

**MINUTES  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING,  
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG,  
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD  
HOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY  
JUNE 4, 2014  
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7:30 PM**

---

**CALL TO ORDER:** Announce Quorum

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT:** Mayor Petillo stated "This meeting is held in accordance with the 1975 Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6 et seq., annual notice having been forwarded to the New Jersey Herald/New Jersey Sunday Herald, and posted on the bulletin board maintained in the Municipal Building for public announcements." (Mayor noted fire exits)

**ROLL CALL:** The Clerk called the roll and the following members were present: Councilman Bunce, Councilman Francis, Councilwoman Galate, Councilwoman Klein, Councilman Padula, Councilman Young and Mayor Petillo.

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Petillo invited all present to salute the flag and to remain standing for a moment of silence.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Presentation for Karen Adams  
At this time Mayor Petillo recognized Karen, Outstanding Ambassador Award
2. Presentation for John Maine  
At this time Mayor Petillo recognized John, Hopatcong Senior Assistance

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Mayor Petillo allowed each member of the Council, to present their respective committee reports.

Councilwoman Galate reported on the Seniors next meeting will be June 5 at 10am. All seniors are welcome to the Senior Picnic on June 28. The Hopatcong Farmer's Market is scheduled to start again on June 15 from 9am-2pm with many returning vendors and a number of new vendors. Nothing to report for Sussex County League of Municipalities (SCLOM) until September.

Councilman Francis reported on the Farmer's Market starting on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Deer Management Task Force will be meeting in the next two weeks for planning of the next deer hunt for 2014/2015.

Councilman Young reported the success of the Lake Hopatcong Commission Block Party and all those who volunteered and contributed to its success. He reported on the upcoming Hopatcong Days events and the plans for the Town Sign Beautification improvements.

Councilman Bunce reported that activities for Water and Sewer Committee and the Ordinance for Grease Trap introduced at this meeting. Fire Department is busy planning the Parade and Armed Forces Relief donations of \$5,000 to wounded veterans.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mayor Petillo opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments concerning items on the agenda for which no public discussion is provided. (Comments limited to 5 minutes).

After giving all persons present an opportunity to address the Governing Body, Councilwoman Galate made a motion to close the meeting to the public and return to the regular order of business. Seconded by Councilman Bunce. All were in favor.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Councilman Young made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 19, 2014. Seconded by Councilwoman Klein.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Francis, Klein, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Bunce, Galate, Padula

Councilman Bunce made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 2, 2014. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** At this time Robert Elia, Borough Administrator, presented his report for the meeting of June 4, 2014.

Mr. Elia discussed the need for the refinancing of the General Obligation Bonds, recommending the support of the New Webmaster and Announced the retirement and position replacement search for the Tax Collector position.

Mr. Elia also reviewed the Rice Notice process and the Animal Control Officer's decision to have all discussion held in Public Session. Mr. Elia reviewed the documentation requested and gathered for over a year of the functions of the Animal Control and Pound Project. Mayor Petillo read a letter from Mr. Elia and Chief Robert Brennan of the results of the one year study.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Mayor Petillo** opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments concerning the good and welfare of the Borough. (Comments limited to 5 minutes).

Jan Sloat, 320 Hudson Avenue, recommended that the Administration reconsider the Financial consideration regarding community service of the Animal Control Officer position. She discussed the extra call out hours when the ACO received calls on his cell phone and he responded immediately to residents requests. She described his unrecognized efforts of using his personal vehicle and not taking or condensing his lunch hours/breaks without compensation.

Kaitlin Tallaksen, 70 Elba Avenue, described a dog attack situation she experienced and the immediate response time of the ACO and the warm hearted, compassionate treatment she received from Dale Sloat. She stated her concern of response time should we go to a call out ACO instead of a full-time ACO,

Diane Blanos, 321 Hudson Avenue, stated that she lives across from Dale and his wife and has heard many wonderful stories of 34 years and wants Dale to speak up and to Fight for Himself.

