

MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING MAYOR & COUNCIL 1/11/07

The January 11, 2007 special meeting was called to order by Mayor Hodson at 10:09 a.m. in the Municipal Building, 111 River Styx Road, Hopatcong, N.J.

Mayor Hodson announced this meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-1 et seq., special notice having been forwarded to the New Jersey Herald/New Jersey Sunday Herald, the Daily Record, The Star-Ledger, and posted on the bulletin board maintained in the Municipal Building for public announcements.

Councilmembers present: Richard Bunce, Estelle Klein & Sylvia Petillo.
Others present: Administrator & Acting Clerk Steven Ward.

Mayor Hodson opened the meeting to the public for comment, none was forthcoming.

Assemblywoman Alison Littell McHose, representative of District #24 said that she was present today to listen and provide help in any way she could concerning the Draft Highlands Regional Master Plan.

Mr. Ward explained that a meeting was held on January 2, 2007 with Sussex County representatives and Highland's staff members to discuss the impact of the Draft Highland's Plan. He noted two areas of concern with the present Plan: the classification of certain areas located within the Borough's designated Town Center boundaries as "Preservation Zones" within the Draft Highlands Plan and the designation of the Borough's M-1 (Light Industrial Development) Zone, located on the west-side of Sparta-Stanhope Road as a "Preservation Zone."

Mr. Ward discussed the problem presented by these classifications and how they adversely affect both the sewer project (including future development) and economic development with the M-1 (Light Industrial Development) Zone.

In addition, Hopatcong is seeking additional information regarding the 300' "Protection Zone" as it relates to lakefront homes, and existing recreation complexes both owned by the Borough and the Hopatcong Board of Education. He would like confirmation that the Plan would not impede the ability to develop these areas for active and/or passive recreational purposes.

Finally, the representatives from the Borough expressed their concern with a provision of the Draft Highland's Plan, which hinted that municipalities not opting into the plan would be potentially jeopardizing their eligibility to receive State Aid.

Assemblywoman Littell McHose revealed that although she could not directly change the Draft Master Plan, which she opposes, she could voice her concerns on behalf of the Borough of Hopatcong and assist in securing answers to these concerns/questions as well as try to facilitate a meeting between the Borough and members of the Highland's staff.

The Governing Body thanked the Assemblywoman for her continued support and for attending this meeting.

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Council President Petillo moved to adjourn at 11:06 a.m., seconded by Bunce. Those present voted affirmative. Absent: Armeno, Ryder-Galate & McManus.

Respectfully submitted: