

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

- 2. **"Sunshine Law" Announcement**-Adequate notice of this public meeting has been provided by the Annual Notice; posted on Union Township website, published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and Courier News; posted on the public bulletin board and on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

3. FLAG SALUTE

4. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Mr. Severino	X	
Mr. Hirt	X	
Ms. McBride	X	
Mr. Bischoff		X
Mr. Mazza	X	

Others present: J.P. Jost, Attorney, Robert Clerico, Engineer, CFO Grace Brennan and Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk

5. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

- a. Regular Session Meeting Minutes of September 7, 2016

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino	X		X			
Mr. Hirt		X	X			
Ms. McBride					X	
Mr. Bischoff						X
Mr. Mazza					X	

Motion Carried

6. VISITORS

Out of Agenda Order

Kohn/Malenchek, Block 4, Lot 2, 176 Route 173 West: Mr. Malenchek distributed brochure with information about the event. He asked the Committee's approval to hold a Swap-Meet-Antique Motorcycle Display at the property. State Police coverage will be provided. The Pattenburg Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue Squad will be on site.

Atty. Jost asked that a Certificate of Insurance naming the Township as additional insured be filed with the Clerk. The Clerk asked Messrs. Kohn and Malenchek to inform food vendors about the necessity to obtain a Temporary Food license before the event.

Motion to Approve: Swap-Meet-Antique Motorcycle Display on 10/22/16; Rain Date 10/29/16 requested by William Malenchek

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino			X			

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Mr. Hirt	X		X			
Ms. McBride		X	X			
Mr. Bischoff						X
Mr. Mazza			X			

Motion Carried

Back to Agenda Order

- a. Michael O’Neill, Quarry Stone Manufacturing – Bricklayers Competition October 13, 2016; Rain Date, October 14, 2016

Mr. O’Neill distributed a brochure and gave a brief explanation of the competition. Approximately two hundred people would be attending. Mr. O’Neill answered questions from the Committee. Mr. O’Neill also extended an invitation to everyone to attend the event.

Motion to Approve: To hold Bricklayers Competition, subject to applicant obtaining zoning approval and submission of an Insurance Certificate holding the Township harmless. The Clerk said a Temporary Food License is also required.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino		X	X			
Mr. Hirt	X		X			
Ms. McBride			X			
Mr. Bischoff						X
Mr. Mazza			X			

Motion Carried

- b. Paul Pasquarella – Education Reimbursement – Cancelled his appearance before the Committee tonight.

7. REPORTS RECEIVED - ACKNOWLEDGED

- a. Road Dept.- Week Ending; 7/29/16; 8/05/16; 8/12/16; 8/19/16
 - b. Zoning Report – August 2016
 - c. Municipal Court – July 2016
 - d. Animal Control Officer – July 2016
 - e. Engineer’s Report
- NJDOT Presentation - Meeting held at Municipal Building on August 10, 2016 pertaining to Exit 11/Pattenburg Bridge Project. Mr. Clerico prepared a memo for the Committee and DOT Representative.
 - Municipal Chip/Seal Project – Cancelled this year. Roads were not in readiness for contractors.
 - Hunterdon County Route 513 Bridge Project – Completed last week.
 - Frontage Road Project – Funding has been pulled.
 - Pilot Travel Centers LLC Traffic Signal – Left turn signal by Shell Station. Understood to be in final permit stage. Reported on observation of traffic light function at Perryville/Charlestown Road intersection– noted dramatic inconsistencies.
 - 2016 Capital Project – No update.
 - NJDOT Transportation Alternatives Programs – Memo sent to Committee regarding Federal Funding of various projects.
 - Exit 13 – No response from NJDOT regarding Stop/Yield Signage.
 - NJDEP Standards for Municipal Storm Water Permits – Will submit a memo regarding the Seminar.

8. CORRESPONDENCE / WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. McBride mentioned the following correspondence:

- Complaint received from a Township Resident about Property on Baptist Church Road – Mayor Mazza noted the issue has been addressed.
- Clothing Bin Request on Township Property – Feels the one behind the Municipal Building is adequate. No interest by Committee.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- State Trooper Walsh – Reported on Fraudulent IRS Calls. Monthly reports have been provided to Atty. Jost. Discussion with Committee Members regarding number of tickets written and reasons for increased accidents on Route 78.