Christine Dudzlec, 309 Elmira Trail, described a situation when she had a raccoon on her porch all day and Dale Sloat gave her his personal cell phone number to call to catch the raccoon for her. She stated that when she worked at the pound the ACO was the nicest, decent worker she knew. She stated her concern that if Dale was not there who would handle the feral cats and transfer them into cages.

Mickel Murray, 29 Beverly Rd, shared her story of adopting a pet from Pet Finder and remembered seeing Dale with his big white dog on the website. Dale went above and beyond by transporting her 2 cats and dog to get their rabies vaccine when she was unable to bring them to the free rabies clinic. She stated that Dale is a true hero and she is concerned that it would take ½ an hour to respond to a run away dog versus with Dale the response time would have been 5 minutes.

Victoria Nadler, 32 Hudson Avenue, stated that she feels like the administrations decision is a foregone conclusion and stated that she knows that others towns who have call out ACOs are not efficient.

Liz Philipkowski, 19a Williams Trail, shared her story of her dog who had medical issues and had a seizure and bit her husband who had a very bad infection from the bite. The bite was reported to the Police and her husband went to Urgent Care. The dog could not be quarantined and the dog was put down before rabies testing could be done. The dog was decapitated and it took 2 weeks for the on Call ACO to send it down to the

state. The On-call ACO would not respond to her calls and feels that if we had a full time ACO, residents would be treated with respect and animals with dignity.

Mara Modes, 3 Ithanell Road, stated the importance of a ACO to the education of the citizens and trapping of the while life. She has known that Dale has assisted many seniors and that Dale knows the people and the dogs by sight and/or description. He responds before police and is an ambassador of the town being featured in the newspapers.

Arlene Trumpore Cramer, 42 Wildwood Shores, shared a story of the former ACO, prior to Dale, who, when asked to come help with a raccoon on the steps, stated to just step over it. She shared a story of Dale being called out to a home regarding an injured deer stuck in the fence AND Dale amputated the deer's hooves to save it from the fence. When the police responded to a call when Dale was out the police department shot the deer instead of helping it. Dale was responded to calls to help the residents to medicate their sick cats when she could not administer the medication herself.

Diane Montella, 14 Bucknell Trail, shared her story of calling Dales cell phone for everything ranging from Feral Cats to lost dogs. Dale showed up within minutes. She worked in Newton and the shared services ACO from Wantage, who works 4 other towns, does not have a response time like Dale. She stated that maybe the reports numbers which represented the ACO activities did not include the calls that went to his cell phone and the time he spent on calls that did not go through the police number. She stated that she believes that Dale should be allowed to retire and not be forced out.

Georgia Schilling, 88 Ithanell Road, stated that in her experience with Dale he was professional and committed to his job.

Beth Longo, 33 Lebanon Trail, stated that she met with Mr. Elia this morning and shared her concerns directly with him. She stated that she worked at the pound left. In her experience, Dale tried to have the former pound project people removed from the job because of the conditions and his managers would not help him but he took the blame for the horrible conditions. She state that the pound is now all cats because the current manager does not like dogs. Dale has been called out in the middle of the night to help with animals and his response time is immediate. With an On Call ACO or Call Out ACO she feels that the response time would not be the same as with Dale.

Ken Trumpore, 201 Maxim Drive, stated that the testimony he heard this evening shows that everyone knows and loves Dale and that it is not just a monetary decision for the citizens of the town.

Carol Trumpore, 2901 Maxim Drive, stated that she was shocked at the report and that she did not know that Dale did not run the Pound during the conditions last year. The Report does not list the actual response time of the ACO. She would prefer to see true data and the need to different guidelines and structure of actual response time of a full time ACO and an On Call ACO.

