor MacDonald sent Mr. Hull a letter stating the Township did not represent any ownership of property in the Quit-Claim deed that was filed by Cynthia Branley of the National Park Service. Mr. Hull stated he was seeking clarification if Sandyston Township claimed to own any of the property in the deed that was supposedly transferred. Mr. Hanifan interjected and asked if this matter was adjudicated in Federal Court with a written opinion. Committeeman Harper stated this is a redundant theme and Mr. Hull had five minutes to make his public comment which is the policy of the Township. Mr. Hull again asked for clarification if Sandyston Township claimed to own any of the property in the deed and asked for a written response from the Township. Mr. Hull stated there was a Seller's Residency Certificate signed by Sandyston's attorney that enabled that Quit-Claim Deed to be recorded as a sale of property, later claimed to be a donation of property in fee. Mr. Hull stated he requires clarification as his sons were taken into Federal Court and sat at a hearing for damages to United States property transferred from Sandyston and stated his sons were threatened with jail time which is one of the penalties for damages to that property. Mr. Hull stated he needed to know did Sandyston Township own that property prior to that deed being recorded and wanted a letter – did Sandyston own it yes or no.

Mr. Hull stated his sons were threatened with damages and jail time as the penalties for damaging United States property. Mr. Hull stated at the same time of that hearing the United States wanted to do a settlement after they threatened them and the settlement was they wanted his sons to sign the property over to them. Mr. Hull again requested a letter written to either him, or his sons, stating Sandyston did not own that property. Mr. Hull stated he looked in the Realty Index and he doesn't see any Block or Lot number for Sandyston owning the property and there was never any real estate change in the Realty Index. Committeeman Harper stated the Committee appreciated his comments would take them under advisement. Mr. Hull further explained that this would protect his sons in Federal Court as they will be back because the case is not settled. Mr. Hull continued to explained that for some reason it was dismissed without it being settled and they do not have a clue why. Mr. Hull stated it has been eight years and there has been an incident on this property that may become something and this matter needs to be resolved and requested a letter stating Sandyston didn't own the property.

Sharon Spangenberg, Heaters Lane, came forward and asked why was the amount due in taxes allowed to accumulate for six years on the Tri-State Steel property. Committeeman Harper explained that up until a few years ago the property owner was working with the DEP on the contamination issue and to this day still owns the property. Mayor MacDonald noted the contamination on the property prevented the Township from foreclosing. Michael Hanifan, Township Attorney, stated the Township has proactively found other parties to help fund the environmental investigation, the appraisal process and the reuse of the property bringing everyone to the table coming up with a cohesive plan to have as little impact on the Township as possible. Mrs. Spangenberg again stated it is a very historic location, a former mill, and she wanted to make sure that was taken into consideration. Committeeman Harper asked Mrs. Spangenberg if she had any suggestions on how to better address the situation and stated his concern was the fiduciary responsibility to the Township and hoped to recoup any funds associated with this property. Committeeman Harper continued that he appreciates the historic significance of this location but felt the fiduciary responsibility must come first and offered anyone that had suggestions on the matter to please come forward.

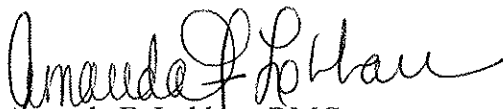
Mayor MacDonald made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.

Upcoming events:

Regular Township Meeting:	Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 7:00 pm
Planning Board Regular:	Monday, March 6, 2017 at 7:00 pm
Seniors Meeting/Lunch	Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 12:00 pm
Recreation Meeting:	Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 6:30 pm

Adjournment: Mayor MacDonald made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 am, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hull and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda F. Lobban, RMC
Municipal Clerk