

**Meeting Minutes  
Hightstown Borough Council  
Regular Meeting  
October 20, 2014  
First Aid Building  
6:30 PM – Executive Session  
7:30 PM – Public Session**

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES DURING YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING TO AVOID SOUNDS/RINGING OR CONVERSATION THAT MAY INTERFERE WITH THE MEETING OR THE ABILITY OF ATTENDEES TO HEAR THE PROCEEDINGS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION .

Meeting called to order by Mayor Steven Kirson 6:30 PM.

*STATEMENT:* 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 provided 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; Frederick Raffetto, Esq. Borough Attorney; and Eric Harrison, Esq., JIF Attorney.

**Resolution 2014-213 Authorizing a Meeting Which Excludes the Public**

Council President Bluth moved resolution 2014-213, Councilmember Quattrone seconded.

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

Resolution adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2014-213

*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

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October 20, 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 (Various)  
Enchantment  
Litigation – Rug Mill Tax Appeal  
LeTellier  
Personnel – Police

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: January 20, 2015 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 7:43 pm and he again read the Open Public Meetings Act statement.

The Flag Salute followed Roll Call.

Councilmember Kurs joined the meeting during executive session and was now present. George Lang, CFO, joined the meeting at this time. Mr. Eric Harrison had left the meeting during executive session and was no longer present.

Mayor Kirson requested that the agenda be amended to include resolution 2014-218 following resolution 2014-214; Councilmember Thibault requested that information from the Health Department concerning the Ebola Virus and Enterovirus be added to discussion.

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

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

Agenda approved 6-0.

### **Proclamation**

Mayor Kirson noted that proclamations are not given often, because they are something very special. Dr. Caruso and his staff gave free dental services to resident of the Borough and this tells us that the professionals in Hightstown are willing to go beyond what is expected. The Mayor invited Dr. Caruso, and his staff, to come forward. Dr. Caruso and his staff came forward and each introduced themselves by name and title.

Mayor Kirson then read the proclamation.

BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN  
Proclamation

Honoring Dr. Joseph Caruso, DDS

October 20, 2014

**Whereas**, Dr. Caruso has a dental office located at 208 South Main Street in Hightstown; and

**Whereas**, he supported the health and welfare of the community by setting aside a day to provide dental services to 40 residents of the Hightstown Community who do not have dental insurance; and

**Whereas**, Dr. Caruso opened his doors to the community and provided dental services free of charge on August 6, 2014; and

**Whereas**, the services provided included x-rays, cleaning, cavity filling and extractions and Dr. Caruso worked out a plan for those who required further dental work; and

**Whereas**, Dr. Caruso and his staff provided these services with professionalism and patience, and are truly exceptional and outstanding members of the Hightstown Community.

**Now Therefore Be It Proclaimed** by the Mayor and Borough Council of Hightstown express their appreciation to Dr. Joseph Caruso, DDS for his generous and outstanding service given in support of the health and welfare of the Hightstown Community.

Dr. Caruso commented that he has been in Hightstown for 31 years and could not have provided these services with his team. Council thanked Dr. Caruso for his dedication to the residents of Hightstown.

Councilmember Thibault amended the minutes of the October 20, 2014 open session to add that Borough Administrator Underhill will provide an updated cost analysis of trash removal services.

Councilmember Thibault moved the October 6, 2014 Open Session minutes as amended for approval, Councilmember Misiura seconded.

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

Minutes approved 6-0.

Councilmember Quattrone moved the October 6, 2014 Executive session minutes for approval, Council President Bluth seconded.

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

Minutes approved 6-0.

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

Walter Sikorski, 326 n. Main Street – referred to a column published in the Trenton Times regarding the 2% cap law, tax increases, and the lack of property tax rebates.

Christopher Gray, Esq. of the firm Sciarra & Catrambone– noted that he represents Officer Janine Krupa and they brought everyone here to support her. He wants to bring certain particulars about the charges being brought against Officer Krupa, to Council's attention.

Mayor Kirson advised Mr. Gray that the Mayor and Council have not seen the charges that are being brought against Officer Krupa.

