

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

- 2. **"Sunshine Law" Announcement-** Adequate notice of this public meeting has been provided by Annual Notice; published in the Hunterdon 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	
Mr. Sroka	X	
Mr. Stothoff	X	
Mr. Mazza	X	

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

5. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

- a. Budget Workshop and Regular Session Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2017

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino			X			
Mr. Hirt					X	
Mr. Sroka	X		X			
Mr. Stothoff		X	X			
Mr. Mazza			X			

Motion carried

6. VISITORS

- a. Kathryn Windsor – from Tilson Tech, hired as a subcontracting company by Verizon Wireless. Ms. Windsor explained in detail the request submitted to the Township to obtain consent to locate and operate in the right-of-way in the Township of Union. Verizon Wireless is requesting authorization to locate and operate small network nodes in the public right of way by attaching to existing and new utility poles. They would later obtain any required site-specific permits to each node through the building departments. She said that engineers are working on a detailed study as to the effect it is going to have in each municipality. Atty. Jost stated that the Committee is taking the request under advisement. Mayor Severino asked for a copy of the study when available. Ms. Windsor said the study would be available in about a month.

7. REPORTS RECEIVED - Acknowledged

- a. Road Dept.- Week Ending; 2/12/17; 2/17/17
- b. Engineer's Report

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING March 1, 2017

- Frontage Road Bridge by Foster Wheeler – Confirmed that it is a NJ DOT project, but waiting for confirmation that it will be completed before May 20, 2017.
- Met with Mr. Mazza, Craig Hermann and Todd Hirt, NJ DOT Division of Railroad Engineering. Various issues discussed with regard to the railroad crossing. Mr. Hirt noted extensive deterioration in track crossing. Offered to contact representatives from the railroad company and apprise Mr. Clerico of the discussion. Quiet zone issue was also discussed.
- Replacement of Yield Sign with Stop Sign at Exit 13 – The Project has been assigned to NJDOT. Representative Dave Martin – Anticipates a response in six to eight weeks.

8. CORRESPONDENCE / WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Sroka mentioned the following correspondence:

- Website Inquiries – Said all Committee Members should be copied on Inquiries.

Mr. Severino mentioned the following correspondence:

- Hunterdon County Road Striping Program – Briefly discussed.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lisa Coster, 2 Finn Road – Proposed Saturday May 3, 2017 as Union Township Paper Shredding Day. Mayor Severino said that item was not in this year's budget. Ms. Coster also said a Town Wide Yard Sale is planned for May 3, 2017. She provided details of the event. Funds from the sale will be given to the PTA. Mr. Sroka will post the info on the Website.

10. PUBLIC HEARING**11. OLD BUSINESS - None****12. NEW ORDINANCE – 1st Reading****13. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. The following resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2017- 39

**RE: OBTAINING OF OPEN SPACE TRUST FUNDS
FROM THE HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**

WHEREAS, the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders has approved an Open Space Trust Fund and established a Municipal Grants Program to provide Program Funds in connection with municipal acquisition of lands for recreation, conservation and general open space purposes, farmland preservation, preparation of plan elements of a municipal Master Plan and/or restoration of county-owned historic facilities; and

WHEREAS, The Governing Body of the Township of Union, County of Hunterdon, desires to obtain Open Space Trust Funds in the amount of \$72,807.05 to fund the following project(s):

Milligan Farm – Union Township Open Space Plan – Green Acres Project No. 1025-02-075 – acquisition in

fee simple of 83.913 acres to be permanently preserved as open space.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Union, in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that:

1. Union Township Mayor Matt Severino is authorized to: (a) make an application to the County of Hunterdon for Open Space Trust Funds, (b) provide additional application information and furnish such documents as may be required for the Municipal Grants Program and (c) act as the principal contact person and correspondent of the above-named municipality;

2. If the County of Hunterdon determines that the application is complete and in conformance with the Hunterdon County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Plan, and the Policies and Procedures Manual for the Municipal Grants Program adopted thereto, the municipality is willing to use the approved Open Space Trust Funds in accordance with such adopted policies and procedures, and applicable state and local government rules, regulations and statutes thereto;

3. Mayor Matt Severino is hereby authorized to sign and execute any required documents and agreements with the County of Hunterdon for the approved Open Space Trust Funds.

Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk

Matt Severino, Mayor

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino			X			
Mr. Hirt			X			
Mr. Sroka		X	X			
Mr. Stothoff	X		X			
Mr. Mazza			X			

Motion carried

Atty. Jost asked that the following motion be approved:

To authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk sign the Municipal Grant Application.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino			X			
Mr. Hirt			X			
Mr. Sroka	X		X			
Mr. Stothoff		X	X			
Mr. Mazza			X			

Motion carried

b. **Motion to Approve:** – Request by Thomas R. Baldwin for the Mayor to sign a letter to NJDOT; no objection for flying hot air balloons.

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

Mr. Stothoff			X			
Mr. Mazza			X			

Motion carried

Atty. Jost said approval is subject to applicant submitting Certificate of Insurance, naming the Township harmless.

- c. **Mayoral Appointment** – Mayor Matt Severino appointed Heather Hughes to serve on UT Environmental Committee

14. REPORTS

a. **Attorney’s Report**

- Derelict Property on Main Street in Pattenburg – Received response from property owner that he will begin work on the property in the Spring.
- Union Township Historical Society Funds – Spoke with Atty. Jay Thatcher about the Funds. The consensus of the Committee was that the monies should be used for improvements to the Union Forge Buildings, historical markers, etc.
- NJDOT Letter regarding Exit 11 – He and Mr. Stothoff to prepare.

b. **Committee Reports**

Mr. Hirt reported the following:

- Spoke about plans for 2017 Community Day. Asked that some funding be allocate in 2017 budget. Mayor Severino said the issue will be reviewed at Budget Meetings.

Mr. Mazza reported the following:

- Township Parks – Gates and fences at Finn and Millbrook Parks have been installed.
- Smoke eater purchased for DR& F.

Mr. Stothoff reported the following:

- Postal Mailbox safety issue – Visited with Hampton Postmistress regarding the issue. Willing to discuss with Congressman Lance and hopefully the health and safety issue can be resolved satisfactorily.
- Bridge Reconstruction Project at Exit 11 Meeting – Met with Public Safety Coordinator Marc Strauss and members of Pattenburg Volunteer Fire Company and Pattenburg Rescue Squad last night to discuss closure of overpass. Various options for parking of emergency vehicles were discussed. Traffic management in the event of an eastbound Route 78 accident was discussed. Mr. Strauss has been in contact with NJDOT . Mr. Stothoff anticipates a report will be ready for the April 5, 2017 meeting. NJDOT will hold a Public Meeting for residents/concerned citizens on March 16, 2017 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., at the Union Township Middle School Cafeteria. The Meeting will be posted on the Township Website and Facebook.

Mr. Sroka reported the following:

- Personnel - Interviewed several candidates for the DR&F Position. Second interview of potential candidate are scheduled for next week. Hope to have made a selection by the March 15, 2017 meeting.

- Mentioned personnel appointments for the first quarter of 2017. A decision regarding those appointments should be discussed at the next meeting.
- Communications – Postings on Facebook – Website being updated.
- North-Hunterdon/Voorhees School Board – Attended meeting as Board liaison – Demographic study presentation noted the declining population in Hunterdon County.

Mayor’s Report - all matters have been addressed earlier at this meeting

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS – none

16. PAYMENT OF BILLS

The approved list of bills and all claims against the Township of Union as appearing in the Claims Register of this date paid and that all checks listed hereinafter issued in payment thereof.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino			X			
Mr. Hirt			X			
Mr. Sroka		X	X			
Mr. Stothoff	X		X			
Mr. Mazza			X			

Motion carried

18. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Township Committee at this time Mr. Sroka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Mr. Hirt seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote.

Transcribed by: Grace A. Kocher, Deputy Clerk

Matt Severino, Mayor