



Founded 1749

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
June 8, 2020 REMOTE VIA ZOOM
7:30 PM REGULAR MEETING
MEETING MINUTES**

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Baio	Present
Ms. Duarte	Present
Mr. Monaghan	Present
Mr. Orlins	Present
Mayor Neibart	Present

Also, present:

- John Mills, Township Attorney
- Bob Casey, Township Administrator
- Maria Coppinger, Township Clerk

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Adequate Notice of this meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice was given to the Observer Tribune and Daily Record on January 3, 2020. The Notice of Change in Meeting Format was given to the Daily Record and Star Ledger on June 2, 2020. Notice was posted on the bulletin board in the township offices and notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

COVID-19 UPDATE

Mayor Neibart provided a Covid-19 update -as of June 8th:

- New Cases in NJ: **356**
- Total NJ COVID-19 Cases: **164,497**
- New NJ COVID-19 Deaths: **40**
- Total NJ Deaths: **12,214**
- Total Cases in Mendham Township: **39**
- COVID-19 related deaths in Mendham Township: **0**
- Total Hospitalizations: **1,740**
- COVID-19 Patients & PUIs in Hospital Critical Care or Intensive Care: **489**
- COVID-19 Patients & PUIs on Ventilators: **361**
- New hospitalizations as of today: **94**
- COVID-19 Patients & PUIs Discharged from the hospitals: **112** (excluding deaths)
- Patients at Field Medical Stations: **16**

County College of Morris (CCM) Testing Site: All Morris County first responders and health care workers will be offered priority testing with a prescription or symptoms in an effort to assist in getting the Morris County economy re-engaged. All Morris County residents will be able to get tested without a prescription.

PROCLAMATION

Pride Month – June 2020 – Mayor Neibart read the proclamation. Ms. Duarte expressed her excitement that the Township Committee introduced the proclamation which is the first in Mendham Township. Ms. Duarte expressed that it is important to support the LGBTQ+ Community and recognized members of the Township as well as the youth. Ms. Duarte introduced Zachary Orr, a graduate of Morris Hills Regional High School, who has been involved with mentoring younger kids at the Edge Pride Center. Zachary shared his experiences with coming out as gay to his family and friends.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Neibart provided an update on the primary election.

Deputy Mayor Monaghan and Mayor Neibart attended the Black Lives Matter event in Brookside. Mr. Monaghan expressed that the event was very well organized and had very good speakers. The only downside was none of the Township Committee members, except for Ms. Duarte, received an invitation to the event. He asked that all future events be shared with the Township Committee.

Mr. Baio noted that his neighborhood is having their first Oak Knoll stroll on Saturday. He also agreed with Mr. Monaghan's comments regarding the communication on public events that take place in the Township.

Ms. Duarte noted that the vigil was a spontaneous event, the event was not planned. Ms. Duarte expressed that they would do better job in getting the word out on future events. Ms. Duarte read a letter from the Home School Association, Co-Presidents Meredith Ogden and Peggy Colucci about their activities and fundraising efforts.

Mr. Orlins provided an update on upcoming recreation events.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Monaghan moved. Ms. Duarte seconded the motion to open the meeting to the public.

All members present voted to open the meeting to the public.

Rich Diegnan – 40 Walsingham Road – He asked the Township Committee to consider a resolution to move the school board election to April so residents have the opportunity to vote on the school budget; noting that the school budget tax increase of approximately 5% (last year 4.99%) is way in excess of the 2% tax levy CAP and the increases have been very difficult. Mr. Diegnan spoke on the sewer ordinance (07-2020) which he expressed is flawed. He expressed that the people that designed the sewer treatment plan have some culpability and that definitive action needs to be taken against the designer and operator of the plant. He mentioned that Paragraph 2 of the Ordinance is very flawed in his legal perspective. He expressed the ordinance is not well thought out and not enforceable. He suggested the Township Committee table the ordinance until the language is reviewed.

Carl Perri – 44 Walsingham Road – spoke on Ordinance 07-2020 - Mr. Perri expressed that the design of the system, the workmanship and the maintenance of the system is faulty. He suggested that the Township place the various contractors and subcontractors on notice of a potential claim. He mentioned that for the system to fail after 2 years and \$3.5 million, and to blame it on flows on a couple of residence homes is unreasonable.

