

**Meeting Minutes  
Hightstown Borough Council  
Regular Meeting  
August 4, 2014  
6:30 pm**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirson at 6:32 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 Bluth</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Hansen</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Kurs</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Misiura</i>		✓
<i>Councilmember Quattrone</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Thibault</i>		✓
<i>Mayor Kirson</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Debra Sopronyi, Borough Clerk; Henry Underhill, Borough Administrator; James LeTellier, Police Director and Fred Raffetto, Borough Attorney.

**Resolution 2014-164 Authorizing a Meeting Which Excludes the Public**

Councilmember Kurs moved resolution 2014-164 as amended, Councilmember Quattrone seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bluth, Kurs, Quattrone and Hansen voted yes.

Resolution adopted 4-0.

Resolution 2014-164

*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 August 4, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the First Aid Building located at 168 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:

Contract Negotiations – Shared Services  
Tomco

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Attorney-Client Privilege – Enchantment

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: November 4, 2014 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 7:45 pm and he again read the Open Public Meetings Act statement.

The Flag Salute followed Roll Call.

Councilmember Thibault had arrived during executive session and was now present; Police Director LeTellier has departed during executive session and returned to the meeting at this time; George Lang, CFO arrived at the meeting and was now present.

Mayor Kirson requested that a request regarding waiving taxes from a resident victim of Wyckoff Mills fire be added to the agenda under discussion; and that resolution 2014-170 and 2014-171 be added to the consent agenda.

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

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bluth, Hansen, Kurs, Quattrone and Thibault voted yes.

Agenda approved as amended 5-0.

Mayor Kirson swore in Class II Officer, Jerry Mecca, Jr. per Resolution 2014-152 adopted at the July 21, 2014 meeting. Councilmember/Police Commissioner Quattrone presented him with his badge; Council congratulated Officer Mecca and welcomed him to the Borough Police Department.

Councilmember Thibault requested that a word on page 25 of the minutes be changed from roused to criticized.

Councilmember Quattrone moved the July 21, 2014 open session minutes for approval, Council President Bluth seconded.

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

Minutes approved: 4-0, with one abstention.

Councilmember Kurs moved the July 21, 2014 executive session minutes for approval, Councilmember Quattrone seconded.

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

Minutes approved: 4-0, with one abstention.

Mayor Kirson opened the public comment period I and the following individuals spoke:

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Phyllis Deal, 305 Stockton Street – thanked all who attended the pet mask presentation to the Fire Department; there will be additional masks and air bags donated in the future.

John Connor, 9 Spruce Court – explained preventative measures that can be taken in the future to avoid lightning strikes to personal property and suggested that Council require the installation of lightning prevention systems to all buildings in the Borough. He presented written information to Council.

Frank Rivera, 110 Broad Street – commented that, with the assistance of the Fire Chief, spoke to a professional regarding having lightning prevention system installation and noted that it is an expensive project and not easy to install; it may require new roof installation.

Doug Mair, 536 S. Main Street – advised that there is a dangerous telephone pole at the corner of South and S. Main Streets that should be addressed; inquired as to the status of the rug mill re-development and his request for a resident member to sit on the sub-committee.

Eugene Sarafin, 628 S. Main Street – noted that he paid his taxes last week and commended Council for keeping taxes down; commented that the Legislature and Governor do not believe in tax reductions and infrastructure upgrades are needed.

Walter Sikorski, 326 N. Main Street – noted that Wyckoff Mills and a waiver of taxes was added to the agenda; inquired if Council has the authority to waive taxes, whether anyone has spoken to the Assessor, and whether the remainder of tax payers will cover the payments that are waived.

There being no further comments, Mayor Kirson closed the public comment period and called a brief break.

**Ordinance 2014-14 Final Reading and Public Hearing** – An Ordinance Amending, Supplementing, and Revising Subsection 13, Entitled “Use and Occupancy of Space,” of Section 13-3, Entitled “Housing Standard for Owner Occupied Units and Rental Units,” of Chapter 13, Entitled “Housing,” of the “Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown, New Jersey”

Mayor Kirson opened the public hearing on ordinance 2014-14 and the following individuals spoke:

Eugene Sarafin, 628 S. Main Street – commented that this is an interesting ordinance and suggested that Council implement rent control.