Out of Agenda Order

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. The following resolution was introduced for approval:

RESOLUTION #2016-89

**TOWNSHIP OF UNION, HUNTERDON COUNTY
RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE DIRECT MAILING**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:5-26 requires the Tax Collector to advertise the Notice of Tax Sale for four weeks prior to the tax sale; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:5-26 provides the Tax Collector may give notice by direct mail in lieu of two publications, the cost of which shall not exceed \$25.00 for each such notice, which cost shall be added to the cost of sale.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 7th day of September, 2016 by the Township Committee of the Township of Union, Hunterdon County, State of New Jersey, that:

1. The Tax Collector may provide notification by Direct Mail in lieu of two publications.
2. The cost of each Direct Mailing shall be set at \$25.00.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino	X		X			
Mr. Hirt		X	X			
Ms. McBride			X			
Mr. Bischoff						X
Mr. Mazza			X			

Motion Carried

b. The following resolution was introduced for approval:

RESOLUTION #2016-90

**UNION TOWNSHIP, HUNTERDON COUNTY
FIREWORKS APPROVAL – HUNTERDON DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER**

WHEREAS in order to provide entertainment at the Hunterdon County Developmental Center, located at 40 County Road 513, Clinton, New Jersey, permission has been requested to allow a fireworks display on Friday, September 23, 2016, at approximately 8:30 p.m.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Union that permission is granted to allow a fireworks display at the Hunterdon County Developmental Center on Friday, September 23, 2016 at 8:30 p.m., subject to the following conditions:

1. The persons conducting the fireworks display and all other persons involved shall hold the Township of Union harmless from any liability in connection with said display.
2. A Certificate of Liability Insurance listing the Township of Union, 140 Perryville Rd., Hampton, N. J. 08827, as a named insured shall be supplied to the Township Clerk prior to issuance of this consent.
3. Compliance with all requirements of law and any requirements of the Township’s Insurance Carrier.

Date: September 7, 2016

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino		X	X			
Mr. Hirt			X			
Ms. McBride	X		X			
Mr. Bischoff						X
Mr. Mazza			X			

Motion Carried

- c. **Motion to Approve:** Swap-Meet-Antique Motorcycle Display on 10/22/16; Rain Date 10/29/16 requested by William Malenchek – Approved under Visitor portion of the meeting

11. PUBLIC HEARING – 2nd Reading

**ORDINANCE 2016 - 7
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-14
OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION,
HUNTERDON COUNTY NEW JERSEY
REGARDING THE UNION TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT**

To open

Voice Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino	X		X			
Mr. Hirt			X			

Ms. McBride		X	X			
Mr. Bischoff						X
Mr. Mazza			X			

Motion Carried

Frank Wittlesley, Esq. – Atty. Wittlesley, representing Pattenburg Volunteer Fire Company (PVFC), said there have been ongoing negotiations between the Mayor and Committee and PVFC regarding the Ordinance. Issues of concern to PVFC Members include the record keeping requirement and submission of documents to the Township that are currently maintained by PVFC at the Firehouse, as well as oversight and disciplinary action of the Fire Company by the Mayor and Committee. The Fire Company wants those mandates removed from the proposed Ordinance. PVFC members present agreed to provide documents if requested by the Township Committee. Ms. McBride felt the disciplinary action section of the Ordinance should remain in the event that a volunteer was involved in an infraction of the law and the Fire Company did not take action. She also noted the existing Ordinance noted membership was open to males only, under the age of forty. Mr. Severino indicated he was comfortable with removing the disciplinary action section of the Ordinance.

Atty. Jost referenced the section pertaining to Mandatory Training Documents, Certifications and Fitness Evaluations results. Mr. Jost said the section could state the information would be on file at the Firehouse and available for examination by the authorized Township Official. Chief VanFossen explained the Fire Company’s Fitness Evaluation procedure, results of which are on file at the Firehouse. Mr. Severino would like to see the Ordinance amended in that regard. Atty. Jost explained the process of amending the introduced ordinance.

