

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

PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

1. ROLL CALL, INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

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

Present: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Maffucci, Tanella, Mayor Chiusolo

Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Township Attorney Zielinski, and Township Clerk Stutz

The invocation was given by Rev. David Snyder of Community Church followed by the flag salute by Mayor Chiusolo.

Mayor Chiusolo 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. EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

(a) Receive County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo

Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo advised that Essex County and K. Hovnanian closed on Parcel 5 of the Hilltop property; K. Hovnanian owns Parcel 5, Essex County owns Parcel 1. County Exec DiVincenzo stated that K. Hovnanian intends to fence the perimeter of Parcel 5 shortly. County Exec DiVincenzo and County Architech Mike McClellan of the firm CME, presented a conceptual plan for the 77-acre park. County Exec DiVincenzo stated that he procured a \$5 million Green Acres grant from the State, which the County will match. The property will now have a deed restriction preserving it as open space. Mr. McClellan described the components; linear passive park 3,000 linear feet x 400' deep on the west side of Fairview Ave. with multiple pathways and a decorative lighted walkway approximately 1-1/2 miles in length, a comfort station, picnic grove, and parking with approximately 50 spaces. Mr. McClellan stated that the portion of the property on east side of Fairview Ave. contains a proposed senior/community center building with approximately 100 parking spaces, 4 bocci courts behind the building, multi-age group playground, and a youth size multi-purpose turf field (i.e. soccer/lacrosse/football) with lights and approximately 50 parking spaces. County Exec DiVincenzo stated that the County has issued an RFP for design services, and anticipates construction to start in mid-June of 2016 and be completed the end of 2016. County Exec DiVincenzo addressed Mayor Chiusolo's inquiry regarding maintenance responsibility and the use of senior community center. County Exec DiVincenzo stated that the County bears the responsibility for maintenance and use of the facilities will be co-ordinated between the Township and County. Deputy Mayor Tanella thanked the County Exec for the expedited development of proposed park and his efforts to bring his commitment to provide a County park in Cedar Grove to reality.

Mayor Chiusolo opened this portion of the meeting to anyone wishing to be heard on this item only.

Robbie Vargo; 102 Union St. – Mr. Vargo voiced his approval of the proposed plan.

Robert O'Toole; 3 Old Orchard Court – Mr. O'Toole also thanked the County Executive for honoring his commitment to provide a County park on the Hilltop property.

There being no one else present wishing to be heard, Mayor Chiusolo closed this portion of the meeting.

(b) To consider resolution designating Deputy Mayor

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey, that Peter Tanella be and is hereby chosen in the absence of the Mayor of the Township of Cedar Grove to preside in his place and stead at all meetings of the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, and that he is hereby designated the Deputy Mayor of the Township of Cedar Grove for a one-year term effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2016.

Councilman Longo moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Kumburis, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Maffucci, Tanella and Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

Mayor Chiusolo administered the oath of office to Deputy Mayor Peter Tanella. Deputy Mayor Tanella thanked residents and Council peers for their support and vote of confidence.

3. PUBLIC HEARING

(a) To consider adoption of Pending Ordinance # 15-786

The ordinance was read by title only as follows:

AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARY GRADES AND RANGES, WAGES AND FEES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019

Mayor Chiusolo opened the public hearing on this item. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Mayor Chiusolo closed the public hearing.

Deputy Mayor Tanella moved that the ordinance be adopted at second reading, published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times as a passed ordinance to take effect as prescribed by law, seconded by Councilman Kumburis, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Maffucci, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

4. AWARD OF BID

(a) To consider resolution awarding bid for the Collection, Transportation, and Delivery of Solid Waste, Grass Clippings, and Vegetative Waste

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to advertising duly made, bids were received for the Collection, Transportation, and Delivery of Solid Waste, Grass Clippings, and Vegetative Waste for the Township of Cedar Grove, and were publicly opened by the Township Clerk on August 19, 2015 and read by the Township Clerk as follows:

OPTION #1
2 DAY /WEEK PICK UP

BIDDER	1 YEAR	2 YEAR	3 YEAR	5 YEAR
F. Basso Jr. Rubbish, Inc	\$ 519,900.	\$ 1,039,800.	\$ 1,599,700.	\$ 2,599,500.
Joseph Smentkowski, Inc.	\$ 487,674.	\$ 975,348.	\$ 1,453,002.	\$ 2,726,622.
Suburban Disposal	\$ 729,000.	\$ 1,474,000.	\$ 2,235,000.	\$ 3,803,000.

