

Sandyston Township

Minutes

January 13, 2015

This meeting was opened and called to order at 9:00 am by Mayor George B. Harper, Jr. 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 Fred V. MacDonald, Deputy Mayor William Leppert, Mayor George B. Harper, Jr.

Also in attendance: Ryan Earley; Chris Hanlon; Robert Ottmann; Steve Williamson; Craig Hutcheson, Superintendent Kittatinny Regional High School; Glenn Hull; Matt Hull; Hixon Spangenberg; Sharon Spangenberg; Tom Horsfield; Sandy Hull, Roy McClain

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

Minutes: The Committee reviewed the regular meeting minutes of **December 16, 2014**, as well as the Re-Organization Meeting of **January 5, 2015**. Deputy Mayor Leppert made a motion to approve the minutes submitted, seconded by Mayor Harper and unanimously carried, with the exception of Committeeman MacDonald who abstained from voting on the December 16, 2014 regular meeting minutes as he was absent from the meeting.

Tax Collector Report: The Tax Collector's report for the month of **December 2014** was presented with total receipts Month-To-Date of \$124,477.19 and a Year-To-Date total of \$5,641,518.62. Mayor Harper made a motion to approve the Tax Collector's Report, seconded by Committeeman MacDonald and unanimously carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for the month of **December 2014** was presented with a beginning balance of \$1,113,015.69, total receipts of \$191,363.14, and total disbursements of \$253,621.64 leaving an ending balance of \$1,050,757.19. Deputy Mayor Leppert read the following balances: General Capital Account \$145,106.84, Animal Control Escrow \$4,950.61, Public Assist Escrow \$3,529.26, Unemployment Escrow \$23,649.99, COAH Trust \$32,287.39, Security Asst. Fund \$18,554.91 and the Small Cities Master \$4,768.10. Mayor Harper made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Deputy Mayor Leppert and unanimously carried.

Payment of Vouchers: The bills list for the month **December 2014** was submitted for approval. Deputy Mayor Leppert made a motion to approve the bills list for the month of **December 2014** in the amount of \$414,656.32, seconded by Committeeman MacDonald and unanimously carried.

Departmental Reports: The Committee reviewed the Departmental Reports. Committeeman MacDonald made a motion to utilize Morris County Co-Op Pricing Council (Contract #21) for Oil & Stone Treatment, seconded by Mayor Harper and unanimously carried.

Old Business:

Performance Bond/Block 1105 Lot 14: Mayor Harper stated there has been no update regarding the Performance Bond.

Status: In Rem Foreclosure: Mayor Harper stated there has been no change since last month.

Revaluation Status: The Committee reviewed correspondence from Appraisal Systems, Inc. and Robert Pastor, Tax Assessor, stating the revaluation inspections are complete.

Outdoor Entertainment Ordinance – Revised Application: The Clerk advised the Committee that the Application that goes with the Outdoor Entertainment License has been revised, including a place to include a rain date. Deputy Mayor Leppert stated this application gives the application the option to request up to four dates per year.

CR 560 Streetscape:

- **Phase III -** The Committee reviewed the correspondence from Ryan Earley regarding the partial release from his mortgage company for the section of property deeded to the town for Streetscape Phase III Project. Mayor Harper made a motion to approve an appraisal update, or additional fees necessary for the bank for the release, seconded Committeeman MacDonald and unanimously carried.

New Business:

Craig Hutcheson, Superintendent, Kittatinny Regional High School: Mr. Hutcheson came forward to discuss the 2% Cap Initiative which is a cost containment idea to cap the increase to county vocational schools. Mr. Hutcheson stated they have received support of the District 24 Legislators and provided a copy of Senator Steven V. Oroho's Senate Bill 2658, which talks about capping all tuition to 2%, which includes private schools and private schools for the disabled. Mr. Hutcheson stated this is a big help because the private school for the disabled tuition can go up at any amount in a year and you do not know when you are going to have out of district students moving into your district. Mr. Hutcheson also provided a copy of the companion bill in the Assembly Bill 4003, and they have actually broken this out to include all schools at 2%. Mr. Hutcheson provided a copy of Assembly Bill 4037 which is just for technical schools. Mr. Hutcheson asked the Committee to review the proposed Bill's and consider passing a resolution to support the 2% Cap to contain costs. Mayor Harper stated there is a resolution on the agenda supporting the 2% Cap Initiative and asked Mr. Hutcheson to take a look at the resolution and provide input before the Committee considers the resolution for adoption. Mr. Hutcheson thanked the Committee for their time.

Vision 2030 Discussion: The Committee reviewed a draft resolution and Mayor Harper asked for comments regarding the resolution. Deputy Mayor Leppert stated the resolution includes the proposals which the Committee opposes in the Vision 2030 document. The Committee unanimously agreed to put the draft resolution up for consideration.