Jay Thatcher, Esq. – Resident, also appearing on behalf of Debbie Hirt who asked him to read the following letter and that it become a part of the record:

Good evening Mayor and Committee members –

My name is Debbie Hirt and I reside at 40 Springhouse Lane, Union Twp. I would first like to extend my apologies for not being able to attend this very important meeting but I am away in California. So I have asked my attorney, Jay Thatcher to read into the record my comments on the matter of the Ordinance up for adoption at tonight’s meeting regarding the Pattenburg Volunteer Fire Co.

My first thoughts about this ordinance, when I heard about it, was to take from an old adage, “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it”!

And I support that statement by saying as a former Mayor and Committee member of this town, that there was never ever any problems with the Pattenburg Volunteer Fire Company (operative word here is “Volunteer”) for the past 60 years of its existence, until more recently when the Township hired Mr. Marc Strauss to act as a “facilitator” between the 4 fire companies that cover Union Twp. As a tax paying citizen here in Union Twp., I felt it was a waste of tax payer dollars to hire an individual to do nothing more than to, in my opinion, “bully” the Pattenburg Volunteer Fire Company. I find it absurd that Mr. Strauss has initiated a letter to the Mayor and Committee that requires signatures of all the Fire Chiefs from High Bridge, Clinton, Quakertown, and Pattenburg to sign stating that they won’t do fundraising in certain areas of the town. Isn’t it up to each and every resident, and their constitutional right, to decide to whom they want to donate. I don’t see where Marc Strauss is authorized to tell a citizen where and to which organization they should donate. This is a free country and we can donate to whom we want.

The men that serve this organization currently, and in all the past years, have dedicated their personal time away from their families and jobs to protect all the families in the area that they cover and have done a damn good job of it! And I thank most of the folks that are here in the audience tonight will agree with me. And I would also like to thank all of those residents that did come out to support the Pattenburg Volunteer Fire Co.

Other than paying for their insurance, the Fire Company has never asked for anything from the Committee other than to be “left alone” so they can do the job they love so much. They own their own building and their own equipment including the fire trucks.

If this ordinance is to be approved shouldn't the residents of both Bethlehem and Alexandria Townships, that are served by the Pattenburg Fire Company, have an opportunity to speak their minds? Shouldn't the governing bodies of both those towns have a say in how this ordinance is or was drafted since it is their residents who are protected by this fire company?

I find it absurd that you include in this ordinance requirements that are already required by the State of New Jersey which supersedes any rules the Township puts into place, such as the Firefighter certificates and the NIMS requirements because within the fire company there are volunteers who are “first responders” and others that are just fire fighters. A lot of the calls they respond to are car accidents along Rte. 78 and they once again have gone “above and beyond” by being certified “first responders” to care for accident victims until the Rescue Squad arrives on the scene.

Does it not make sense to stop the arguing and squabbling over petty, petty items that are really being addressed already by an amazing fire company? Let's stop looking like 4-year olds in a sandbox that can't get along! Let's act like adults and table this ordinance until such time that both Bethlehem and Alexandria residents who are protected by this fire company can fully understand what is at stake here.

I have lived in this township for 35 years and have nothing but the utmost respect for the men who serve on the Pattenburg Volunteer Fire Company. I would respectfully request Mayor, that this ordinance be tabled for further discussions.

Thank you for your time and for allowing me to speak through Mr. Thatcher. Good night.

Mr. Thatcher, a former Mayor and Committeeman stated his belief that PVFC has been doing an outstanding job and that the proposed Ordinance is totally unnecessary, possibly discriminatory. At a minimum, Mr. Thatcher said, the Ordinance should be tabled until further discussion.

Mayor Mazza stated the reasons the Ordinance was reviewed, i.e., current ordinance backdates to 1972, no one older than forty could serve. Contributions to all Fire Companies were stated.

Glenn Roth – Marudy Drive – Voiced concern about the previous statement regarding contributions to various Fire Companies. He said the issue should not be the money, but public safety.

Chris Rochelle – Main Street Pattenburg – Was the main issue money? Mayor Mazza said the issue was the Ordinance needed to be updated.

Karen Wisnosky – Deer Hill Lane – Questioned the length of the proposed Ordinance and the money and time involved in its adoption. She also asked if temporary appointment of Public Safety Coordinator is going to be a permanent position as set forth in the Ordinance.