OPTION #2
1 DAY /WEEK PICK UP

BIDDER	1 YEAR	2 YEAR	3 YEAR	5 YEAR
F. Basso Jr. Rubbish, Inc	\$ 519,900.	\$ 1,039,800.	\$ 1,599,700.	\$ 2,599,500.
Joseph Smentkowski, Inc.	\$ 487,674.	\$ 975,348.	\$ 1,453,002.	\$ 2,726,622.
Suburban Disposal	\$ 729,000.	\$ 1,474,000.	\$ 2,235,000.	\$ 3,803,000.

WHEREAS, the bids have been reviewed by the appropriate Township officials; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manager and Township Engineer have reviewed the bids and recommend awarding bid Option #1, 2x/week pick-up, inclusive of multifamily and townhouse condominium collection for a five-year period; and

WHEREAS, funds are available to satisfy our obligations under this contract in the 2015 Refuse Collection District Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the award of bid for a five-year period in the total amount of \$2,599,500.00 be made to F. Basso Jr. Rubbish, Inc. of Harrison, NJ for the Collection, Transportation and Delivery of Solid Waste, Grass Clippings, and Vegetative Waste in Cedar Grove.

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

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Maffucci, Deputy Mayor Tanella, and Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

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

Mayor Chiusolo 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 Chiusolo closed this portion of the meeting.

6. REPORTS OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

(a) Township Manager – The Manager reported that the Township is the recipient of a new motorcycle for the Police Dept. at no cost to the Township. Mr. Tucci explained that two police officers participated in the annual Andiamo Foundation Motorcycle Run, a fundraising effort for pediatric cancer research. Mr. Tucci noted that the fundraiser included a raffle for a 2015 Harley Davidson motorcycle which the officers won and donated to the Township. The Manager advised that a new updated recycling/solid waste newsletter was recently mailed to residents. Mr. Tucci also noted that the newsletter is posted on the Township website and also copies can be obtained from the Manager's Office. The Manager read a letter of appreciation from a resident to Officers Hecht and Rivers for their life-saving response to a health emergency.

(b) Township Clerk – The Clerk noted receipt of a letter of resignation from an Advisory Health Council member, and a letter of interest from a resident for membership on the Municipal Alliance Committee. Ms. Stutz confirmed that there is a vacancy on the MAC. Ms. Stutz also provided a memo regarding Council liaison conflict and vacancies. There was consensus that the Clerk advertise the Advisory Health Council and MAC vacancy with a response date of October 2nd, and schedule interviews for executive session prior to the October 19th meeting. Following a brief discussion, there was consensus that Councilman Maffucci replace former Deputy Mayor Zunic as Board of Education co-liaison and member of the Environmental Commission and consider serving as the liaison to the Advisory Health Council. The Clerk also noted a request for a Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony from a new daycare center, Live, Laugh, Learn, either 10/3 or 10/10 between 10:00 a.m. – NOON, depending on Council availability. Following a brief discussion, Mayor Chiusolo and several councilmembers confirmed availability for 10/3 at 10:00 a.m.

(c) Township Attorney – Attorney Zielinski provided a memo regarding the Township's form of government and executive session for informational purposes. Attorney Zielinski also provided a memo including local hire ordinances from the cities of Newark and Jersey City. Additionally, Attorney Zielinski noted a resolution provided to authorize the retention of COAH expert for preparation of an expert's report calculating the Township's affordable housing obligation.