Route 206 Turn Off onto Woods Road Discussion: The Committee reviewed recent correspondence from Senator Oroho's Office and the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation regarding Kittatinny Lake Community's request to add a turning lane on the southbound side of Route 206 South near Woods Road. Deputy Mayor Leppert stated the correspondence discusses the northbound turning lane, but not the southbound turning lane which residents of Kittatinny Lake have expressed concern. Deputy Mayor Leppert stated the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation is advising if Sandyston Township wishes to add something more to that section of Route 206 they require a letter of request specifically outlining our request. Mayor Harper explained the Township sent a letter in November 2014. The Clerk explained the Department of Transportation is requesting a supporting resolution detailing the request. After a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to prepare a resolution for February's meeting supporting the request.

Agreement: Dog Pound Facility with Kountry Kennels: The Committee reviewed the agreement between the Township of Sandyston and Kountry Kennels.

Freedom Business Machines Maintenance Agreement: The Committee reviewed the maintenance agreement with Freedom Business Machines. Deputy Mayor Leppert made a motion to approve the maintenance agreement, seconded by Committeeman MacDonald and unanimously approved.

Use of Building: Sandyston Recreation Monthly Meetings: The Committee reviewed the request by Sandyston Recreation to use the meeting hall for monthly meetings. Deputy Mayor Leppert made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Mayor Harper and unanimously carried.

Use of Building: STVFD Monthly Meetings: The Committee reviewed the request by Sandyston Township Volunteer Fire Department to use the meeting hall for monthly meetings. Committeeman MacDonald made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Mayor Harper and unanimously carried.

Use of Building: Delaware Valley United Methodist Church Craft Fair, November 4-7, 2015: The Committee reviewed the request by Delaware Valley United Methodist Church to use the meeting hall for November 4-7 Craft Fair. Committeeman MacDonald made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Mayor Harper and unanimously carried.

Use of Building: Sussex County YMCA, "Music and More" Program: The Committee reviewed the request by the YMCA to use the meeting hall for Music and More Program on Friday's in January and February. Committeeman MacDonald made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Mayor Harper and unanimously carried. Mayor Harper noted the need for the Certificate of Insurance to be provided by YMCA.

Raffle Application: St. Thomas Church On-Premise Merchandise Raffle, Friday May 1, 2015: The Committee reviewed a Raffle Application for St. Thomas Church for an On-Premise Merchandise Raffle (Tricky Tray) on Friday, May 1, 2015. Mayor Harper made a motion to approve the raffle application, seconded by Committeeman MacDonald and unanimously carried.

Raffle Application: St. Thomas Church On-Premise 50/50 Raffle, Friday May 1, 2015: The Committee reviewed a Raffle Application for St. Thomas Church for an On-Premise 50/50 Raffle on Friday, May 1, 2015. Committeeman MacDonald made a motion to approve the raffle application, seconded by Mayor Harper and unanimously carried.

Hepatitis B Letter of Understanding for 2015: The Committee reviewed the Hepatitis B Letter of Understanding for 2015 from Sussex County. Deputy Mayor Leppert made a motion to approve, seconded by Mayor Harper and unanimously carried.

Resignation of P. Ryerson – Municipal Alliance Coordinator: The Committee reviewed the letter of resignation received from Pam Ryerson, Municipal Alliance Coordinator.

Appointment of Municipal Alliance Coordinator: The Committee reviewed a letter expressing interest in the position of Municipal Alliance Coordinator from Kerry Deckert. The Clerk informed the Committee that Mrs. Deckert also does this work for the Town of Newton and has experience.

Deputy Mayor Leppert made a motion to accept Pam Ryerson's resignation and to appoint Kerry Deckert to the position, seconded by Committeeman MacDonald and unanimously carried.

Resolutions:

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP

R-13-2015

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SANDYSTON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY URGING THE NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT A 2% CAP ON TUITION INCREASES CHARGED BY COUNTY VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS TO LOCAL SENDING DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20.1 authorizes County Vocational Technical High Schools to charge a per pupil tuition fee to local school districts sending student to attend the Vocational Technical High School; and

WHEREAS, a form of Vocational Technical High School tuition is currently charged by 19 of the State's 21 Counties; and

WHEREAS, tuition is a form of user fee that allocates the cost of educating a Vocational High School based on the number of students attending the Vocational High School; and

WHEREAS, the other major funding sources for Vocational Technical High Schools are State Aid and the County budget which is supported by the broad based property tax; and

WHEREAS, the Sussex County Vocational High School instituted a tuition in 2011, joining the majority of other vocational schools within the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Sandyston Township Committee does acknowledge that all levels of local government, municipal, county and schools are subject to a 2% tax cap and that an increase in per pupil tuition of greater than 2% could adversely affect the ability of local school districts to perform essential educational functions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston hereby urges the New Jersey State Legislature to enact legislation placing a 2% cap on the annual per pupil tuition Increase charged by County Vocational High Schools to local sending districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Steven Oroho — Senator-24th Legislative District, the Honorable Alison McHose - Assembly Representative-24th Legislative District, the Honorable Parker Space— Assembly Representative-24th Legislative District, the Wallkill Valley Regional High School Board of Education, Rosalie Lamonte -County Superintendent of Schools, Gus Modla —Superintendent and Principal of the Sussex County Vocational Technical High School, the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholder, the Municipal Clerks of the 24 Sussex County municipalities, the NJ League of Municipalities and the NJ Association of Counties.