Scott Caster, 12 Clover Lane – congratulated Council for brining this ordinance forward.

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

Councilmember Thibault moved ordinance 2014-14 for adoption, Councilmember Quattrone seconded.

Councilmember Quattrone inquired as to when this ordinance will be effective; Borough Clerk Sopronyi advised that it becomes effective on advertisement, which should be Friday.

Councilmember Thibault noted that he would like to see the summons’ that are issued to landlords on this ordinance.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bluth, Hansen, Kurs, Quattrone, and Thibault voted yes.

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**ORDINANCE 2014-14**

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

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING, SUPPLEMENTING AND REVISING SUBSECTION 13-3-8,  
ENTITLED “USE AND OCCUPANCY OF SPACE,” OF SECTION 13-3, ENTITLED  
“HOUSING STANDARD FOR OWNER OCCUPIED UNITS AND RENTAL UNITS,”  
OF CHAPTER 13, ENTITLED “HOUSING,” OF THE “REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE  
BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN, NEW JERSEY.”**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council wish to amend certain provisions contained within Subsection 13-3-8, entitled “Use and Occupancy of Space,” of Section 13-3, entitled “Housing Standard for Owner Occupied Units and Rental Units,” of Chapter 13, entitled “Housing,” of the Borough Code as set forth herein.

**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, that:

Section 1. Subsection 13-3-8, entitled “Use and Occupancy of Space,” of Section 13-3, entitled “Housing Standards for Owner Occupied Units and Rental Units,” as contained within Chapter 13, entitled “Housing,” of the “Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown, New Jersey” is hereby amended and supplemented as follows:

**Subsection 13-3-8            Use and Occupancy of Space.**

- a. It shall be the responsibility of the owner to ensure that the maximum number of occupants in a dwelling unit shall not exceed the following standard:
  1. Every dwelling unit shall contain at least one hundred fifty (150) square feet of floor space for the first occupant thereof and at least one hundred (100) additional square feet of floor space for every additional occupant thereof, such floor space to be calculated on the basis of total habitable room area.
- b.
  1. Every room in a dwelling unit occupied for sleeping purposes by one (1) occupant shall contain at least seventy (70) square feet of floor space, and every room occupied for sleeping purposes by more than one (1) occupant shall contain at least fifty (50) square feet of floor space for each occupant thereof. Under no circumstances shall there be more than two (2) occupants in each bedroom of a dwelling unit. Children under the age of two (2) shall not be considered to be additional occupants.
  2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in every lodging unit every room occupied for sleeping purposes by one (1) occupant shall contain at least eighty (80) square feet of floor space, and every room occupied for sleeping purposes by more than one (1) occupant shall contain at least sixty (60) square feet of floor space for each occupant thereof.
- c. At least one-half (1/2) of the floor area of every habitable room shall have a ceiling height of at least seven (7) feet. The floor area of that part of any room where the ceiling is less than five (5) feet shall not be considered as part of the floor area in computing the total floor area of the room for the purpose of determining the maximum permissible occupancy thereof.
- d. No room in a dwelling unit may be used for sleeping if the floor level of the room is lower than three and one-half (3 ½) feet below the average grade of the ground adjacent to and within fifteen

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(15) feet of the exterior walls of the room.

- e. A room located below the level of the ground but with the floor level less than three and one-half (3 ½) feet below and the average grade of the ground adjacent to and within fifteen (15) feet of the exterior walls of the room may be used for sleeping, provided that the walls and floor thereof in contact with the earth have been damp proofed in accordance with a method approved by the Housing Inspector and that the windows thereof are at least fifteen (15) feet from the nearest building or wall.
- f. Keyed locks on bedroom doors are prohibited. Privacy locks are allowed on bedroom doors, provided that the lock can be opened easily and without the use of force from the outside of the room, or from any hallway or common area, in the event of emergency.
- g. Non-habitable spaces, including storage and closet areas, kitchens, hallways and all portions of living rooms, dining rooms, dens, enclosed porches, attics, and basements shall not be used as bedrooms or otherwise occupied for sleeping purposes; notwithstanding the foregoing, attics and basements may be used as bedrooms if they have been rendered habitable pursuant to all requirements of the State Housing Code.
- h. The number of bedrooms in a dwelling unit is determined by the number of bedrooms on the tax records for the property.
- i. The bedroom cannot be used to pass through to another habitable space, bedroom or kitchen.

Section 2. All other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

Section 3. 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 the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall be deemed severable therefrom and shall not be affected.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall take effect following final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Introduced: July 21, 2014

Adopted: August 4, 2014

**Ordinance 2014-15 First Reading and Introduction** An Ordinance Amending the Salary Range for Borough Administrator of the Borough of Hightstown

Council President Bluth moved ordinance 2014-15 for introduction, Councilmember Kurs seconded.

Councilmember Thibault inquired as to what the previous range was in the ordinance that was adopted earlier this year; Borough Clerk Sopronyi noted that it was \$40,000 to \$75,000.

Mayor Kirson noted that Council re-evaluated Mr. Underhill's performance in executive session, as agreed when he was hired. It is Council's desire to increase his salary to \$80,000 annually.

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

Ordinance introduced 4-1; public hearing to be held August 18, 2014.

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

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SALARY RANGE FOR BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR  
OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN**

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

**Section 1.** The following rate of compensation for Borough Administrator of the Borough of Hightstown, excluding longevity, whose compensation shall be on an annual basis, is:

	<b>RANGING FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
Borough Administrator	\$40,000.00	\$80,000.00

**Section 3.** This Ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication as provided by law, but the ranges of compensation herein provided shall be effective July 25, 2014.

**Section 4.** The salary range established in this ordinance supersede any established for the same position in previous salary ordinances, and will remain in effect until changed by the adoption of a new or amending Salary Ordinance.

**Resolution 2014-165 Authorizing the Payment of Bills**

Councilmember Quattrone moved resolution 2014-165, Councilmember Hansen seconded.

Councilmember Thibault inquired about \$780.00 being paid out for trips to various amusements. Mayor Kirson noted that it is for the summer camp participants and the funds are all donated; Larry Gunnell, Recreation Director, raises all funds for the camp, the taxpayers pay for nothing. Larry does a great job with the camp.

Councilmember Quattrone noted that he thinks the camp should go for an additional week; it is a great program.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bluth, Hansen, Kurs, Thibault, and Quattrone voted yes.

Resolution adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2014-165

*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  
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on audit and approval of the Borough Administrator, the appropriate Department Head and the Treasurer in the amount of \$417,021.54 from the following accounts:

Current		\$164,467.05
W/S Operating		52,917.66
General Capital		197,748.03
Water/Sewer Capital		12.00
Grant		0.00
Trust		1,771.72
Housing Trust		0.00
Animal Control		0.00
Law Enforcement Trust		0.00
Housing Rehab Loans		0.00
Unemployment Trust		105.08
Escrow		<u>0.00</u>
Total		<u><u>\$417,021.54</u></u>

**Resolution 2014-166 Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with Monmouth County for Truck Washing Facilities**

Councilmember Quattrone moved resolution 2014-166, Councilmember Kurs seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bluth, Hansen, Kurs, Quattrone and Thibault voted yes.

Resolution adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2014-166

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

**AUTHORIZING SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MONMOUTH COUNTY  
FOR TRUCK WASHING FACILITIES**

**WHEREAS**, the Hightstown Borough Public Works Superintendent is in need of a location in which to wash the  
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Borough trucks within DEP compliance; and

**WHEREAS**, Hightstown Borough has a shared service agreement with Roosevelt Borough for trash collection; and

**WHEREAS**, Monmouth County has truck wash facilities which is in compliance with DEP regulations, and has agreed to permit Hightstown to utilize the facility as needed; and

**WHEREAS**, the parties desire to enter into a shared services agreement for the use of truck washing facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40:65-1 et seq. authorizes the approval of Shared Services Agreements by Resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council have reviewed the proposed Shared Services Agreement for truck washing facilities through September 30, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough shall be invoiced pursuant to use of the facility; and

**WHEREAS** the Treasurer has certified that funds are available for this expenditure in the 2014 budget, and it is the intention of the Mayor and Council to provide adequate funding for this expenditure in the future budgets;

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

1. The Shared Services Agreement with the County of Monmouth for truck washing facilities for the period ending September 30, 2018 is hereby approved, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40:65-1 et seq.
2. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the agreement for same.
3. This agreement is approved subject to the provision of adequate funds in subsequent budgets of the Borough.