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Mr. Gray continued that one of the significant issues with the charges is that Officer Krupa complained about harassment and a hostile work environment; then was served charges when she reported the actions of another officer, but the action being taken is to discipline her. He does not think that the charges against Officer Krupa are valid, but they are retaliation for Officer Krupa's complaint and the report of the misconduct of another officer. He then asked Council to take a hard look at the procedures taken by the Police Department and its administration; they need to be held accountable.

Meredith Berkley, Wyckoff Mills– stated that she was told she would be wasting her time coming this evening to support Janine Krupa; it is never a waste of time to come and support someone you believe in. Janine has done so much for the residents of Wyckoff Mills, along with everyone here, and we will continue to support her throughout this entire thing.

JP Gibbons, 602 N. Main Street – noted that he is here for three reasons, the first being in support of Janine Krupa. He noted his background in law enforcement and is puzzled that this item is on the agenda of the Borough Council, when to his knowledge there has not been a departmental hearing on the charges and he objects. There will be new signs popping up this week that state, "They want our vote, we want their plan"; they are not political statements, they are freedom of speech statements. While he appreciates Mr. Sikorski talking about taxes, his time would be better spent talking about how to reduce Hightstown Borough taxes.

Frederick Raffetto, Borough Attorney clarified that when Council addressed the personnel matter that is on tonight's agenda, there was no discussion regarding the substance of the charges against either of the police officers; the only matter that was addressed by Council was that charges have been filed. Council is not even aware of what the charges are. According to the ordinance, the Council is provided with three options: the Council itself could conduct a hearing; or the disciplinary matter could be heard by a hearing committee consisting of the Mayor, Police Commissioner, and the Borough Administrator; or the disciplinary matter could be heard by an outside independent hearing officer. Council consensus is to refer the matter to an outside independent hearing officer, which is how Council historically handles these matters. There was no discussion regarding the substance of the charges against either officer, it was merely recognition that charges have been filed and the matter will proceed under the normal course of a hearing that will take place under the option of the Council, which is to have it heard by the outside independent hearing officer who will make a findings of facts and inclusions of law based on the hearing; all parties will be afforded due process. The hearing officer, who happens to be a retired New Jersey Superior Court Judge, will render a report to the Mayor and Council, who serves as the appropriate authority, to make a determination as to whether the charges should be sustained; and if so what the penalty shall be.

Doug Mair, 536 S. Main Street – commented that he supports the police department and this officer 100% and Council now has the opportunity to get in front of this and stop it; what is going on in the police department needs to be addressed. He then noted that he is concerned with the insurance funds for Borough Hall and wonders if the \$2M has already been accepted.

Lynne Woods, 315 Park Avenue – commented that 13 months ago Council hired Labor Counsel for a previous police matter, and the matter has still not been addressed.

Denise Garcia, 6 Deerfield Park - noted that there are only two officers she trusts and they are Officers Krupa and Marchione; neither deserves this.

Skye Gilmartin, 180 E. Mill Run Court – described the assistance Officer Krupa offered the residents of Wyckoff Mills during their fire and commented that she is a hero.

Dave Kowardy, 47 Powell Court – joined Ms. Gilmartin at the podium and commented that Janine is a hero.

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Herbert Smith, 150 S. Main Street – noted that Janine and Frank are two of the best police officers in Hightstown and he will support them; their records should not be blemished.

Mark Kramer, 221 Wilson Avenue – noted that he is a firefighter and has seen Janine and Frank assist the community and he is in full support of them.

Robyn Floom, 15 Dennis Court – works with the school district and commented that Janine and Frank are great cops and the nicest people; this should not be going on.

Pat Papero, PBA 187, Hamilton, NJ – confirmed that the matter is being referred to an independent hearing officer and that Council has not heard the facts of the case. The Borough Attorney confirmed the process. Mr. Papero then noted that an officer has been suspended with pay for 16 months and a hearing officer also costs money; how much in taxpayer dollars do we have to spend before we start spending them right? How much more will be spent on these trumped up charges?

Wayne Hummel, East Windsor PBA President – noted that there is consideration of merging the PBAs from Hightstown and East Windsor. There are some issues that have not been handled by the town, one being Frank Marchione being out of work with pay for 16 months; the other being Janine Krupa and the fact that, as PBA President, she rubbed some people the wrong way in the department. As far as her and Frank becoming members under the umbrella of the PBA, as long as these issues are resolved, I have no problem with it.

