

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Warren Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and stated that in compliance with the “Open Public Meetings Act” this Meeting was duly advertised and published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on January 10, 2013 and the Express Times on January 10, 2013; the Agenda has been posted at Borough Hall and distributed to the Courier News, the Express Times, the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the Star Ledger on February 6, 2013.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Cooper asked everyone to stand for the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present for the Meeting:

Robb Arent
Seth A. Grossman
Cathy Leach
Michele Liebttag
Brad Myhre
William Sullivan

Absent from Meeting:

Attorney Albert Cruz, and Borough Clerk, Brenda S. Shepherd, were present for the meeting. 14 members of the public were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Mayor and Common Council approved to open the public comment session by favorable voice vote.

Green Team Report

Dominikija Prostack reported that the Green Team started out the year with no funds and ended the year with a \$2,000.00 grant and a \$1,300.00 net profit from the Green Fair. They will use the money for Sustainable New Jersey Bronze certification. We need points in 5 different categories. We were missing a category. With the environmental commission being put together, we will qualify. The next filing deadline is June. There were a number of things done in town that were never documented such as the building audit. It was done in 2010 and is good for three years. Through the energy star program, you can track your energy usage. No one has done it since Steve Winters, the state contractor. We will be able to get the information and complete it. Mayor Cooper asked that when the Green Team gets their plans together for 2013 they share it with the Council. Dominikija Prostack noted that they are setting goals and should have something in the next 30 days. A copy of the 2012 report is attached to this set of minutes. Council thanked Dominikija Prostack for the good work. Brad Myhre noted that the County talked at the reorganization meeting about converting to pressed gas. Dominikija Prostack responded that the Mayor brought that up.

Frenchtown Business and Professional Association

Jack Weeks reported that he was asked to represent the association in regards to our event dates. There are six events planned so far. The only new event is “April in Frenchtown”. The others have

been done before. The events are going good. We have limited the events to one day. They are more successful and more manageable that way. He credited Diane Dalrymple for bringing more organization to the association. She made the events into an outline program so the next person can pick it up and work with it. There biggest problem is volunteers. It is always the same five or ten people who do all the work. Membership is helping and membership is supporting the organization with dues. Everyone is pleased with the events. Brad Myhre noted that as to item number 3, the Council in the past has agreed to provide the business association with a special rate for the off duty police officers and eliminate the administration fee. On motion by Brad Myhre, seconded by Michele Liebttag and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council renewed the 2012 special hourly off duty police officers rate and waived the administrative fee for the Frenchtown Business Associations events. Jack Weeks noted that as to item number 4, the garden community is taking over our flower boxes. Mayor Cooper noted that the community garden and the Frenchtown Business Association is pushing to do a green market in town. He is interested in hearing more about that. Dominikija Prostack stated that John Mizen is working and talking to farmers to get that going.

Other public comments

Lynn Marad of the Widow McCrae house on Kingwood Avenue noted that they have been in business in the same location for 15 years and it is obvious to her that no one can find them. She asked what it would take to get a sign on the corner of Race and Kingwood Avenue or some place downtown. Attorney Cruz asked if it would be place in the right of way or on private property? He added that if it is on private property, you must get permission from the private property owner. Lynn Marad commented that what she is talking about is a directional sign on the street or in the right of way or on a building like in the downtown. Michael Padavan noted that the previous owner put a directional sign on the building he now owns. He added that there is a proposal from the downtown revitalization to address signs and directional signs. As to the downtown street scape, Michael Padavan noted that we have a great opportunity to continue what we have done. The Park and Ride is a wonderful area with lighting that was well done. That is a gateway to the community. There was not a feeling of safety and security before that. Lighting, directional signs, more planters, etc. would help. The downtown revitalization committee would like to consider a proposal for lighting and directional signs. The Chairman of the Planning Board, Randi Eckel, had wonderful ideas on that. If we do it in an elegant way we will enhance what we have. Mayor Cooper noted that one of the items on the agenda this evening is the streetscape for the downtown. Mayor Cooper suggested that she speak to Randi Eckel for information on how to proceed.

Bob White from Milford Borough stated that a few people have already heard that Milford has a problem with a decaying building downtown. We have had no success getting it cleaned up especially if you are looking at a foreclosure situation. He added that the Milford Clerk, Karen Dysart, sent the resolution that Milford approved the other night. Our B&B gets visited routinely by inspectors. The Section 8 housing is never inspected. They are reaching out to the state to push property owners and banks that may be the lien holders to maintain these properties. We are fighting to get assistance particularly for a small town that can not afford it. Bob White stated that he is stopping to talk to the different Councils to do something about the problem. He added that Leonard Lance and Erik Peterson were in Milford and took the time to look at these decaying buildings and pointed out the buildings because they were in the downtown. We need more assistance. He is

reaching out to Assemblyman Peterson because it is everywhere in Hunterdon County and it is a statewide problem. Bob White stated that the volunteer fire departments are going into these buildings and do not know what is in there. It is a safety issue. How do you deal with it? He is asking for a simple resolution from the municipalities. We need the state to start addressing this as a state wide problem. We want to keep New Jersey the garden state. Mayor Cooper asked if there is an urgency? Bob White noted that Alexandria and Franklin Townships are interest. It is a hot topic and now is a good time to push it forward. Mayor Cooper stated that they will address it on the next meeting agenda.

Jack Weeks asked what a homeowner in Frenchtown can do when you have a neighbor that has an abandon property and does not take care of it. The neighbor comes back once in a while. The grass grew over 30 inches high and he was told by the town that there is nothing we can do. He talked to Cathy Leach about this. Cathy Leach noted that the Borough has an ordinance for abandoned properties. Mayor Cooper stated that it has come up a number of times. We need to take a closer look at it. The Administrative committee will address it. Jack Weeks noted that when they lived on Sixth Street, all the neighbors approached the landlord about a tenant issue and the landlord got rid of the tenant. Cathy Leach asked how the ordinance gets enforced? Brad Myhre noted that lawn maintenance and grass maintenance can be done by public works and they would then bill the property own. One municipality ended up in court because the property own said the town billed took much for the work. He does not know how they set up fines. He will look at the Phillipsburg ordinance.

Sky Van Saun of Eighth Street stated that the property across from her on Eighth Street has been under contract about four years ago and there is a hole in the ground with dirt around it with high weeds that are an eyesore. They were going to fill the hole but she does not think anyone paid the contractor and he left. There is a tax lien on the property. No one lives there. What can be done? Mayor Cooper stated that we are hampered by concerns that if we were going to go in and mow the lawn and push the dirt back in hole, it could become our problem with whatever the testing revealed. Our hands are tied. He added that we reached out to the property owner at least once and we have not gotten a response. Brad Myhre stated that the property is under the DEP's review. Seth A. Grossman stated that we will always have problems like that. It costs money to take on a clean up, etc. We would have to pay for it or take on responsibilities that create a liability to the town. We can have a number of ordinances for safety, health issues, etc. The only issue is being able to enforce it. Mayor Cooper stated that when we look at the other matter, the administrative committee will broaden the review. William Sullivan noted that it is private property. You now can see the value of a good neighbor. Seth A. Grossman stated that sometimes the best ways of handling problems is to find regular community support. It can produce results. Mayor Cooper stated that we will be sending the property owner another certified letter requesting a response. That property is not the only property that is a concern. Sky Van Saun commented that our taxes are higher because he has not paid his taxes. William Sullivan stated that he can not get a permit to do work without his taxes being paid. Mayor Cooper stated that the administrative commission will try to address those type of issues.

The Mayor and Common Council approved to close the public comment session by favorable voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Governing Body and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

Robb Arent requested that the bills list be removed from the consent agenda as there are questions in reference to the Maser Consulting invoices.

On motion by Brad Myhre, seconded by Michele Liebtag and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved the consent agenda approving the minutes of the Year end meeting dated December 26, 2012 and the Reorganization and regular meeting dated January 2, 2013.