Robin Callandriello, 166 Hudson Avenue, shared her story of Dale helping her with her dog after it had surgery and the stitches opened up. Dale carried the dog up the steep property to the car to be transported to the animal hospital. She stated that she call the Police and then called Dale. Dale responded within less than a minute. She stated the Dale does not only help the animals, he helps the owners and helps them manage through their grief.

Dawn Tallaksen, 70 Elba Avenue, stated that whenever her dog got out Dale was always there to bring her dog home. Her concern is the response time from call to respond between the full time ACO and a call out ACO. She stated that residents would not call 911 for an animal control issue because they do not consider it an emergency. She calls 973-770-1200 and goes to the prompts for Animal Control.

Jan Sloat, 320 Hudson Avenue, stated the there is a State Law Requirement for Response Time and that ACOs have to respond within 1 hour. She does not feel that an On Call ACO can do that if shared with another town. She also stated that the other functions of the ACO will still need to be addressed such as patrol for the care and well-being of the animals in the extreme winter months and the heat of the summer.

Mary Ellen Broadwell, 420 Brooklyn Mountain Road, said that she has lived in Hopatcong for 20 years and she states that Hopatcong is Hopatcong, not like Vernon or Sparta.

After giving all persons present an opportunity to address the Governing Body, at 950pm Councilwoman Galate made a motion to close the meeting to the public and return to the regular order of business. Seconded by Councilman Bunce. All were in favor.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Petillo requested that all persons present review the consent agenda. If any member of the Council or public wishes an item on the consent agenda to be discussed and considered separately, a motion to this effect shall so be made at this time.

After all persons have had an opportunity to review the consent agenda and offer requests for changes, Councilman Bunce made a motion to approve the consent agenda of June 4, 2014. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

**CORRESPONDENCE** (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

**REPORTS** (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

Construction Report – April 2014  
Tax Collector Report – April 2014

**APPLICATIONS** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

Fireman's Application – Robert E. Vasquez, FH#2  
Social Affairs – Patriots Path BSA – June 24, 2014, Hudson Farm Club  
Social Affairs – Stillwater Area Volunteer Fire Company, July 13, 2014, Hudson Farm Club  
Social Affairs – St. Jude's Pastor Installation, July 13, 2014 St. Jude's Parish Center  
Social Affairs – Good Shepherd Sustainable Learning Foundation, July 26, 2014 Hudson Farm Club

**RESOLUTIONS:** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING)

1. Resolution #2014-134 – Outside Lien Redemption - Moradi
2. Resolution #2014-135 – Outside Lien Redemption – Silva
3. Resolution #2014-136 – Outside Lien Redemption – BV001
4. Resolution #2014-139 – Overpayment – Sewer Payment - Silva

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

Introduction Ordinance #12-2014 – Appropriate \$10,000 from Municipal Open Space/Recreation Trust

Councilman Bunce made a motion to introduce an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE \$10,000 FROM MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE/RECREATION TRUST FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS". Seconded by Councilwoman Galate.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**FINAL READING: JUNE 18, 2014**

Introduction Ordinance #13-2014 – Auction of Municipal Property, Block 11112, Lot 11, 110 West End Avenue.

Councilman Young made a motion to introduce an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE BOROUGH AND NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES AND MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 110 WEST END AVENUE, BLOCK 11112, LOT 11". Seconded by Councilwoman Galate.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**FINAL READING: JUNE 18, 2014**

Introduction Ordinance #14-2014 – Auction of Municipal Property, Block 11114, Lot 18, 113 Metro Trails.