Phyllis Mack, 1 Mill Run West – noted that she met Janine through a double tragedy, and Janine kept checking on her; she is a very loyal and compassionate person.

Linda Petranko, 122 Mill Run East – stated that she is here in support of Janine Krupa; she is the mother of a female police officer. Officer Krupa, and women like her need to be applauded for their dedication and service, and we need more women like her who will stand up and wear their uniform with respect.

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

**Ordinance 2014-18 First Reading & Introduction** – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 28, “Zoning” of the “Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown, New Jersey” Regarding Permanently Installed Standby Generators.

Councilmember Misiura moved ordinance 2014-18 for introduction, Councilmember Hansen seconded.

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

Ordinance introduced: 6-0. Public Hearing to be held on November 3, 2014.

#### Ordinance 2014-18

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

### **AMENDING CHAPTER 28, “ZONING,” OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN REGARDING PERMANENTLY INSTALLED STANDBY GENERATORS**

October 20, 2014

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

Section 1. Chapter 28, "Zoning," is hereby amended as follows (additions underlined; deletions in ~~strikeout text~~):

A. This ordinance shall apply to permanently installed standby generators

B. Subsection 28-10-19 "Permanently Installed Standby Generators" is added as follows:

1. Standby generators shall be permitted as accessory uses in the following Residential Districts: R-1, R-2, R-3 and R-4 and shall be located in the rear yard only and not project beyond the side building lines of the principal structure. All generators shall be installed on a concrete pad or other pre-formed pad designed to meet the generator's specifications. The generator shall be screened so it is not visible from adjacent properties or from any street or public way. For corner lots, generators may be located in the side yard with approval from the Zoning Officer. Screening shall consist either of plantings or an opaque fence of sufficient size and height to completely screen the generator from adjacent properties or from any street or public way. Screening shall be maintained by the owner or occupant of the property.

2. Standby generators may only be used when electric power to the property has been interrupted for reasons beyond the control of the property owner or resident, or for routine testing. Routine testing is permitted for a thirty minute period once a month during weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. subject to air quality restrictions. Routine testing shall not take place on days in which the air quality is classified as unhealthy for sensitive groups, unhealthy, very unhealthy, or hazardous in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:27-19.2(d) as it may be amended from time to time.

3. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, generators shall not generate noise levels in excess of 68 dB at twenty-three feet when operating at one hundred percent. Generators shall be operated at all times with a muffler, and any factory-installed enclosure for the generator may not be removed for any reason except for maintenance or repair.

4. Supplemental diesel and gasoline fuel storage tanks powering generators shall not be permitted in any residential zone. If the generator is powered by propane gas, the propane gas tank shall be completely screened so as not to be visible from adjacent properties or from any street or public way and shall obtain all applicable regulatory approvals.

Section 2. If any sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance, or the application thereof to any persons or circumstances shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, or if by legislative action any sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance shall lose its force and effect, such judgment or action shall not affect, impair or void the remainder of this Ordinance.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Section 4. All other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

**Resolution 2014-214 Authorizing the Payment of Bills.**

Council member Quattrone moved resolution 2014-214, Council President Bluth seconded.

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

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Resolution 2014-214

*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 \$883,455.77 from the following accounts:

Current		\$382,781.60
W/S Operating		469,283.87
General Capital		27,235.75
Water/Sewer Capital		12.00
Grant		800.00
Trust		1,433.30
Housing Trust		0.00
Animal Control		0.00
Law Enforcement Trust		0.00
Housing Rehab Loans		0.00
Unemployment Trust		0.00
Escrow		<u>1,909.25</u>
Total		<u><u>\$883,455.77</u></u>

**Resolution 2014-218 Authorizing Settlement of Certain Tax Appeal Cases Filed in the Matter of TD Bank, N.A. vs. Hightstown Borough**

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Councilmember Thibault moved resolution 2014-218, Councilmember Hansen seconded.

Mayor Kirson gave a history of the appeal and an explanation of the settlement.

