

**VOORHEES TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2016  
REGULAR MEETING 8:00 PM**

**FLAG SALUTE**

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Friedman, Mr. Platt, Mr. Ravitz, Ms. Nocito, Deputy Mayor Ravitz, Mayor Mignogna, Lawrence Spellman, Township Administrator, Mr. Long, Township Solicitor, Doug Johnson, Engineer, Louis Bordi, Police Chief

**SUNSHINE STATEMENT**

Mr. Long states that this meeting is being held in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" and has been duly noticed and published as required in the Courier Post and Inquirer Newspaper.

**SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE**

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VOORHEES, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING, REVISING AND/OR SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 152 OF THE UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE, ENTITLED "ZONING DISTRICTS"

MOTION TO CLOSE	MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. FRIEDMAN	
PUBLIC PORTION: MR. PLATT	SECONDED: MR. RAVITZ	
SECONDED: MR. FRIEDMAN	ROLL CALL: FRIEDMAN Y	RAVITZ Y
AYES: ALL	PLATT Y	NOCITO Y
NAYS: NONE	MIGNOGNA Y	

**PUBLIC COMMENT FOR RESOLUTIONS ONLY**

Howard Long addressed Township Committee with a request that he received from our sewer engineer, Churchill Engineers, regarding the waiver of a performance guaranty for the sewer pump station construction as part of phase one of their construction project. He added that it has been reviewed and approved by Churchill.

Robert Baronowski  
Attorney, Khmer Buddhist Association

Mr. Baronowski, attorney for the Khmer Buddhist Association, advised Township Committee that his client is beginning construction of the approved temple and that all of the approvals, performance guarantees and escrows are in place. He added that they recently discovered at the pre-construction meeting that the existing sewer is failing and that the new sewer improvements need to be completed during phase one construction, as opposed to phase two. These improvements are not part of existing performance guaranty for phase 1 and a brief amendment of developers agreement would be required.

Mr. Long stated that the resolution requesting the waiver would appear later in the agenda for vote.

MOTION TO CLOSE	AYES: ALL
THE PUBLIC PORTION: MR. LONG	NAYS: NONE
SECONDED:	MR. FRIEDMAN

RESOLUTION NO. 190-16                      TAX COLLECTOR

MOTION TO APPROVE:	MS. NOCITO
SECONDED:	MR. PLATT
AYES:	ALL
NAYS:	NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 191-16                      TAX ASSESSOR

MOTION TO APPROVE:	MS. NOCITO
SECONDED:	MR. PLATT
AYES:	ALL
NAYS:	NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 192-16                      SUPPLEMENTING THE LIST OF STATE CONTRACT VENDORS

MOTION TO APPROVE:	MR. PLATT
SECONDED:	MR. FRIENDMAN
AYES:	ALL
NAYS:	NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 193-16                      INSERTING AN ITEM OF REVENUE INTO THE 2016 BUDGET (\$5,000.00 NJ DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER)

MOTION TO APPROVE: MS. NOCITO  
SECONDED: MR. PLATT  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 194-16                      INSERTING AN ITEM OF REVENUE INTO THE 2016  
BUDGET (\$38,100.00 CAMDEN COUNTY COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM)

MOTION TO APPROVE: MS. NOCITO  
SECONDED: MR. PLATT  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 195-16                      AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERLOCAL  
SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN VOORHEES  
TOWNSHIP AND THE BOROUGH OF GIBBSBORO FOR  
LEAF COLLECTION

MOTION TO APPROVE: MS. NOCITO  
SECONDED: MR. PLATT  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 196-16                      ACCEPTING A RETIREMENT FOR LEA SCHAEFFER  
AND JOHN FALKENSTEIN

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. RAVITZ  
SECONDED: MS. NOCITO  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 197-16                      APPOINTING JON ANDREWS AS SYSTEMS ANALYST

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. RAVITZ  
SECONDED: MS. NOCITO  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 198-16                      AFFIRMING THE TOWNSHIP OF VOORHEES' CIVIL  
RIGHTS POLICY

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. RAVITZ  
SECONDED: MS. NOCITO  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 199-16                      ADOPTING PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. RAVITZ  
SECONDED: MR. FRIEDMAN  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 200-16                      APPROVING THE CONTRACT FOR THE VOORHEES  
TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION,  
SUPERVISORS BARGAINING UNIT

MOTION TO TABLE: MR. RAVITZ  
SECONDED: MR. FRIEDMAN  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 201-16                      WAIVER OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR SEWER  
IMPROVEMENTS FOR MUSLIM AMERICAN  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. RAVITZ  
SECONDED: MS. NOCITO  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

Mr. Long stated that Township Committee will be going into Executive Session for about 30 minutes and action may be taken when we return. We will be discussing terms and conditions of employment in respect to the Fire District, contract negotiations and employment and appointment of public officers with respect with Fire District personnel.

MOTION TO APPROVE: MS. NOCITO  
 SECONDED: MR. RAVITZ  
 AYES: ALL  
 NAYS: NONE

MINUTES FROM AUGUST 8, 2016  
 MINUTES FROM AUGUST 15, 2016  
 REGISTRAR'S REPORT FOR JULY 2016  
 TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JULY 2016  
 BILLS POSTED FOR AUGUST 22, 2016  
 BILLS POSTED FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. RAVITZ  
 SECONDED: MS. NOCITO  
 AYES: ALL  
 NAYS: NONE

#### COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE

Mayor Mignogna reminded the public that the Annual Movie in the Park would be on Saturday and we'll be showing Inside Out.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Harold Cohen  
 53 Oak Ridge Drive

Mr. Cohen spoke on behalf of himself and his neighbors in regards to an issue they are experiencing with their electricity. According to Mr. Cohen, he stated that during storms they consistently lose power and are usually the last homes to have power returned. Mr. Cohen respectfully requested the Township Committee to speak to the utility companies to correct the issues that residents are experiencing, as he finds this to be the most effective way to begin the process to correct this problem.

