

The April 19, 2010 Special Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Petillo in the Municipal Building, 111 River Styx Road, Hopatcong, NJ.

Mayor Petillo announced this meeting is held in accordance with the 1975 Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6 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.

ROLL CALL - Councilmembers present: Howard Baker, Richard Bunce, Michael Francis, Marie Galate, Madeline McManus & John Young. Others present: Administrator Catherine Steinel & Clerk Lorraine Stark.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Petillo said what we are doing here this evening is to re-hire our Business Administrator Catherine Steinel. Mayor Petillo reported that the resolution is to authorize the Mayor & Borough Clerk to execute a contract. This contract is a four year extension of her current one year contract. Mayor Petillo explained that Mrs. Steinel is holding two positions, which is Administrator & Purchasing Agent. We advertised the salary for a new Administrator as up to \$120,000. Since Catherine is finishing her certification as a Purchasing Agent, and it would cost the Borough at least \$60,000 to hire a qualified individual. We are going to give her a \$5,000 raise for the two positions. Mayor Petillo informed those present that the same requirements for health benefits and 3% raise, which mirrors other employee contracts. In addition, Vernon would like her to continue as their Interim Administrator, and would be signing another contract with them. This time Vernon would be paying Hopatcong approximately \$500 per day; Hopatcong would be getting most of the \$5,000 back from the shared services. Mayor Petillo commented that we are thrilled to get her back. Mrs. Steinel remarked that she was thrilled to be back.

Mayor Petillo informed those present that Catherine would have been paid more at Vernon; "this was not about money but being appreciated". We are very grateful that Catherine is with us, especially with her background working with the budget.

Councilwoman McManus inquired how long Mrs. Steinel would be Vernon's Interim Manager. Mayor Petillo revealed that the details were not worked out, but probably through May. Administrator Steinel said that it would be through May, with some consulting after that. Vernon would owe Hopatcong for the time she spent there in April. Resolution - #175-10 Authorize the Mayor & Borough Clerk to Execute a Contract Renewal with Catherine Steinel, Borough Administrator through 12/31/14, moved by Francis, seconded by Young. Roll Call Vote: **YES** - Francis, Young, Baker, Bunce, Galate & McManus.

Mayor Petillo read a statement that was going to be on the 9/11 memorial. Councilman Baker suggested that the word “etched” be used instead of “sketched”.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Meeting open to public for comments agenda item only. (Comments limited to 5 minutes). Louise Bagby welcomed Mrs. Steinel back, and said that she was confused why they need a special meeting with a meeting coming up on Wednesday. She didn’t understand about the 5 year contract. Mayor Petillo responded that you could call it a 5 year contract or extension. Councilman Bunce remarked that there is an existing contact, which was never voided. We have a shared services agreement with Vernon since Mrs. Steinel is still under contact. Mayor Petillo informed Ms. Bagby that Vernon needed to know what action we were taking so that they would know how to proceed in this matter; they have a meeting tomorrow evening.

Ms. Modes asked why if there is a contract, why we paid Vernon. Mayor Petillo stated that we never paid Vernon; Vernon is going to be paying us. Councilman Bunce moved to closed open comment period, seconded by Galate. The vote was unanimous.

Councilperson Bunce moved to adjourn at 5:40 p.m., seconded by Baker. Those present voted affirmative.