The Committee reviewed **R-13-2015**. Mayor Harper asked Mr. Hutcheson for his thoughts on **Resolution R-13-2015**. Mr. Hutcheson felt the Resolution was sufficient. Mayor Harper made a motion to approve **R-13-2015**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Leppert and unanimously carried.

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP

R-14-2015

REGARDING THE RESTORATION OF FUNDING TO STATE PARKS PROGRAMS WHICH WILL SUFFER CUTS DUE TO DIVERSION OF CORPORATION BUSINESS TAX FUNDS DUE TO PUBLIC APPROVAL OF NEW JERSEY BALLOT QUESTION 2

WHEREAS, Sandyston Township, located in Sussex County, is the home of several thousand acres of heavily-forested State Lands, known as Stokes State Forest, a tourist haven for hiking, biking, fishing, canoeing, birding,

photography, and other recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, Sandyston Township is depending on these significant, local natural and historic resources in its plan for economic development and growth, highlighting them as a key quality-of-life and eco-tourism assets as we attempt to draw visitors, new residents and new businesses to our Township; and

WHEREAS, there currently exists a greater than \$400 million backlog of repairs, new construction and improvements to existing facilities in state parks and historic sites; and

WHEREAS, numerous Sandyston Township residents, including members of this governing body, have invested significant volunteer time and effort into the restoration of Stokes State Forest by actively participating in, and supporting efforts of, Friends of Stokes State Forest, and others; and

WHEREAS, recent passage of New Jersey Ballot Question 2 will have serious financial impact on state parks and historic sites like Stokes State Forest, severely limiting their ability to fund capital projects, such as building or repairing restrooms, roads, and bridges, since past dedicated funding through the Corporation Business Tax (CBT) has been virtually eliminated; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston do hereby request that the New Jersey Senate Environment and Energy Committee ensure that the legislation implementing distribution of funds as part of Ballot Question 2 fully restores funding for the programs for capital improvements and stewardship of state parks and historic sites to the same or greater levels as prior to diversion of funds from the CBT; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston request that new legislation be enacted allowing income from concessions agreements for specific state parks and historic sites be directed into a dedicated account for that specific state park or historic site, so that the income derived from these private concessions on public lands be utilized to repair, enhance or improve the state park or historic site from which the income is generated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston request that 5% of the funds from the CBT be allocated to stewardship of county and local parks and preserved lands through competitive matching grants similar to Green Acres acquisition and development grants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston request that no taxpayer funds be allocated to non-profit NGOs for stewardship of lands held by these nonprofit land trusts, since these NGOs and their members already benefit from funds generated by programs they run, and are eligible for private and foundational funding, unlike governmental agencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston direct the Municipal Clerk to forward certified copies of this resolution to New Jersey Senate Environment and Energy Committee; New Jersey State Senator Steven Oroho; New Jersey Assembly Members Alison McHose and Parker Space; New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin; New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry Director Mark Texel; New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry Assistant Director John Trontis; New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry Northern Region Superintendent Steve Ellis; New Jersey League of Municipalities; The Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders; the Governing Bodies of all other Sussex County Municipalities; and the Friends of Stokes State Forest.

The Committee reviewed R-14-2015. Deputy Mayor Leppert made a motion to approve R-14-2015, seconded by

Mayor Harper and unanimously carried.

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP

R-15-2015

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COORDINATOR AND MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE CHAIRPERSON

WHEREAS the Township Committee is acting as the lead agency for the Municipal Alliance, a consortium that is comprised of the municipalities of Sandyston, Walpack and Montague; and

WHEREAS Pam Ryerson, Municipal Alliance Coordinator and Elizabeth Pinzone, Municipal Alliance Chairperson, have resigned from their positions effective December 31, 2014; and

WHEREAS Kerry Deckert has been recommended to replace Pam Ryerson as Municipal Alliance Coordinator and Jessica M. Caruso has been recommended to replace Elizabeth Pinzone as Municipal Alliance Chairperson.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that **Kerry Deckert** be appointed as Municipal Alliance Coordinator and **Jessica M. Caruso** be appointed as Municipal Alliance Coordinator for the Municipal Alliance of Sandyston, Walpack and Montague.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Walpack Township, Montague Township and the County Alliance Coordinator, Sussex County Administrative Center ATTN: Nicholas Loizzi, Jr. MA.

The Committee reviewed **R-15-2015**. Mayor Harper made a motion to approve **R-15-2015**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Leppert and unanimously carried.

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP

R-16-2015

RESOLUTION REQUESTING AN EXTENSION FOR THE COUNTY ROUTE 560 PROPOSED STREETScape PHASE III MUNICIPAL AID PROGRAM GRANT

WHEREAS, the Township of Sandyston is currently in the process of finalizing all the necessary documents for the State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation Local Aid and Economic Development FY2013 Municipal Aid Program Grant entitled "County Route 560 Proposed Streetscape Phase III"; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Sandyston is currently waiting for final review and approval of the submitted plans for the CR560 Proposed Streetscape Improvements from Sussex County Division of Engineering and the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2014-11 "An Ordinance Authorizing the Commencement of Eminent Domain Proceedings to Acquire Certain Easement Interests in Properties Adjacent to Lot 25 in Block 1203 With Unknown Owners In Conjunction With A Streetscape Project Along County Route 560 which was advertised on November 18, 2014 and adopted December 16, 2014 and the Township of Sandyston is in the process of filing the necessary paperwork with the Court to finalize the Eminent Domain; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston finds it necessary to request an extension of time in order to receive the final approvals and proceed with advertising for bids and awarding the contract for this project.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston hereby requests an extension from the State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation Local Aid and Economic Development FY2013 Municipal Aid Program. The Township Committee hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Municipal Clerk to sign any documents deemed necessary for this extension.

The Committee reviewed **R-16-2015**. Committeeman MacDonald made a motion to approve **R-16-2015**, seconded by Mayor Harper and unanimously carried.

**SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP
R-17-2015**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT (Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2015 – June 2019)

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Sussex; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Committee does hereby authorize submission of an application for the Municipal Alliance grant for calendar year **2015** in the amount of:

\$7,564.00	Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction (DEDR) funds
\$1,891.00	Cash Match
\$5,673.00	In-Kind
2. The Township Committee is acting as the lead agency for a consortium that is comprised of the municipalities of Sandyston, Walpack and Montague.
3. The Township Committee acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

The Committee reviewed **R-17-2015**. Mayor Harper made a motion to approve **R-17-2015**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Leppert and unanimously carried.

**SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP
R-18-2015**

RESOLUTION – AGREEMENT: BETWEEN KOUNTRY KENNELS AND THE TOWNSHIP OF SANDYSTON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Be it and it is hereby resolved by the Sandyston Township Committee that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston the Dog Pound Facility Agreement between the Kountry Kennels and the Township of Sandyston for the term of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

The Committee reviewed **R-18-2015**. Mayor Harper made a motion to approve **R-18-2015**, seconded by Committeeman MacDonald and unanimously carried.

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SANDYSTON OPPOSING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS OF THE DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA "VISION 2030"

WHEREAS, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) is a nearly 70,000 acre unit of the National Park Service (NPS) located in New Jersey and Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Sandyston Township is made up of approximately 70% state and federal lands and benefits substantially from the tourism which the recreational activities of the state and federal Parks bring to Sandyston Township; and

WHEREAS, the DEWA is among the top 10 most visited units of the National Park System with an average of approximately 5 million visitors annually; and

WHEREAS, the DEWA currently encompasses 67,210 acres; of this figure 9,151.03 acres are in Warren County and 21,489.78 acres are in Sussex County broken down by the following: 5,467.77 acres in Sandyston Township; 2,454.69 acres in Montague Township; 13,872 acres in Walpack Township; 183.12 acres in Stillwater Township. The remaining 36,569.19 acres exist in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the DEWA offers recreational opportunities such as hiking, walking, bicycling, fishing, hunting, swimming, camping, canoeing, boating, cross country skiing, bird watching, horseback riding, sightseeing, and special event; cultural resources, infrastructural facilities, national resources, and rare, threatened and endangered species of plants, fish, mammals, reptiles and amphibians; and

WHEREAS, the DEWA is enjoyed by the residents of Sandyston Township, as well as Sussex County, and the businesses in Sandyston Township benefit from the tourism these recreational activities bring to the area; and

WHEREAS, the DEWA has created a plan entitled *Vision 2030: A Vision For A Sustainable Future* for the vision of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River; and