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

Ordinance adopted: 6-0

Resolution 2014-218

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

**AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN  
TAX APPEAL CASES FILED IN THE MATTER OF  
TD BANK, N.A. vs. HIGHTSTOWN BOROUGH.**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Hightstown has been named as a Defendant in certain tax appeal cases which are currently pending before the Tax Court of New Jersey under the following name: TD Bank, N.A. vs. Hightstown Borough, bearing Docket Nos. 011923-2012, 012722-2013 and 013044-2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the cases concern the assessed value of the following properties for the tax years 2012 through 2014:

Bank Street (Block 21, Lot 1); and

Bank Street (Block 30, Lot 1); and

**WHEREAS**, the parties have reached an amicable resolution of these matters, which is set forth in more detail in the attached proposed Stipulation of Settlement; and

**WHEREAS**, the settlement has been recommended by the Borough's Tax Assessor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council now wishes to provide its authorization for the proposed settlement, along with authorization for the issuance of a refund in the appropriate amount to the Plaintiff.

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

1. That the settlement of the above-referenced tax appeal cases for the years 2012 through 2014, as set forth in the attached Stipulation of Settlement, is hereby approved and authorized.
2. That the Borough's Counsel is hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached Stipulation of Settlement on behalf of the Borough, and to file same with the Tax Court of New Jersey.
3. That a refund in the appropriate amount (pursuant to the attached Stipulation of Settlement) is hereby authorized, and the Borough's Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized and directed to undertake all necessary actions in order to effectuate said refund to the Plaintiff.

3. That a certified copy of this Resolution shall be provided to each of the following:

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- a. Kenneth Pacera, Tax Assessor;
- b. George Lang, Hightstown Borough Chief Financial Officer; and,
- c. Frederick C. Raffetto, Esq., Hightstown Borough Attorney.

**Consent Agenda Resolutions 2014-215, 2014-216. And 2014-217**

Councilmember Misiura moved resolutions 2014-215, 2014-216 and 2014-217 as the consent agenda, Council member Quattrone 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, Misiura, Quattrone and Thibault voted yes.

Resolutions adopted 6-0.

**Resolution 2014-215**

*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:

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Revenue Title</b>	<b>Appropriation Title</b>
U.S. Department of Justice	\$1,047.28	Body Armor Replacement Fund Program	Body Armor Replacement Fund Program

**Resolution 2014-216**

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

**AUTHORIZING SALE BY ASSIGNMENT OF  
TAX SALE CERTIFICATE #0-23**

October 20, 2014

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown, in the County of Mercer and State of New Jersey, that, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:5-113, the following Tax Sale Certificate is hereby sold by assignment to Lawrence Blake, 118 Dutch Neck Road, Hightstown, New Jersey, for a total of **\$456.98**, which sum includes the following amounts which are calculated with interest through November 1, 2014: (1) fourth quarter taxes in the amount of \$63.16; (2) balance due on the existing tax lien in the amount of \$393.82 (including principal in the amount of \$113.26 and interest in the amount of \$280.56):

Certificate No.: 0-23

Property Location: Block 49, Lot 6

Owner of Record: David Saltman

Date of Tax Sale: September 12, 2000

**BET IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a per diem amount of \$0.14 per day will accrue on both the taxes due and the lien commencing as of November 11, 2014, if the above sum is not paid to the Borough by that date.

Resolution 2014-217

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

#### **WAIVING FEES FOR LANDLORD REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HIGHTSTOWN-EAST WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**WHEREAS** the Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society is an agency serving Borough residents and the surrounding community in the name of historical preservation; and

**WHEREAS**, given the nature of the Society they have requested that Landlord Registration fees for the property located at 164 North Main Street be waived; and

**WHEREAS**, all appropriate applications shall be filed and all appropriate inspections shall take place for the units within this property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Borough Council finds that waiving Landlord Registration fees for this property is appropriate.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown hereby waives the Landlord Registration fees for the property owned by the Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society and located at 164 North Main Street in Hightstown.

1. To designate the Hightstown Historic Preservation Commission as the entity to process all research application requirements and grants, and to coordinate requirements for the Mayor and other commissions towards fulfilling all submission requirements; and
2. Appoints the Mayor as the agent of the Borough to process, and execute all contracts, agreements, amendments, and ancillary documents within the scope of the application for designation as a Preserve America Community.

#### **Health Department Update**

Councilmember Thibault referenced the present two big health concerns, Ebola and Enterovirus. He noted that October 20, 2014

the Nurse and Health Officers of the Borough are working with the schools to educate the students; have forwarded information to be posted on the website to be shared with the residents; are visiting childcare facilities and meeting with parents; and are in close contact with the CDC.

