

TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON
6101 THIRTEENTH STREET
MAYS LANDING, NJ
JULY 20, 2015 MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton, Atlantic County, New Jersey was held on the above date with Mayor Roger Silva presiding. Members present were Amy Gatto, Rodney Guishard, John Kurtz and Judy Link. Also present were Michael S. Jacobs, Township Administrator, Joan I. Anderson, Township Clerk, Robert S. Sandman, Township Solicitor, and Robert J. Smith III, Township Engineer

The meeting opened with the flag salute followed by the Township Clerk certifying compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law by posting a notice of the meeting on the bulletin board in the municipal building, Mays Landing, NJ, and by e-mailing a copy of the notice along with the agenda of this meeting to the Press of Atlantic City, Atlantic County Record, Record Journal and Current newspapers stating this meeting would take place in the municipal building, Mays Landing, New Jersey at 6:30 PM on Monday, July 20, 2015.

The meeting was video-taped and recorded. The video will be posted for viewing on the Township website.

A moment of silence for private reflection was observed.

Honor & Remember presentation to Lou Green:

Mr. Guishard and Mr. Kurtz made the presentation. Assemblyman Chris Brown presented a New Jersey General Assembly Certificate of Appreciation and thanked Mr. Green for his services. Mayor Silva read a letter from Congressman LoBiondo and presented a Congressional Certificate of Recognition to Mr. Green on the Congressman's behalf. Mr. Green explained what he does; that he has done this for 21 years, 14 of them at Hamilton Mall. He said that it is an honor and privilege to help a veteran or his family in any that he can.

Presentation to Mays Landing Lightning Under 10 Girls All Star Team:

Ms. Gatto and Mayor Silva made the presentation. Ms. Gatto explained they won the District 3 Babe Ruth Championship tournament with a record of 3-0 and second place in the State tournament with a record of 4-2 and introduced their coaches. Each girl was individually presented a framed copy of the proclamation by Ms. Gatto and a General Assembly certificate of recognition by Assemblyman Chris Brown and Freeholder Will Pauls. Head Coach Michael Angelo thanked the parents for their support and the Township Committee for their support of youth activities.

There was no early executive session and no executive session confirmations.

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED that the following items are hereby deleted from the agenda:

- 5.D Discussion of Senior Citizen Advisory Board.
- 11.A July 6, 2015 regular meeting minutes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following items be added to the agenda for consideration and action to be taken thereon tonight:

- 9.B Resolution amending CDBG Grant Home Investment Inter-local Agreement for Fiscal years 2016 through 2018.
- 10.C Appointment to fill unexpired HTMUA Alternate #1 term of Marla Caldwell expiring February 1, 2017.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NO" AND NO "ABSTAIN".

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Early public comment on agenda items not listed for public hearing:

Robert Campbell thanked the Township Committee and Veterans' Advisory for presenting the Honor and Remember Award to Lou Green. He commented on the Quilt of Honor awarded to Mr. Green and others and said the quilts will be on display in various stores at Hamilton Mall and there will be discounts for until September. Mr. Campbell congratulated the Girls' Softball Team, their parents and coaches and thanked the Township Committee for honoring them. Mayor Silva thanked Mr. Campbell for the program at the Mall honoring Mr. Green and the veterans. Mr. Guishard said that Mr. Campbell was the key person for the event at the Mall. Mr. Campbell thanked the Mall for all they do.

Resolution supporting Atlantic County Creation of a "Committee to oppose Expanding Gaming to North Jersey":

Freeholder Will Pauls commented on speaking about his opposition to gaming in North Jersey at Press conference on the Steel Pier over a year ago; bringing this Resolution to the Board of Freeholders a couple of weeks ago; it being passed by the Board unanimously; being appointed Chairman of the Committee; Freeholder Coursey and Freeholder Risley being the other two Freeholders on the Committee. Mr. Pauls read statistics from the recently released Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce report on expansion of gaming beyond Atlantic City regarding direct and indirect loss of jobs from the potential closure additional; shifting of jobs and benefits from Atlantic County to an area with the lowest unemployment rate in the State; direct and indirect loss of wages; and Atlantic County's unemployment rate nearly doubling from the present 12% to 23%. In answer to Mr. Guishard's question of what people can do to help, Mr. Pauls said they can sign the petitions that are on line. In answer to Mayor Silva's question on the likelihood of it being on next year's ballot, Mr. Pauls said the issue isn't going to go away and that is what the resolution is about. In answer to Ms. Gatto's question about people who want to get involved, Mr. Pauls explained they can reach out to new Committee and that there will be a town hall type meeting with a panel of experts on it in Egg Harbor Township on July 27th

