

**Meeting Minutes
Hightstown Borough Council
Regular Meeting
April 15, 2013
6:30 pm**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirson at 6:03 pm and he read the Open Public Meetings Act statement which stated, "Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231. Said notice was sent to the *Trenton Times* and the *Windsor-Hights Herald*, and is posted in the Borough Clerk's office."

The flag salute followed Roll Call.

	PRESENT	ABSENT
<i>Councilmember Bibens</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Bluth</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Doran</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Quattrone</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Thibault</i>		✓
<i>Councilmember Woods</i>		✓
<i>Mayor Kirson</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Debra Sopronyi, Borough Clerk; Michael Theokas, Borough Administrator; James LeTellier, Police Director; Eric Bernstein, Labor Counsel; and Eric Bernstein, Labor Counsel. Councilmember Thibault was absent due to the subject matter to be discussed in executive session.

Resolution 2013-92 Authorizing a Meeting Which Excludes the Public

Council President Quattrone moved resolution 2013-92, Councilmember Doran seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Bluth, Doran, and Quattrone voted yes.

Resolution adopted, 4-0

Resolution 2013-92
*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

AUTHORIZING A MEETING WHICH EXCLUDES THE PUBLIC

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that this body will hold a meeting on April 15, 2013 at approximately 6:00 pm in the First Aid Building located on Bank Street, Hightstown that will be limited only to consideration of an item or items with respect to which the public may be excluded pursuant to section 7b of the Open Public Meetings Act.

The general nature of the subject or subjects to be discussed:

Litigation – Miller

Personnel – Sgt. Promotion

Contract Negotiations – Shared Services & Insurance

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Stated as precisely as presently possible the following is the time when and the circumstances under which the discussion conducted at said meeting can be disclosed to the public: July 15, 2013 or when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. The public is excluded from said meeting, and further notice is dispensed with, all in accordance with sections 8 and 4a of the Open Public Meetings Act.

The public meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirson at 7:39pm and he again read the Open Public Meetings Act statement.

The Flag Salute followed Roll Call. George Lang, CFO; and Carmela Roberts, Borough Engineer joined the meeting at this time. Councilmember Thibault and Dawson Bloom, Project Manager had joined the meeting during executive session and were now present; and Eric Bernstein, Labor Counsel had departed the meeting during executive session and was no longer present.

Councilmember Thibault requested that a presentation be added to the agenda prior to the discussion items.

Council President Quattrone moved the agenda as amended for approval, Councilmember Bibens seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Bluth, Doran, Quattrone, and Thibault voted yes.

Agenda approved as amended.

Mayor Kirson noted the bombing at the Boston Marathon.

Resolution 2013-65 Appointing a Class I Special Officer – Chad Reed

Mayor Kirson noted that this Officer will be sworn in at a future meeting.

Council President Quattrone moved resolution 2013-65, Councilmember Bibens seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Bluth, Doran, and Quattrone voted yes; Councilmember Thibault abstained.

Resolution adopted 4-0, with one abstention.

Resolution 2013-65

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

APPOINTING A CLASS I SPECIAL OFFICER – CHAD REED

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council recognize that there is a need to hire a Class I Special Officer to assist the Police Department with various duties; and,

WHEREAS, James LeTellier, Police Director, has recommended that Chad Reed be appointed as a Class I Special Officer for the Borough of Hightstown Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Chad Reed is already employed by Hightstown Borough; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council finds it in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the residents to appoint Chad Reed as a Class I Special Officer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that Chad Reed is hereby appointed as a Class I Special Officer to assist the Hightstown Police Department effective March 4, 2013.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Police Director, Police Lieutenant, Chad Reed, Personnel File and Payroll.

Resolution 2013-93 Consenting to the Proposed Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan Amendment Entitles “Mercer County Wastewater Management Plan”

Councilmember Bibens moved resolution 2013-93, Councilmember Doran seconded.

There was discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Bluth, Doran, Quattrone, and Thibault voted yes.

Resolution adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2013-93

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

**CONSENTING TO THE PROPOSED WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT (WQM) PLAN
AMENDMENT ENTITLED “MERCER COUNTY WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN”**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hightstown desires to plan for the orderly development of wastewater facilities within Mercer County; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) requires that proposed wastewater treatment and conveyance facilities and wastewater treatment service areas, as well as related subjects, be in conformance with an approved WQM plan; and

WHEREAS, the NJDEP has established the WQM plan amendment procedure as the method of incorporating unplanned facilities into a WQM plan; and

WHEREAS, a proposed WQM plan amendment was noticed in the New Jersey Register on March 4, 2013 that proposes a Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) for Mercer County prepared by Mercer County with its consultants CDM Smith; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer and the Hightstown Borough Advanced Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent have reviewed the proposed plan amendment and has noted the following items and concerns within the Wastewater Management Plan:

1. Volume 1, Page A-10, Table I-1. The date should be June 6, 2005
2. Volume II, page 2, Existing Infrastructure. The Borough of Hightstown has 2 Sewerage pumping stations.
3. Volume II, Page 4, Table 1a. The receiving aquifer is the Upper Raritan Magothy and the Permittee is the Borough of Hightstown.
4. Volume II, Page 8, Table 2-A titled, “Borough of Hightstown Buildout Table (‘SSas’).”

We object to the total existing flow of 0.866 MGD as an average of monthly plant flow to the AWWTP. 2011 was a very wet year and in addition Hurricane Irene occurred late in August. We have researched the Borough’s records of plant flow for the years before and after 2011 and in those years the average monthly flow at the AWWTP ranged from 0.6689 MGD to 0.618 MGD, well below the 0.866 included in the report. The total existing flow should be changed to reflect flows of 0.62 MGD

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during the typical year. Additionally, Table 2-B – Treatment Works Approval's, is to be modified to indicate that there is no unconnected flow from Enchantment at Hightstown or Presbyterian Homes at Meadow Lakes, and Old Hights Overlook unconnected flow is currently 0.01 MGD.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 15th day of April, 2013, by the Mayor and Council of Hightstown Borough that:

1. Hightstown Borough hereby consents to the proposed amendment with the above noted changes to the Mercer County Water Quality Management Plan, and publicly noticed on March 4, 2013, prepared by Mercer County with its consultants CDM Smith, for the purpose of its incorporation into the applicable WQM plan(s).
2. This consent shall be submitted to the NJDEP in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.4.
3. That a certified copy of this resolution shall be sent to:
 - a. Mercer County Planning Division, McDade Administration Building, 640 South Broad Street, P. O. Box 8068, Trenton, NJ 08650-0068
 - b. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Watershed Management, P. O. Box 418, 401 East State Street, 7th Floor, Trenton, NJ 08625

Presentation

Councilmember Thibault made the following presentation:

The Big Lie

We are incurring \$3.37 Million in debt. We authorized up to \$475,000 in bonding.

Claims

- The “majority” of people are against it and Council “ignored” them
- Council is moving too fast
- Council “ignored” the facts
- Lucas is cheaper

Claim: The “majority” of people are against it

- GHEWIP is against it
 - Bill Gilmore
 - Downtown Hightstown
 - Founded and funded by GHEWIP
 - Meadow Lakes
 - Director a member of GHEWIP
 - Downtown Businesses
 - Mike Vanderbeck, Cappy Stults, Jeff Bond
 - O'Connor Gordon Pratt Architects
 - Members of GEWHIP or Downtown Hightstown or both
 - Eva Teller – listed as a GHEWIP Trustee on tax form
 - Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager at 1st Constitution Bank
- Who holds the mortgage and is now owner of the Lucas property? **1st Constitution Bank***

So who and how many people are against it?

Claim: Council ignored the “people”

•Ignore

–Refuse to take notice of or acknowledge; disregard intentionally

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–Fail to consider

•**Disagree**

–Verb

–Have or express a different opinion.

Claim: Council is moving too fast

•**August 28, 2011**

•20 Months

•85 Weeks

•596 days

•40+ Council Meetings

Claim: Council ignored the facts

•Council reviewed

–Five architectural/engineering reports

–Five or more properties researched

•Including Lucas

•Opposition provided

–Opinion – a SWOT “analysis”

–Criticism

–Insults

–Ad hominem attacks

Lucas Property

Municipal Dept/Common Areas \$ 606,331 (6,995 SF)

Police Department \$ 445,764 (5,552 SF)

Court \$ 594,110 (3,478 SF)

Public Works \$ 190,575 (1,954 SF)

Sub Total \$1,242,670

HVAC \$ 103,000

Roof \$ 310,500

Professional fees \$ 184,000

Total \$ 1,840,170

(17,979 SF) Renovation Costs

** Source: Perez & Radosti, “Municipal Building Probably Cost Analysis, Lucas Electric Building”, July 27, 2012
Purchase

Sale price \$1,695,000

Boro Hall Demolition \$245,000 - \$259,000

Lost Tax Revenue \$103,114 - \$216,960*

Renovations** \$1,840,170±

Total \$3,883,284 - \$4,011,130± Purchase

*Based on lost tax revenue for 5 – 10 years.

** Source: Perez & Radosti, “Municipal Building Probable Cost Analysis, Lucas Electric Building”, July 27, 2012

Various Other Claims

•Concern about debt

–Multi-million dollar bond ordinances have been passed with no petitions

–Borough debt increased by more than 60% between 2005 and 2009

–Taxes more than doubled from 2002 – 2010

•We don’t know what insurance will pay

–We spent \$1.6 million+

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-We spend \$4,000+ each month

There was opposition and a confrontation from the public regarding this presentation.

Borough Hall/Temporary Facilities

Project Manager Dawson Bloom reviewed his progress report.

Borough Hall Reconstruction

On April 10, 2013, a letter from Mr. Raffetto was sent to the Lexington insurance Company regarding the Borough's interpretation of its insurance policy coverage. We have requested an immediate response and a meeting to discuss the matter further. The Borough Administrator and I continue to reach out to FEMA, however we have been unable to receive a response at this point. We will continue to call and email.

Interim Police Facility

Award of the bids will be held off until the funding from the Borough Hall Bond Ordinance is available.

As discussed at the March 28 Special Meeting, I will coordinate with the Police Director regarding the relocation of the police antennae equipment and generator.

Interim Administrative Offices

Mobilease Modular agrees to hold their bid price for the Modular Administrative and Storage facilities for an additional 60 days. The final draft of the Borough's Rider to the Lease for 100A and 102 Mercer Street has been provided to the Landlord for review and should be ready for execution following adoption of the Lease Ordinance.

Schedule of Immediate Tasks

Borough Hall Bond Ordinance

Introduction	March 18, 2013
2 nd Reading	April 1, 2013
Funds Available	April 26, 2013

Lease for Block 30 Lots 4, 5, 6 and 7

Introduction	Completed
2 nd Reading	To coincide with availability of Borough Hall Bond Ordinance Funds

Sitework and Modulares

Receive bids	March 22, 2013
Recommend award	March 29, 2013
2 nd Reading Interim Lease	April 1, 2013
2 nd Reading Borough Hall Ordinance	April 1, 2013
Ordinances Clear Waiting	April 25, 2013
Award Contracts for Site and Modulares	April 25, 2013
<i>Sitework</i>	
Submit 14-day notice to DEP	before April 25, 2013
NTP Sitework	May 9, 2013
45 days to complete Sitework	June 22, 2013
<i>Police Modular</i>	
NTP Modular	May 9, 2013
Fabrication & Delivery/Setup	September 29, 2013
IT/Communications	October 14, 2013
Move-In	October 21, 2013

Storefronts

Negotiate Lease	March 29, 2013
Lease Ordinance	April 1, 2013
1 st Reading	April 1, 2013

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2 nd Reading	April 15, 2013
Execute Lease	April 22, 2013
Complete Renovations	May 17, 2013
Move – in	May 24, 2013*

* The anticipated move in date has been revised from June 24 to May 24. This is because the costs for the lease are not being paid for by the Borough Hall Bond Ordinance.

It was confirmed that the bond ordinance must be adopted prior to moving forward with the project.

Mayor Kirson opened Public Comment Period I and the following individuals spoke:

Eugene Sarafin, 628 S. Main Street – commented regarding the bond ordinance, petition and building in a flood zone.

Fran Palumbo, 101 Main Street – commented regarding the location of Borough Hall.

Jeff Eldridge, 124 Grant Avenue – commented regarding the bond and lack of information on what the insurance is going to pay.

J P Gibbons, 602 N. Main Street – commented regarding costs, the bond ordinance and petition, and the inaccuracy of media reports.

Bill Gilmore, 219 Greeley Street – commented regarding the bond ordinance and Council's lack of respect for GHEWIP.

Scott Caster, 12 Clover Lane – commented regarding embarrassing behavior at meetings, the bond ordinance and petition, requested that the \$500.00 being paid to the After-Prom be removed from the bill list.

George Zhelesnik, 70 Ely Ct. – commented regarding the need to move forward with the Hurricane Irene recovery.

Penny O'Brien, Allentown Borough – commented about the lack of civility at the meeting.

There being no further comments, Mayor Kirson closed the public comment period.

Mayor Kirson then asked Mr. Lang, CFO, to explain why the bond ordinance is for \$3M plus. Mr. Lang explained that there must be a place to charge any contracts; contracts cannot be awarded based on anticipated revenue from the insurance.

2013-05 Final Reading and Public Hearing – An Ordinance Authorizing the Borough of Hightstown to Lease Certain Real Properties Located Along Bank and Mechanic Streets, More Commonly Known and Designated as Block 30, Lots 4, 5, 6 and 7 on the Borough's Tax Map, from Greystone Capital Partners, for the Placement of Modular Facilities to Provide Temporary Office Space for Certain Borough Operations, and Authorizing the Appropriate Borough Officials to Execute all Necessary Documents Associated Therewith

Councilmember Doran moved to table this ordinance until funding is in place, Councilmember Bibens seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members, Bibens, Bluth, Doran, Quattrone, and Thibault voted yes.

Ordinance tabled.

Ordinance 2013-05

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

April 15, 2013

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN TO LEASE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTIES LOCATED ALONG BANK AND MECHANIC STREETS, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS BLOCK 30, LOTS 4, 5, 6 AND 7 ON THE BOROUGH'S TAX MAP, FROM GREYSTONE CAPITAL PARTNERS, FOR THE PLACEMENT OF MODULAR FACILITIES TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY OFFICE SPACE FOR CERTAIN BOROUGH OPERATIONS, AND AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATE BOROUGH OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED THEREWITH.

WHEREAS, Greystone Capital Partners (also referenced as the "Landlord") is the owner of certain parcels of real property located along Bank and Mechanic Streets in the Borough of Hightstown (also referenced as the "Borough"), more commonly known and designated as Block 30, Lots 4, 5, 6 and 7 on the Borough's Tax Map (hereinafter collectively referenced as the "properties"); and

WHEREAS, the properties are physically situated behind the "Ely House," and comprise a cumulative total land area of approximately 0.44 of an acre (measuring approximately 168' x 114'); and

WHEREAS, the properties are currently vacant and the only improvements that are constructed thereon at the current time are parking lots which are of an asphalt/macadam substance; and

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to acquire an interest in the properties by way of a lease agreement so that the Borough may utilize the properties for the erection and placement of modular facilities to provide temporary office space(s) for the Borough's municipal operations, including but not limited to the Borough's administrative offices and the Borough's Police Department (also referenced as the "project"); and

