

Minutes of the Organization Meeting of the Borough Council held January 7, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 531 Speedwell Avenue, Morris Plains, New Jersey.

Mayor Frank J. Druetzler called the meeting to order and read the following notice:

I HEREBY ANNOUNCE AND STATE THAT ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS PROVIDED BY VIRTUE OF A RESOLUTION SCHEDULING THE TIME, DATE, AND PLACE OF MEETINGS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MORRIS PLAINS FOR THE YEAR 2013; WHICH RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL ON JANUARY 7, 2013, AND WAS PUBLISHED IN THE *MORRIS NEWSBEE* AND IN THE DAILY RECORD AND BY THE FORWARDING OF SUCH RESOLUTION TO ALL PERSONS ON THE REQUEST LIST; BY THE POSTING OF SUCH RESOLUTION ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE BOROUGH HALL; ALL OF THE ABOVE ACTIONS BEING IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, *ET SEQ.*

Mayor Druetzler asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The invocation was presented by the Rev. Scott Blythe from the Morris Plains Presbyterian Parish.

STATEMENT OF DETERMINATION OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION

June R. Uhrin, Borough Clerk, read the following statement:

“A Statement of Determination of the Board of County Canvassers, relative to an election held in the Borough of Morris Plains in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, for the election of certain municipal officers for the municipality on the fifth day of November 2013.

The said Board does determine that at the end of the said election

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Term</u>
Jason C. Karr	Borough Council	Three year term
Suzanne B. McCluskey	Borough Council	Three year term

were duly elected to the office and for the term set forth above.”

INTRODUCTION OF COUNCILMEMBERS-ELECT AND OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Druetzler invited Councilmember Suzanne McCluskey to come forward to take the Oath of Office, dear friends Rosemary & Ralph Lopez held the Bible. Due to weather conditions family members were unable to attend. However, Councilwoman McCluskey held a picture of her family.

Councilmember McCluskey thanked family, friends and members of the community for their support, as well the Governing Body, Mayor Druetzler, Ralph and Rosemary Lopez.

Mayor Druetzler invited Councilmember Karr to come forward to take the Oath of Office. He introduced his wife Donna, sons Matthew and Nicholas, his wonderful inlaws Don and Phyllis Lourenco. His sons held the Bible.

Councilmember Karr thanked his family for their support, Mayor Druetzler, fellow members of the Governing Body and the voters of the Borough who put their faith and trust in him. He pledged to support all the citizens of the Borough for the next three years.

Mayor Druetzler stated that Matthew and Nicholas are also giving to the community as they are Volunteer Firemen. Let's thank them.

Present on Roll Call:

Mayor Frank J. Druetzler
Council President Laurie Fu
Councilmembers: Joseph Cecala, Jr.
George J. Coogan
Jason Karr
Suzanne McCluskey
Frank Mangravite

Present: Gail H. Fraser, Esq., Borough Attorney
Leon C. Hall, Borough Engineer

ADDRESS BY MAYOR FRANK J. DRUETZLER

TONIGHT, MY FELLOW CITIZENS, AS IS OUR CUSTOM AT REORGANIZATION, WE REPORT VERY BRIEFLY ON THE RESULTS OF OUR EFFORTS IN 2013 AND SOME OF OUR PLANS AND GOALS FOR OUR TOWN IN 2014.

LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME WE WERE STILL RECOVERING FROM SUPER STORM SANDY. QUITE FRANKLY WE DEALT WITH THE CLEAN UP AND AFTER EFFECTS MOST OF THE YEAR; AS WE HAD TO DO MUCH TREE WORK, ALONG OUR ROADS AND PARKS. ALSO FURTHER REPAIRS TO OUR ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE WAS NEEDED – TODAY I CAN TELL YOU THE WORK IS FINISHED. THANKS TO STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND THE PEOPLE OF MORRIS PLAINS.