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that the following resolution be adopted.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CREATION OF THE "COMMITTEE TO OPPOSE EXPANDING CASINO GAMBLING TO NORTH JERSEY"

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey forged a bi-partisan agreement to allow Atlantic City to transition into a destination resort; and

WHEREAS, it took Las Vegas 10 years to transition to a point where it is receiving 64 percent of its revenue from non-gaming sources and 26 percent from gaming; and

WHEREAS, despite the promise to allow Atlantic City the time necessary to transition into a destination resort, North Jersey casino advocates began lobbying for expansion of casino gaming outside of Atlantic City shortly after the adoption of the Tourism Master plan; and

WHEREAS, the discussion, speculation, legislation and proposed ballot questions regarding expanding gaming outside of Atlantic City before an honest evaluation of the progress of Atlantic City jeopardizes local businesses and employment, private sector investment, visitor confidence, convention marketing efforts, and are harming Atlantic City's transition to a destination resort; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous proposals before the New Jersey Legislature which propose a ballot question permitting expansion of casino gaming outside of Atlantic City, including a concurrent resolution to allow three casinos in North Jersey in the Counties of Bergen, Essex and Hudson; and

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WHEREAS, various Legislative Leaders have expressed a strong desire to place a referendum on the ballot for November 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce recently released an analysis which concluded "The expansion of gaming beyond Atlantic City could further lead to the loss of up to 14,550 direct and indirect jobs from the potential closure of an additional two to four casino hotels. Lost direct wages from those closings would amount to \$230.9 million, resulting in reduced revenues to the State for wage-related taxes, lost fee-related revenue, potential impairment of publicly traded municipal and State Authority debts, and nearly double the Atlantic County unemployment rate from its current level of 12% which is already twice the State average to 23%; and

WHEREAS, any further erosion of the gaming industry in Atlantic City will devastate all of Atlantic County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton, Atlantic County, supports the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders creation of the "Committee to Oppose Expanding Gaming to North Jersey" (The Committee) to educate policy makers and the public on the negative economic and social impacts of expanding gaming outside of Atlantic City before an independent study has confirmed that Atlantic City has transitioned into a destination resort; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of The Committee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Freeholders and be comprised thusly:

- .Three members of the Board of Freeholders, with one Member serving as the Chair of The Committee";
- .A Member from an Atlantic County non-casino amusement or entertainment business;
- .One Member representing the Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce;
- .One Member representing the Atlantic County Casino Industry;
- .One Member representing Stockton University;
- .One Member representing Atlantic Cape Community College;
- .The President of the Atlantic County Mayors Association;
- .The President of the Atlantic/Cape Central Labor Council;
- .A representative from the Atlantic County Department of Regional Planning and Economic Development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that "The Committee to Oppose Expanding Gaming to North Jersey" shall conduct and compile necessary research and analysis, hold public hearings to receive additional input, and report and make recommendations to the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders (the Board) for action by the Board deemed necessary or advisable to effectively articulate the County's position on any legislation or ballot question related to the expansion of gaming outside of Atlantic City; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the "Committee to Oppose Expanding Gaming to North Jersey" shall be established for the purposes and with the Membership stated above, its actions are to be advisory to, but not binding on, the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution is forwarded to the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the State Senate, The State Assembly, Senator Jim Whelan, Assemblyman Chris Brown, Assemblyman Vince Mazzeo, and each municipality in Atlantic County.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY" AND NO "ABSTAIN".

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Ms. Gatto moved, seconded Mr. Kurtz, that the following resolution be adopted.

RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR CHRISTIE TO ISSUE AN EMERGENCY
DISASTER DECLARATION FOR THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC

WHEREAS, Atlantic County, and particularly the western municipalities therein, suffered significant crop losses, property damage, flooding damage and loss of electrical power from a cluster of derecho-like storms that roared through the County on Tuesday afternoon, July 23, 2015; and

WHEREAS, though the losses and damages are still being assessed and quantified, it is already clear from initial reports that those losses and damages will reach totals in the millions of dollars including farming crop losses, losses to commercial businesses, residences, and governmental structures and equipment; and

WHEREAS, there is an immediate need for aid and financial assistance from FEMA and other Federal and State disaster relief programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton, Atlantic County, NJ hereby urged Governor Christie to issue an Emergency Disaster Declaration for the County of Atlantic to enable the County and its municipalities to apply for and access aid and financial assistance from the various Federal and State programs and funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be directed to Governor Christie, Senator Jim Whelan, Assemblyman Chris Brown, Assemblyman Vince Mazzeo and each municipality in Atlantic County.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY" AND NO "ABSTAIN".

Delayed Tax Bills/Public Information:

Mayor Silva said that the Township was unable to send out the tax bills because the County Board of Taxation hasn't struck the tax rate yet. William Johnson, the Tax Assessor, commented on anticipating a temporary rate to be certified today that doesn't include the Atlantic City PILOT Program for casinos; a new revised tax rate will be struck once the PILOT is signed into law and rules and regulations are drafted on how it is to be implemented He explained the County Board mainly needs to know whether Casino property values will remain as taxable for equalization purposes and that isn't spelled out in the PILOT Program. Renee DeSalvo, the Tax Collector, explained that she will get the bills printed and mailed out as soon as she gets the temporary rate; the taxes will be due 25 days after the last bill is put into the mail; if the rate changes, adjustments will be made on a revised November bill; and that the temporary rate could be the final rate. Mrs. Link asked how the PILOT Program affected tax appeals in Atlantic City and what kind they were doing now. Mr. Pauls explained the appeals will cease; Casinos will pay a specific amount of taxes and that amount is being discussed right now. Mr. Sandman explained the Borgata just won a \$58 million judgment; the City will have to pay all of that money back to them even though the County and Schools got a portion of it; and that the same thing happens in the Township when someone wins a tax appeal. In response to Mayor Silva's question on the impact this has on the reassessment, Mr. Johnson explained it has no impact on the reassessment. He said that it will impact the market value; the impact will depend on whether the PILOT is filed as drafted; if the governor signs it with changes, it has to go back to the Legislature for approval; and the Township has done everything right but the PILOT wasn't anticipated. Mr. Sandman said the Township has done an excellent job of being fair and most of its appeals are settled out of court.

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mrs. Link, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED that the following Ordinance be and is hereby introduced and passed on first reading and that the Township Clerk is authorized to advertise same in the July 22, 2015 issue of the Atlantic County Record for a public hearing to be held in the municipal building, Mays Landing, NJ at 6:30 PM on August 3, 2015.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "YES", NO "NO" AND NO "ABSTAIN" ON ROLL CALL VOTE.

**TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON
ORDINANCE #1794-2015**

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS BY
THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON, IN THE COUNTY OF
ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY APPROPRIATING \$560,000
THEREFOR**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON, IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring), AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

The improvements described in Section 2 of this ordinance are hereby authorized to be undertaken by the Township of Hamilton in the County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey (the "Township"), as general improvements. For the improvements or purposes described in Section 2, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$560,000 as required by the Local Bond Law. The total sum is now available by virtue of the existing General Capital Fund.

SECTION 2.

The improvements hereby authorized, the estimated cost of each improvement and the appropriation therefor are as follows:

Purchase and Repair of Emergency Equipment, including without limitation, repairs and reconditioning of Township fire trucks.	\$560,000
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SECTION 3.

The improvements described in Section 2 of this ordinance are not current expenses. They are all improvements or purposes that the Township may lawfully undertake as general improvements having a period of usefulness of at least five (5) years, and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be specially assessed on property specially benefited thereby.

SECTION 4.

Any grant moneys received for the purposes described in Section 2 hereof shall be applied to direct payment of the cost of the improvements.

SECTION 5.

The Township hereby certifies that it has adopted a capital budget. The capital budget of the Township is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. To the extent that the purposes authorized herein are inconsistent with the adopted capital budget, a revised capital budget has been filed with the Division of Local Government Services.

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SECTION 6.

This capital ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication as required by the law.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON,
COUNTY OF ATLANTIC and
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ATTEST:

Joan I. Anderson, R.M.C.
Township Clerk

Roger Silva, Mayor

ROLL CALL: GATTO "YES"
 GUISHARD "YES"
 KURTZ "YES"
 LINK "YES"
 SILVA "YES"

ORDINANCE #1794-2015 INTRODUCED AND PASSED FIRST READING JULY 20, 2015.