He continued that they have met with the police department and first aid regarding proper procedures and personal protection equipment use, and the Nurse will be attending squad training. They are also sharing with doctors and community groups to work on strategies; they are making sure we are prepared and they are taking the situations very seriously.

### **Best Practices**

George Lang, CFO, references the Best Practices submission that was included in the meeting packet, noting that he, in conjunction with the Borough Clerk and Administrator, filled out the document and it covers everything from financial issues to health insurance. Questions were reviewed and there was discussion regarding state aid reductions, evaluations of financial status, and the Governor's tool kit.

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

Doug Mair, 536 S. Main Street – commented that tax appeals are a Pandora's Box and someone must be held accountable; and that he hopes this meeting showed Council that you will never get rid of the police department.

Scott Caster, 12 Clover Lane – commented that he sees life as status quo; the tax rate needs to be reduced. He also commented on the ballot question regarding open space funding, noting the schools and churches are in Hightstown.

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

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

**Councilmember Misiura** – noted that he attended the Einstein Alley opening in East Windsor and he believes this will benefit Hightstown; the Planning Board adopted changes to the zoning map for the master plan; the Cultural Arts Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Roasting Post building; East Winsor will host a presentation regarding the Exit 8 Turnpike Study; tax assessment always lags and is based on market rates.

**Councilmember Kurs** – noted that he attended the Housing Authority meeting and that there is an issue with the well child care space, they have been told to find a new location; the fair was a great event; Mercer County Judge Dietrich died, she was a Mercer County native.

**Councilmember Hansen** – noted that there is a water/sewer department meeting tomorrow; there is a lot of tax appeal information out there to let everyone know the process and how it works, Hightstown took action when it was needed with the re-assessment; commended the Hightstown employees for the score on the Best Practices, they are the ones who make sure we follow the policies and recommendations.

**Councilmember Thibault** - commented that the Health Department is looking for a new place in Hightstown to hold the well child clinic; after the rain stopped, there was great attendance at the fair and the Board of Health performed free mammograms and pap smears at no cost to the taxpayers.

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**Councilmember Quattrone** – noted that it had rained very hard the day of the fair and the volunteers got soaked, but none of them complained; he is very proud to have been a part of this event.

**Mayor Kirson** – commented that tax appeals have not been won in over four years; and the Assessor, Construction Official and Collector are independent of the elected officials, and elected officials have limited authority in these matters.

He then noted that due to the fact that the Borough had no flood insurance, there is limited coverage on the old Borough Hall. The maximum we would get from FEMA is approximately \$300,000, with a cost of \$75,000 for the detailed work necessary to see if we even qualify. Last year we did an emergency appropriation in the amount of \$100,000 for professionals to evaluate the Borough Hall situation.

Councilmember Quattrone noted that the Council had the experts evaluate the situation to confirm the figures; they did not decide this without professional recommendations.

Mayor Kirson continued that in the 2014 budget we had extraordinary expenses including the \$100,000 emergency appropriation for the professionals to evaluate Borough Hall; with an emergency appropriation you must include it in the following year's budget. We also had \$135,000 in litigation settlements. If you compare the 2014 budget to the 2010 budget, when we were in Borough Hall and did not have to pay rent for the police and court, and you remove these expenses, the 2014 budget is less than in 2010. So if you think this Council, in the last four years, has been throwing money out the window, you are incorrect. Municipal taxes in the Borough have been stabilized and we have to realistically look at who we are and what we have; the school budget is \$64M and they can raise their budget 2% each year without a referendum, and there is almost a guarantee that they will and we have no control over that. He hears a lot of misinformation floating around. We are taxpayers too and the schools and county have much more impact on what you pay in taxes than the municipality has.

**Councilmember Misiura** – commented that although he is not the Liaison to the Environmental Commission, and he does not recall if it was announced at the last meeting, that Hightstown has been designated as a Sustainable Jersey Certified Municipality.

Councilmember Quattrone motioned to adjourn back into executive session at 9:10 pm, Council President Bluth seconded. All ayes.

Councilmember Thibault motioned to adjourn at 9:30 pm, Councilmember Quattrone seconded. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Sopronyi, RMC  
Borough Clerk

October 20, 2014