AS SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL CAME WE FELT THAT THE COMMUNITY NEVER LOOKED SO BEAUTIFUL..... THANKS TO ALL YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK.

WHEN THE GREAT RECESSION CAME SO DID VACANT OFFICE BUILDINGS AND EMPTY STORES.

IN 2013, WE FINALLY HAVE SEEN SOME IMPROVEMENT. HONEYWELL A FORTUNE 100 COMPANY WILL BE RELOCATING TO MORRIS PLAINS NEXT TO THE VFW ON ROUTE 53. THEY HAVE RECEIVED PLANNING BOARD APPROVAL AND EXPECT TO BE IN MORRIS PLAINS BY MID 2015. AN OLD VACANT LABORATORY AT THE CORNER OF PFIZER DRIVE SOUTH WILL BE TORN DOWN BY HONEYWELL DURING THE 1ST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR. COTY THE INTERNATIONAL FRAGRANCE COMPANY HAS CONSOLIDATED ITS NORTH AMERICAN RESEARCH HEADQUARTERS TO 500 AMERICAN ROAD IN MORRIS PLAINS. A HARLEY DAVIDSON DEALERSHIP WILL OPEN IN THE SPRING ON RT. 10 AFTER RENOVATING THE OLD BUILDING BETWEEN LIBERTY GAS STATION AND THE SMASHBURGER STRIP MALL. WE WELCOME ALL OF THEM.

WE STILL HAVE VACANT OFFICE BUILDINGS AT THE END OF AMERICAN ROAD AND THE OLD SHOP RITE CLOSED. AS WE ALL CAN SEE THE BUILDINGS ON THE WEST SIDE OF RT 53 HAVE BEEN TORN DOWN M&M DEVELOPERS WANT TO CONSTRUCT 500 TO 800 HOMES. WE OBJECT TO THIS CONCEPT. NO APPROVALS OF ANY KIND HAVE BEEN GIVEN. WE ARE PRESENTLY IN LITIGATION WITH THEM.

WE HAVE PROPOSED THAT A FIRST CLASS HOTEL BE CONSTRUCTED SINCE IT WOULD COMPLIMENT HONEYWELL, WHICH RENTS 12 TO 14 THOUSAND ROOMS IN MORRIS COUNTY EACH YEAR. M&M HAS NOT RESPONDED.

AS ALWAYS WE CONTINUE TO WORK ON IMPROVING THE BOROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE. IN 2013 WE PAVED A PORTION OF LAUREL STREET AND MAPLE AVENUE, WEST OF STILES AVENUE AND A PORTION OF JIM FEAR DRIVE.

WE CONTINUED OUR BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM ALONG SPEEDWELL AVENUE FROM THE BOROUGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE TO HILLVIEW AVENUE. WE ALSO CONSTRUCTED 2 NEW BASKETBALL COURTS AT COMMUNITY PARK TO COMPLIMENT A FAST GROWING YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAM.

IN 2014, WITH A \$225,000. STATE GRANT WE WILL PAVE MOUNTAIN WAY FROM GRANNIS AVENUE TO CHILDRENS PARK. WE WILL ALSO PAVE THE COMMUNITY PARK PARKING LOT AND CONTINUE OUR DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM WITH NEW LIGHTS AND BRICK PAVERS ON SPEEDWELL AVENUE FROM ACADEMY ROAD TO DAYTON ROAD.

IN 2014, WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO CONSTRUCT AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACROSS FROM OUR RECYCLING CENTER FOR SENIORS AND OTHERS.

COVENTRY PARK OF MORRIS PLAINS, THE 70 UNIT TOWNHOUSE DEVELOPMENT ON LITTLETON ROAD IS SOLD OUT AND THE PROJECT COMPLETE. HOUSING CONTINUES TO DO WELL IN MORRIS PLAINS BUT WE ARE STILL STRUGGLING WITH COMMERCIAL RATABLES.

IN THE COMING YEAR WE WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN OUR BOROUGH BUILDINGS AND UPGRADE AND INSTALL EMERGENCY GENERATORS.