(d) Other Reports

Councilman Maffucci requested an update on potential relocation of VFW monuments. The Manager responded that the VFW has donated the monuments to the Township for relocation at Community Park. Councilman Maffucci also requested the status of the City of Newark reservoir tree removal issue. Mr. Tucci advised that the case has been remanded back to Cedar Grove Municipal Court to be heard on October 14th. Mr. Tucci further commended the Municipal Prosecutor diligence to effect adjudication on behalf of the Township. Deputy Mayor Tanella requested clarification/confirmation of development plans for the reservoir property. The Manager stated that no development plans have been submitted to the Township. Councilman Maffucci clarified some misinformation and statements attributed to him by others pertaining to the potential sale and development of the Cedar Grove Garden Center property. Councilman Maffucci voiced his preference that the zoning use of the property be maintained. Councilman Maffucci further proposed consideration of a moratorium on new development pending completion of the Master Plan

comprehensive review and revision. Councilman Maffucci also expressed concerns regarding the environmental impact of the proposed expansion of the Coptic Church that is currently before the Zoning Board. At the request of Deputy Mayor Tanella, the Township Manager clarified that the Township Council has no authority or control over land use site plan application decisions, with the exception of an appeal of an affirmative decision by the Zoning Board. Mr. Tucci noted that any participation by a Councilmember during the Zoning Board hearing process could compromise that appeal process. Councilman Maffucci suggested that Cedar Grove sponsor a Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Awareness Walk at Panther Park, to which the governing body agreed.

Mayor Chiusolo requested to amend the October Council meeting schedule, to cancel the October 5th public meeting, and conduct a public meeting on October 19th, and a staff meeting on October 26th, to which the governing agreed. Mayor Chiusolo also suggested that Township's website include local medial links. Mayor Chiusolo expressed concern regarding the conduct of recent political activity and requested the Clerk to provide the Township's ordinances to the governing body. Mayor Chiusolo announced the upcoming Fire Department Chili Cook-off in November to raise funds to benefit a resident/state trooper afflicted with a rare form of cancer.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle license – Cedar Grove High School APT

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

CG High School APT
90 Rugby Rd.
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE

Off-Premise draw raffle
to be held January 11, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.
at 90 Rugby 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.

Councilman Longo moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Maffucci, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Zunic, Mayor Chiusolo
NO: None

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

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

St. Catherine of Siena HSA
39 E. Bradford Ave.
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

St. Catherine of Siena HSA
39 E. Bradford Ave.
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

St. Catherine of Siena HAS
39 E. Bradford Ave.
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE

On-Premise merchandise raffle
to be held November 7, 2015 at 6:00-10:00 p.m.
at 39 E. Bradford Ave., Cedar Grove NJ 07009

Calendar Raffle to be held Jan. 5, 19,
Feb. 2, 16, March 1, 22, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.
39 E. Bradford Ave., Cedar Grove NJ 07009

On-Premise Merchandise raffle to be held
March 11, 2015 at 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. at
39 E. Bradford Ave., 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.
Councilman Longo moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Maffucci, and passed by the following vote:
AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Zunic, Mayor Chiusolo
NO: None

- (c) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle license – 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, application for raffle license has been received from:

APPLICANTS

St. Catherine of Siena Church
39 E. Bradford Ave.
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE

On-Premise 50/50 raffle
to be held March 11, 2016 at 6:00-10:00 p.m.
at 39 E. Bradford Ave., 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.

Councilman Longo moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Maffucci, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Zunic, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

(d) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle license – Memorial Middle School FSA

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

Memorial Middle School FSA
500 Ridge Rd.
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

Calendar raffle
to be held Jan. 1, Feb. 1, and March 7, 2016
at 6:30 p.m.
500 Ridge 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.

Councilman Longo moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Maffucci, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Zunic, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

(e) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle license – Cedar Grove 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 Rd.
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

Off-Premise 50/50 raffle
to be held December 7, 2015 at 12:00 pm
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.

Councilman Longo moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Maffucci, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Zunic, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

8. NEW BUSINESS

(a) To consider resolution concerning re-appointment of Municipal Judge

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove of Essex, New Jersey, that NICHOLAS BRINDISI be and is hereby re-appointed as the Municipal Court Judge of the Township of Cedar Grove, with all the powers and duties pertaining to said office, to serve for a three-year term, commencing September 22, 2015 and terminating September 22, 2018.