WHEREAS, the project is necessary as a result of the damages sustained to the former Borough Hall facilities as a result of Hurricane Irene, which occurred in August of 2011 and which caused the former Borough Hall facilities to become uninhabitable; and

WHEREAS, following negotiation, the Borough and the Landlord have reached an agreement regarding the terms and conditions associated with this understanding; and

WHEREAS, said terms and conditions are contained in a proposed Lease Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof (copies of the proposed Lease Agreement are available at no cost from the Borough Clerk's office during regular business hours); and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council believe that the proposed Lease Agreement is in the best interests of the residents of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council have previously referred the project to the Planning Board, pursuant to the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1, *et seq.*, and specifically N.J.S.A. 40:55D-31, for review and recommendation in conjunction with the Borough's Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Local Lands and Buildings law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1, *et seq.*, and specifically N.J.S.A. 40A:12-5(a)(1), authorizes a municipality, by ordinance, to provide for the acquisition of any real property by purchase or lease; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council wish to authorize the appropriate Borough Officials to execute the attached Lease Agreement on behalf of the Borough for the public purposes set forth above; and

WHEREAS, the properties are currently involved in foreclosure proceedings instituted by the Landlord's mortgagee (TD Bank) (also referenced as the "Bank"); and

WHEREAS, the Bank's counsel has previously approved the attached Lease Agreement on behalf of the Bank; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council also wish to authorize the appropriate Borough Officials to execute a Non-disturbance and Subordination Agreement with TD Bank, and/or any other Agreement(s) that may, in the opinion of the Borough Attorney, be necessary in order to properly protect the Borough's interests with regard to the lease of the properties in the event of a Sheriff's sale.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown, in the County of Mercer and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute, and the Borough Clerk to attest, the attached Lease Agreement between the Borough of Hightstown and Greystone Capital Partners, so that the Borough may lease the properties for the public purposes referenced above in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the said Lease Agreement.
2. That the Mayor is hereby also authorized to execute, and the Borough Clerk to attest, a Non-disturbance and Subordination Agreement with TD Bank, and/or any other Agreement(s) that may, in the opinion of the Borough Attorney, be necessary in order to properly protect the Borough's interests with regard to the lease of the properties in the event of a Sheriff's sale. All such documents shall be in a form acceptable to the Borough Attorney.
3. That all Borough officials and professionals are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions that are necessary in order to effectuate the intentions of this Ordinance.
4. That the provisions of this Ordinance shall be severable. In the event that any portion of this Ordinance is found to be invalid for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be limited in its effect only to that portion of the Ordinance actually adjudged to be invalid and shall not be deemed to affect the operation of any other portion thereof, which shall remain in full force and effect.
5. That all other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.
6. That this Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Ordinance 2013-08 Final Reading and Public Hearing – An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Mayor Kirson opened the public hearing on ordinance 2013-08 and the following individuals spoke:

Eugene Sarafin, 628 S. Main Street – requested an explanation of the ordinance and George Lang, CFO, explained the need for this ordinance.

There being no further comments, Mayor Kirson closed the public hearing.

Council President Quattrone moved ordinance 2013-08 for adoption, Councilmember Bibens seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members, Bibens, Bluth, Doran, Quattrone, and Thibault voted yes.

Ordinance adopted.

Ordinance 2013-08
BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, *N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq.*, provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.0% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and

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

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown in the County of Mercer finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2013 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council hereby determine that a 1.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$75,803.97 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council hereby determine that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown, in the County of Mercer, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2013 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Hightstown shall, in accordance with this ordinance and *N.J.S.A.* 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$176,875.93, and that the CY 2013 municipal budget for the Borough of Hightstown be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

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

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

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

Ordinance 2013-09 Final Reading and Public Hearing – Bond Ordinance Providing a Supplemental Appropriation of \$105,000 for the Acquisition, Construction and Installation of Various Facilities, Structures and Equipment for the Water Sewer Utility in and by the Borough of Hightstown, in the County of Mercer, New Jersey and Authorizing the Issuance of \$105,000 Bonds or Notes of the Borough for Financing Part of the Appropriation

Mayor Kirson opened the public hearing on ordinance 2013-09 and the following individuals spoke:

Eugene Sarafin, 628 S. Main Street – noted that he supports this ordinance.

There being no further comments, Mayor Kirson closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Thibault moved ordinance 2013-09 for adoption, Councilmember Bibens seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members, Bibens, Doran, Quattrone and Thibault voted yes, Councilmember Bluth voted no.

Ordinance adopted 4-1.

Ordinance 2013-09
BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$105,000 FOR THE
ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF VARIOUS FACILITIES, STRUCTURES
AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE WATER SEWER UTILITY IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF
HIGHTSTOWN, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE
OF \$105,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH FOR FINANCING PART OF THE
APPROPRIATION**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The improvement described in Section 3(a) of this bond ordinance has heretofore been authorized to be undertaken by the Borough of Hightstown, in the County of Mercer, New Jersey (the "Borough") as a general improvement. For the improvement or purpose described in Section 3(a), there is hereby appropriated the supplemental amount of \$105,000, such sum being in addition to the \$2,083,000 appropriated therefor by bond ordinance #2011-03 of the Borough, finally adopted June 6, 2011 ("Bond Ordinance #2011-03"). No down payment is required as the purpose authorized herein is deemed self-liquidating and the obligations authorized herein are deductible from the gross debt of the Borough, as more fully explained in Section 6(e) of this ordinance.

Section 2. In order to finance the additional cost of the improvement or purpose, negotiable bonds are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of \$105,000. In anticipation of the issuance of the bonds, negotiable bond anticipation notes are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to and within the limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law.

Section 3. (a) The improvement heretofore authorized and the purpose for the financing of which the bonds are to be issued is the acquisition, construction and installation of various facilities, structures and equipment for the water sewer utility, consisting of post chlorination, water treatment filter, water filtration media, variable frequency drivers, sludge rotary fan press, trickling filter, secondary digester, bar screen and primary clarifier and related improvements, including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto and further including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.

(b) The estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued for the improvement or purpose is \$2,188,000, including the \$2,083,000 bonds or notes authorized by Bond Ordinance #2011-03 and the \$105,000 bonds or notes authorized herein.

(c) The estimated cost of the improvement or purpose is \$2,188,000, including the \$2,083,000 appropriated by Bond Ordinance #2011-03 and the \$105,000 appropriated herein.

Section 4. All bond anticipation notes issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the chief financial officer; provided that no note shall mature later than one year from its date. The notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the chief financial officer. The chief financial officer shall determine all matters in connection with notes issued pursuant to this bond ordinance, and the chief financial officer's signature upon the notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. All notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time subject to the provisions of the Local Bond Law. The chief financial officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the notes from time to time at public or private sale and to deliver them to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price plus accrued interest from their dates to the date of delivery thereof. The chief financial officer is directed to report in writing to the governing body at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the notes pursuant to this bond ordinance is made. Such report must include the amount, the description, the interest rate and the maturity schedule of the notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

Section 5. The Borough hereby certifies that it has adopted a capital budget or a temporary capital budget, as applicable. The capital or temporary capital budget of the Borough is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this bond ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. To the extent that the purposes authorized herein are inconsistent with the adopted capital or temporary capital budget, a revised capital or temporary capital budget has been filed with the Division of Local Government Services.

Section 6. The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) The improvement or purpose described in Section 3(a) of this bond ordinance is not a current expense. It is an improvement or purpose that the Borough may lawfully undertake as a self-liquidating purpose of a municipal public utility. No part of the cost thereof has been or shall be specially assessed on property specially benefitted thereby.

(b) The period of usefulness of the improvement or purpose within the limitations of the Local Bond Law, according to the reasonable life thereof computed from the date of the bonds authorized by this bond ordinance, is 20 years.

(c) The Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly prepared and filed in the office of the Clerk, and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey. Such statement shows that the gross debt of the Borough as defined in the Local Bond Law is increased by the authorization of the bonds and notes provided in this bond ordinance by \$105,000, but that the net debt of the Borough determined as provided in the Local Bond Law is not increased by this bond ordinance. The obligations authorized herein will be within all debt limitations prescribed by that Law.

(d) An aggregate amount not exceeding \$297,375 for items of expense listed and permitted under N.J.S.A. 40A:2-20 is included in the estimated cost indicated herein for the purpose or improvement. Of this amount, \$274,375 was estimated for these items of expense in Bond Ordinance #2011-03 and an additional \$23,000 is estimated therefor herein.

(e) This bond ordinance authorizes obligations of the Borough solely for purposes described in N.J.S.A. 40A:2-7(h). The obligations authorized herein are to be issued for a purpose that is deemed self-liquidating pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:2-47(a) and are deductible from gross debt pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:2-44(c).

Section 7. Any grant moneys received for the purpose described in Section 3(a) hereof shall be applied either to direct payment of the cost of the improvement or to payment of the obligations issued pursuant to this bond ordinance. The amount of obligations authorized but not issued hereunder shall be reduced to the extent that such funds are so used.

Section 8. The Borough hereby declares the intent of the Borough to issue the bonds or bond anticipation notes in the amount authorized in Section 2 of this bond ordinance and to use proceeds to pay or reimburse expenditures for the costs of the purposes described in Section 3(a) of this bond ordinance. This Section 8 is a declaration of intent within the meaning and for purposes of Treasury Regulations §1.150-2 or any successor provisions of federal income tax law.

Section 9. The chief financial officer of the Borough is hereby authorized to prepare and to update from time to time as necessary a financial disclosure document to be distributed in connection with the sale of obligations of the Borough and to execute such disclosure document on behalf of the Borough. The chief financial officer is further authorized to enter into the appropriate undertaking to provide secondary market disclosure on behalf of the Borough pursuant to Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Rule") for the benefit of holders and beneficial owners of obligations of the Borough and to amend such undertaking from time to time in connection with any change in law, or interpretation thereof, provided such undertaking is and continues to be, in the opinion of a nationally recognized bond counsel, consistent with the requirements of the Rule. In the event that the Borough fails to comply with its undertaking, the Borough shall not be liable for any monetary damages, and the remedy shall be limited to specific performance of the undertaking.

Section 10. The full faith and credit of the Borough are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on the obligations authorized by this bond ordinance. The obligations shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Borough, and the Borough shall be obligated to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all the taxable real property within the Borough for the payment of the obligations and the interest thereon without limitation of rate or amount.