**Consent Agenda: Resolutions 2014-167, 2014-168, 2014-169, 2014-170 and 2014-171**

Councilmember Quattrone moved resolutions 2014-167, 2014-168, 2014-169, 2014-170 and 2014-171 as the consent agenda, Councilmember Hansen seconded.

Mayor Kirson read the titles of the resolutions aloud and gave a brief explanation of each.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bluth, Hansen, Kurs, Quattrone and Thibault voted yes.

Resolutions adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2014-167

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

**AUTHORIZING A REIMBURSEMENT FOR CELL PHONE USAGE**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough finds it cost effective to permit certain employees to utilize their private cell phone for August 4, 2014



Borough business throughout the year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough wishes to authorize a reimbursement for private cell phone usage during 2014 to Sharon Lane, Public Health Nurse for the period January 1, 2014 through August 31, 2014 in the amount of \$100.00; and

**WHEREAS**, this reimbursement has been pro-rated to coincide with Ms. Lane's retirement date of September 1, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the funds for this reimbursement are available and the Treasurer has so certified in writing.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Treasurer is authorized to issue reimbursement as stated above for private cell phone usage during 2014.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this resolution shall be given to the Treasurer and Ms. Sharon Lane.

Resolution 2014-168

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

**AMENDING A LAND USE PLEDGE COMMITTING TO GOOD, PLANNED AND  
THOUGHTFUL LAND USE DECISIONS WITH THE INTENT OF MAKING  
HIGHTSTOWN BOROUGH A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY**

**WHEREAS**, the Hightstown Borough Council adopted resolution 2012-250 on November 5, 2012 which established a Land Use Pledge committing to good, planned, and thoughtful land use decisions with the intent of making Hightstown Borough a sustainable community; and

**WHEREAS**, Hightstown Borough finds it necessary to amend the originally adopted Land Use Pledge; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Hightstown is committed to having a sustainable future, and has enrolled as a participant in the state-wide Sustainable Jersey program, which provides education and incentives for sustainable lifestyles for all New Jersey residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Hightstown prides itself on making informed, and beneficial land-use decisions to improve societal well-being, such as increased mobility, affordable housing, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, protection of its open space and natural resources, including its valuable trees and waterways; and

**WHEREAS**, Hightstown recognizes that poor land use decisions can degrade the environment, reduce housing and transportation choices, increase health costs, and reduce the overall well-being of its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey has a strong tradition of home rule and local authority over planning and zoning, which requires that municipalities must take a leading role in achieving statewide sustainable land use patterns.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough of Hightstown is committed to continuing to make good, planned, thoughtful land use decisions with the intent of making our Borough a sustainable community. It is our intent to include the following principles as hereby amended in the next master plan revision and re-examination report, under NJSA 40:55D-28 and NJSA 40:55D-89:

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1. Regional Cooperation: We pledge to communicate with neighboring municipalities and Mercer County regarding land use decisions which affect them, and to take regional impacts into consideration when making land use decisions.

2. Transportation Choices: We pledge to continue to review transportation choices and include consideration of all modes of transportation when planning transportation projects and reviewing development applications. We recognize that pedestrians, bicyclists, buses, taxis and automobiles are all critical to improved transportation. We will re-evaluate our parking projects with the goal of improving congested parking, promoting shared parking and other parking alternatives, and encouraging structured parking alternatives, where appropriate.

3. Natural Resource Protection: We pledge to protect our natural resources for their environmental, recreational and cultural value, avoiding or mitigating negative impacts to these resources. We pledge to use our recently-adopted Natural Resources Inventory to identify and assess the extent of our resources and to link natural resource management and protection to carrying capacity analysis, land use, open space and recreational planning.