Mr. Platt stated the he has consulted with Mr. Spellman regarding the issue Mr. Cohen's neighborhood as well as other neighborhoods. He stated that he is aware of infrastructure updates that the power companies have been initiating and trimming trees along the exposed lines. Mayor Mignogna stated Mr. Spellman will reach out to the utility companies and will contact Mr. Cohen with feedback.

Keith Kemery  
 President for International Association of Firefighters 3249  
 26 Poplar Street, Sicklerville, NJ

Mr. Kemery appeared before Township Committee as the elected representative of the full time firefighters and EMT's and notified of a vote taken of no confidence by the full time employees of the Fire Department. Copies of the resolution were distributed to Township Committee. Mr. Kemery added that the basis for the action was due to the consistent failure by the Board of Commissioners and the Deputy Fire Chief to properly manage the fire district. He added that the Board of Commissioners and Deputy Chief have failed to address numerous issues that are negatively impacting emergency service and protection to the residents, business communities and visitors to Voorhees Township. Specific failures include what was reflected in the 2015 audit of the district, where they failed to maintain a fully operational and balanced general ledger accounting system and failed to maintain a set of controls over reporting of purchasing obligations as incurred, which is a violation of NJ law, which resulted in \$651,692.72 in liabilities not being properly recorded by the district and the over expenditure of a budget line item of \$129,007.71, which information comes directly from the audit. The audit also indicates that the district failed to make timely payroll deductions and remittances, to which public pension payments are included. This resulted in members being listed as members not in good standing in the pension system. He added that the district consistently fails to implement a business plan, which would include staffing schedules and other issues covered in a business plan that are agreeable by the firefighters and EMT's. The plan implemented by the Board of Fire Commissioners is not one that would provide optimal safety to the residents, firefighters, EMT's and visitors of Voorhees Township.

The district also has failed to maintain a business plan that would provide for adequate fire training, vehicle maintenance, employment contracts and equipment procurement.

Mr. Kemery thanked Township Committee for their time and knows that they are concerned with the current state of the fire district. He added that he will remaining in the courtroom until the completion of the executive session.

Mr. Ravitz stated that he was present for the Commissioner meeting and felt the events were appalling and government business should not be handled the way it was. He asked Mr. Kemery if he feels the members of the department are safe with the equipment they use when responding to calls? Mr. Kemery stated that there are concerns with some of the equipment, specifically the aerial apparatus equipment, which is currently being purchased from the lease agreement. Also concerned with the condition and age of uniforms and turn out gear.

Mr. Kemery stated that Deputy Chief Wharton is the highest ranking officer currently. Mr. Ravitz asked if the members of the Board of Commissioners have any practical firefighting experience? Mr. Kemery stated not that he was aware of. Mr. Vandegrift was a career firefighter then was elected to a position on the fire commissioner board.

Mrs. Nocito stated that if the items brought forward tonight by Mr. Kemery are accurate, she thanked the fire district personnel in the audience for continuing to provide the best service they can under these conditions.

Mr. Kemery thanked Township Committee for listening to his concerns on behalf of the fire district personnel. He asked for the help of the Township Committee and stated that he appreciates them taking the steps they are taking.

Mayor Mignogna stated that we have concerns for our residents and our firefighters and we have an obligation to make sure that tax dollars are spent wisely and appropriately. We appreciate you and your colleagues coming forward and we are moving forward with an investigation.

Mark Lafferty  
2906 Hamilton Drive

Mr. Lafferty introduced himself as a 43 year resident and retired firefighter. Mr. Lafferty expressed his concern for the state of the Voorhees Fire Department and was appalled with the behavior of the Commissioners at the most recent meeting. Mr. Lafferty further stated his fears of the lack of leadership in the department. He informed the committee that he approached the Fire Commission about the need for personal protective equipment, including the urgent need to replace this essential equipment and was not given an answer by the Commission. Mr. Lafferty discussed with the Township Committee various seemingly deceptive statements that have been made by the Fire Department administration in regards to different programs they claim to have initiated. Mr. Lafferty pleaded with the Township Committee to become more involved with the Fire Department.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. PLATT  
SECONDED: MR. FRIEDMAN  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

MOTION TO COME OUT  
OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: MR. PLATT  
SECONDED: MR. FRIEDMAN  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

Mr. Long stated that we were in executive session for about an hour. The issue discussed was related to the fire district and no formal action was taken in executive session. He added the government body is not in any position to take any action against the district at this time due to a lack of information. We appreciate the information presented earlier but there are some steps that need to be taken by Township Committee before we can move further.

RESOLUTION NO. 203-16 AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR  
FINANCIAL SERVICES KOERNER & KOERNER, P.A.

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. PLATT  
SECONDED: MR. RAVITZ  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

ROLL CALL: MR. FRIEDMAN: YES MR. PLATT: YES  
MR. RAVITZ: YES MS. NOCITO: YES  
MAYOR MIGNOGNA: YES

RESOLUTION NO. 204-16

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR  
PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES TO THOMAS BOYD

MOTION TO APPROVE: MR. RAVITZ  
SECONDED: MS. NOCITO  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE

ROLL CALL: MR. FRIEDMAN: YES MR. PLATT: YES  
MR. RAVITZ: YES MS. NOCITO: YES  
MAYOR MIGNOGNA: YES

Mr. Long stated that it would be appropriate to open to the public at this time. No one spoke.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN: MR. PLATT  
SECONDED: MR. FRIEDMAN  
AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE