

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – March 20, 2023**

Mayor Huelsebusch *calls the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.* announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

PRESENT: Mayor J. Huelsebusch, Deputy Mayor A. Mueller, Mr. J. Albanese, Mr. J. Heller, and Mr. V. Panico

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator R. Sheola, Municipal Clerk K. Parker, Attorney L. Maddox

ABSENT: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Clerk read the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION
EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*, the Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist and desires to authorize the exclusion of the public from the portion of the meeting in accordance with the act;

NOW, THERFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the specified subject matter as set forth in the following Exhibit “A.”

EXHIBIT A

<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Basis Of Public Exclusion</u>	<u>Date Anticipated When Disclosed to Public</u>
Potential Litigation	Personnel	Certain information at the discretion of the Township Committee tonight...other Information will remain confidential
Department of Public Works.....	Personnel	“ “ “
Department of Public Works..... (Summer Help)	Personnel	“ “ “
Library	Personnel	“ “ “
Professional Services /	Contract Negotiations	“ “ “
Appraisal Consulting Services (388 Readington Realty Holdings LLC vs. Twp of Readington)		
Professional Services / Special Counsel....	Contract Negotiations	“ “ “
(388 Readington Realty Holdings LLC vs. Twp of Readington)		
Block 73, Lots 25 & 23.01 (Beitz)	Contract Negotiations	“ “ “
Sports Proposal	Contract Negotiations	“ “ “
Solid Waste and Recycling Services	Contract Negotiations	“ “ “
Camelot at Readington Urban Renewal .	Contract Negotiations	“ “ “
(Kaplan)		

Potential Litigation (Verano Holdings) ... Contract Negotiations	“	“	“
Executive Session Minutes..... Attorney-Client Privilege..... • March 6, 2023	“	“	“
Executive Session Minutes..... Attorney-Client Privilege..... • February 21, 2023 (Redaction for Release)	“	“	“
Executive Session Minutes..... Attorney-Client Privilege..... • March 6, 2023 (Redaction for Release)	“	“	“
Affordable Housing..... Potential Litigation.....	“	“	“

It is anticipated at this time that the stated subject matter will be made public on or about the time set forth in Exhibit “A.”

2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Heller to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

Mayor Huelsebusch led those present in the *Salute to the Flag*.

Executive Session:

Potential Litigation / Personnel

Mayor Huelsebusch stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Personnel / Department of Public Works

Mayor Huelsebusch stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Personnel / Department of Public Works (Summer Help)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2023-63

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS the Department of Public Works relies on “summer help” to assist with seasonal tasks; and

WHEREAS, Dan Bragger was hired as summer help last year and wishes to return for the 2023 season; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Department of Public Works leadership to employ Dan Bragger at a pay rate of \$16.00 per hour, effective May 15, 2023.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Township Committee of the Township of Readington hereby approves the employment of the above for the summer of 2023.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Mueller to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Panico and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Mueller - Aye
Mr. Panico - Aye
Mayor Huelsebusch - Aye

Personnel / Library

Mayor Huelsebusch stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Professional Services / Special Counsel (388 Readington Realty Holdings LLC vs. Twp of Readington)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2023-64

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR
SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Special Legal Counsel Services as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the term “non-fair and open contract,” for the purposes of the law, refers to a Professional Services Contract awarded to a contractor who has not made a political contribution as described in *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq.* or in *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-8, et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Falanga, Esq (Walsh Pizzi O’Reilly Falanga LLP) has submitted a proposal indicating they will act as Special Legal Counsel for bankruptcy expertise at the following rates:

388 Route 22 Holdings, LLC Readington Realty v. Twp of Readington
\$450 per hour for Principal
\$400 per hour for Partners
\$325 per hour for Associates
\$200 per hour for Paralegals

for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/adopted budget.

WHEREAS, Stephen Falanga, Esq (Walsh Pizzi O’Reilly Falanga LLP) has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Stephen Falanga, Esq (Walsh Pizzi O’Reilly Falanga LLP) has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Readington in the previous one (1) year, and that the contract will prohibit Stephen Falanga, Esq (Walsh Pizzi O’Reilly Falanga LLP) from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer’s Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (*N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2023 budget.