WHEREAS, Vision 2030 was prepared by the National Park Superintendent and Staff. Vision 2030 desires to acquire large tracts of land and expand the National Park's jurisdiction of lands outside National Park boundaries and may include, at a minimum, any land that is within a watershed that flows into the Delaware River in the area under National Park Control. Vision 2030 desires to establish the Delaware Valley National Park and Preserve, a proposal which would take the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River and include them in a larger park and preserve complex. This unit would replace the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area while the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River would continue under current management which it is believed will eventually limit or prohibit hunting and recreation activities enjoyed by residents and visitors; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston hereby opposes the vision of the DEWA taking any additional property outside its current boundaries. Currently, Sandyston Township is comprised of approximately 70% preserved land owned by the State of New Jersey and the National Park Service (United States) which are currently connected and provide a large space for wild life, watershed protection and recreation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston opposes the DEWA seeking to control any watershed which flows into the Delaware River. Sandyston Township contains the largest number of Freshwater waterways and these streams are part of the Big and Little Flat Brook systems which are currently designated as Category One waterbodies which have stringent requirements, oversight, management and protection by State of New Jersey Regulations. In November 2011, the Delaware River Basin Conservation Initiative began a collaborative effort between the Nature Conservancy, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and the Natural Lands Trust which helps to ensure the long-term viability and health of the basin's ecosystem.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston hereby opposes the vision of the DEWA to establish the Delaware Valley National Park and Preserve, a proposal which would take the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River and include them in a larger park and preserve complex. The Township Committee opposes this change as we believe this will negatively affect the residents and tourism of Sandyston Township. Visitors come from all over the East Coast to enjoy the recreational activities offered by the DEWA, including hunting, which provides economic benefits to all of the local businesses in Sandyston Township. By limiting this area and prohibiting or restricting recreational activities, including hunting, Sandyston Township's local businesses will suffer financially because these restrictions will force tourism to other States who offer these activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Chris Christie; U.S. Representative Scott Garrett; US, Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen; Robert Menendez, United States Senator; Cory Booker, United States Senator; Senator Steven V. Oroho; Assemblywoman Alison Littell McHose; Assemblyman Parker Space; Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders; State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection; National Park Service, Jon Jarvis, Director; National Park Service, Northeast Regional, Mike Caldwell, Regional Director; Delaware River Basin Commission; Partnership for the Delaware Estuary; Natural Lands Trust; Kittatinny Regional High School, Craig Hutcherson, Superintendent; Sandyston-Walpack Consolidated School, M. Glenn Sumpman, Superintendent; and all Sussex County municipalities.

The Committee reviewed **R-19-2015**. Mayor Harper made a motion to approve **R-19-2015**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Leppert and unanimously carried.

Ordinances:

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE

2015-01

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	\$ 35.00
(plus mileage)		
Code Enforcement Official	\$ 20.00	\$ 35.00
(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	\$ 11.00	\$ 15.00
Temporary Driver with CDL	\$ 11.00	\$ 18.00
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 2015-01**. Mayor Harper made a motion to approve the first reading of **Ordinance 2015-01**, seconded by Committeeman MacDonald and unanimously carried. A Roll Call Vote followed: Ayes: Leppert, Harper, MacDonald; Nays (0); Absent (0); Abstain (0). Deputy Mayor Leppert stated this is a first reading of the ordinance which will be duly advertised and the public hearing will be held February 10, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP

ORDINANCE 2015-02

**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SANDYSTON, COUNTY OF
SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING, REVISING AND
SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 48 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF SANDYSTON**

WHEREAS, municipalities are empowered to make, amend, repeal and enforce ordinances pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-1, et. seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Sandyston wishes to amend Chapter 48 of the Township Code in order to make it consistent with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 48 entitled "Buildings, Unsafe" shall and is hereby deleted in its entirety and is hereby replaced with a new Chapter 48 entitled "Buildings, Unsafe" which shall read as follows: "The requirements and procedures to be followed with respect to unsafe buildings and structures shall be in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code, N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.32."

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall become effective after second reading and publication as required by law.

The Committee reviewed Ordinance 2015-02. Deputy Mayor Leppert made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2015-02, seconded by Committeeman MacDonald and unanimously carried. A Roll Call Vote followed: Ayes: Leppert, Harper, MacDonald; Nays (0); Absent (0); Abstain (0). Mayor Harper stated this is a first reading of the ordinance which will be duly advertised and the public hearing will be held February 10, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP

ORDINANCE 2015-03

**AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A NEW CHAPTER OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
SANDYSTON, NEW JERSEY ENTITLED "VEHICLES, MOTOR DRIVEN"**

WHEREAS, municipalities are empowered to make, amend, repeal and enforce Ordinances pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Township Committee to create a new chapter of the Municipal Code of the Township of Sandyston in order to add a chapter for vehicles, motor driven as more specifically set forth in the within Ordinance.

Section 1.

.1 Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following words shall have the following meanings:

"Motor driven vehicles" shall mean, but not be limited to, mini-bikes, trail bicycles, dirt bikes, motor scooters, go-carts, swamp buggies, all-terrain vehicles, including the three and four wheel variety, snowmobiles, as well as any other motor driven vehicle designed primarily for off-road use, regardless of whether it is registered under Title 39, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Statute, but shall not include vehicles used for farming purposes. The definition of snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle shall also include those terms as defined under N.J.S.A. 39:3C-1.c&e.

.2 Use Regulation. It shall be unlawful to operate any motor driven vehicle of type described in subsection .1 within the Township under the following circumstances:

- a. On private property of another without the express permission to do so by the owner or occupant of the property.

- b. On public grounds within the Township without the express permission or approval of the public authority having charge or control thereof and then only in accordance with such rules and regulations as such public authority may impose.
- c. In such manner as to create loud unnecessary or unusual noise so as to disturb or interfere with the peace and quiet of other persons.
- d. In a careless, reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger or be likely to endanger the safety of any person or the property of any person.
- e. Each unlicensed motor-driven or motorized vehicle shall at all times be equipped with a muffler in good working order and no person shall use a muffler cut-out, by-pass or similar device on said vehicle.

.3 Violation by a Minor. Any person under the age of 18 years who shall violate any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed to be a juvenile delinquent and shall be proceeded against as such.

.4 State Statutes. Any motor driven vehicles as defined under subsection .1, operated within the Township shall comply with all relevant provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:3C-1, et seq., including, but not limited to, the registration provisions contained in N.J.S.A. 39:3-3 and the "Unlawful Act" regulations contained in N.J.S.A. 39:3C-19.

.5 Impoundment. Any police officer enforcing this section may impound any motor driven vehicle operated on public or private property in violation of this section or any violation of applicable State law.

—In cases involving persons under the age of 18 years old, the vehicle may be returned to the operator's parent or legal guardian upon payment of all costs and fees associated with the impoundment which may include but not be limited to storage fees. In the case of an unregistered vehicle, the vehicle shall be released from impoundment upon proof that the vehicle has been registered and insured under the New Jersey Statutes and upon payment of all fees and costs incurred in the impoundment including, but not limited to, storage fees.

.6 Penalties. For violation of this Section, the maximum penalty, upon conviction, shall be a fine not exceeding one thousand two hundred fifty (\$1,250.00) dollars, or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 90 days, or both. In addition to or in lieu of a fine or imprisonment, the Court may impose a penalty of community service for a period not exceeding 90 days. (N.J.S.A. 40:49-5)

Section 2. Severability.

Should any Section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such provision(s) shall be deemed severable and the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. Repealer.

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 4. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication as required by law.

The Committee reviewed **Ordinance 2015-03**. Mayor Harper made a motion to approve the first reading of **Ordinance 2015-03**, seconded by Committeeman MacDonald and unanimously carried. A Roll Call Vote followed: Ayes: Leppert, Harper, MacDonald; Nays (0); Absent (0); Abstain (0). Mayor Harper stated this is a first reading of the ordinance which will be duly advertised and the public hearing will be held February 10, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

TOWNSHIP OF SANDYSTON

ORDINANCE 2015-04

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING, REVISING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 36 "AMUSEMENTS",
ARTICLE I ENTITLED "OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENTS" OF THE CODE OF TOWNSHIP OF
SANDYSTON**

[Adopted 9-3-1970; amended in its entirety 5-13-2008 by Ord. No. 2008-08]

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 36 "Amusements" of the Code of the Township of Sandyston, New Jersey, Article I entitled "Outdoor Entertainments" is hereby amended, revised and supplemented with the following:

§36-4. Permit-Application-Requirements

A. Filing of Application:

Any person conducting or sponsoring an outdoor entertainment activity shall make application for a permit by filing a completed application with the Township Clerk seven (7) days prior to the Township Committee meeting the month prior to the outdoor entertainment event date. Said application may request up to four dates per application.

The application shall require the following information:

L. The applicant shall notify property owners within five hundred (500) feet of the boundaries of the property to be covered by the permit of the outdoor entertainment event(s) by certified mail. It shall be sufficient to send said notices to the addresses shown on the tax list provided by the Tax Assessor. An affidavit or copies of the certified slips must be filed with the Township Clerk showing compliance with this subsection.

- (1) Changes to the date for an Outdoor Entertainment Event, previously approved by the Township Committee, shall:
 - a. Notify the Township Clerk of the change in writing seven (7) days prior to the Township Committee meeting the month prior to the outdoor entertainment event date.
 - b. Request a new list of the property owners within five hundred (500) feet of the boundaries of the property to be covered by the permit from the Tax Assessor, for an additional \$25.00 fee.
 - c. Notify the property owners of the change of date to the previously scheduled outdoor entertainment event(s) by certified mail.
 - d. An affidavit or copies of the certified slips must be filed with the Township Clerk showing compliance with this subsection.
- (2) Any other changes for an Outdoor Entertainment Event, previously approved by the Township Committee, shall:
 - a. Notify the Township Clerk of the change in writing seven (7) days prior to the Township Committee meeting the month prior to the outdoor entertainment event date.

§36-7. Permit Fee

The fee for the Outdoor Entertainment Application shall be \$125 (one hundred twenty-five dollars) per application.

The Committee reviewed **Ordinance 2015-04**. Mayor Harper made a motion to approve the first reading of **Ordinance 2015-04**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Leppert and unanimously carried. A Roll Call Vote followed:

Ayes: Leppert, Harper, MacDonald; Nays (0); Absent (0); Abstain (0). Mayor Harper stated this is a first reading of the ordinance which will be duly advertised and the public hearing will be held February 10, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Correspondence: The Committee reviewed the correspondence. The Clerk noted the email received from Friends of Stokes who would like to utilize the meeting hall of the municipal building, but they only have Directors & Officers insurance and do not have necessary insurance required by the Township to utilize the meeting hall. After a brief discussion, the Committee recommended Friends of Stokes partner with an organization which has the proper insurance for their program.

The Clerk also noted Bud Jones, Nisivoccia LLP, township auditor, would be coming at the end of January to begin preparing for the audit. Mayor Harper stated a budget meeting would be incorporated into the February meeting.

Mayor Harper noted the invitation from the Sussex County Sheriff to tour the 911 facility. Committeeman MacDonald stated he would attend.

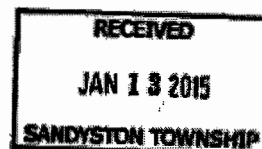
Open Meeting To Floor: Mayor Harper made a motion to open the floor to the public, seconded by Committeeman MacDonald and unanimously carried.

Tom Horsfield, Route 645, came forward and asked to repeat the correspondence from Friends of the Park. The Clerk explained that Friends of Stokes would like to use the meeting hall to have a first aid class and offer it to the public, but they do not have the necessary insurance required to utilize the meeting hall. Mayor Harper explained organizations must have \$1,000,000 of general liability insurance and must name the Township of Sandyston additional insured so that indemnifies and holds the township harmless. Mayor Harper explained in the case of a claim the organization's \$1,000,000 of insurance would come first before the towns insurance.

Marie Rath, Ridge Road, came forward and asked what the next step would be in reference to Ordinance 2015-03. Mayor Harper explained the ordinance has been introduced for first reading today and there will be a public hearing on the ordinance on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Matthew Hull, Old Mine Road, came forward and read the following letter into the record. Mayor Harper advised Mr. Hull he had five minutes as this matter was redundant.

Matthew B. Hull
11 Old Mine
Layton, NJ 07851
973-948-3288



January 13, 2015

Dear Members of the Sandyston Township Committee:

You have many times said to my father, "Why aren't your sons here?" Frankly, this situation imposed on my family by this township has been extremely difficult for us all to face and believe. People on this committee whom I trusted have schemed to let false evidence stand - and make our family give away our hard earned property. As my father discovered the trail of paper which proves your scheming, I still continue to be shocked by what this committee is capable of - and for what? The US attorney still wants us to give a deed of ownership of our road to the US even after the federal judge said you, Sandyston Township, sold this road in fee to the US. My family was threatened with jail for closing our private road that the US says you sold to them. I could go on and on - for one thing - how about being charged for a private road variance to subdivide our land in 2011? This was after the 1989 rejected quitclaim deed, signed by you, George Harper, was filed and recorded saying Sandyston Township sold this road along with a Seller's Residency Certificate Exemption signed in 2008. Huh? Absurd! I hope to write a book for all to see.

I came to you, Committeeman Harper, in 2007 to ask for official information before closing the abandoned road that runs through my property. You asked me to wait a couple days and you'd check with the township attorney. You got back to me and said that the road was mine, I could do anything I wanted with it. Soon after my brother and I closed our abandoned road, you sat with our hunting club at Cy Harker's and said, "This is divine intervention! You got the million dollar road!" At a recent township meeting you mocked us when you said to my father, "Who buys property and closes the road on it? Little did I know of your devious, cowardly character back then. What kind of sick twisted games are you playing? You continue to tell people that there is no way that you can help the Hulls. Why do they keep persisting with the committee? The truth is - there would be no lawsuit against the Hulls without the involvement of Sandyston Township in 2008.

I am here to ask once again that Sandyston Township state in writing to my family whether this township did or did not sell the Hull section of the Old Mine Road to the US. I ask that you respond by certified mail within 21 days to my address which you have. It's where you send our tax bill for this property you sold!

I will continue, so the public may become informed - In 2009 at a township meeting, George Harper of this committee stated that we (the committee) made a decision that Sandyston Township would not follow state statute and record Ordinance 6-88 for my family. There are no minutes of this decision being made. This decision as well as being a violation of my civil rights is a violation of the NJ Sunshine Law.

It seems to me this committee could simply give us a letter that the township never owned our section of Old Mine Road. You know this is the truth. But, you foolishly want to burden the taxpayers with your arrogance and lead this township into a lawsuit. We as a family have been patient, very patient, and you have been asked many times by my father, brother Aaron, and me to show conveyance of the Hull section of Old Mine Road to Sandyston Township or state that Sandyston Township never owned our section of Old Mine Road. You, the Committee, for at least four years, has refused to show proof and have denied us evidence that would help my family in federal court. As a matter of fact, your actions have helped put us in court and keep us in court. And all the while you ridicule my family regarding this serious issue.

After the US rejected the quitclaim deed, the US did a title search and informed Sandyston Township that Lennington, Dodd and Harker were the owners of their sections of Old Mine Road.

Prior to my family's purchase in 2007, there is NO recorded deed in Sussex County Hall of Records (SCHR) showing a conveyance of the Hull Section of Old Mine Road to Sandyston Township by any previous owner as our title search also shows.