Jill Davi – 6 Carroll Drive – Ms. Davi mentioned that on March 26, the Mayor amended the interest rate for delinquent taxes and sewer fees to 0% under the authority of a local state of emergency, this message was widely communicated via email to the Mendham Community. Ms. Davi made the following points...

As some point, the Governor overrode this decision according to our local tax collector. From the Mendham Township website an update was posted on May 11th that the grace period had been extended to June 1, 2020. Payments must be received by June 1 to avoid interest – we thought there was no interest. Unfortunately, this vital piece of tax information was not widely distributed to the community in the same matter that the initial amendment was communicated. There was no email distributed to the community about this change, only website post a few weeks before the grace period due date. Why was this vital piece of information not widely distributed to Mendham residents most likely to be hurt by this lack of knowledge. Further, the State of NJ is now charging interest starting from May 1st once the grace period of June 1st has passed; it is as if no grace period existed at all. Next time, if your policy is superseded by those of the Governor, please share this important change using the same channels you used to announce the original policy. In uncertain times, we do not need more confusion. The communication was abysmal on this.

James Puleo – 65 Walsingham Road – Thanked Mayor and Mr. Casey for taking the time to speak with the Drakewick residents on the sewer issue. He expressed that Ordinance 07-2020 is flawed, its wrong and it does not work. He explained that there is no possible way to allocate cost on a per home bases, based on flow. He also expressed that what bothers him further is that the town sat on their hands on this issue for at least 14 months, while using the proceeds from a construction grant to pay for the overages. He highly encourages the Township Committee to not pass Ordinance 07-2020.

Megan Bury – 32 Walsingham Road – echoed the sentiments of the previous speakers regarding Ordinance 07-2020 in terms of not passing Ordinance 07-2020 and solving the problem as quickly as possible. She also commented on the school budget noting the 5% increase two years in a row is hard to swallow.

Josh Cohen – 24 Devonshire Lane – spoke on Ordinance 07-2020; Mr. Cohen noted several mistakes that he believed the Township made during the investigation into the excessive flows. Those mistakes included; not being able to locate a sewer line, not being able to identify the manholes and the use of construction funds for the excessive flow. He also asked the Township Committee to not pass Ordinance 07-2020.

Brian Boden – 41 Walsingham Road – spoke on Ordinance 07-2020 and asked the Township Committee to not pass the Ordinance. Mr. Boden suggested re-grouping and include all the stakeholder and then move forward from that viewpoint.

Megan Marino – 9 Trimingham Court – spoke on ordinance 07-2020 and respectfully requested to have the ordinance removed from the agenda.

Adam Matteo - 14 Trimingham Court – spoke on ordinance 07-2020 and asked the Township Committee to put the ordinance on hold and work to identify a more plausible solution.

Christine Meyers – 37 Walsingham Road – Her home was 1 of the 9 homes that were scoped, last year, which cost her more than a few thousand dollars. She noted that the Township told her she had a break in her lines so they brought someone in who saw no issues. At the end of the day she was told by the previous administrator that there were no issues. Back then she asked the township about there plans to correct the issue which she was told “its dry and we hope it does not happen again.” She feels the Township Committee did not take the issue seriously. At some point the township has to take responsibility for their delay in resolving the issues. She urged the Township Committee to not put the ordinance through and asked for a more aggressive approach with the contractors.

Joanne Spataro -6 Langford Drive – Ms. Spataro was told, she could be the reason for the overflow, which she allowed the town’s construction individual to survey the property. A month later she has not received a response from the Township. She also asked the Township Committee to table the ordinance.

Mr. Baio moved. Mr. Orlins seconded the motion to close the meeting to the public. All members present voted to open the meeting to the public.

Mr. Monaghan made a motion for a consent agenda on the Approval of Minutes (April 13, 2020 & April 28, 2020) and Resolutions 2020-108 thru 2020-114. Mr. Mills suggested a consent agenda on the meeting minutes and a consent agenda for Resolutions 2020-108 thru 2020-114.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The following meeting minutes were submitted to the Township Committee for review and may be adopted by one motion.

- Regular Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2020.
- Regular Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2020

Motion made by Mr. Monaghan and seconded by Mr. Orlins.

Motion to call the question made by Mr. Monaghan and second by Mr. Orlins.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

CONSENT AGENDA – RESOLUTIONS - The following resolutions were submitted to the Township Committee for review and may be adopted by one motion.

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|-----------------|---|
| 2020-108 | Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Cancellation of Unexpended Improvement Authorizations in General Capital Fund |
| 2020-109 | Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Correcting the Allocation of Funds in Resolution 2019-111 for the Cancellation of Unexpended Improvement Authorizations in Sewer Utility East and Sewer Utility West |
| 2020-110 | Resolution of the Township of Mendham, County of Morris, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Professional Services Contract Without Competitive Bidding to for French and Parrello Associates, PA for Engineering Services associated with Pitney Park |
| 2020-111 | Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham To Approve Settlements of Real Property Tax Appeals |
| 2020-112 | Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing Staff Appointments for the Department of Recreation Winter 2020 Ski Club |
| 2020-114 | Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Payment of Bills |

Motion made by Mr. Baio and seconded by Mr. Monaghan on the above listed resolutions.

Motion to call the question made by Mr. Baio and second by Mr. Monaghan.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

REGULAR AGENDA - RESOLUTIONS

2020-113 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Issuance of a Temporary Use Certificate for Outside Dining

Mayor Neibart explained that outdoor dining can commence on Monday, June 15th. Sammy’s (only restaurant in the Township) worked with the Chief of Police to establish an outdoor dining plan which is the reason for the resolution.

Motion made by Ms. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Monaghan.

Motion to call the question made by Mr. Baio and second by Mr. Monaghan.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

2020-115 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Staff Appointments for the Department of Recreation Summer Season

Motion made by Mr. Orlins and seconded by Mr. Monaghan.

Motion to call the question made by Ms. Duarte and second by Mr. Orlins.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

2020-116 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham to Permit the Consumption of Alcohol in Township Parks and Recreational Facilities for Township-Sponsored Events

Motion made by Mr. Monaghan and seconded by Ms. Duarte.

Motion to call the question made by Mr. Baio and second by Mr. Orlins.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING / PUBLIC HEARING

04-2020 An Ordinance of the Township of Mendham Providing for Various Capital Improvements and Appropriating \$290,000 Therefore, from the Capital Improvement Fund

Amended and Re-Introduced / First Reading held on May 26, 2020

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The funding for the Various Capital Improvements is hereby authorized and such cost is not to exceed \$290,000.

Section 2. The several improvements hereby authorized are as follows:

Fire Department – PPE Gear, Equipment, Major Apparatus Repairs	\$50,000
Police Department - Police Vehicle(s)	\$50,000
Recreation Department – Various capital improvements to recreation areas including but not limited to irrigation system for India Brook Field, Park Furnishings, Sporting Fields and any other Township owned property used for recreation activities.	\$15,000
Township Signs – Repair and/or Replace	\$5,000
Department of Public Works- Various Road Improvements	\$170,000
Total	\$290,000

Section 3. The funding for the Various Improvements is hereby appropriated from the Capital Improvement Fund.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect following passage and publication as provided by law.

Motion made by Mr. Monaghan and seconded by Ms. Duarte.

Motion to open the meeting for public comment on 04-2020 made by Mr. Baio and seconded by Mr. Monaghan.

No public comment was provided.

Motion to close the meeting for public comment on 04-2020 made by Mr. Orlins and seconded by Ms. Duarte.

Mr. Monaghan noted that his objection to the ordinance at the last meeting was in reference to the irrigation system at India Brook Field which has since be resolved and in support of the ordinance.

Mr. Orlins noted that the irrigation system is more complicated than they knew. Its an old problem, the field was designed for underground watering and the hydroponic system is not working. Either the Township made an error in purchasing the system or the contractor provided a failed design. The underground pipes and rocks draws water away from the roots and without rain causes the grass to die. Mr. Orlins noted that the field gets great use by the youth leagues and younger squads but the premier players will go to Ralston and other fields.

It was noted that the funds would be allocated to other priorities within the recreational fields.