4. Mix of Land Uses: We pledge to use our zoning authority to continue to allow a mix of residential, retail, commercial, recreational and historic preservation land use types in the areas that make the most sense for Hightstown and the region. We intend to continue to develop our mixed use downtown area to achieve economic development and advantages for our residents.

5. Housing Options: We pledge to continue to foster a diverse mix of housing types and locations available to all income levels, including single- and multi-family, owner –occupied and rental options.

6. Green Design: We pledge to encourage the principles of green design and renewable energy generation into new or remodeled municipal and public facilities to the extent feasible, and when updating our site plan and subdivision requirements for new development.

Resolution 2014-169

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

**AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF AN AUCTION LICENSE – EMPIRE  
ANTIQUES**

**WHEREAS**, an application for a license to hold an auction on Saturday, September 13, 2014 at 278 Monmouth Street in the Borough of Hightstown has been submitted by Empire Antiques, together with the required fee; and

**WHEREAS**, the application has been reviewed and approved by the Police Director; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council that a license be issued to Empire Antiques for this event.

**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 license to Empire Antiques for their auction to be held on Saturday, September 13, 2014, at 278 Monmouth Street.

Resolution 2014-170

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

August 4, 2014

## **SUPPORTING THE “DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER” 2014 STATEWIDE CRACKDOWN**

**WHEREAS**, impaired drivers on our nation’s roads kill someone every 30 minutes, 50 people per day, and almost 18,000 people each year; and

**WHEREAS**, 19% of motor vehicle fatalities in New Jersey in 2012 were alcohol-related; and

**WHEREAS**, an enforcement crackdown is planned to combat impaired driving; and

**WHEREAS**, the summer season and the Labor Day holiday in particular are traditionally times of social gatherings which include alcohol; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey, Division of Highway Traffic Safety, has asked law enforcement agencies throughout the state to participate in the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2014 Statewide Crackdown*; and

**WHEREAS**, the project will involve increased impaired driving enforcement from August 15 through September 1, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, an increase in impaired driving enforcement and a reduction in impaired driving will save lives on our roadways;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of Hightstown Borough supports the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2014 Statewide Crackdown* from August 15 through September 1, 2014 and pledges to increase awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving.

Resolution 2014-171

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

### **REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2014 BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown hereby request the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of a special item of revenue and equal appropriation in the budget of the Borough of Hightstown for the year 2014 as follows:

Source	Amount	Revenue Title	Appropriation Title
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State of New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety	\$5,000.00	Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2014 Crackdown	Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2014 Crackdown
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### **Towing**

Mayor Kirson advised that Councilmember/Police Commissioner Quattrone received an anonymous letter regarding opposition to a tow truck operator who is operating without a large truck.

Councilmember Quattrone noted that our ordinance states that a tow truck operator on the Borough's list must advise the Borough when he no longer has all of the required trucks to operate. There are two options, he can be removed from the towing list until he is in compliance or the Council has the authority to allow him to continue to operate with his smaller vehicles, and be added to the list for large towing when he advises the Borough that he is back in compliance.

There was discussion regarding the options and the fact that the operator has made a good faith effort to replace the vehicle and submitted proof that the new truck has been ordered and is being manufactured. Council decided that they would like to allow the operator to tow with his smaller vehicles so as to not hurt the ability to pay for the new truck and be in compliance.

The Borough Attorney recommended that a motion be made for the record.

Councilmember Thibault motioned that the tow operator be permitted to continue to tow with his small vehicle, but be taken off the large tow list until the end of September, because he is not in compliance, but has made a good faith effort to have the large tow vehicle replaced. The deadline to replace the large tow vehicle is by the end of September, and proof must be sent to the Borough when the vehicle is replaced. Councilmember Hansen seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Hansen, Quattrone, Thibault and Bluth voted yes, Kurs abstained.

Motion adopted 4-0 with one abstention.

### **Scout Projects in the Borough**

Mayor Kirson noted that there have been several Boy and Girl Scout projects in the Borough in the recent years, and the young man presently doing a project in the Borough got an e-mail from a Borough Commission stating that they did not approve of his project. Mayor Kirson suggested that a Mentor be appointed to future projects to avoid such issues.

