

OPEN SESSION

Mayor Robert Patten called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and read the Open Public Meetings Act statement which stated that adequate notice and posting of the meeting had taken place in accordance with the requirements of P.L. 1975, Chapter 231.

He noted the recent passing of lifetime resident Kathryn Dennis (editor of the *Hightstown Gazette*) and of former Councilman Leonard Van Hise.

The flag salute was followed by the roll call.

ROLL CALL

	PRESENT	ABSENT
<i>Mayor Patten</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Sackowitz</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Laudenberger</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Quattrone</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Schneider</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Sikorski</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Thompson</i>		✓

Also in attendance: Candace Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator; James M. Eufemia, Chief of Police; and Frederick Raffetto, Esq., Borough Attorney.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Added to the agenda was Resolution 2005-293, authorizing a closed session to discuss contract negotiations (Greystone Mill, LLC). The agenda was moved as amended by Councilman Sikorski, seconded by Council President Schneider and approved by all present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the September 6, 2005 open and closed sessions were moved by Councilman Sikorski, seconded by Councilman Quattrone and approved as submitted by all present.

PUBLIC COMMENT I

Mayor Patten opened the floor for public comment.

Phyllis Deal, 305 Stockton Street, spoke of the need for foster homes for displaced animals rescued after the hurricanes. She said that anyone interested in helping can log on to the website of United Animal Nations for information.

George Sorrono, 14 Westerlea Avenue, thanked the Mayor for his work to reduce overcrowding in his community, and thanked Chief Eufemia for the increased police presence there. Mr. Sorrono also:

- Asked that the Westerlea Avenue sign on North Main Street be replaced.
- Recommended that the greenery be cut away from the Hightstown entry sign on North Main Street (and offered to do so himself).
- Suggested that parking on Westerlea Avenue be alternated between each side of the street. Currently when the street sweeper comes through, it cannot sweep under the cars that are parked.
- Noted that some people in his community have been living there for five years and still have out-of-state license plates. He said that when he first moved here, he was advised by an officer that he had 60 days to change to New Jersey plates. He asked that this be looked into.
- Asked if it would be possible to install speed bumps on Westerlea Avenue. Cars there pass each other at 30 or 40 mph, he said.
- Suggested that the school be asked to donate garbage cans for each corner in that area. Students passing through, he said, litter and leave garbage on the street, which he "picks up seven days a week."
- Asked if there is a way to stop taxicabs from blowing their horns in his community between 5:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.
- Noted that a towing company located on Grape Run Road "looks like a dump," and asked if that area could be "brightened up."

Peter Klapsogearge, 418 North Main Street, thanked Mayor Patten for creating the Housing Code Committee, which he is serving on. Some issues are local, he said, and others, such as overcrowding, may need to be addressed at the State level. He expressed concern about sight triangles at intersections, particularly at Academy and Mercer Streets, where parked cars often impede the view. He noted the need to "tighten our Codes," and said that he is concerned that the house on North Main Street formerly owned by Michael Pane will become a rooming house.

Susan Bottino, 124 Center Street, thanked Council for their consideration of the raffle license application for Homefront, the proceeds of which will benefit the hurricane victims. She also thanked Ms. Gallagher and Ruth Ann Traylor for their assistance with this. She noted that they are seeking volunteers to assist with the raffle and donations to help cover its costs.

Eugene Sarafin, 600-628 South Main Street, noted the passing of Leonard Van Hise, whom, he said, he was sorry to see pass on, and Kathryn Dennis, whom he referred to as "the bitch." The Borough Attorney asked Mr. Sarafin to refrain from such comments. Mr. Sarafin went on to call the Borough Council "morons" and "dwarfs" and denigrated the Republican party.

Robert Thibault, 504 South Main Street, stated that Mr. Sarafin seems to feel that government should control all lives but his own, which is "not what this country is about." He went on to ask why the solid waste ordinance was being amended at this time. He expressed concern that "the guy on the back of the garbage truck is the enforcement officer [regarding the weight of garbage placed for collection]," and said that the "private contractor's self interest is not to pick up trash." Ms. Gallagher explained that the Ordinance is the result of months of meetings among the Borough's Solid Waste Committee, and is an effort to improve the existing ordinance. She noted that the 45-pound-per-can weight limit has existed for many years and is not being changed with this Ordinance.

Torry Watkins, 68 Meadow Drive, stated that Mr. Thibault was being "alarmist," and that "if anything, our garbage men pick up too much." He noted that he recently saw them picking up branches that had been placed out for the chipper. He

added that, for 20 years, the Borough's policy has been to pick up just four containers of garbage, but a household on Orchard Avenue recently had "half her property frontage covered with garbage, and every scrap was picked up."

Mr. Sarafin spoke again to accuse Mayor Patten of being a "dictator," and dared the Borough to "arrest me for saying that." He accused the Mayor of writing "insulting lies" about him that were published in the *Gazette* and said "George [Sorrano] gave more good ideas in three minutes than I've heard from Council in 40 years."

J.P. Gibbons, 602 North Main Street, expressed concern that a "certain developer in the Borough" was able to get variances and permits needed to build Grant Preserve and North Preserve despite residents' objections. The same developer, he said, has bought properties on Maxwell Avenue and Academy Street, and the Borough will be auctioning a property on Academy Street this week that is adjacent to their Academy Street property. He feels that the developer is receiving preferential treatment and asked Council to look into that.

ORDINANCES

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL READING: ORDINANCE 2005-31,

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 18-1, "GARBAGE AND RUBBISH," OF THE *REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN*

Ms. Gallagher provided an in-depth review of the provisions of Ordinance 2005-31. Mayor Patten opened the public hearing on the Ordinance.

Peter Klapsogorge, 418 North Main Street, noted that, when serving on Council, he was against privatization, and he feels that the Borough has lost control of its garbage collection as a result of it. "This is poetic justice for me," he said.

Robert Thibault, 504 South Main Street, stated that the Borough cut its garbage service in half six years ago when it went from twice per week to once per week collection, but taxes didn't go down. He added that the weight limit makes the garbage men the arbiters, and that collecting it will depend on their mood. Ms. Gallagher noted that, if garbage which is in compliance with the Borough's regulations is not collected, residents can call her and the Borough will address that.

Mr. Thibault also said that, by allowing those properties in the downtown area to use the garbage dumpsters, they are "on the honor system" to dispose of only four cans per week. "There's no way to prove that," he said. "It creates a dual class."

Mr. Thibault added that they have never had a problem with the private contractor's picking up their garbage and said that these limitations don't exist in East Windsor or some other towns.

J. P. Gibbons, 602 North Main Street, said that there doesn't appear to be a "safety valve" in the Ordinance which would allow for one-time disposal of large amounts of garbage when people are moving out. He also said that garbage is sometimes not picked up until the next day, yet the Ordinance would require its removal by 8 p.m. on the day of collection. It may be more reasonable, he said, to require cans to be removed within 48 hours of collection. He added that his experience with the Borough's garbage collection has been "very positive" regardless of whether by Public Works or a private contractor.

Eugene Sarafin, 600-628 South Main Street, asked who serves on the Solid Waste Committee. Ms. Gallagher stated that the committee consists of herself, Mayor Patten, Councilman Quattrone, Councilman Sackowitz, Harry Wetterskog, Ken Lewis and Donna Syx. He asked if minutes were taken, and she replied that she took notes for her own reference, but no minutes were taken at these meetings. He objected to this. Mr. Raffetto noted that the taking of minutes is not required when there is no quorum of the governing body present.

Mr. Sarafin went on to say that, normally, one can place a household item at the curb and it will be picked up by someone who wants it. The Borough should allow for that, he said. Councilwoman Laudenberger suggested that if a note is placed on the item which reads "FREE," it will be clear that it is not garbage.

Charlie Theokas, proprietor of Theo's Lakeside Tavern, commended Ms. Gallagher and the Solid Waste Committee for "attacking and resolving" problems with garbage removal. "The downtown looks a lot better" since those properties have begun voluntarily putting their garbage into the dumpsters rather than on the street, he said, and "it appears that it is getting to be under control, which is the intent." He expressed his strong support for the Ordinance and congratulated the Borough for taking this step.

Phyllis Deal, 305 Stockton Street, asked how to dispose of weeds. Councilman Quattrone told her that Public Works collects this material on Wednesdays.

No one else came forward and the public hearing was closed.

Ordinance 2005-31 was moved for adoption by Councilman Quattrone and seconded by Councilwoman Laudenberger.

Councilman Sikorski commended the work done by the Solid Waste Committee. "We live in an imperfect society," he said, "and this Ordinance addresses many of the situations. I'll vote in favor of it."

Councilman Quattrone noted, in response to Mr. Thibault's comments, that although taxes did not "go down" when garbage collection was reduced to once a week several years ago, they would have been even higher had that change not been made. One reason for a four-can limit, he said, is to make sure that garbage trucks get filled and out of the Borough in one day. "We don't want the truck here for two or three days," he said, adding "Right now, it's working better than it's ever worked." These changes are being made, he explained, in order to keep costs down and to keep the town as clean as possible.