Bills list dated 2/6/2013

Robb Arent noted that under the sewer capital improvement bills list, there is a bill listed for Maser consulting for the Nishisackawick Creek Project. A bill for the same amount is listed under capital improvement. Cathy Leach noted that there is also a bill for Maser consulting listed twice under capital improvement. It appears that the bills were processed twice. On motion by Robb Arent, seconded by Cathy Leach and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved to pay the bills list dated 2/6/2013 except for the Maser consulting bills. Brad Myhre requested that the CFO issue a report on this for the mid February meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #2012-23 – Appointment of Engineer for special projects commenced prior to 2012

Mayor Cooper stated that this resolution will allow us to use Van Cleef engineer to complete projects start prior to 2012. Robb Arent asked that the third whereas paragraph be removed. Attorney Cruz stated that it was put in as a pay to play requirement but can be removed. On motion by Robb Arent, seconded by Brad Myhre and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved the following Resolution #2013-23 as amended:

RESOLUTION #2013-23

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR CONTINUED ENGINEERING SERVICES COMMENCED PRIOR TO 2012 FOR THE BOROUGH OF FRENCHTOWN

WHEREAS, the Borough of Frenchtown has a need to continue Engineering services commenced prior to 2012 for the Borough of Frenchtown and desires to appoint as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and,

WHEREAS, the projects commenced prior to 2012 and to be continued are identified on the attached list; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is up to 1 year; and

WHEREAS, Van Cleef Engineering has submitted a proposal dated 1/8/13 indicating they will provide engineering services for the amount of \$135.00 per hour; and

WHEREAS, Van Cleef Engineering has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Van Cleef Engineering has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Frenchtown to the Mayor or Common Council or County Committees in the previous year, and that the contract will prohibit Van Cleef Engineering from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the value of the contract for 2013 will not exceed \$1,500.00 or as authorized by specific Resolution of the Council; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified the availability of funds for this annual contract as required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor & Common Council of the Borough of Frenchtown authorizes the Borough to enter into a contract with Van Cleef Engineering as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this action will be published in the Hunterdon County Democrat.

Warren E. Cooper, Mayor

Dated: February 6, 2013

Attest:

Brenda S. Shepherd, RMC
Borough Clerk

Resolution #2013-24 – 2012 Reserve Budget Appropriation transfer

On motion by William Sullivan, seconded by Brad Myhre and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved Resolution #2013-24 as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-24

2012 RESERVE BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFER

WHEREAS, it appears that the unexpended balance in the following accounts will not be sufficient to pay outstanding bills:

Liability Insurance
Legal – Other Expense
Trash Removal – Contractual
Gasoline – Other Expense

WHEREAS, it appears that there will be for 2012 an unexpended balance in the following account:

Administrative & Executive – Other Expense
Financial Administration – Other Expense
Parks and Playgrounds – Other Expense
Heating Oil – Other Expense

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Frenchtown that the following transfers be and the same are hereby authorized, and within the resolution is the authority of the Borough Chief Financial Officer to make said transfers:

FROM:

Administrative & Executive – Other Expense	\$ 2000.00
Financial Administration – Other Expense	\$ 1045.00
Parks and Playgrounds – Other Expense	\$ 200.00
Gasoline – Other Expense	\$ 400.00

TO:

Liability Insurance	\$ 1045.00
Legal	\$ 2000.00
Trash Removal – Contractual	\$ 200.00
Heating Oil – Other Expense	\$ 400.00

Warren E. Cooper, Mayor

Attest:
February 6, 2013

Brenda S. Shepherd, RMC
Borough Clerk

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Raffle Application for Courthouse Quilters monthly door prizes

On motion by Brad Myhre, seconded by Robb Arent and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved raffle application 2013-02 for the Courthouse Quilters monthly door prizes.

Approval of Casino Night Application for Lions Club Frenchtown for March 23, 2013

On motion by Brad Myhre, seconded by Seth A. Grossman and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved raffle application 2013-01 for the Lions Club Casino Night on March 23, 2013.

Ice Skating at the Borough Park

Mayor Cooper stated that we were lucky that the temperature was 12 degrees for several days. Once we established that we were covered by liability insurance, he asked the fire company to fill the specified area in the Borough park. Two weekends ago we were able to host ice skating and a bonfire with the protection of the fire company. No one knows when the last time ice skating happened. The fire company has tried to fill the area a few times. With the temperatures increasing, we were unable to keep it frozen. William Sullivan recommended looking into acquiring a liner for it. Mayor Cooper commented that we were able to raise \$229.00 for the fire department. We served hot chocolate and put out a fireman's boot for donations.

Storage

Mayor Cooper noted that the County has a storage facility to warehouse some of our old records. It requires that we sign an agreement with the county which is good for three years and then you can renew for a five year term. The municipalities gave up their Paris grant to the County for the facility. With Council's approval, he would like to sign the agreement and make room for ourselves. Council consented.

2013 Budget

Mayor Cooper stated that the administrative committee has gotten requests from the departments but he does not know if the committees got a copy of those requests. He will provide the copies and asked the committees if they could meet in the next week or so and give the administrative committee feedback on the budget requests by Friday of next week. The Auditor was in this week and will come back tomorrow.

Economic Development Committee's request for Downtown Streetscape plan to be prepared by Engineer William Burr

Seth A. Grossman stated that we have been talking about downtown revitalization and economic development. The downtown revitalization committee had strong recommendations on the streetscape of the downtown area with a lot of support from the downtown. Streetscape, lighting for

sidewalks, benches, planters, fixing the sidewalks and trees, etc were recommended to improve the area. We have that interest from the community to move forward. The next step is to see what that would look like. To move forward, you have to have design plans showing for example what lights would look like, where they would go, etc. We have an engineering firm that does that. They will tell you how much it will cost to do that. It is something that will take time. Then, seeking funding for it will take time and then implementing it is quite a task. Seth A. Grossman added that the Mayor asked me to talk to Engineer William Burr about what it will cost to do that. Normally, it would cost \$15,000 to \$20,000 for a design plan. It would cost about \$4,850.00 for Engineer Burr to do a conceptual design. He would like Council to support the downtown revitalization to move forward and to approve funding for this plan since we are in the middle of the budget process. He also thinks it would be important to reconstitute the committee to identify the funds publicly and privately. Business owners are enthusiastic. There were also discussions that there may be contributions. Robb Arent commented that it is heartwarming that businesses and property owners are will to contribute. William Sullivan asked why we did not contact a landscape architect? We have worked with Brian Bosenberg in the past and he is by far one of the finest architects in the state. His rates may be better. Brian Bosenberg did the design for the Park and Ride. Seth A. Grossman responded that he did not think about it and was asked to contact William Burr. Robb Arent suggested that we talk to Jonathon Perlstein. His Shale Cliff project was a well designed project. He may be willing to contribute his time. Mayor Cooper noted that he had a conversation with Jonathon Perlstein and he is passionate about his interest in Frenchtown. He may contribute something. Seth A. Grossman stated that this project is sensitive to the community and we want to get it right. He will contact others. On motion by Seth A. Grossman, seconded by Robb Arent and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved to reinstate the Downtown Revitalization Committee to work on a streetscape plan for the downtown.

OLD BUSINESS

Dog Park

Cathy Leach noted that she will give a report on the dog park during committee reports.

Memorial Day reenactment

Mayor Cooper stated that we were approached by the Milford and Alexandria Historical Societies back in December whoe wanted to stage a civil war enactment at Old Frenchtown Field. We asked them to determine how our liability would be protected. We have not gotten a satisfactory response. The last interaction from them was them asking us to seek insurance. Traditionally, we ask groups to provide insurance and name the borough as an additional insured for those events. Attorney Cruz stated that you can not use public funds for private purposes even if it is for a non-profit organization. This is an unusual request. What they are asking is for you to hold them harmless. Responding to William Sullivan in reference to setting a precedence, Attorney Cruz stated that you take every request that come before you on its merits and you make a decision on the set of facts. Mayor Cooper stated that Mr. Mayer reached out to Bill Tinsman from the American Legion and he got a response that Mr. Tinsman was away. Seth A. Grossman stated that a local organization or school makes it a partnership. It is a lot of work. We can talk to our insurance company to see if they will cover it. He would like to set up a protocol. Michele Liebtag commented that Mr. Mayer needs to address the questions that were asked. He has not talked to the American Legion. Brad Myhre added that he needs to close the loop with the American legion. They run the parade. Mayor Cooper stated that he has to continue working on getting the certificate of insurance. Robb Arent

noted that insurance is a big expense item for our events for the Frenchtown Business and Professional Association. Mayor Cooper stated that we will respond to Mr. Mayer that we need a response to our questions and the insurance.

Nishisackiwick Creek Project

Mayor Cooper reported that the creek project is complete. It was signed off by the engineer. Mayor Cooper noted that he spoke with three property owners that said they are interested in contributing. He hopes to have a full report next time. Mayor Cooper added that the park bridge is now open.

River Mills

Attorney Cruz noted that he was advised by the lawyer for River Mills that Mr. Micheal was going to meet with the property owner. They anticipated that it would be this week. He also indicated that Mr. Michael wanted to have a meeting with himself and a member of the governing body. Attorney Cruz stated that he asked him to send an agenda to see what they want to discuss. Mayor Cooper stated that the easement issue is taking longer than anticipated as we graciously accommodated him. He is disappointed that they did not move more quickly. He acknowledged the wisdom to postpone the ordinance.

Naming of members of the Environmental Commission

Mayor Cooper recalled that the Borough created the environmental commission last year. One of the members has moved out of town and the other member no longer has the time to commit. He has six members names to submit for approval. We will have an opportunity to formally swear them in. Attorney Cruz stated that the Council did not make the appointments in January. It is generally done at the reorganization meeting so you are doing it now. The terms should expire on December 31st. Mayor Cooper stated that he envisioned us making appointments last year rather than making all the terms ending at the same time. He listed the following names for the appointments; Adrienne Crombie, Richard Reilly, Joel Boriek, Tom Woodruff, Pete Palac and Bruce Myhre. Attorney Cruz stated you will have to associate a term with the appointment. Mayor Cooper stated that Bruce Myhre and Richard Reilly's terms would expire 12/31/2013, Andrienne Crombie and Peter Palac's terms would expire 12/31/2014, and Tom Woodruff and Joel Boriek's terms would expire 12/31/2015. On motion by Seth A. Grossman, seconded William Sullivan and carried by favorable voice vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved to the following appointments and terms to the environmental commission: Bruce Myhre and Richard Reilly whose terms expire 12/31/2013, Andrienne Crombie and Peter Palac whose terms expire 12/31/2014, and Tom Woodruff and Joel Boriek whose terms expire 12/31/2015.

COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Michele Liebttag stated that they have progress with the furnace situation at the fire house. We had them looking at potential contractors for a gas furnace. The lowest quote received was \$18,500.00 and the highest was \$32,500.00. Attorney Cruz stated that you would have to go out to bid since you do not have a qualified purchasing agent and the cost is over the bid threshold of \$17,500.00. You could use a state contract or a recognized cooperative purchasing unit. Michele Liebttag also reported that she has talked to the gas company to install the gas line to the fire house. She asked about a street opening bond and noted that one member of Council and one member of the public

had to put up a bond for their gas line installation. Attorney Cruz noted that the Borough could set aside money in the budget for that purpose and create an escrow account. Mayor Cooper stated that it will not cost us money. William Sullivan abstained from the discussion. On motion by Michele Liebttag, seconded by Brad Myhre, and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved to create an escrow account to cover the street opening permit for the installation of the gas line for the Frenchtown Fire Department with William Sullivan abstaining from the vote. William Sullivan thanked Brad Myhre and the Mayor for getting meeting back to the way it was and creating the committees. It is great to meet and handle business in committee. The streets and roads committee is discussing the possible acquisition of private roads. He has talked to Attorney Cruz and will talk to Engineer Burr to clarify private roads and what it would take for them to become public roads. He has an idea of what it will cost property owners to make them public.