Councilman Young made a motion to introduce an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE BOROUGH AND NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES AND MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 13 METRO TRAIL, BLOCK 11114, LOT 18”. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**FINAL READING: JUNE 18, 2014**

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:**

Ordinance #09-2014 – Amending Certain Zoning Map Block, Lots

Councilman Bunce made a motion NOT TO PASS an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING AMENDING THE ZONING MAP FOR BLOCK 10701 LOTS 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, and 10 and BLOCK 10601 LOTS 8, 14, 15 and 18 TO BE INCLUDED IN THE B-1 ZONE” which should have been reflected as a B-2 Zone. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution #2014-138 – Promote the Preservation, Growth and Development of the New Jersey Military Facilities

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the payment of bills for the meeting of May 21, 2014. Seconded by Councilwoman Galate.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2014-140 – Website Services

Councilwoman Galate made a motion to adopt a resolution entering into a contract with Larry Stewart to provide website services. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2014-141 – Renewal of Certain 2014-2015 Liquor Licenses

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the renewal of certain 2014-2015 Liquor Licenses (Hudson Farm Club Inc., Garden State Yacht Club, Anchor's Away, Ram Daya Corporation, BBT Management Inc., Pilinci Group Inc., R BON Inc.) Seconded by Councilwoman Galate.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2014-142 – Application to the Local Finance Board for the NJEIT Financing

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorize the making of an application to the Local Finance Board for the issuance of General Obligation bonds or Bond anticipated notes to the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust Financing Program. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

#### Resolution #2014-143 – Payment of Bills

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the payment of bills for the meeting of June 4, 2014, excluding check numbers 34326, 34337, 34344 and 34351. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Councilman Bunce made a motion to authorize the payment of check numbers 34326, 34337, 34344 and 34351. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Padula

#### **ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:**

##### Ordinance #11-2014 – Amending Section 186-4 regarding Grease Traps

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 186-4 REGARDING GREASE TRAPS”. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Before final roll call, Mayor Petillo opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments regarding Ordinance #11-2014.

There being no one from the public who wished to address the Governing Body regarding Ordinance #11-2014, Councilman Bunce made a motion to close the meeting to the public and return to the regular order of business. Seconded by Councilwoman Galate. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **APPOINTMENTS – BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**Mayor Petillo** shall offer the following names for appointment to the various Boards and Commissions:

##### **1. Board of Health (Three Year Terms)**

Full Member	Michael Francis	exp. 12/31/16
Full Member	Mayor Sylvia Petillo	exp. 12/31/16
Full Member	Marie Galate	exp. 12/31/15
Full Member	James Vanderhoof	exp. 12/31/14
Full Member	Frank Padula (formerly Hoer)	exp. 12/31/14
Full Member	Richard Bunce	exp. 12/31/15
Full Member	John Young	exp. 12/31/14

##### **2. MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS – COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Real Estate	Francis, Galate, Elia, Young
Finance	Bunce, Francis
Police	Francis, Galate, Padula
Fire	Bunce, Francis, Galate
EMS	Bunce, Francis, Galate
OEM	Francis, Galate, Young
DPW and Grounds	Bunce, Padula, Young,
Water/Sewer	Bunce, Padula, Young
SWAC/PAC	Baker
Open Space	Young
Environmental	Klein, Young
Recreation	Klein, Young
Land Use Board	Francis
Farmer's Market	Francis, Galate
Senior Citizens	Galate
Energy Audit	Francis, Galate
Sussex County League of Mun.	Galate
Municipal Alliance	Petillo
School Liaison	Francis

### 3. Comprehensive Scope of Work for the development of a Hopatcong Center Plan Review and Approval

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

**Mayor Petillo** opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments concerning the good and welfare of the Borough. (Comments limited to 5 minutes).

After giving all persons present an opportunity to address the Governing Body, Councilwoman Galate made a motion to close the meeting to the public and return to the regular order of business. Seconded by Councilman Bunce. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Councilman Bunce to direct the Administrator to prepare a plan for Civil Service regarding the Animal Control Officer Report of Results. Seconded by Councilwoman Galate.

Upon roll call vote:  
Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Padula  
Nays: Klein Absent: None Abstentions: Young

#### COUNCIL COMMENTS:

#### ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adjourn the meeting of June 4, 2014. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.