Resolution #R-2023-64 cont'd:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with, Stephen Falanga, Esq (Walsh Pizzi O'Reilly Falanga LLP) as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Mueller to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Heller and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Mueller	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Huelsebusch	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Professional Services / Appraisal Consulting Services (388 Readington Realty Holdings LLC vs. Twp of Readington)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2023-65

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR APPRAISAL / CONSULTING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire appraisal consulting services through a fair and open process pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Newmark Valuation & Advisory has submitted a proposal indicating he will provide appraisal consulting services associated with 388 Readington Realty Holdings, LLC vs. the Township of Readington at a rate of \$175 per hour; and

WHEREAS, Newmark Valuation & Advisory has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Newmark Valuation & Advisory has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Readington in the previous one (1) year, and that the contract will prohibit Newmark Valuation & Advisory from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer's Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (*N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2023 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Newmark Valuation & Advisory as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

Resolution #R-2023-65 cont'd:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service Contract are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Mueller to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Heller and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Mueller	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Huelsebusch	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Block 73, Lots 25 & 23.01 (Beitz)

Mayor Huelsebusch stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Sports Proposal

Mayor Huelsebusch stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Solid Waste and Recycling Services

Mayor Huelsebusch stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Camelot at Readington Urban Renewal (Kaplan Developers)

Mayor Huelsebusch stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Potential Litigation / Verano Holdings LLC

Mayor Huelsebusch stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / March 6, 2023

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Mueller to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 6, 2023, for content only, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / February 21, 2023

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Mueller to approve the release of the Executive Session Minutes of February 21, 2023 as redacted, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / March 6, 2022

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Mueller to approve the release of the Executive Session Minutes of March 6, 2023 as redacted, seconded by Mr. Panico with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Potential Litigation / Affordable Housing

Mayor Huelsebusch stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Huelsebusch read the following statement:

All items listed with an asterisk “” are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a committee member or citizen requests, in which event the item will be removed from the General Order of Business and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.*

Deputy Mayor Mueller requested to remove *item #2* from the Consent Agenda.

1. * **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of meeting of March 6, 2023
2. * ***Environmental Grant Application from American Water***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2023-66

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
AMERICAN WATER ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT**

WHEREAS, American Water is sponsoring an Environmental Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Environmental Commission desires to apply for said grant to test the waters of Rockaway Creek for E Coli Sources; and

WHEREAS, the grant proposal is in the amount of \$10,000.00.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Township Committee of the Township of Readington hereby endorses the aforementioned grant application.

3. * ***Release of Police Escrow / Neary Excavating***
4. * ***Tax Lien Redemption***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP
HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, an interested party has paid to the Tax Collector the amount necessary to redeem the lien on Block 22, Lot 58 and,

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Tax Collector to refund to the lienholder the redemption amount.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee that the Treasurer be authorized to refund the redemption amount of \$41,291.88, known as Tax Sale Certificate #2021-003, to the lienholder, Anthony Malinowski.

5. * **Tax Refund**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

READINGTON TOWNSHIP

HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Tax Collector has recommended the following refunds of property tax payments from 2023:

<u>BLOCK/LOT</u>	<u>REFUND TO</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
34/36.129	Pennymac Loan Servicing	100% Disabled Veteran	\$2,245.25
95/12.384	Rosemary Carvalho	Duplicate Payment	1,162.19

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund the amounts recommended.

7. * **Payment of Bills** – (Complete bill list is on file in Clerk’s Office)

<u>Fund Description</u>	<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>Received Total</u>
GENERAL	2-01	\$ 7,902.33
SEWER UTILITY OP FUND	2-02	\$ 18.59
GENERAL	3-01	\$ 2,304,571.77
SEWER UTILITY OP FUND	3-02	\$ 4,254.86
OTHER TRUST	X-03	\$ 11,715.00
MISC REFUND, COUNTY		
TAX, LIENS	X-05	\$ 152.00
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 178,225.63
2018 CAP IMPROVEMENTS	X-18	\$ 22,854.82
2019 CAP IMPROVEMENTS	X-19	\$ 70,737.25
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$ 2,600,432.25

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Mueller to approve the Consent Agenda (*with the removal of item #2*), seconded by Mr. Panico and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

- Mr. Albanese -Aye
- Mr. Heller - Aye
- Mr. Mueller - Aye
- Mr. Panico - Aye
- Mayor Huelsebusch - Aye

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC for items listed on the agenda only

Christina Albrecht inquired about the bankruptcy attorney listed under Executive Session.

