

**TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE
ESSEX COUNTY NEW JERSEY**

PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

MARCH 2, 2015

1. ROLL CALL, INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Longo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councilman O'Toole, Tanella, Zunic, Deputy Mayor Chiusolo, Mayor Longo
Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Attorney Zielinski for Township Attorney Scrivo, and Township Clerk Stutz

The invocation was given by Deputy Mayor Chiusolo followed by the flag salute led by Mayor Longo.

Mayor Longo made the required announcement concerning the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Adequate notice of this meeting was duly provided to the Verona-Cedar Grove Times and the Star Ledger on January 1, 2015, filed with the Township Clerk, and posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building Lobby in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(a) To consider approval of regular public meeting minutes of February 2, 2015

Councilman Tanella moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Deputy Mayor Chiusolo, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman O'Toole, Tanella, Zunic, Deputy Mayor Chiusolo, Mayor Longo

NO: None

3. MEETING OPEN TO RESIDENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP WISHING TO BE HEARD ON ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Longo opened this portion of the meeting to anyone wishing to be heard on any item on the agenda. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Mayor Longo closed this portion of the meeting.

4. REPORTS OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

(a) Township Manager – The Manager commended the Downtown Beautification Committee members for their efforts. The Manager noted that the Committee consists of a small number of volunteers and does seasonal plantings in several Township plots as well as the business district. The Manager announced that a special public meeting will be conducted on Monday, March 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. for introduction of the 2015 municipal budget

and the previously scheduled staff meeting will immediately follow. The Manager requested an executive session to discuss acquisition of property.

- (b) Township Clerk – The Clerk advised that a letter of resignation was received from a Planning Board member creating a vacancy. The Clerk also noted a vacancy on the Library Board of Trustees because of the recent passing of a member. There was consensus to advertise the Planning Board vacancy. The Clerk also noted a request for presentation of a proclamation for Autism Awareness, to which the governing body agreed.
- (c) Township Attorney – Attorney Zielinski requested authorization of a proposed tax appeal settlement for 89 Commerce Rd., to which the governing body agreed. Attorney Zielinski also noted the summary of 2014 tax appeals provided for informational purposes.
- (d) Other Reports

Councilman O’Toole reported the posthumous award of medal of honor to Korean War veteran Pvt. Rivera for actions on May 22, 1951. Councilman O’Toole announced his decision to decline to seek re-election.

Deputy Mayor Chiusolo commented that he is saddened by Councilman O’Toole’s decision. Deputy Mayor stated that Councilman O’Toole has served with the utmost dignity.

Mayor Longo thanked Councilman O’Toole for his dedicated service to the Township and its residents.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle application – CG Elks

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

WHEREAS, application for raffle license has been received from:

APPLICANTS

EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE

Cedar Grove Elks Lodge #2237
405 Bowden Road
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

Instant Raffle for 2015
to be held at 405 Bowden Rd.,
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

WHEREAS, the fees have been paid, and the application has been reviewed by the Township Clerk and found acceptable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that it does hereby approve said application.

Deputy Mayor Chiusolo moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zunic, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman O’Toole, Tanella, Zunic, Deputy Mayor Chiusolo, Mayor Longo

NO: None

- (b) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle application – St. Catherine of Siena Church

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

WHEREAS, applications for raffle license applications have been received from:

APPLICANTS

EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE

St. Catherine of Siena Church
339 Pompton Ave.
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

On Premise 50/50 raffle, at 6:00–10:00PM
on May 28, 29, 30, 2015 and May 31, 2015, at
4:00 to 8:00 pm to be held at 339 Pompton
Ave., Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

St. Catherine of Siena Church
339 Pompton Ave.
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

Non-Draw Wheels, at 6:00 – 10:00 PM
on May 28, 29, 30, 2015 and May 31, 2014
at 4:00 to 8:00 pm to be held at 339 Pompton Ave.,
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

WHEREAS, the fees have been paid, and the applications have been reviewed by the Township Clerk and found acceptable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that it does hereby approve said applications.

Councilman O’Toole moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zunic, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman O’Toole, Tanella, Zunic, Deputy Mayor Chiusolo, Mayor Longo

NO: None

6. NEW BUSINESS

- (a) To consider resolution concerning 2015 Pool Fees

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

WHEREAS, the Township Council did adopt an ordinance on May 20, 1963 providing for the establishment of fees for the Cedar Grove Municipal Swimming Pool; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following fees be established for the Cedar Grove Municipal Swimming Pool for the 2015 season as follows:

	Prior To <u>May 1, 2015</u>	Effective <u>May 1, 2015</u>
Resident Family	\$525.00	\$554.00
Resident Individual	\$375.00	\$405.00
Resident Married Couple/Civil Union no Children	\$447.00	\$470.00
Resident Senior Citizen	\$180.00	\$210.00
Resident Senior Citizen- Non Swim	\$ 55.00	\$ 55.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that non-resident memberships will be limited to one hundred (100). The following non-resident fees are established for 2015:

Non-Resident Family	\$1003.00
Non-Resident Individual	\$ 560.00
Non-Resident Senior Citizen	\$ 364.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in addition, senior citizens who qualify for the State Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Aged Program (PAA) will be entitled to a reduced senior citizen rate of \$95.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Guest Fee for 2015 will be \$14.00 per day.