Councilwoman Laudenberger commended the Solid Waste Committee for their work, and added that most things will still be picked up as long as they are put out at the appropriate time and Public Works is called.

Council President Schneider made several comments:

- With respect to Mr. Thibault's comment that allowing downtown residents to utilize the dumpsters creates a "dual class" because it will be impossible to monitor the amount disposed of by a particular property, he noted that, in that area, there is no way to tell who the trash belongs to anyway, even when it is placed at the curb. "It's a good idea to have the trash off the street," he said. "The downtown looks great." He noted that garbage placed on Nassau Street in Princeton Borough is unsightly, and the collection trucks block traffic.
- He does not feel that the four-can limitation is creating a hardship.
- There are days that he does not get home until after 8 p.m. and would not be able to remove his empty cans by that hour. Council may want to reconsider that portion of the ordinance, he said.
- With respect to Mr. Sarafin's comment that minutes should have been recorded in the meetings of the Solid Waste Committee, Mr. Schneider stated that the committee's actions were "in no way inappropriate." Council, he said, always has the opportunity to make a particular committee subject to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act if they choose to do so.

- He said that he objected to going to once a week garbage collection when that change was made, and he still objects, but there *is* a savings realized by the Borough as a result.
- He feels that this Ordinance as written is clearer than the prior ordinance, and has greater enforcement possibilities.
- He noted that one issue which has been raised with respect to overcrowding is the additional demand upon Borough services. If a home has a large number of people, they are limited to a reasonable amount of garbage disposal. If they require more, they will be footing that bill.
- Lastly, he pointed out that if garbage is placed for collection which meets the requirements of the ordinance and is still not picked up, homeowners can call the Borough to have it addressed.

Councilman Sackowitz stated that he has worked on a lot of committees, and "this was a hardball committee." He thanked the Mayor and Councilman Quattrone for giving him the benefit of their experience and all of the committee members for their work on this ordinance. He noted the importance of recycling, and pointed out that, when paper gets wet, it weighs as much as water, 8.3 pounds per gallon. "180 pounds of garbage a week is not unreasonable if one is recycling," he said. With respect to Mr. Gibbons' concern that garbage would need to be brought in if not collected by 8 p.m., he pointed out that "the day of collection" would refer to the day that the garbage is actually collected, not to the scheduled collection day. He commended Ms. Gallagher for her aggressive efforts to have the collection schedule adhered to, and expressed support for what he feels is a "good ordinance."

The roll was then called on **Ordinance 2005-31**.

Roll Call: Councilmembers Laudenberger, Quattrone, Sackowitz, Schneider, and Sikorski voted yes.
Councilman Thompson was absent.

Ordinance adopted, 5-0.

ORDINANCE 2005-31 **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 18-1, "GARBAGE AND RUBBISH," OF THE *REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN***
(Included at end of these 9/19/05 minutes)

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL READING: ORDINANCE 2005-32,

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$28,000 FROM THE GENERAL CAPITAL FUND BALANCE FOR THE PURCHASE OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY

Following a brief review by Ms. Gallagher, Mayor Patten opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2005-32.

Eugene Sarafin, 600-628 South Main Street, asked for and received clarification from Chief Eufemia regarding the heavy-duty shredder to be funded by this Ordinance. He noted his presence at the hearing.

Robert Thibault, 504 South Main Street, asked for more information about the video conferencing unit. Chief Eufemia explained that it would allow video arraignments and reduce the need for officers to transport prisoners back and forth, saving overtime costs.

No one else came forward and the public hearing was closed.

Ordinance 2005-32 was moved for adoption by Councilwoman Laudenberger and seconded by Councilman Sackowitz.

Roll Call: Councilmembers Laudenberger, Quattrone, Sackowitz, Schneider and Sikorski voted yes.
Councilman Thompson was absent.

Ordinance adopted, 5-0.

**ORDINANCE 2005-32 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$28,000 FROM THE GENERAL CAPITAL FUND BALANCE
FOR THE PURCHASE OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF
HIGHTSTOWN, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown, as follows:

Section 1. The sum of \$28,000.00 is hereby appropriated from General Capital Fund Balance for the purchase the following equipment for use by the Municipal Court and Police Department of the Borough of Hightstown, in the County of Mercer, New Jersey, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto:

Courtroom Video Conferencing System
Heavy-duty Shredder (Police Department)
Dictaphone Equipment
Police Department Video-Audio Equipment as mandated by Attorney General

Section 2. The capital budget of the Borough of Hightstown is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services is on file with the Clerk and is available there for public inspection.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by the law.