Mara Tippet, Associate Director of Raritan Headwaters Association, thanked the Committee for supporting the lease of Darts Mill house.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

As it was after 7:45 p.m., **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Heller with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS OWING TO OTHERS FOR TAXES LEVIED IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$2,800,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,800,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING THE COST THEREOF

ORDINANCE #05-2023

Mayor Huelsebusch asked if there were any comments from the governing body.

Mr. Panico inquired if this can be delayed until after the 2023 budget is adopted to determine what the expected surplus will be.

Mr. Heller expressed concern about an increase in interest rates if it is delayed.

Deputy Mayor Mueller expressed concern about adding to the debt and agreed that it should be delayed until after the budget is adopted.

Mayor Huelsebusch asked if there were any comments from the public.

There were none.

The Committee concurred that they would return to this public hearing after the two remaining public hearings listed for this evening.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Panico to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Mueller with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Panico to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

BOND ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY AMENDING THE TITLE AND SECTION 3(a) OF BOND ORDINANCE NUMBERED 31-2020, FINALLY ADOPTED NOVEMBER 16, 2020, TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR ASSISTANCE FOR GROUP HOME PURCHASES

ORDINANCE #06-2023

Mayor Huelsebusch asked if there were any comments from the governing body.

There were none.

Mayor Huelsebusch asked if there were any comments from the public.

There were none.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Albanese to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Heller with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

BOND ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY AMENDING THE TITLE AND SECTION 3(a) OF BOND ORDINANCE NUMBERED 31-2020, FINALLY ADOPTED NOVEMBER 16, 2020, TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR ASSISTANCE FOR GROUP HOME PURCHASES

ORDINANCE #06-2023

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Albanese to adopt this ordinance, seconded by Mr. Heller and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Mueller	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Huelsebusch	- Aye

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Mueller to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Panico with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A LEASE ON A PORTION OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 73, LOT 15 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON TO RARITAN HEADWATERS ASSOCIATION, A NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION

ORDINANCE #07-2023

Mayor Huelsebusch asked if there were any comments from the governing body.

Mr. Panico inquired as to the dollar amount that the Township will receive and the cost of utilities.

Mayor Huelsebusch asked if there were any comments from the public.

Karen Mittleman, Board of Health member, expressed concern about a cesspool on the property that was brought up in a 2019 application submitted to the Board of Health.

David Owen stated that the property was inspected by an engineer and they are just waiting on the final report.

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Panico to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Mueller with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A LEASE ON A PORTION OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 73, LOT 15 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON TO RARITAN HEADWATERS ASSOCIATION, A NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION

ORDINANCE #07-2023

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this ordinance, seconded by Mr. Mueller and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Mueller - Aye
Mr. Panico - Aye
Mayor Huelsebusch - Aye

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adjourn the regular meeting to continue the Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS OWING TO OTHERS FOR TAXES LEVIED IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$2,800,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,800,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING THE COST THEREOF

ORDINANCE #05-2023

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese to table this ordinance, seconded by Mr. Panico and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Nay
Mr. Mueller - Aye
Mr. Panico - Aye
Mayor Huelsebusch - Aye

CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION

1. Township of Branchburg Notice of Public Hearing from Duncan Prime, Esq., Prime & Travel, Attorney for Aldi Inc. Central Valley Division, ***Applicant seeking Minor Subdivision and Preliminary and Final Major Site Plan Approval for a Commercial Development.*** No action taken.
2. Letter dated March 14, 2023 from Gregory Bonin, Township Administrator, Township of Branchburg, regarding an ***Ordinance Amending the Land Development Ordinance of the Township of Branchburg, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, Article I "General Provisions", Section 1-2.2 "Definitions", to Modify Existing Definitions and Add New Definitions; Article III "Zoning", Section 3-3.3 "Prohibited Uses", to Add to the List of Prohibited Uses in All Zones; and Section 3-18 "I-I Industrial Zone", Section 3-19 "I-2 Industrial Zone" and Section 3-28 "I-3 Industrial Zone" to Modify Permitted and Accessory Uses in the Township's Industrial Zones, Consistent with the Recently Adopted and Approved Master Plan Reexamination Report and Land Use Element Plan.***

The Committee expressed concerns about traffic. It was noted that Mayor Huelsebusch and Deputy Mayor Mueller have a meeting scheduled with the Branchburg Mayor this month and will bring up the Committee's concerns on the application.