Section 11. This bond ordinance shall take effect 20 days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

Ordinance 2013-10 Final Reading and Public Hearing – An Ordinance Authorizing the Borough of Hightstown to Lease Certain Premises Located at 100 and 102 Mercer Street, Constituting Part of the Real Property Known and Designated as Block 33, Lot 20 on the Hightstown Borough Tax Map, to Provide for Temporary Office Space for Certain Borough Operations, and Authorizing the Appropriate Borough Officials to Execute All Necessary Documents Associated Therewith

Council President Quattrone recused himself from the discussion and vote on this ordinance.

Mayor Kirson opened the public hearing on ordinance 2013-10 and the following individuals spoke:

Eugene Sarafin, 628 S. Main Street – commented that he has mixed emotions regarding this ordinance because the Borough would be spending money to retrofit the offices for Borough use.

Scott Caster, 12 Clover Lane – noted that he is confused as to how the Borough will fund the lease payments. The Borough Attorney advised that the lease funding is not from the bond ordinance, but from the general budget. Mr. Caster noted that he supports the ordinance but is concerned that it will become permanent to which the Borough Attorney advised that the term of the lease is for two years with a one year renewal option.

Bernard Jones, 18 Grape Run – inquired as to whether the Borough needed both buildings to which Project Manager Dawson Bloom replied that there is a need for the entire square footage. Mr. Jones then inquired as to who would be paying for the renovations and how much it was going to cost; Mr. Bloom replied that the Borough would pay for the renovations and price was still being determined.

Scott Caster, 12 Clover Lane – inquired if residents will be able to enter the offices from the rear, to which Mr. Bloom responded that they would not, but the Borough is considering designating parking on the street in front of the building.

Eugene Sarafin, 628 S. Main Street – commented that a rear entrance is needed.

J P Gibbons, 602 N. Main Street – inquired as to whether an ordinance vote is required for the lease, to which the Borough Attorney advised that it is. Mr. Gibbons supports moving forward with the project and noted that store fronts downtown do not have rear entry.

There being no further comments, Mayor Kirson closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Doran moved ordinance 2013-10 for adoption, Councilmember Bibens seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members, Bibens, Doran, and Thibault voted yes, Councilmember Bluth voted no. Council President Quattrone was recused.

Ordinance adopted 3-1 with one abstention.

Ordinance 2013-10
BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN TO LEASE CERTAIN PREMISES
LOCATED AT 100 AND 102 MERCER STREET, CONSTITUTING PART OF THE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN
AND DESIGNATED AS BLOCK 33, LOT 20 ON THE HIGHTSTOWN BOROUGH TAX MAP, TO PROVIDE FOR
TEMPORARY OFFICE SPACE FOR CERTAIN BOROUGH OPERATIONS, AND AUTHORIZING THE
APPROPRIATE BOROUGH OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED
THEREWITH.**

WHEREAS, Mel A. Adlerman and Gloria K. Adlerman (the “Landlords”) are the owners of certain premises located at 100 and 102 Mercer Street (collectively, the “premises”) in the Borough of Hightstown (also referenced as the “Borough”), which premises constitute part of the real property known and designated as Block 33, Lot 20 on the Hightstown Borough Tax Map; and

WHEREAS, the unit located at 100 Mercer Street consists of approximately 740 square feet; and

WHEREAS, the unit located at 102 Mercer Street consists of approximately 2,180 square feet; and

WHEREAS, the premises both represent existing storefronts in the Borough that are currently vacant; and

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to acquire an interest in the premises by way of a lease agreement so that the Borough may utilize the premises in order to provide for temporary office space(s) for certain municipal operations of the Borough, including but not limited to the Borough's administrative offices (the "project"); and

WHEREAS, the project is necessary as a result of the damages sustained to the former Borough Hall facilities as a result of Hurricane Irene, which occurred in August of 2011 and which caused the former Borough Hall facilities to become uninhabitable; and

WHEREAS, following negotiation, the Borough and the Landlords have reached an agreement regarding the terms and conditions associated with this understanding; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said negotiations, the rental amount for the unit located at 100 Mercer Street shall be \$1,110.00 per month, and the rental amount for the unit located at 102 Mercer Street shall be \$2,200.00 per month, for a collective total rental amount of \$3,310.00 per month for the premises; and

WHEREAS, the proposed lease agreement shall commence on June 1, 2013, and shall endure for a period of two (2) years, while the Borough is undertaking the permanent Borough Hall reconstruction project at the old Borough Hall site; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Local Lands and Buildings law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1, *et seq.*, and specifically N.J.S.A. 40A:12-5(a)(1), authorizes a municipality, by ordinance, to provide for the acquisition of any real property by purchase or lease; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council wish to authorize the appropriate Borough Officials to execute a lease agreement on behalf of the Borough for the public purposes set forth above, so long as said agreement is in a form satisfactory to the Borough Attorney and the Borough's Project Manager for the Borough Hall project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown, in the County of Mercer and State of New Jersey, as follows:

7. That the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute, and the Borough Clerk to attest, a lease agreement between the Borough of Hightstown and the Landlords regarding the premises, so that the Borough may rent the premises for the public purposes referenced above. Said lease agreement shall be consistent with the representations referenced above and shall be in a form satisfactory to the Borough Attorney and the Borough's Project Manager for the Borough Hall project.
8. That all Borough officials and professionals are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions that are necessary in order to effectuate the intentions of this Ordinance.
9. That the provisions of this Ordinance shall be severable. In the event that any portion of this Ordinance is found to be invalid for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be limited in its effect only to that portion of the Ordinance actually adjudged to be invalid and shall not be deemed to affect the operation of any other portion thereof, which shall remain in full force and effect.
10. That all other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.
11. That this Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Council President Quattrone returned to the dais. Mayor Kirson called for a five minute break.