Councilmember Quattrone noted that the Borough Council approved this project. Councilmember Thibault noted that he was present at the Environmental Commission where the matter was brought up and the project had to be modified due to trail conditions; the matter has been cleared up. Councilmember Thibault agreed with the Mayor that a Mentor should be appointed for these projects in the future.

There was discussion regarding the authority of the various Boards and Commissions and that they are exerting power that they do not have by ordinance. It was noted that we should be encouraging these projects, not

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discouraging our young people from doing projects in their own community. Councilmember Thibault noted that everyone involved had good intentions, there was no malice.

It was decided that a Mentor will be appointed for all future projects.

### **Wyckoff Mills**

Mayor Kirson noted that Council received an e-mail from one of the families that is a victim of the Wyckoff Mills fire, requesting that their taxes be forgiven while they are re-located due to the fire.

Council had discussion regarding the process, authority of Council and what it would mean to the rest of the residents in the Borough. It was noted that the Borough would still have to pay County and School taxes; official assessments are done in October and the resident would not have relief until next year; and that this has never been done before for residents who had catastrophic events occur. It was noted that this would set precedence; would have a negative effect on the Borough's budget; and the shore victims after Hurricane Sandy, residents were not exempt from property taxes. There was further discussion regarding assessed values and the timeline for assessments; homeowner responsibilities and insurance.

The Borough Attorney advised that this would be a policy call of Council, but it would set a precedence that would require Council to determine who should be exempt from property taxes.

Council decided that the property taxes of this resident would not be forgiven.

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

Scott Caster, 12 Clover Lane – commented that there is no difference in the fire or some other personal issue; volunteered to mentor on a scout project.

Eugene Sarafin, 628 S. Main Street – noted that he has seen the evolution of Hightstown and it is driven by economics; Council has been efficient and effective, but what is the cost of running the town?

John Connor, 9 Spruce Court – noted that he respects Council's decision but there would not be a need if lightning protection was required.

Lynne Woods, 315 Park Avenue – inquired as to the status of the Maxwell Avenue culvert.

Martin Crabtree, 326 Franklin Street – thanked Council and recommended that they think about additional volunteer opportunities for the Scouts.

Doug Mair, 536 S. Main Street – agreed with Mr. Crabtree and commented that there should be clear verbiage as to who has the authority over the projects; applauded Council's decision regarding the Wyckoff Mills taxes; commented that he is looking forward to the rug mill re-development and the appointment of a community liaison to the sub-committee.

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

### **Mayor/Council/Administrative Comments and Committee Reports**

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**Councilmember Thibault** – there was good media coverage of the donation of the animal masks; the new community nurse starts on the 15<sup>th</sup> and will be present at the next meeting to be introduced to the community; a new doctor has also been hired for the clinics at a cost savings.

**Councilmember Hansen** – noted that she enjoyed her vacation and this was a good meeting; she is glad to see the Housing ordinance has been adopted; she is happy with the tone of the meetings, things that have gone awry are being fixed without big issues; a list of projects could be developed for volunteers and scouts; capital improvements are needed at the water and sewer plants and are being evaluated, recommendations are forthcoming.

**Councilmember Quattrone** – noted that he believes part of the process of a scout project is coming up with the project; he is glad the housing ordinance has been adopted; was thankful for the pet air masks; thanked George Lang for the financial information; he is working on numbers regarding trash removal and may come forward with a resolution to go to bid for the service; the truck washing agreement is a good thing for the Borough.

**Council President Bluth** – noted that tomorrow evening is national Night Out in Memorial Park and Thursday night are concerts in Association Park.

**Mayor Kirson** – commented that the concerts in the park are great; noted that the culvert has been cleaned and a design developed by the County and it is under review by the Borough Engineer; there is no information yet on the rug mill re-development, but is hopeful that there will be information to come forward during September.

**Police Director LeTellier** – commented that there will be free food and prizes at National Night Out and invited everyone to attend.

Councilmember Thibault moved to adjourn at 9:03 pm, Councilmember Quattrone seconded. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Sopronyi, RMC  
Borough Clerk

August 4, 2014