Motion to call the question made by Ms. Duarte and second by Mr. Monaghan.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

07-2020 An Ordinance of the Township of Mendham, In the County of Morris, New Jersey, Supplementing Ordinance 2017-14 Establishing the Sewer Service Charges for the Mendham East Water Pollution Control System
Introduction / First Reading held on May 26, 2020

WHEREAS, Ordinance 10-96 entitled “An Ordinance of the Township of Mendham, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, Establishing Sewer Services charges for the Mendham East Water Pollution Control System” established sanitary sewer service fees to be charged to the owners of properties served by such system; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 10-96 was amended by Ordinance 17-97, Ordinance 21-2003, Ordinance 28-2006, and Ordinance 14-2007, ordinance 15-2015; and ordinance 2017-14; and

WHEREAS. The Sanitary Sewer System is experiencing sewage flows in excess of the capability of the Sewer Treatment Plant requiring these excess flows to be taken to an alternate sewage facility for disposal; and

WHEREAS, under ordinance 2019 – 08, entitled “An Ordinance of the Township of Mendham amending and supplementing chapter 272 entitled Sewers, Article iv Use of Public Sewers”, the expense of properly disposing of the excess flows that can be identified as coming from specific residences, can be charged to the owners of those residences are liable for the expense of properly disposing of the excess flows; and

WHEREAS, the cost of disposing of these excess sewage flows not chargeable to specific users was not included in the calculation of the costs to be recovered from the standard operation of the Sewer Treatment Plant (East) since these costs are intermittent and unpredictable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham, County of Morris, New Jersey, that Ordinance 2017-14 is revised to read as follows:

SECTION ONE:

1. The owner of every property connected to and served by the Mendham East Water Pollution Control System (a self-liquidating municipal utility established by Ordinance 8-96 entitled “An Ordinance of the Township of Mendham, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, Providing for the Acceptance of the Mendham East Water Pollution Control System and its Operating and Maintenance by the Township as a Self-Liquidating Municipal Utility”) shall pay to the Township an annual service charge in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Property Use</u>	<u>Annual Service Charge</u>
Single-family dwelling unit and Condominium dwelling unit:	
1 Bedroom Dwelling	\$1,033
2 Bedroom Dwelling	\$2,067
3 Bedroom Dwelling	\$3,100

4 Bedroom Dwelling	\$4,134
5 Bedroom Dwelling	\$5,166

2. If the sewage flows to the Sewer Treatment Plant should exceed the design and NJDEP permitted plant flows and cannot be attributable to specific users, and these excess flows must be disposed of in alternate sewage treatment facilities in accordance with the regulations of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, then the cost of the disposal of these excess flows shall be added to the quarterly bill to be rendered to all of the Utility customers. These added cost shall be shared by the utility customers pro rata in accordance with the individual customer’s existing share of the quarterly charge established in Paragraph 1 of this ordinance.

3. The annual service charges provided in Paragraph 1 of this ordinance plus the excess flow charge provided in Paragraph 2 of this ordinance shall be billed by the Collector of Taxes of the Township and be due and payable quarter-annually on February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1 in each and every year.

4. If any bill for service charges remains unpaid after the due date, the amount due shall bear interest at the rate of eight percent (8%) per annum up to \$1,500 and eighteen percent (18%) over \$1,500. No interest shall be charged if payment of any quarterly service charge is made within the tenth calendar day following the date upon which the quarterly service charge became due. Service charges, and any interest thereon, provided by this Ordinance shall be liens on the respective properties against which such charges are made, and the payment may be enforced in the same manner provided for the collection of taxes.

5. All service fees received by the Township pursuant to this ordinance shall be dedicated revenues to adequately meet the managerial, professional, overhead and all other operating expenses of the Mendham East Water Pollution Control System in accordance with the provisions of the Local Budget Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-1 et.seq.

6. The rate structure established herein shall be effective January 1, 2018 and continue thereafter until amended or modified.

SECTION TWO:

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason found to be unconstitutional or unenforceable, such decision shall not affect the remaining portion of this ordinance.

SECTION THREE:

All ordinances of the Township of Mendham which are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION FOUR:

This ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication thereof as provided by law.

Motion made by Mr. Baio and seconded by Mr. Monaghan.

Motion to open the meeting to public for public comment on Ordinance 07-2020 made by Ms. Duarte and second by Mr. Monaghan.