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING: ORDINANCE 2005-33,
AN ORDINANCE TO FURTHER AMEND ORDINANCE 2002-26, ADOPTED DECEMBER 30,
2002, REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE FEES CHARGED FOR SPECIAL DUTY BY POLICE
OFFICERS**

Ms. Gallagher explained that this Ordinance will amend the police salary ordinance to provide that the 10% administrative fee charged for special duty by police officers shall not be charged to any governmental agency. Currently, the ordinance does exclude schools, but our officers recently performed work for Mercer County, and as a governmental agency, they should be exempted from the fee as well. This ordinance will amend the language to exclude all "governmental units or agencies."

Ordinance 2005-33 was moved for introduction by Councilwoman Laudenberger and seconded by Councilman Quattrone.

Roll Call: Councilmembers Laudenberger, Quattrone, Sackowitz, Schneider and Sikorski voted yes.
Councilman Thompson was absent.

Ordinance introduced, 5-0.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions 2005-193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201 and 202 were moved by Councilman Sikorski and seconded by Councilwoman Laudenberger.

Roll Call: Councilmembers Laudenberger, Quattrone, Sackowitz, Schneider and Sikorski voted yes.
Councilman Thompson was absent.

Resolutions adopted, 5-0.

RESOLUTION 2005-193 AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF RAFFLE LICENSE #RL-155 TO HOMEFRONT, INC.

WHEREAS, Homefront, Inc. wishes to hold an off-premise merchandise raffle at 148 North Main Street on October 17, 2005;
and

WHEREAS, the group has submitted application number RA-155 for this raffle, together with the required fees; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk and the Chief of Police have reviewed the application and have determined that the requirements of N.J.S.A. 5:8-53, regarding the applicant, the members in charge of the game, and the game itself, have been met;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Borough Clerk is authorized to issue Raffle License No. RL-155 to Homefront, Inc. for their raffle to be held on October 17, 2005.

RESOLUTION 2005-194 AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF TAXICAB DRIVER'S LICENSE - JAIME O. ROA

WHEREAS, an application for issuance of a taxicab driver's license, which application complies with Section 4-21.5 of the *Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown*, has been submitted by Jaime O. Roa, 916 Jamestown Road, East Windsor, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS said application has been reviewed by the Hightstown Borough Police Department and approved by the Chief of Police;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to issue a 2005 taxicab driver's license to Jaime O. Roa, 916 Jamestown Road, East Windsor, New Jersey.

RESOLUTION 2005-195 AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT FOR ACCEPTANCE AND PROCESSING OF SEPTIC WASTE WATER, GRAY WATER AND/OR FATS AND GREASE – K.K. D. ENTERPRISES, INC.

WHEREAS, K.K.D. Enterprises, Inc. has requested the use of the Borough of Hightstown Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant for delivery of septic waste water, gray water and/or fats and grease; and

WHEREAS, their request has been reviewed and approved by the Superintendent of the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Borough Engineer; and

WHEREAS K.K.D. Enterprises, Inc. has submitted a certificate of insurance as required by the contract documents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the agreement with K.K.D. Enterprises, Inc. for acceptance and processing of septic waste water, gray water and/or fats and grease, which agreement is attached hereto and incorporated herein, is hereby approved, and the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized to execute same.

RESOLUTION 2005-196 AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT

WHEREAS Joseph Bouley, 346 Stockton Street (Block 9, Lot 22) qualified for a veteran's tax deduction in 2004; and

WHEREAS due to a clerical error, the \$250.00 deduction was not automatically applied for 2005, and taxes were subsequently paid by his mortgage company, resulting in an overpayment; and

WHEREAS the Tax Collector has requested permission to refund the amount of the overpayment, \$250.00, to Mr. Bouley;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue a refund in the amount of \$250.00 to Joseph Bouley, 346 Stockton Street (Block 9, Lot 22) representing an overpayment on his tax account as detailed herein.