Jen Macri – 407 Bellwood Avenue – Questioned the section in the proposed Ordinance regarding the responsibility of the Fire Company. Ms. Macri felt it was frightening and disrespectful. The Ordinance states that if at anytime the Fire Company becomes non-compliant the Township Committee may remove PVFC from service as the Fire Company of the Township of Union. Ms. McBride said it was to protect the Township.

Paul Muir – Mayor Bethlehem Township – As Mayor of Bethlehem Township, he was cognizant of the concerns of the Committee and PVFC.

William Happel – Pittstown Road/Route 579 – Mr. Happel said that he had asked for reports from Marc Strauss, Public Safety Coordinator at previous meetings. He said thus far he had not received any reports.

Matt Wunder – 319 Gano Road – Voiced hope that the problem/problems pertaining to the Fire Department Ordinance were being resolved tonight.

Bob Wisnosky – PVFC Captain and Treasurer – Asked that Ordinance state, “Copies pertaining to Certification are on file at the Pattenburg Firehouse and will be provided to the Committee upon request”. Clerk noted that the Second Public Hearing on the Amended Ordinance as discussed and agreed tonight would be scheduled for October 5, 2016.

To close Public Hearing

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino	X		X			
Mr. Hirt			X			
Ms. McBride		X	X			
Mr. Bischoff						X
Mr. Mazza			X			

Motion Carried

After the above discussion, the following motion was introduced for approval:

To amend the following sections of the Ordinance: 2-14.6; 2-14.8 and others as discussed

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino	X		X			
Mr. Hirt		X	X			
Ms. McBride			X			
Mr. Bischoff						X
Mr. Mazza			X			

Motion Carried

12. OLD BUSINESS – none

13. NEW ORDINANCE – 1st Reading - none

14. REPORTS

a. Attorney’s Report

- Pilot Travel Centers LLC: Pilot is requesting release of their \$100,000.00 Supplemental Bond for improvements at two intersections.
- MEL Insurance Checklist – will prepare resolution updating Personnel Manual to comply with most current requirements.
- Derelict House in Pattenburg - Atty. Jost visited property. Sent letter to property owner. Distributed and asked Committee members to review draft ordinance regarding property maintenance.

Tom Quinn, 623 Main Street, Pattenburg – Thanked Atty. Jost for e-mailing a copy of the letter referenced above. He asked why the Township couldn’t adopt a general property maintenance ordinance.

b. Committee Reports

Mr. Hirt reported the following:

- Gutter Replacement/Extension on Salt Shed/Bins – Will obtain estimate.
- Dumpsters – Spoke with Mr. Hermann who was willing to lock gates at night to preclude undesirable dumping. Mr. Severino was opposed to the closure. He felt it offers a service to residents.

Mr. Severino reported the following:

- Mayor Mazza asked Mr. Severino about electronic recycling pickup. Mr. Severino said he calls when dumpster is full.
- Basement improvements - Quote will be sought by Mr. Hirt.

Ms. McBride reported the following:

- Union Forge Heritage Association – Met with Mike Gronsky regarding two buildings at Hoffman Park. Asked that DR&F install caution tape or fencing around the derelict buildings.
- UTEC – Upper Raritan Watershed Association will present the results of Union Township Well Tests at UTEC’s September 13, 2016 meeting.
- Letter from Senator Doherty regarding volunteer fire and emergency services provided to State facilities. Mr. Doherty provided a Draft Bill regarding compensation for fire departments and emergency services that serve those facilities. Would like the Draft Bill be discussed further. Fire Chief would be provided with a copy for any comments. Copy already provided to Clinton Mayor Kovach.

c. Mayor’s Report

- Baptist Church Road – Drainage pipe will be replaced under a collapsed driveway.
- Anderson Road - Shoulders rebuilt on both sides of road.
- Henderson Road – Bottom section in deteriorated state.
- Brass Castle – Road Department replacing/repairing the 50+ inlets.

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS – no comments from the Public

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Township Committee at this time Mr. Hirt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m. Ms. McBride seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote.

Clerk announced that the meeting had to reconvene because approval had not been given to pay bills.

	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino	X		X			
Mr. Hirt			X			
Ms. McBride		X	X			

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Mr. Bischoff						X
Mr. Mazza			X			

Motion Carried

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time Ms. McBride made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Mr. Hirt seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote.

Transcribed by: Grace Kocher, Deputy Clerk

Frank Mazza, Mayor