3. Resolution from the Township of Branchburg Planning Board regarding ***Adopting the 2023 Master Plan Reexamination Report and Adopting an Amendment to the Land Use Plan Element of the Master Plan.*** No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ***Special Event Permit Application / New Jersey Festival of Ballooning***

Mr. Mueller stated that there were several complaints last year from neighbors with the flying helicopter tours and requested additional information from the applicant prior to any approval. Municipal Clerk Parker offered to reach out to the applicant to request him to come to the next meeting to answer questions. The matter will be tabled until the April 3rd meeting.

2. ***Special Event Permit Application / Ready Set Go Adventures (Jersey Gravel Grinder Cycling Event)***

The Committee requested more information on the specific route that would be taken. The matter will be tabled until the April 3rd meeting.

3. ***Request Status of Contaminated Sites from Department of Environmental Protection - Memorandum dated March 15, 2023 from Carol Radziewicz, Environmental Commission Secretary***

Mayor Huelsebusch stated that the Environmental Commission has requested consideration from the Township Committee to obtain status reports of all properties classified as Immediate Environmental Concern from the Department of Environmental Protection. Mayor Huelsebusch asked Administrator Sheola to take the lead on this.

4. * ***Environmental Grant Application from American Water***

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

5. * ***Resolution approving the Sale of Police Vehicle to High Bridge Animal Control***

Deputy Mayor Mueller asked about the approximate value of the vehicle.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2023-65

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION***

WHEREAS, the Police Department has a 2010 Crown Victoria that has seen its useful life and no longer needs the vehicle for the intended purpose; and

WHEREAS, High Bridge Animal Control has requested the vehicle for their use for animal control services; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Township Committee approves the sale in the amount of \$1.00 for the 2010 Crown Victoria (Vin #2FABP7BVXBX102230) to High Bridge Animal Control.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Heller and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Mueller	- Nay
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Huelsebusch	- Aye

6. * ***Release of Police Escrow / Neary Excavating***

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Sheola read a statement regarding bank failures and the State Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act (GUDPA) program. Administrator Sheola also reported that the Township had a successful ratings review with Standard & Poor's this week.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Maddox stated that she had nothing further to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JOHN ALBANESE

Mr. Albanese reported that recreation summer camp is almost sold out.

JONATHAN HELLER

Mr. Heller reported that the Raritan Headwaters Stream Cleanup will take place on April 15th, followed by the Tree Giveaway on April 22nd.

JUERGEN HUELSEBUSCH

Mayor Huelsebusch reported that trail maintenance will begin, and volunteer opportunities will be posted on the Township website

ADAM MUELLER

Mr. Mueller reported that work should be continuing on the Mill Road Bridge. Mr. Mueller further reported that Congressman Tom Kean visited and toured the Township last week.

VINCENT PANICO

Mr. Panico reviewed the upcoming Museum events for May and June and stated that the information is available on the Township website.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Theresa Brown Biondo expressed her opposition of the Township's decision to discontinue use of the Readington News.

Betty Ann Fort spoke in opposition of the Township's decision to discontinue use of the Readington News and requested that the Committee consider rescinding the recently approved social media contract to look at other options.

Christina Albrecht inquired about other proposals that were submitted for social media and expressed concern about the additional cost of using an outside contractor versus using someone in house. Ms. Albrecht also stressed the benefit of Readington News to the entire local community

Jerry Cook also expressed his disappointment in the Township's decision to discontinue use of the Readington News.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

Mr. Heller inquired about the adopt a road program.

Mayor Huelsebusch stated that he would provide an update and more information to address the public concern regarding the Readington News.

The Committee returned to Executive session at 9:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Clerk read the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION
EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 *et seq.*, the Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist and desires to authorize the exclusion of the public from the portion of the meeting in accordance with the act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the specified subject matter as set forth in the following Exhibit “A.”

EXHIBIT A

<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Basis Of Public Exclusion</u>	<u>Date Anticipated When Disclosed to Public</u>
Readington Realty Holdings LLC vs..... Township of Readington	Litigation	Certain information at the discretion Township Committee tonight...other Information will remain confidential

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 9:08 p.m.

Litigation / Readington Realty Holdings LLC vs. Township of Readington

Mayor Huelsebusch stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

As there was no further business, A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Mueller at 9:05 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Albanese with vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Submitted by:

Karin M Parker, *RMC*
Municipal Clerk