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mrs. Link, that the following resolution be adopted.

WHEREAS, an emergency has arisen with respect to major repairs to the Mays Landing Fire Company Engine Unit #1819 requiring replacement of the water tank; and

WHEREAS, at a Special Meeting held on July 13, 2015 the EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION NO. 2015-1 FOR MAJOR REPAIRS TO FIRE ENGINE was adopted,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that an emergency contract is hereby awarded to 4 Guys, Inc., Meyersdale, PA, to install a new 2400 gallon UPF water tank with integral 100 gallon foam cell at a cost of \$29,620.00 in accordance with their quote dated July 8, 2015

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "YES", NO "NO" AND NO "ABSTAIN" ON ROLL CALL VOTE.

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by M4. Guishard, that the following resolution be adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-2
EMERGENCY RESOLUTION- NJS 40A:4-48
EMERGENCY MANGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANT – LOCAL SHARE**

WHEREAS, an emergency has arisen with respect to the Emergency Management Agency Assistance Grant – Local Share and, no adequate provision was made in the 2015 budget for the aforesaid purpose, and
NJS 40A:4-46 provides for the creation on an emergency appropriation for the purpose mentioned above, and

WHEREAS, the total amount of the emergency appropriations created, including the appropriation to be created by this resolution is \$35,000 (thirty-five thousand dollars) and three (3) percent of the total operating appropriations in the budget for 2015 is \$625,156.45 and

WHEREAS, the foregoing appropriation together with prior appropriations does not exceed three (3) percent of the total operating appropriations (including utility operation appropriations) in the budget for 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, (by not less than 2/3 of all governing body members affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with NJS 40A:4-48:

1. An emergency appropriation is hereby made for the Emergency Management Agency Assistance Grant – Local Share in the amount of \$5,000 (five thousand dollars)

2. That said emergency appropriation shall be provided for in full in the 2016 Budget, and is requested to be excluded from CAPS, pursuant to NJS 40A:4-53.3c(1)
3. That two (2) certified copies of this resolution be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption, this 20th day of July, 2015.

Recorded Vote

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
GATTO	NONE	NONE	NONE
GUISHARD			
KURTZ			
LINK			
SILVA			

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "YES", NO "NO" AND NO "ABSTAIN" ON ROLL CALL VOTE.

There were no Business Registration Licenses to be approved.

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mrs. Link, that the following resolution be adopted.

WHEREAS, Atlantic County was notified by letter dated October 27, 2000, from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (hereafter "HUD") announcing that the County of Atlantic qualified to receive a Formula Allocation for the Community Development Block Grant Program (hereafter the "Urban County Program") for the fiscal year 2001, 2002 and 2003; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide documentation to HUD every three years to re-qualify the Urban County (hereafter "County") to continue to receive a formula allocation for the next three federal fiscal years; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the County to submit the qualifying documentation to HUD by July 24, 2015 to re-qualify for Fiscal Years 2016, 2017 and 2018; and

WHEREAS, in order to participate with the County in the Urban County Program for these years it is necessary for the Local Government to enter into a Cooperation Agreement with the County and other local governments; and

WHEREAS, the Local Government may not apply for grants or appropriations under the Small Cities or State CDBG Programs for the fiscal years during the period in which it participates in the Urban County CDBG Program, and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hamilton desires to join with the County in the Urban County program; and

WHEREAS, the Interlocal Services Act NJSA 40:8A-1 et seq. Authorizes counties and municipalities to enter into agreements for the provision of joint services; and

WHEREAS, the execution of the Cooperation Agreement does not require the Local Government to expend municipal funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton as follows:

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached amendment to the Cooperation Agreement with the County, and other local governments, in substantially the following form with such minor changes as may be required by HUD.

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2. This amendment along with Cooperation Agreement shall be effective for the remaining year of the Urban County Qualification period (Federal fiscal years beginning October 1, 2016, October 1, 2017 and October 1, 2018) and shall be automatically renewed for participation in successive three year qualification periods unless the County or the Township of Hamilton provides written notice it elects not to participate for a new qualification period.
3. HUD requires that this Cooperation Agreement may have to be amended to incorporate changes necessary to comply with federal requirements for future qualification periods. Failure to comply will void the automatic renewal for such qualification period.
4. All resolution or parts of resolutions inconsistent with this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.
5. The Clerk is hereby directed to provide a certified copy of this Resolution together with the annexed Cooperation Agreement, duly executed, to the County executive.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY" AND NO "ABSTAIN".