FOR THE SECOND TIME UNDER THE DIRECTION OF BEAUTIFICATION GARDEN CHAIRMAN, GEORGE ROSS, WE WILL EXPAND OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN BY 34 ADDITIONAL PLOTS. THIS HAS BEEN A VERY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM.

OUR TURF SOCCER FIELD AT SIMONS PARK WHICH WAS DONATED BY MORRIS UNITED SOCCER CLUB AND SPEARHEADED BY RECREATION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN, SAL CORTESE, IS PHENOMENALLY SUCCESSFUL.

THIS YEAR WE WILL ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION FOR USE OF THE NEW TURF FIELDS AT CENTRAL PARK. OUR SOCCER AND LACROSS PROGRAMS AS WELL AS THE SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAMS WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS ACTION.

THANKS TO THE ROBERTS GARDEN COMMISSION, MORRIS PLAINS ROTARY CLUB AND SCHOOL SYSTEM; FOR THE DISPLAY CASES WHICH WERE INSTALLED IN ROBERTS GARDEN. THE CASES HOLD THE HISTORY AND MEANING OF AN ABUNDANT VARIETY OF TREES IN THIS HISTORICAL PARK.

SOMETIME THIS YEAR; WE STILL MUST SET THE DATE, FOR WHICH WE WILL EXCAVATE AND REMOVE A TIME CAPSULE THAT WAS BURIED AT COMMUNITY PARK IN 1964.....50 YEARS AGO !

LATER THIS YEAR WE HOPE TO BURY A NEW 50 YEAR TIME CAPSULE. WHAT SHOULD BE PUT IN THAT CAPSULE ? YOUR SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME.....

GREYSTONE PARK – WE FELT THAT THE 180 ACRES OF SURPLUS PROPERTY WHICH PRESENTLY CONTAINS MANY DETERIATED BUILDINGS WOULD GO TO THE MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION FOR GREEN SPACE. ONCE AGAIN WE HEAR RUMBLINGS BY DEVELOPERS. WE OPPOSE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT OPEN SPACE AND STRONGLY SUPPORT SEN. JOE PENNACCHIO AND SEN. ANTHONY BUCCO’S LEGISLATION TO KEEP IT OPEN SPACE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION.

OUR BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE, MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE, TEEN CENTER, LIBRARY, MUSEUM, KIDS HELPING KIDS PROGRAM, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY CENTER CONTINUE TO FLOURISH.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL, I WISH TO THANK THE BOROUGH EMPLOYEES, ALL OF THE MANY, MANY VOLUNTEERS ON BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, AND ALL CITIZENS FOR YOUR DEVOTION TO OUR TOWN.

IT IS THE SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE OF MORRIS PLAINS THAT KEEP THIS TOWN “THE COMMUNITY OF CARING.”

SO WE HAVE MUCH TO DO AND EAGERLY LOOK FORWARD TO MAKING MORRIS PLAINS AN EVEN BETTER COMMUNITY THAN IT IS TODAY.

YOUR GOVERNING BODY THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND WE ALWAYS WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND THANK YOU.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2014

Councilmember Fu placed in nomination the name of George J. Coogan as Council President for the year 2014.

Seconded by Councilmember Karr.

There were no further nominations, the Mayor closed the nominations and asked for a vote.

Yeas: Councilmembers Cecala, Fu, Karr, Mangravite and McCluskey
Nays: None
Abstain: Councilmember Coogan
Absent: None

Mayor Druetzler congratulated Council President Coogan.

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR

Mayor Druetzler appointed the following persons to the offices stated and the terms specified:

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>
Planning Board	Donald Underhill	Class II 1 year
	Sydney Leach	Class IV 4 years
Recreation Commission	Kevin Bodnar	5 years
	Gerard Sittmann	5 years
Shade Tree Commission	David Visscher	5 years

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember Coogan moved:

BE IT RESOLVED that the following resolutions be adopted:

- No. 2014-1 By-Laws
- No. 2014-2 Planning Board Representative
- No. 2014-3 Standing Committees
- No. 2014-4 Appointments
- No. 2014-5 Notice of Meetings
- No. 2014-6 Adequate Notice of Meetings
- No. 2014-7 Request for Notice of Meetings
- No. 2014-8 Minutes of Meetings
- No. 2014-9 Conference Meetings
- No. 2014-10 Depositories for Borough Funds
- No. 2014-11 Authorizing Officers to Sign Approved Checks
- No. 2014-12 Delinquent Taxes and Tax Installments
- No. 2014-13 Time Capsule – Community Park
- No. 2014-14 Time Capsule – Morris Plains Library
- No. 2014-15 Professional Services
- No. 2014-16 Execution of Vouchers
- No. 2014-17 Designating Official Newspaper
- No. 2014-18 Fixing Holidays – Borough Employees
- No. 2014-19 Fixing Holidays – Police Officers and
Civilian Police Dispatchers
- No. 2014-20 Council Appointments
- No. 2014-21 Temporary Appropriations for Operating Purposes
- No. 2014-22 Waiving Interest on Delinquent Taxes for Senior
Citizens

No. 2014-23	Waiving Interest on Delinquent Taxes for Disabled Persons
No. 2014-24	Authorizing Tax Collector to Process Property Tax In Amount Less Than \$10.00
No. 2014-25	Authorizing Borough Clerk to Execute Hold Harmless Agreements

Seconded by Councilmember Mangravite.

Yeas: Councilmembers Cecala, Coogan, Fu, Karr, Mangravite and McCluskey
 Nays: None
 Abstain: None
 Absent: None

PRESENTATION OF BADGES TO FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Mayor Druetzler commented that the Borough’s Fire Department is going into its 107th year of existence in 2014.

Mayor Druetzler and Councilmember McCluskey presented badges to the following Officers of the Fire Department for the year 2014. Mayor Druetzler asked the following officers to come forward and receive their badges while stating that Morris Plains has been blessed with committed young men.

Chief	Michael Geary
1 st Assistant Chief	Kevin Rongo
2 nd Assistant Chief	Bill Hoferer
Engineer	Art Bruhn
Assistant Engineer	Paul Cullen
Fire Prevention Chief	John Boudreau
Battalion Chief	Larry Everitt

Chief Geary thanked the officers for 2014 for their continuing service to the Borough. He also thanked his wife and family for their ongoing support.

Mayor Druetzler wished Battalion Chief, Larry Everitt a very Happy Birthday.

Mayor Druetzler thanked the members of the Fire Department.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND AWARDS

Mayor Druetzler announced that the Community Service Award is being presented to an organization that has work so very hard this year beautifying the Municipal Building, Community Center, parks and so much more.

This year I am pleased to present the award to the Beautification Committee.

Mayor Druetzler reminded the Beautification Committee that they will also be Grand Marshall in this year’s Memorial Day Parade.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO APPOINTEES

Mayor Druetzler asked those present who have been appointed to any board or Borough position to please rise while he administers the Oath of Office. Mayor Druetzler thanked the volunteers and staff. He requested that the Oaths of Office be signed as appropriate.

MEETING OPEN FOR REMARKS AND COMMENTS BY CITIZENS

Hearing no one.

Mayor Druetzler closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mayor Druetzler stated that the Borough's Rabies Clinic will be held this Saturday, January 11th 2014 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Borough's DPW Garage.

BENEDICTION

Father Lancelot Reis, St. Virgil's parish closed the meeting with a Blessing for the officials, employees, volunteers, and all people of Morris Plains.

Mayor Druetzler thanked everyone for attending and extended an invitation to join in the firemen association room for refreshments.

Councilmember McCluskey moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Seconded by Councilmember Cecala. So ordered.

Frank J. Druetzler, Mayor

June R. Uhrin, Clerk