James Puleo – 65 Walsingham Road – He pointed out that if the Township passes the ordinance now and the bills go out in July; then the town will miss out on the opportunity to find culpability where it lies, either with the operator of the plant (unlikely) but more likely with the person who holds the license and is being paid to inspect and maintain the collection system. He believes its very unlikely that there are a few houses that are the issue and there is likely a systematic break somewhere.

Bob Chittenden - 25 Walsingham Road – He wanted to know why that Township has not initiated an action against the contractor because the system is broken.

Meghan Marino – 9 Framingham Court– Ms. Marino expressed that the contractor shall be held responsible for their negligence noting that there were unable to locate all but one manhole which the Township was able to locate a year later.

Carl Perri – 44 Walsingham Road – Mr. Perri asked again that the ordinance be table. He is also not sure, why the township has not initiated a notice of claim to the insurance companies and contractors which can protect the residents of Drakewick and Mendham Township from faulty work.

Rich Diegnan – 40 Walsingham Road – Mr. Diegan encouraged that Township Committee to table the ordinance and to contact the litigation counsel that was appointed in the beginning of the year.

Motion to close the meeting for public comment on 07-2020 made by Mr. Monaghan and seconded by Mr. Baio.

Mayor Neibart explained that, at the current time, the Township is not charging the residents of Drakewick. She noted that the ordinance is just a mechanism to allow the Township to charge if a need arises. We need to have a mechanism to levy the cost to the utility and to the residents who utilize the utility.

Mr. Casey explained that for the Township to move forward with an actual charge, it would require the governing body to adopt a resolution indicating the cost. Then at that time, the Township would determine if there is a liability that could be charged to or what residual values there are.

Mr. Baio expressed that he sees no harm in tabling the ordinance to the next meeting. Ms. Duarte expressed that she would support delaying the ordinance to the next meeting.

Mayor Neibart mentioned, by delaying the ordinance, it would give the township the opportunity to camera the manhole that was not located in the initial phase to see if there is a broken pipe. She emphasized that it would be the only piece of information that would be provided within in 2- or 3-weeks delay.

Motion to **table** ordinance 07-2020 to the June 23, 2020 regular meeting made by Mr. Orlins and seconded by Mr. Monaghan.

Motion to call the question made by Ms. Duarte and second by Mr. Orlins.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to **table** the ordinance to the June 23, 2020 regular meeting.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. Duarte moved. Mr. Monaghan seconded the motion to open the meeting to the public.

All members present voted to open the meeting to the public.

James Puleo – 65 Walsingham Road - Thanked the Township Committee for their action to table ordinance 07-2020. He looks forward to working with Mr. Casey.

Joanne Spataro – 6 Langford Drive – Thanked the Township Committee for their action to table ordinance 07-2020. She hopes to hear from Mr. Casey about her own property.

Mr. Orlins read an email with Mr. Stanley Kallman’s of 11 Valley View Drive regarding the township’s resolution to support the Governor and the reopening of the economy. Statement is attached hereto.

Motion to close to the public comment portion made by Mr. Monaghan and seconded by Ms. Duarte.

Mayor Neibart noted the next Township Committee will most likely be held in-person with a hybrid option; details to follow.

DISCUSSION

Administration

Mr. Casey provided an update on the tax collection rate noting that the township has a delinquency of about \$500,000.

Liaison Reports

Construction (Monaghan) – No report

Communications Committee, Marketing (Duarte) – Next meeting scheduled for June 11th. The Committee is moving along and progressing.

Department of Public Works (Monaghan) – No report

Environmental Commission (Duarte) – Next meeting scheduled for June 15th. A webinar titled 'Birding in Mendham' with Chris Neff will take place in the near future; details to follow.

Finance Committee (Orlins / Neibart) – Mr. Orlins explained that a meeting was held with a finance committee to provide them with an update on DPW’s ‘Make vs. Buy Study’ that is being conducted.

There have been 4- 5 meetings, internally, 3 of them including the DPW Superintendent. The discussion topics during these meetings were on the work types, the expenses in DPW to continue the analysis of opportunities to potentially outsource large pieces of work. Additional meetings will take place; then Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued. Mayor Neibart commented that the Finance Committee will start with the 2021 budget to investigate cost saving measures.