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Kurtz, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED that Edward Chatten is hereby appointed a Maintenance/Carpenter I at \$34,041.32 and the effective date is to be determined.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "YES", NO "NO" AND NO "ABSTAIN" ON ROLL CALL VOTE.

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Kurtz, that the resignation of Marla Caldwell as Hamilton Township Municipal Authority Alternate I is hereby accepted.

MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", AND NO "ABSTAIN".

Mr. Kurtz moved, seconded by Ms. Gatto, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED that James Sacchinelli is hereby appointed to fill the Hamilton Township Municipal Utilities Authority Alternate I unexpired term of Marla Caldwell expiring February 1, 2017.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH MEMBERS GATTO, GUSHARD, KURTZ AND SILVA VOTING "YES", MEMBER LINK VOTING "NO" AND NO "ABSTAIN" ON ROLL CALL VOTE.

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED that the July 13, 2015 Special Meeting minutes are hereby approved and adopted as published.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "YES", NO "NO" AND NO "ABSTAIN" ON ROLL CALL VOTE.

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Mr. Kurtz moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED that all properly executed and approved payrolls and bills are hereby ordered to be paid, the bill list totaling \$1,362,771.59.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "YES", NO "NO" AND NO "ABSTAIN" ON ROLL CALL VOTE.

Reports:

Mr. Jacobs had nothing to add to his written report.

Mr. Sandman reported the documentation for calling the Bank of America letter of credit issued as a performance guarantee for Toys "R" Us site work has been submitted and he expects the funds to be collected shortly.

Mr. Smith had nothing to add to his written report.

Mrs. Link congratulated Lou Green and said he has done a tremendous service to the community and community at large of the United States. Mrs. Link commented on being saddened by the death of the young girl killed a train; confusion as to exactly what happened; and not knowing what the community can do to help young people realize that they have a whole, fruitful life ahead of them.

Mr. Kurtz said that he appreciated Mr. Pauls' comments about casinos. He commented on seeing businesses struggling because of layoffs and what is happening in the area. He said that it is particularly hard on the mom and pop shops and he hopes the right steps are taken to hopefully bring some stability back to them. Mr. Kurtz reported the Mays Landing Merchants' Association will hold its first "Movie Under The Stars" in War Memorial Park on Friday Night; the movie will be showing "Annie"; and there will have 2 more movies over the summer.

Mr. Guishard commented on the action now effort to investigate ways to improve the economic situation in Atlantic County. He explained that the County hired Angelo Economics to investigate ways to improve the economic situation in the County; that he attended the first couple of their meetings and was very optimistic about their report but hasn't heard much about it recently. He said that he will be looking into it and encouraged people to look into it because it seemed like an opportunity to improve things.

Ms. Gatto extended condolences to the Valiante family on the death of their daughter. Ms. Gatto commented on hundreds of people attending the memorial service today; Tiffany having touched so many lives in a short amount of time; seeing so many people come together to show support for her family, classmates and others and let them know that they aren't alone in dealing with the tragedy. Ms. Gatto commended Terrance Smith, a football player, for the courage and dignity he showed on Monday night when he spoke at the prayer circle at Oakcrest that was put together within 8 hours of Tiffany's death. Ms. Gatto commented on a lot of people asking the same question that Mrs. Link did about what they can do, not just in the school, but community-wide to (1) let the youth and anyone struggling, sad, or going through some kind of a loss or tragedy of their own know that someone cares and (2) to have an awareness of what to look for and what can be done that are productive and constructive, not destructive. Ms. Gatto explained the "Head Up" plan that that she and Joe Costal from Oakcrest discussed; they want to expand it as a community effort; she hopes to have a date set by the next meeting for a brainstorming session on things that can be done as a community; and anyone interested in being involved can give her their name and contact information tonight. Ms. Gatto said that Mr. Costal will be reporting on the Oakcrest Welcome Wagon Project during the public comment portion tonight. She reported the 2008 Fire Study is coming to an end; meeting with the Chiefs about gathering data for the next one;

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and Mr. Jacobs will give them a date for when their apparatus lists have to be in. Ms. Gatto read excerpts from various Department Reports regarding the Cove and other work scheduled or being done throughout the Township.