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

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Zunic, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

(b) To consider resolution concerning waiver of Developer's Agreement

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

In the Matter of: Bank of America
508 Pompton Ave.
Block 110, Lot 125

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that pursuant to Section 38-32.1 of the Code of the Township of Cedar Grove, the governing body does hereby waive the requirements for a developer's agreement, performance guarantee and insurance certificate in connection with the above referenced project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that submission of the 5% post approval escrow required per Chapter 38-26.2 of the Code of the Township of Cedar Grove is also waived.

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

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Zunic, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

(c) To consider resolution concerning 2015 Salaries – DPW employees

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

WHEREAS, The Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove did adopt Ordinance 15-786, fixing salary grades and ranges, wages and fees of certain employees within the Department of Public Works of the Township of Cedar Grove; and

WHEREAS, said ordinance provides that the Township Council shall, by resolution, fix the salary of each employee within the salary ranges as set forth in Section One of the Salary Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the salaries as hereinafter enumerated shall constitute the salaries for Fiscal Year 2015 for the employees covered under Section One of the Salary Ordinance, represented by the Township of Cedar Grove Employees' Association.

REPRESENTED EMPLOYEES

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>JOB CLASSIFICATIONS</u>	<u>MINIMUM</u>	<u>MAXIMUM</u>
3	Maintenance Worker	\$34,591.	\$53,545.
4	Equipment Operator	40,000.	55,846.
5	Sewer Plant Operator	42,000.	57,846.
6	Mechanic Auto/Sewer/Water	45,000.	67,300.
7	Engineering Aide	47,000.	68,100.
8	Parks/Grounds Department Foreman Road Department Foreman Water Department Foreman Sewer Department Foreman Senior Engineering Aide	57,246.	82,330.
9	Superintendent	81,906.	106,214.

<u>EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>LONGEVITY</u>	<u>JOB TITLE</u>
Bellino, Harold	\$48,784.	3	___	Maint. Worker
Bennett, Daniel	36,878.	3	___	Maint. Worker
Brown, Gerard	36,878.			
Calabrese, Eugene	47,498.	3	___	Maint. Worker
King, Timothy	51,545.	3	___	Maint. Worker
McElroy, Michael	43,846.	3	___	Maint. Worker
Mesce, Robert	48,784.	3	___	Maint. Worker
Smolls, Donald	36,878.	3	___	Maint. Worker
Struck, Thomas	48,784.	3	___	Maint. Worker
Resciniti, Thomas	47,434.	4	___	Equip. Operator
Hunter, William	52,245.	4	___	Equip. Operator
Webb, David	52,245.	4	___	Equip. Operator

Lavin, James	52,563.	5	___	Sewer Plant Operator
Cuccinello, Adrian	52,943.	5	___	Sewer Plant Operator
DiGeronimo, Peter	\$66,423	6	___	Auto Mechanic
Gialanella, Michael	55,590.	6	___	Water Mechanic
Grasso, Michael	62,383.	6	___	Water/Sewer Mechanic
Hopper, Andrew	53,394.	6	___	Sewer Mechanic
Donovan, Dan	58,753.	7	___	Engineering Aide
Bailey, Jeffrey	57,246.	8	___	Parks Foreman
Jorn, Michael	80,330.	8	___	Water Dept. Foreman
Locascio, Joseph	73,853.	8	___	Senior Engineering Aide
Vitiello, Jerry	90,942.	9	___	Superintendent

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

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Zunic, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

9. 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 \$2,276,288.22

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

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Maffucci, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

10. CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

- (a) To consider resolution authorizing execution of inter-municipal agreement with Elkay Realty Development Corp.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the Township Manager is hereby authorized to execute an inter-municipal agreement between the Township of Cedar Grove, Township of Little Falls, and Borough of North Caldwell and Elkay Realty Development Corp. for the provision of necessary public services.

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

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Maffucci, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

- (b) To consider resolution authorizing contract for professional services for expert report calculation of affordable housing obligation

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

WHEREAS, the Township Council has reaffirmed its voluntary commitment to satisfy its affordable housing obligations, however they may ultimately be defined by COAH or a court; and

WHEREAS, the Township entered into a professional services agreement with Jeffrey R. Surenian and Associates, LLC, to represent the Township as its Mount Laurel Special Counsel in connection with its affordable housing compliance and related legal actions for certification of same; and

WHEREAS, it was recommended by Mr. Surenian that the Township join with the other municipalities to contract with and hire a professional expert to prepare an expert report calculating the municipalities' affordable housing obligation, and to serve as the Township's expert in any associated litigation; and

WHEREAS, the costs associated with the preparation of the expert's report will be shared between the participating municipalities, and is estimated to be approximately \$2,000.00 per municipality; and

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate the Township's efforts to comply voluntarily with its Mount Laurel obligations and to enable the Township to make informed decisions, the Township Council finds it to be in the best interests of the Township of Cedar Grove and its citizens to participate in the contracting with and hiring of an expert through its Mount Laurel Special Counsel.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, hereby authorizes the contracting with and hiring of a professional expert to prepare an expert report calculating the municipalities' affordable housing obligation, and to serve as the Township's expert in any associated litigation, at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.00, unless additional funding is authorized by subsequent Resolution, which is to be accomplished through the Township's Mount Laurel Special Counsel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute any documents required to memorialize this authorization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Township Clerk, Township Manager, Township Attorney, Mount Laurel Special Counsel and other appropriate Township officials are hereby authorized and directed to take all required actions to complete the authorizations in this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect pursuant to law.

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

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Zunic, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

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

Robert O'Toole; 3 Old Orchard Ct. – Mr. O'Toole suggested that the Township Manager approach the new VFW commander to return the VFW property to the Township, since the Township originally provided the property to the VFW for its use. Mr. O'Toole urged residents who use Panther Park to follow simple housekeeping procedures; close the gates after use, and dispose of litter in receptacles provided. Congratulated the sponsor of the Cedar Grove Wave display at Cedar Grove High School in commemoration of victims of 9/11.

Jane Ballinger; 66 Overlook Rd. – Mrs. Ballinger voiced her pleasure with the proposed County Park on the former Hilltop property by the County Executive. Mrs. Ballinger expressed concern regarding the preservation of existing trees in development projects. Mrs. Ballinger also expressed concern regarding potential development on a number of large undeveloped properties. The Manager addressed Mrs. Ballinger's concerns for the properties that she cited.

Ross Perlstein; 80 Briarwood Terr. –Mr. Perlstein addressed a question to Councilman Kumburis regarding his employment and/or union involvement. Councilman Kumburis responded that he is a member of Local Union #68 Operating Engineers in West Caldwell. Mr. Perlstein voiced objection to campaign tactics employed by recently elected Councilman Kumburis to solicit votes, specifically his promise to stop the Hilltop development. During a lengthy response to Mr. Perlstein, Councilman Kumburis stated that he is working behind the scenes in ways that he cannot disclose right now to stop the Hilltop development. Mayor Chiusolo expressed concern that such activity by a Councilman, particularly with the knowledge or consent of the governing body, could have on the Township, and the integrity of the Council. Deputy Mayor Tanella expressed similar concerns and reminded Councilman Kumburis that the Council makes decisions as a single body, not individually. Mr. Perlstein further challenged Council Kumburis' sincerity regarding fulfillment of his oath office as Councilman to represent and act in the best interest of all Township residents when he advocated for employment priority for union apprentices as a condition of a local hire program.

John Martinelli; 30 Hillside Ave. – Mr. Martinelli inquired the amount of affordable housing units included in the development under construction on Grove Ave.

Robbie Vargo; 102 Union St. – Mr. Vargo stated that he is co-owner of the recently opened daycare facility behind Foodtown and thanked the governing body for willingness to participate in the requested ribbon cutting ceremony. Mr. Vargo commended the Building/Construction office employees for their professionalism. Mr. Vargo noted that he annually conducts a holiday light display for charity "Toys for Tots" on his property.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor Tanella moved adjournment of the public council meeting, seconded by Councilman Maffucci, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Maffucci, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

The public meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

JOSEPH CHIUSOLO MAYOR

ATTEST:

KATHLEEN R. STUTZ MUNICIPAL CLERK