William Sullivan reported that as to Streets and Roads, Public Works spread 100 tons of quarry product on Creek Road and will finish it in the spring. They also removed a tree that was hit by a tractor trailer at the corner of Bridge Street. Public Works also did some drainage work along Ridge Road, picked up Christmas trees and got salt. They did a good job keeping the roads clear.

William Sullivan noted that we talked about speed bumps for public safety. It is not our place to decide where the speed bumps go. He would suggest a recommendation from the police department. Mayor Cooper asked if the temporary speed bumps damage the road? William Sullivan responded that you have to put a hole in the road and with the salt and weather, it will damage the road. Seth A. Grossman noted that there are leaves still piled up at the Park and Ride and there is tree debris on the street as well. William Sullivan responded that he will make sure that Public Works looks at it.

Robb Arent reported that the contractor is working on erecting the new public works building. As he has heard from a number of residents in town, it is taking much longer than it should. The building should be up by the end of February as we are told. They have a deadline to complete the project and they said they will meet that deadline. As Mike Reino asked, we did discuss at the last meeting about getting the outbuildings complete. They did put in the frame work for the winch. Robb Arent also noted that Victor Gilardi in his report shifted to who is doing the Kingwood Avenue sewer pipe project. Robb Arent noted that it is VanCleeef Engineering who is doing the project. In his report, Victor Gilardi suggested that there be a break away connection or a support for the pipe instead of it being anchored to the pier in case the pier gets hit again, it does not get knocked down.

Brad Myhre reported that the police department did a nice job assisting with the surprise birthday party for Stephen Scully. There was a nice article in the paper. The police department has been very busy. There has been a significant spike in firearm permits. They will also be hosting a school safety drill coming up that will be taking place at the elementary school. They will also be doing something with the Montisourri School.

Brad Myhre also reported that he is finishing up with the paperwork for FEMA. Reimbursement requests are being processed for the debris. The reimbursement for the police department and the gas station coverage is done. The only thing he is waiting on is the Fire Department information. Once he gets that, he will get that processed. We also put in for reimbursement for the siding and

gutter system damage on the Police building. As it stands now, we should get 75% reimbursement unless we get more funding from congress. Brad Myhre noted that there is a grant program coming out to the State of New Jersey, the hazard mitigation grant program. He will have more on details to send out and perhaps we can do a community meeting on it. The State of New Jersey as a result of Hurricane Sandy will receive 4 to 5 hundred million dollars from the federal government. That money can be available to not only municipalities but to private citizens as well. That money can be used to elevate your home or do other measures to flood proof it. It also can go to municipalities for the purposes of clean up of storm drains so that water flow is not affected and for generators which is the first time they are doing it for generators. If we are interested in purchasing a back up generator, the federal government will cover 75% and the local unit is responsible for the 25%. It is also extended to critical care facilities that are privately owned. The State Police is running that. There may be an additional share of 100 million dollars on top of the 4 to 5 hundred million coming in. A lot of that money will go to the shore region but it is the biggest pot of money the state has ever seen. We would go through the County OEM and the County OEM wants us to prioritize what we want and they will try to get the money since we were affected by winds. If you know anyone in town that is interested in elevating their home, etc. they can apply to the program. The grant application has been extended to March 31st. We may host a workshop in town and contact the state police about that for the information. The public is welcome to attend. Everything will go through the town to the County OEM. There is also money for buyouts. You have to have 3 repetitive losses to the point where FEMA will no longer pay to fix the house. The town would have to accept it and say that it is willing to lose taxes from the tax rolls. Mayor Cooper commented that it would be a good thing to have a public meeting. Robb Arent noted that there has been a large jumps in flood insurance from FEMA. Brad Myhre responded that new flood maps went through last year. Most of Frenchtown went through rezoning and most are in the high risk zone. They are looking to make the flood insurance program more sustainable. You can go through a transitional program to absorb the insurance increase slowly. Most everyone along the Delaware River had significant increases. That is the highest risk zone and down by the creek. It will be very expensive for people. They are developing strong flood management programs which will help decrease the premium. Lambertville has done something. We need to talk to Lambertville about that.