Fire Department (Neibart) – Mayor Neibart and Deputy Mayor Monaghan have been meeting weekly with the fire department. Run cards 1901, 1902, 1903 have been reviewed; noting Fire District 1901 will be split based on the hydrants. Mayor Neibart also noted that run cards 1911 – 1914 are finished.

First Aid Squad (Duarte) – The First Aid Squad had a Social Distancing Send Off for one of their members who will be attending the MD PHD program at the University of Virginia.

Historic Preservation (Baio)– No Report

Library (Monaghan) – There have been discussions on the availability of grants which they hope to present at the next Township Committee meeting.

Mendham Sewer East & West (Neibart) – No report

Mendham Township School District (Orlins) – Mr. Orlins contacted the schools’ Superintendents, on behalf of a number residents, who have expressed concerns that we begin preparing for the opening of schools in the fall, as a default, and then adjust according to contingencies. He mentioned that there is a lot of anxiety about the possibility of not having in-person school.

Mendham TV (Duarte) - No Report

Planning Board (Baio /Monaghan) – No Report

Police (Monaghan) – No report

Pitney Park (Monaghan) - They meet Friday and have plans to attend the next Township Committee meeting in order to present the plan. Prior to the meeting, they will meet with the stakeholders for their feedback.

Recreation Committee (Orlins) – No report

Regional School District (Monaghan) – No report

Shared Court (Neibart) – A court session was held on June 4th which they heard about 20 cases. On June 11th the court will be adjusting outstanding DWI cases. On June 18th they will hearing approximately 10-14 public defender cases, all virtual court appearances. By then, the court should have another 20 cases resolved by the plea by mail route. Prosecutor Brian Mason and Judge Gavan have worked hard during this complicated and ever-changing environment to ensure that the court continues to preserve the integrity they have always practiced.

Stigma-Free Initiative (Duarte)– Next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night, June 9th via Zoom.

Surrounding Town Outreach (Orlins)– No report

Tax Assessor (Neibart)– The Tax Assessor has contacted the county about the Township’s curiosity regarding the tax reassessment.

Tree Committee (Neibart)– They are looking into West Orange’s ordinance on Emerald Ash Trees.

Wildlife Management (Duarte) – There are 18-22 bears roaming around the community. Watch out for bears!

Zoning Board (Baio) - No report

ADJOURN at 9:43PM

Motion made by Mr. Baio and second by Mr. Monaghan.
All members present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Distributed: 9/16/2020
Approved: 9/22/2020

Maria F. Coppinger
Township Clerk

Statement by:
Stanley Kallman
11 Valley View Drive

Comments presented by Committee Member Orlins at the June 8, 2020 Township Committee Regular Meeting

I believe that any resolution praising the Governor for loosening restrictions is totally out of place, starting with considering the thousands who died in nursing homes at his ORDERS (as they died in New York and Pennsylvania as well).

Beyond that, the shut down directives were misplaced in the first place; I have never understood why “essential and “inessential” should be treated differently, other than that it may make some politicians feel powerful to be giving orders. So big box stores are essential and our local jeweler here is unessential? Is there any evidence of cashiers at Kings or any other food markets (or at Costco, for that matter) having higher incidents of Covid than anyone else?

The answer is obviously “no”, and there’s absolutely no reason why “non-essential” businesses should not have been allowed to stay open, provided that they utilized safe practices. Coming back to our local jeweler, I was probably in the store once, maybe 20 years ago, so I don’t know the man at all. On the other hand, I have not, in general, historically found huge customer “runs” on jewelry stores or similar “non-essential” businesses. You mean they couldn’t have been asked, like the “essential” LIQUOR STORE , to limit two customers in the store at once, wearing face masks, paper bags, or whatever?

What this governor has done, and for which he should be condemned – not praised—is destroy the economy of the state. Nothing whatsoever was gained by shutting down businesses because they were nonessential. I understand barbershops, I understand baseball games, I understand a lots of establishments requiring close proximity of customers to one another or workers. I would like to see someone defend what has taken place here. No thought was given to this at all. All that our Governor did was tag along with Cuomo, who obviously, we now see, didn’t give much thought to anything either.

Accordingly, the idea of praising the Emperor for the loosening of some restrictions over the last couple weeks seems to me like peasants groveling for crumbs. I think the motion was totally inappropriate and I’m rather amazed that it was unanimously approved; it’s time for people to THINK, not time for kumbaya.