RESOLUTION 2005-197 REQUESTING EXTENSION OF TIME IN WHICH TO AWARD CONTRACT

WHEREAS the Borough of Hightstown was awarded a New Jersey Department of Transportation Local Aid Centers of Place grant for FY 2004 in the amount of \$60,000.00 for a Historic Sculpted Fountain; and

WHEREAS the deadline to award a contract under this grant was August 25, 2005; and

WHEREAS the Borough has applied to NJDOT for the permits required for this work, but they have not yet been approved; and

WHEREAS no contract can be awarded until the permits are in place;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Borough of Hightstown respectfully requests a six-month extension of time, until February 25, 2006, to award a contract under this grant.

RESOLUTION 2005-198 APPOINTING DEPUTY MUNICIPAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR

WHEREAS, due to the resignation of Jennifer Ledger, a vacancy exists in the position of Deputy Municipal Court Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Court Administrator has recommended that Kristy Gilsenan of Robbinsville, New Jersey, be appointed to that position;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown as follows:

1. Kristy Gilsenan of Robbinsville, New Jersey is hereby appointed to the position of Deputy Court Administrator for a one-year term beginning September 26, 2005.
2. The annual base salary for the position of Deputy Municipal Court Administrator shall remain at \$37,311.75 for the remainder of 2005, and shall increase to \$38,000.00 effective January 1, 2006, subject to satisfactory completion by Ms. Gilsenan of the 90-day probationary period of employment.

RESOLUTION 2005-199 RESOLUTION URGING STATE LEGISLATURE TO AMEND THE SENIOR PROPERTY TAX FREEZE PROTECTION ACT TO PROVIDE FOR HIGHER INCOME LIMITS

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hightstown recognizes the severe plight of senior citizens with restricted incomes in meeting monetary demands caused by ever increasing real property taxes, cost of living increases and the freeze of State aid to municipalities and school districts; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Legislature has enacted N.J.S.A 54:4-8.67 - 54:4-8.75, the New Jersey Senior Property Tax Freeze Protection Act (SPTFPA) which purpose is to keep senior citizens on fixed incomes from being forced from their homes by unbearable real property tax increases; and

WHEREAS, the SPTFPA took effect in 1998; and

WHEREAS, eligible state resident homeowners receive a "Homestead Property Tax Reimbursement," defined as the difference between real property taxes paid on a residence and the amount of property taxes paid in the base year when the applicant enrolled in the program if the amount in the base year is the lower amount; and

WHEREAS, the SPTFPA effectively freezes applicants' real property taxes at an affordable level; and

WHEREAS, the SPTFPA is available for homeowners at least 65 years of age or disabled who paid real property taxes on a principal residence in New Jersey, have paid property tax or rent for at least ten consecutive years and have at least three years' ownership of the homestead with respect to which the tax reimbursement is sought, and

WHEREAS, the amount payable to an eligible claimant in a given tax year is equal to the amount by which claimants' property tax for that year exceeds the person's property tax liability for tax year 1997 (or such later tax year as the person qualifies for reimbursement for under the program); and

WHEREAS, claimants must meet certain income eligibility limits which increase annually by the amount of the maximum Social Security benefit cost of living increase for that year; and

WHEREAS, the calendar year 2004 limitations were set by the Director of Taxation at \$40,869 for single applicants and \$50,113 for married couples; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council strongly believe that such income limitations are insufficient to alleviate the plight of senior citizens in the Borough of Hightstown given the cost of living in not only the Borough of Hightstown but throughout New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council feel that such income eligibility limitations for senior citizens should be increased by the New Jersey State Legislature to enable seniors to remain in communities they have established as their home, despite the tremendous rise in property taxes and increases in the cost of living;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Hightstown, in the County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, by adoption of this resolution strongly urges the New Jersey State Legislature to proceed in a diligent and expeditious fashion to enact legislation that would amend the SPTFPA, N.J.S.A. 54:4-8.67 – 8.75, to effectively increase, for the calendar year 2005 and forward, the income eligibility limitations to the median regional income limits as established by the Council on Affordable Housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to Assemblyman Michael Panter, Assemblyman Robert Morgan, State Senator Ellen Karcher and each and every State Assemblyperson, State Senator and the Governor's Office so that all members of the New Jersey State Legislature will seriously and diligently consider this request for amended legislation to alleviate the plight of senior citizens in the Borough of Hightstown who continuously struggle with the increasing burdens of real property taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities to request their assistance in support of this legislative request.