Deputy Mayor Chiusolo moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zunic, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman O'Toole, Tanella, Zunic, Deputy Mayor Chiusolo, Mayor Longo

NO: None

- (b) To consider resolution concerning submission of 2015-2016 Municipal Alliance Grant application

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Essex;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Cedar Grove Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2015-2016 in the amount of:

DEDR	22,852.00
Cash Match	5,713.00
In-Kind	17,139.00

2. The Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Deputy Mayor Chiusolo moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman O’Toole, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman O’Toole, Tanella, Zunic, Deputy Mayor Chiusolo, Mayor Longo

NO: None

(c) To consider resolution concerning reduction of developer agreement escrow- Eduardo Esposito

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

In the Matter of:

Eduardo Esposito

Block 330, Lots 76 and 76.02

WHEREAS, Eduardo Esposito entered into a Developer’s Agreement with the Township of Cedar Grove as of July 8, 2014 for the property known as Block 330, Lots 76 and 76.02; and

WHEREAS, the developer posted a performance guarantee by check in the amount \$66,473.00 on July 18, 2014 as part of the required performance guarantee; and

WHEREAS, the developer has requested a reduction of the performance guarantee posted in accordance with said Developer’s Agreement; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-53 provides that the governing body may approve a reduction of the performance guarantee upon the recommendation of the municipal engineer; and

WHEREAS, the municipality’s municipal engineer has reviewed the improvements required to be installed in accordance with said Agreement; and

WHEREAS, it has been recommended that the performance guarantee be reduced by \$45,660.50 as requested by the developer.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that it does hereby authorize the reduction of performance guarantee from \$66,473.00 to \$20,812.50.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council authorizes the release of \$45,660.50 of said performance guarantee to the developer.

Councilman Zunic moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman O’Toole, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman O’Toole, Tanella, Zunic, Deputy Mayor Chiusolo, Mayor Longo

NO: None

(d) To consider resolution concerning transfer of appropriations

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59 permits certain transfers of appropriations during the first three months of the succeeding year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, that the following transfers of appropriations listed herein in the 2014 Municipal Budget be approved:

CURRENT FUND MUNICIPAL BUDGET

To:

Utility Expenses and Bulk Purchases:

 Utilities \$12,000.00

Equipment Maintenance:

 Other Expenses 1,000.00

Parks and Playgrounds:

 Other Expenses 2,000.00

\$15,000.00

From:

Senior Citizen Transportation:

 Salaries and Wages \$15,000.00

Councilman O’Toole moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Deputy Mayor Chiusolo, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman O’Toole, Tanella, Zunic, Deputy Mayor Chiusolo, Mayor Longo

NO: None

7. APPROVAL OF BILLS

The Bill Resolution was read by title and amount as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, that the attached summary of bills having been duly audited and found correct be and they are thereby ordered paid and that warrants be drawn on the Treasurer in the aggregate amount of \$683,739.76

Deputy Mayor Chiusolo moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman O’Toole, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman O’Toole, Tanella, Zunic, Deputy Mayor Chiusolo, Mayor Longo

NO: None

8. MEETING OPEN TO RESIDENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP WISHING TO BE HEARD ON ANY ITEM ON OR OFF THE AGENDA CONCERNING TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

Ronald Mega; 82 Hillsdale Rd., - Mr. Mega, as Secretary to the Library Board of Trustees, recounted the Library Board's actions regarding the Library Director's salary increase. Deputy Mayor Chiusolo addressed Mr. Mega's comments that initiated a lengthy discussion and explanation regarding dissemination and accuracy of information pertaining to the Library Director's salary increase and subsequent resignation.

Anthony D'Addozio; 61 Young Ave. – Mr. D'Addozio, President of Library Board of Trustees, voiced his disapproval of governing body discussion of the Library Director's salary increase.

The Township Manager stated that he was saddened by the Library Director's decision to resign and provided additional explanation of communications regarding the Director's salary increase.

Michael Picardi; 23 Ridge Court – Mr. Picardi referred to several news articles regarding the Library Director salary issue and questioned the accuracy of the reporting.

Michael Maffucci; 38 Briarhill Rd. – Mr. Maffucci commended the DPW employees for road maintenance efforts during continual snowstorms.

AUTHORIZATION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings' Act (N.J.S.A.10:4-12 (b) (1-9) permits the exclusion of the public from a Meeting of the Mayor and Council in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove are of the opinion that such circumstances exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey that:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of any action on the Executive Session of the Meeting of the Mayor and Council of March 2, 2015.
2. The general nature of the subject matters to be discussed is acquisition of property.
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public as soon thereafter as it is deemed in the public interest to do so.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Deputy Mayor Chiusolo moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman O'Toole, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman O'Toole, Tanella, Zunic, Deputy Mayor Chiusolo, Mayor Longo

NO: None

9. ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor Chiusolo moved adjournment of the public council meeting, seconded by Councilman O'Toole, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman O'Toole, Tanella, Zunic, Deputy Mayor Chiusolo, Mayor Longo

NO: None

The public meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

E. ROMEO LONGO MAYOR

ATTEST:

KATHLEEN R. STUTZ MUNICIPAL CLERK