Mayor Harper notified Mr. Hull that his five minutes were up. Mayor Harper stated due to threat of litigation the Township Committee would have no comment. Mayor Harper stated Mr. Hull has remedies, but those remedies are not during the public session. Mayor Harper stated that if Mr. Hull feels he needs to pursue those remedies he can pursue them and thanked Mr. Hull for his input.

Glenn Hull, Route 640, came forward. Mayor Harper asked if this was regarding the same matter and informed Mr. Hull he would have five minutes. Mr. Hull stated he would like to point out the US Attorney has threatened jail to his sons and the US Attorney is still asking his sons to sign a deed over to the United States for their portion of Old Mine Road. Mr. Hull continued to read Mr. Matt Hull's letter into the record:

My family is charged and pays taxes to Sandyston and to Sussex County for the land in our Hull section of roadbed, even though in 2008 Cynthia Branley falsely claimed that Sandyston Township sold the Hulls' roadbed of Old Mine Road to the US.

I hope this committee does not continue to ignore us and sheath Cynthia Branley's false statements and false filing in 2008 of the 1989 rejected quitclaim deed and Sussex County Hall of Record's acceptance of this deed that did not meet state requirements to be filed or recorded as a conveyance of property. Imagine, a rejected quitclaim deed filed and recorded with No Lot and Block, No Address, No Affidavit of Consideration, and No Price! Being recorded with the recording stamp showing a sale price and a real estate transfer tax paid to the state of NJ by the buyer. This falsely filed and falsely recorded quitclaim deed continues to be used in federal court as Exhibit A in a lawsuit against us. You know this is wrong. The filing of this deed was made with false statements to fabricate evidence for a federal lawsuit. This deed was NOT recordable. This township committee is sheathing a criminal action that took place at Sussex County Hall of Records in June 16 and 17, 2008.

Again, please answer my simple question: Did or did not Sandyston Township sell in fee the Hull section of Old Mine Road to the US? I ask for a response via certified mail within 21 days. Thank you.

Chris Hanlon, Route 560, came forward and asked if Mr. Donahue has come to the township to discuss the Vision 2030 plans. Mayor Harper stated Mr. Donahue attended a meeting in September 2012 when this matter first came up and Mr. Donahue came at that time to discuss the matter. Mayor Harper explained the document was released as a wish list of what the management of the park service would like to see happen. Mr. Hanlon asked if there is a document available to the public. Mayor Harper stated it is the Vision 2030 document and provided a copy to Mr. Hanlon.

Sandy Hull, Maple Lane, came forward and thanked the Committee for drafting the resolution and supporting the opposition. Mrs. Hull stated she spoke with a representative of the park yesterday and the representative indicated there would be public meetings held during the phases of development. Mrs. Hull asked if there would be a representative from the township at those meetings. Mayor Harper stated they would make every effort to attend.

Glenn Hull, Route 640, came forward regarding Vision 2030 and discussed the National Park's proposal to create a National Park/Preserve. Mr. Hull stated that Mr. Donahue calls the DEWA an anomaly in the Vision 2030 and Mr. Hull stated it is not an anomaly. Mr. Hull stated the DEWA was created by Congress in 1962-1963 and the activities were created by Congress and Mr. Donahue cannot change any of those activities right now. Mr. Hull also stated that the Sierra Club is behind this Vision and they have asked for a Congressional study to go ahead with this. Mr. Hull stated he appreciated the town writing the Resolution.

Ryan Earley, Route 560, came forward and voiced his support for resolution opposing Vision 2030 and stated that he is an avid fly fisherman. Mr. Earley expressed his support for fly fishing and, while not as big as an economic impact as hunting, he felt it was still as important. Mayor Harper stated it is important to get the surrounding municipalities support as well because it is an economic driver for the region - not just Sandyston Township.

There being no further comments from the public, Deputy Mayor Leppert made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mayor Harper and unanimously carried.

The Clerk noted that Robert Pastor, Tax Assessor, will be changing his office hours to Monday during the month of February. Ms. Kathy Kieb will see the public, for the month of February, on Monday from 9-12.

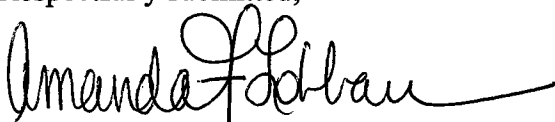
Mayor Harper stated the revaluation has been completed and the figures should be sent to the homeowners by the end of the week. Mayor Harper stated Appraisal Systems will be scheduling appointments with homeowners who wish to review their information if they have a question regarding their assessment.

Coming up:

Township Meeting:	Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Planning Board:	Monday, February 2, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Seniors Meeting:	Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 12:00 pm
Recreation:	Thursday, January 27, 2015 at 6:30 pm
Board of Health	Thursday, January 27, 2015 at 7:00 pm

Adjournment: Mayor Harper made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 am, seconded by Committeeman MacDonald and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda F. Lobban, RMC
Municipal Clerk