RESOLUTION 2005-200 AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF COURTROOM VIDEO CONFERENCING EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS the Municipal Court Administrator and the Chief of Police have recommended the purchase of a video conferencing system for use in the Municipal Court; and

WHEREAS the Municipal Court Administrator has solicited competitive quotations and has recommended the purchase of this equipment from Impact Technology Solutions, LLC for a total cost of \$8,985.00, as detailed on the attached quotation; and

WHEREAS the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds for this expenditure will be available on the effective date of Ordinance 2005-32, adopted September 19, 2005;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown as follows:

1. The purchase of a video conferencing system with 32" monitor and cart from Impact Technology Solutions for a total price of \$8,985.00, as detailed on the attached quotation, is hereby approved.
2. This Resolution shall take effect upon the effective date of Ordinance 2005-32, adopted September 19, 2005.

RESOLUTION 2005-201**AUTHORIZING UPGRADE OF DICTAPHONE EQUIPMENT**

WHEREAS there exists the need for certain upgrades to the Dictaphone equipment in the police department in order to accurately track incoming telephone calls; and

WHEREAS these upgrades include a DSC-4 "Generic" SO Interface and a 16-port Freedom Compression Card; and

WHEREAS Dictaphone has provided a total price, including installation and discount, of \$9,042.00 to accomplish this upgrade, as detailed on their quotation dated January 24, 2005, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS as this equipment is proprietary, it is not possible to solicit competitive quotations; and

WHEREAS the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds for this expenditure will be available on the effective date of Ordinance 2005-32, adopted September 19, 2005;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown as follows:

1. The purchase of upgrades to the Borough's Dictaphone equipment for a total price of \$9,042.00, as detailed on their quotation dated January 24, 2005, is hereby approved.
2. This Resolution shall take effect upon the effective date of Ordinance 2005-32, adopted September 19, 2005.

RESOLUTION 2005-202**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; No one else came forward and the public hearing was closed.

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 and the Treasurer in the amount of **\$273,457.98** from the following accounts:

Current	\$ 122,715.71
W/S Operating	82,170.32
General Capital	10,000.00
W/S Capital	56,644.40
Animal Control	141.00
Grant	833.47
Escrow-Subdivision & Site Plan (First Washington Bank)	953.08
Total	<u>\$ 273,457.98</u>

CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were noted for the record, included in the meeting packets and placed on file in the Borough Clerk's office:

- Tax/Water/Sewer Collector's Reports – August 2005
- Letter from resident requesting discontinuation of fluoridation of water

PUBLIC COMMENT II

Mayor Patten opened the floor for public comment.

Phyllis Deal, 305 Stockton Street, said that garbage can lids "usually end up down the block," and garbage gets wet.

Eugene Sarafin, 600-628 South Main Street, spoke again of the Sunshine Law and said that the only reason that there was no quorum at meetings of the Solid Waste Committee was that a quorum wasn't invited to attend. "Forming a subcommittee and failing to invite a quorum is a violation of the Sunshine Law," he said. He asked that minutes be taken in committee meetings.

Susan Bottino, 124 Center Street, suggested that the Borough website include links to Mercer County charities that will accept donations of household goods.

Peter Klapsogearge, 418 North Main Street, asked if there are any ordinances prohibiting growing corn in front of homes. Neither Chief Eufemia nor Ms. Gallagher was aware of any such ordinance. Mr. Klapsogearge asked that the Borough take a look at the signs in our downtown store windows, as he feels that they are not in compliance with our sign ordinance.

George Sorrono, 14 Westerlea Avenue, asked who owns the cemetery next to his complex. The fence is rotted and old, he said, and he would like the owner to contact him. Councilman Sikorski informed him that the cemetery is managed by the Cedar Hill Cemetery Association.

J. P. Gibbons, 602 North Main street, noted that the Borough does not allow the disposal of latex paint, and Mercer County will not accept it at their Hazardous Waste Disposal Days. He suggested that the Borough allow residents to drop it off at Public Works. He suggested that we control other hazardous substances in that way as well.

Ms. Gallagher noted that latex paint can be disposed of with regular garbage if it is dried before disposal.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Gallagher read aloud Resolution 2005-203, authorizing a closed session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations. The Resolution was moved by Councilman Sikorski and seconded by Councilwoman Laudenberger.

Roll Call: Councilmembers Laudenberger, Quattrone, Sackowitz, Schneider and Sikorski voted yes.
Councilman Thompson was absent.

Resolution adopted, 5-0.

RESOLUTION 2005-203 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 September 19, 2005 at approximately 8:20 p.m. at Borough Hall 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:

Contract Negotiations – Greystone Mill LLC

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: December 19, 2005, 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.

Upon reconvening into open session, adjournment was moved by Councilman Sikorski, seconded by Councilwoman Laudenberger and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace B. Gallagher, RMC
Borough Clerk