Robb Arent noted that the e-ticket system was mentioned in the police report. Brad Myhre stated that it is such a considerable cost. You are talking about 30% of the operating budget to put the system in. It is a matter of cost versus benefit which may not be there.

Seth A. Grossman reported that he accepted the commission on the building and grounds committee. He is working with Brenda Shepherd. We have a list of all the properties that the Borough owns. We are developing a checklist of what might need to be done in the area of maintenance and repairs. His biggest concern is that he would like to see the meeting room be made more pleasant. He would like to get curtains, etc. William Sullivan stated that curtains of that size are very expensive. Seth A. Grossman commented that we may take it to the community. He added that we do not own the fire house. William Sullivan asked why the Borough would buy a furnace for them then.

Cathy Leach noted that she is the parks commissioner and we had our first infrastructure meeting on January 15th and we agreed to meet again on February 19th, at 5:30, the third Tuesday. In additional, we will be inventorying the parks property and facts. We had a brief discussion about the

dog park. We will take another look at the sewer plant so that we can reconsider it as a potential site rather than going through the approval for green acres. Brad Myhre commented that he thought we were moving forward with the NJDEP hosting a public hearing. Cathy Leach noted that we would host the public hearing. You have to give a thirty day notice. The lease language was approved. There are strong feelings with the school. The initial opposition was that using the sewer location would take a few years. A year has passed. We are looking at what is the easiest way to go. Mayor Cooper asked if there would be any complications because of the funding of the sewer project. Cathy Leach responded that it will be borough owned property and we can do what we want. They will be looking at the access perhaps from Kingwood Township. This would create an opportunity to work with Kingwood Township. They will look at all the facts. This would allow River Dogs to police and control access. With green acres there is no ability to control access. Brad Myhre stated that traffic going through the sewer plant would be a concern. William Sullivan noted that the inability to police the coming and going with green acres makes it an unattractive place for town. Mayor Cooper noted that the committee will come back to the Council with a recommendation.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Cooper reported that we are getting budget information from the auditor on Monday about our spending and what our constraints will be going forward.

Mayor Cooper also reported that you may have read or heard that he became a member of the "Mayors against gun violence group" and someone got the notion that there was going to be a resolution brought to the Council for approval. He was not going to do that unless it is the sentiment of the Council that you would like to weigh in on the issue. He was acting as an individual and not representing the Council. It was recorded in the Express Times. He did get an apology from the reporter that he knows he did not get that right. He will bring it to the council and he knows he does not represent the Council's views on such things and does not pretend to do so. If you would like me to bring it to Council, he will do so.

Mayor Cooper noted that he has been trying to get together with the Mayors of Delaware Valley sending districts as they have done a number of times. In the interest of trying to find ways as a group or region to approach problems in a coordinated way, they will continue to try to do that. The elected officials in Alexandria, Holland and Kingwood Townships are on board with a lot of it. We do not seem to have any interest from Milford. If Mr. White has an influence in town, it would be nice if someone on the governing body would join us. Mr. White noted that he will bring it up to the governing body.

Mayor Cooper reported that the Safe Streets and Roads committee has met twice and will meet next week. They have identified a host of problems and will see if we can find ways to address them.

Mayor Cooper noted that he has asked the department heads to prepare a list of surplus equipment no longer needed. We can not just get rid of it because it has value.

Municipal Clerk Shepherd noted that the Governing Body has been provided with Supplement 8 to the code book.

CORRESPONDENCE

None addressed.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, a motion was made by Robb Arent, and second by Seth A. Grossman to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm. Motion carried by favorable voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Shepherd, RMC
Borough Clerk