Resolution 2013-94 Payment of Bills

Council President Quattrone moved Resolution 2013-94, Councilmember Bibens seconded.

April 15, 2013

There was discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Bluth, Doran, Quattrone, and Thibault voted yes.

Resolution adopted, 5-0.

Resolution 2013-94

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

WHEREAS, certain bills are due and payable as per itemized claims listed on the following schedules, which are made a part of the minutes of this meeting as a supplemental record;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the bills be paid on audit and approval of the Borough Administrator, the appropriate Department Head and the Treasurer in the amount of \$796,449.94 from the following accounts:

Current		\$745,230.75
W/S Operating		36,752.36
General Capital		0.00
Water/Sewer Capital		12,774.00
Grant		0.00
Trust		33.83
Housing Trust		0.00
Animal Control		0.00
Law Enforcement Trust		0.00
Housing Rehab Loans		0.00
Unemployment Trust		0.00
Escrow		<u>1,659.00</u>
Total		<u>\$796,449.94</u>

Resolution 2013-95 Authorizing Emergency Temporary Appropriations Prior to Adoption of the 2013 Budget

Councilmember Doran moved Resolution 2013-95, Council President Quattrone seconded.

There was discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Bluth, Doran, Quattrone, and Thibault voted yes.

Resolution adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2013-95

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER*

April 15, 2013

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS
PRIOR TO ADOPTION OF THE 2013 BUDGET**

WHEREAS, an emergent condition has arisen with respect to inadequate appropriation balances remaining in some line items of the 2013 temporary budget; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of emergency appropriations for the purposes above mentioned; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council to create emergency temporary appropriations as set forth on Schedule "A," attached; and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary appropriations in resolutions adopted in the year 2013 pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 (Chapter 96, P.L. 1951, as amended), including this resolution, total:

	<i>THIS RESOLUTION</i>	<i>PREVIOUS TOTAL</i>	<i>CUMULATIVE TOTAL</i>
Current	500.00	929,605.00	930,105.00
Capital Outlay – Current	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
Debt Service - Current	0.00	0.00	0.00
Water/Sewer	0.00	617,500.00	617,500.00
Capital Outlay – W/S	0.00	0.00	0.00
Debt Service - W/S	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	500.00	1,572,105.00	1,572,605.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown (not less than two-thirds of all the members of thereof affirmatively concurring) that, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20:

1. An emergency temporary appropriation is hereby made for each item listed on the schedules that are attached hereto and made a part hereof.
2. Each emergency appropriation listed will be provided for in the 2013 budget under the same title as written herein;
3. One certified copy of this resolution will be filed with the Director of Local Government Services, and a copy provided to the Treasurer.

Resolution 2013-96 Supporting S-1896/A-1503 Sharing the Burden of Property Assessment Appeal Refunds

Councilmember Thibault moved Resolution 2013-96, Council President Quattrone seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Bluth, Doran, Quattrone, and Thibault voted yes.

Resolution adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2013-96

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING S-1896/A-1503 SHARING THE BURDEN OF PROPERTY ASSESSMENT APPEAL
REFUNDS**

April 15, 2013

WHEREAS, The Hightstown Borough Council adopted resolution 2011-125 on May 16, 2011 which supported A-3412 Sharing the Burden of Property Assessment Appeal Refunds; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council still support and encourage sharing the burden of property assessment appeal refunds; and

WHEREAS, when County Tax Board appeals are granted the municipality must reimburse the property taxpayer 100% of the appealed tax levy, which includes the municipal, school, county and any special districts tax; and

WHEREAS, the municipal tax collector makes the adjustment from the appeal as a credit on the 4th quarter tax bill resulting in the municipality's fund balance for the preceding year to diminished , if not completely depleted; and

WHEREAS, a recent League of Municipalities' survey has measured the extent to which residents have filed and won tax appeals in 2010; and

WHEREAS, one hundred fifty (150) municipalities, representing all both large and small municipalities in all 21 counties, that participated in the survey reported property value declines of more than \$87,900,000, which resulted from 19,788 tax appeals filed in 2010; and

WHEREAS, those responding to the survey indicated that 13,760 appeals were filed in 2009, compared to 19,788 in 2010, representing an increase of 43.7%; and

WHEREAS, a municipality often experiences an increase in tax appeals because they have conducted a revaluation, however, only 5 of the 150 municipalities, which participated in our survey, indicated that their 2010 appeals resulted from revaluations; and

WHEREAS, as a way of comparison, 23 of the participating municipalities conducted revaluations in 2009, when fewer tax appeals were presented to the County Tax Boards; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 spike in appeals should be attributed to the economic down-turn, which lowered property values and placed increased stress on the income of homeowners, all around our Garden State; and

WHEREAS, the survey also indicated that in 2010 the various County Tax Boards have granted average property value reductions of close to \$5,000, per appeal; and

WHEREAS, fifty-six percent of those responding indicated that the successful tax appeals would have an impact on fund balances and place additional pressures on local officials during 2011; and

WHEREAS, although the survey was a snapshot picture in time, it can be used to project what might follow in 2011, since the reductions, which were granted by County Tax Boards in 2010, will have a multiplier effect when neighbors learn of their neighbor's tax reduction, which will likely increase the appeals and in the alternative, Tax Assessors could be forced to adjust property values, based upon the appeal information; and

WHEREAS, successful tax appeals have a three-fold negative impact on municipal budgets. First, the municipality, as the collector of taxes for the School district, county and special districts, must fund the full cost of the legal defense of the assessment. Second, since State law guarantees to the county and the school district 100% of their levies, the municipality bears the full cost of any re-imbursements resulting from the appeal (as well as the full burden for any uncollected taxes). Third, the end result will be a further decline in the property tax base used to support Municipalities, County governments and School systems; and

WHEREAS, in light of the revenue limitations that have been placed on all levels of local government by the Legislature (2% cap), such declining values will compound and add additional stress to local public officials, as they grapple with the issues confronting the tax paying public; and

WHEREAS, Assemblyman Carroll has recently introduced A-3412, which requires fire districts, school districts, and county governments to share in burden of property assessment appeal refunds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Hightstown Borough, Mercer County hereby urge the swift passage and signing of A-3412; and

April 15, 2013

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to New Jersey Governor Christopher Christie, to Senate President Stephen Sweeney, to Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, to our State Senator, to our two Representatives in the General Assembly, and to the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

Resolution 2013-97 Referring Capital Project for Improvements to Grape Run and Pershing Avenue to the Planning Board

Council President Quattrone moved Resolution 2013-97, Councilmember Bibens seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Bluth, Doran, Quattrone, and Thibault voted yes.

Resolutions adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2013-97

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

**SUBMITTING PLANS FOR THE GRAPE RUN AND PERSHING AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
TO THE PLANNING BOARD FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT**

WHEREAS, Municipal Land Use Law requires that capital projects be submitted to the Planning Board for review and comment; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board has forty-five days to review said project and return their comments to the Mayor and Council; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has approved bond ordinance 2013-04 for the project known as Improvements to Grape Run and Pershing Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council wishes to submit the plans for this project to the Hightstown Borough Planning Board for review and comment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to forward the plans for the project known as Improvements to Grape Run and Pershing Avenue to the Hightstown Borough Planning Board for review and comment.

Resolution 2013-98 Authorizing an Agreement for Acceptance and Processing of Gray Water – Prince of Pools Septic

Councilmember Bibens moved Resolution 2013-98, Councilmember Doran seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Bluth, Doran, Quattrone, and Thibault voted yes.

Resolutions adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2013-98

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT FOR ACCEPTANCE AND PROCESSING OF

April 15, 2013

GRAY WATER – PRINCE OF POOLS SEPTIC

WHEREAS, Prince of Pools Septic of Bayville, New Jersey has requested the use of the Borough of Hightstown Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant for delivery of gray water; and,

WHEREAS, their request has been reviewed and approved by the Superintendent of the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant, and they have submitted a signed agreement along with the required Certificate of Insurance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the agreement with Prince of Pools Septic for acceptance and processing of gray water is hereby approved, and the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized to execute same.

The Mayor opened the public comment period II and the following individuals spoke:

Eugene Sarafin, 628 S. Main Street – commented regarding putting Borough Hall in a flood zone and the bond ordinance.

Scott Caster, 12 Clover Lane – commented that Council needs a vision and bicycles should not be on the sidewalks.

J P Gibbons, 602 N. Main Street – commented that Council should develop a spreadsheet showing what they have done on this project.

There being no further comments, Mayor Kirson closed the public comment period.

Mayor/Council/Administrative Comments and Committee Reports

Councilmember Thibault – noted that he attended various committee meetings to give out the appreciation certificates to the volunteers; commented that most of the school property is in Hightstown, but only 14% of the students are; he will be coming forward with a presentation on increasing revenue.

Councilmember Doran – commented on receiving the Collector's monthly report; noted it was an interesting meeting but the shouting is unacceptable; commented that Council is blamed for not moving fast enough, and then is obstructed by others; noted that Council members are taxpayers too; commented that the Environmental Commission will host Arbor Day on Saturday.

Councilmember Bluth – commented that her thoughts are with those in Boston.

Council President Quattrone – thanked everyone for coming.

Police Director LeTellier – advised that there is a request to shoot a documentary film in Hightstown on the topic of domestic violence, and a release will be coming forward on the next agenda; he asked Council to approve it. He noted that Council should review the Police Department's monthly reports, foot patrols are enforcing the bicycle ordinances and he is working on acquiring signs.

Councilmember Bibens moved to adjourn at 10:33pm, Councilmember Thibault seconded. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Sopronyi, RMC
Borough Clerk

April 15, 2013