Mayor Silva said today was a ver6 difficult da for the community and that as a parent it is very difficult to come to terms with what occurred and why. He commented on attending an affair in the Park three weeks ago and hearing William Green, a motivational speaker say "you weren't born to be a winner; you weren't born to be a loser; you were born to be a chooser". The Mayor commented on the social media of the youth today said we all have choices to make; words have consequences that may be forgiven but they are not forgotten. He read the following from the back of today's program at the church: "Life doesn't come with a rewind, fast forward or pause button. Once it starts it plays until it ends or until you press stop. Just enjoy it while it plays". Mayor Silva said if this young woman were alive to see the love for her and how the community reached out to her she could probably understand what her purpose was and how she affected everybody. He said he thinks we are all left with the loss; the Township lost one of its youth, someone with great promise; and hopefully she is in a place where she is better off at this particular time.

Public comment:

Joe Costal said that he taught Tiffany Valiante when he was in the classroom and that she was his student assistant when he moved from the classroom to Administration. He commented on what he has been saying to the students this week. Mr. Costal commented on there being experts in the community on mental illness and teen suicide and, if the community is going to mobilize they have to show them that they are willing to listen and learn. Mr. Costal explained the Oakcrest explained the Welcome Wagon Program, how it got started, what they did last year; what they will be doing this year; and it will be implemented District-wide this year. He commented on the need to empower young people to help other young people and explained that this year every incoming freshman will have an upperclassman mentor; the mentors will trained over the summer; August 20th t will be the first transition meeting where the freshmen will meet their mentors and have full day of activities; during the year they will be given an opportunity to spend 1 period a month connecting with their mentor; and there will be monthly themes. Mr. Costal commented on believing that if the program is well executed, well-funded and well supported by the community there will be a trend towards better integration into the community, higher academic success and a better graduation rate. Ms. Gatto commented on Mr. Costal paying for the Welcome Wagon by donations from individuals and local businesses last year and hoping they will do it again this year. Mr. Costal said Mizpah Fire Company donated the pizza and Jack and Jill donated the ice cream. Ms. Gatto said that she understood that everything for Tiffany was donated by local and area businesses so that the family didn't have to bear that expense.

Jim Link said that he and Mrs. Link doing fund raisers at their skating rink and they will do everything they can to help Mr. Costal's organization raise funds. Mr. Link commented on being told the Township Committee uses Roberts Rules of Order as a guideline and said they have to be careful when it comes to abstaining on a vote. He commented on the members having opinions on every issue that comes before them; as elected officials they are obliged to vote either yes or no but they don't have to; a legitimate reason for abstaining would be if the person has a personal interest in the issue. He said a motion fails if 2 vote no and 3 abstain; if there are 2 (ayes) and 3 abstentions the abstentions are recorded as an "aye". Mr. Link said he understood that there were some votes where there were abstentions and he would like to see on the record that it carried if the vote was a "yes" majority, and that it failed if it was a no majority. He asked Mr. Jacobs if there were any such votes in the past couple of meetings because he was not here. Ms. Gatto said Mr. Link could access the

minutes and see the votes. Mr. Link explained that he thinks it is important that whenever anyone comes to address them identify themselves and where they live for the record even though the Committee Members may know who they are.

There being no further questions or comments from the public, Mr. Kurtz moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard, that the public comment portion be closed.

MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY" AND NO "ABSTAIN".

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mrs. Link, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that this meeting be adjourned to an executive session to discuss the following matters which are exempt from public discussion pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law:

- 1) Pending litigation - Ziska vs. Hamilton Township.
- 2) Teamsters' Grievance.
- 3) Status of Tavistock Bond Claims.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body will reconvene in public session and confirm the results of the executive session if there is a majority consensus for action to be taken on any of the matters tonight.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY" AND NO "ABSTAIN".

Adjournment: 8:15 PM
Reconvened Public Session: 9:42 PM

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED that the most recent settlement offer from the Bonding Company for the Tavistock project be and is hereby rejected and that the Township Solicitor attempt to initiate a mediation process pursuant to the discussion held in the executive session.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTONG "YES", NO "NO" AND NO "ABSTAIN" ON ROLL CALL VOTE.

There being no further matters to be considered tonight, Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mrs. Link, that this meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY" AND NO "ABSTAIN".

ATTEST:

Joan I. Anderson, R.M.C., Township Clerk