

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 and Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk

5. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

- a. Regular Meeting Minutes of September 7, 2016 - Mayor Mazza noted that on p. 6 of 9, under his comments “the date of existing Fire Dept. Ordinance is 1972” should be added and “males only” statement by Ms. McBride’s should be omitted from the proposed Ordinance”.

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 as amended

6. VISITORS

- a. Lauren Brown from Pittstown Trail Association – Request for Jump Clinic – Ms. Brown gave an overview of the Association’s proposal to hold the event at the end of October or early November. Insurance Certificate naming the Township as additional insured was provided along with information about the Clinic. Mayor Mazza suggested the Recreation Committee be contacted regarding dates.

Motion to Approve: Based upon the above presentation and information received, Mr. Severino made a motion to approve the request, subject to providing insurance holding the Township harmless and coordination of the event with the Recreation Committee.

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

7. REPORTS RECEIVED - ACKNOWLEDGED

- a. Road Dept.- Week Ending; 9/02/16; 9/09/16
- b. Animal Control Officer – August 2016
- c. Municipal Court – August 2016
- d. Engineer’s Report - Not Present

8. CORRESPONDENCE / WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Severino mentioned the following correspondence:

- Letter from Hunterdon County Freeholders Office regarding setting Speed Limit on Route 625.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

10. PUBLIC HEARING – 2nd Reading

11. OLD BUSINESS – none

12. NEW ORDINANCE – 1st Reading - none

13. NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA: All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the consent Agenda and will be considered separate.

- a. **RESOLUTION #2016-91:** Redemption to Lienholder – Tax Sale Cert. #2014-002

**RESOLUTION #2016-91
TOWNSHIP OF UNION, HUNTERDON COUNTY
RESOLUTION TO REFUND REDEMPTION TO LIENHOLDER**

WHEREAS, Tax Sale Certificate #2014-002 was issued to U.S Bank for PC4 Firsttrust Bank, in the amount of \$7,314.77 on October 24, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the lien was redeemed on September 2, 2016, in the amount of \$32,125.20 in accordance with provisions of NJSA54:5-60 et seq.; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 21st day of September, 2016, by the Township Committee of the Township of Union, Hunterdon County, State of New Jersey, as follows:

- 1. The Treasurer issue a check in the amount of \$32,125.20 and a premium of \$6,000.00 for a total of \$38,125.20 payable to U.S Bank for PC4 Firsttrust Bank, 50 S 16th St., Suite 2050, Philadelphia, PA 19102
- 2. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

- b. **RESOLUTION #2016-92:** Supporting the Proposed NJDOT Replacement of Structurally Deficient Bridge in Pattenburg (CR 614) over I-78 in the Township of Union

Township of Union
 Hunterdon County
 State of New Jersey

RESOLUTION #2016 - 92

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED NJDOT REPLACEMENT OF STRUCTURALLY DEFICIENT BRIDGE IN PATTENBURG (CR 614) OVER I-78 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (Department) has proposed the replacement of the decking of the structurally deficient bridge in Pattenburg (CR614) over I-78 in the Township of Union, County of Hunterdon; and

WHEREAS, the Department has proposed to replace the decking of the described bridge in Pattenburg (CR 614) while providing a sufficient detour of traffic as discussed with Township of Union officials and professionals.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Union, in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the plans for bridge decking replacement and the planned provision for the detour of traffic are hereby approved.

- c. **RESOLUTION #2016-93:** To adopt the County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Resolution # 2016-93

Resolution to adopt the County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

WHEREAS the Township of Union in Hunterdon County New Jersey, has experienced natural hazards that result in public safety hazards and damage to private and public property;

WHEREAS the hazard mitigation planning process set forth by the State of New Jersey and the Federal Emergency Management Agency offers the opportunity to consider natural hazards and risks, and to identify mitigation actions to reduce future risk;

WHEREAS the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management is providing federal mitigation funds to support development of the mitigation plan;

WHEREAS a *Hazard Mitigation Plan* (HMP) has been developed by the Mitigation Steering and Planning Committees;

WHEREAS the *Hazard Mitigation Plan* includes a prioritized list of mitigation actions including activities that, over time, will help minimize and reduce safety threats and damage to private and public property, and **WHEREAS** the draft plan was provided to each participating jurisdiction and was posted on the Hunterdon County website so as to introduce the planning concept and to solicit questions and comments; and to present the HMP and request comments, as required by law, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Union of Hunterdon County:

1. The *Hunterdon County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, as submitted to the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency on May 20, 2016* by the Hunterdon County Office of Emergency Management, is hereby adopted as an official plan of the Township of Union; minor revisions recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and/or the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management may be incorporated without further action.
 2. The Township of Union departments identified in the HMP are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended high priority activities that are assigned to their departments.
 3. Any action proposed by the HMP shall be subject to and contingent upon budget approval, if required, which shall be at the discretion of the Township of Union, and this resolution shall not be interpreted so as to mandate any such appropriations.
 4. The Hunterdon County OEM Coordinator is designated to coordinate with other offices and shall periodically report on the activities, accomplishments, and progress, and shall prepare an annual progress report to be submitted to the Hunterdon County Office of Emergency Management. The status reports shall be submitted on a yearly basis by a predetermined date as agreed upon by all stakeholders.
- d. **RESOLUTION #2016-87:** In Support of North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District Board of Education Referendum Question on November 2016 Ballot

Resolution removed from Consent Agenda to be discussed

- e. **RESOLUTION #2016-94:** Adopting Changes to UT Personnel & Procedures Manual & Employee Handbook

RESOLUTION #2016-94

**Adopting Changes to Township of Union
Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual and
Union Township Employee Handbook**

WHEREAS, there is a need to amend the Township of Union Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual and the Union Township Employee Handbook, to reflect changes recommended by the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund (MEL) for the 2017-2018 MEL Employment Practices Liability Program; and good cause appearing

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the changes as set forth in the Township of Union Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual and the Union Township Employee Handbook, as revised through September 14, 2016, are hereby adopted, and the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual and the Employee Handbook are hereby amended accordingly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the revised Employee Handbook with changes through September 14, 2016 shall be provided by the Personnel Administrator to all employees of the Township of Union.

f. PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

End of Consent Agenda

- d. **RESOLUTION #2016-95:** In Support of North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District Board of Education Referendum Question on November 2016 Ballot

**TOWNSHIP OF UNION
HUNTERDON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION #2016-95

**In Support of
North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District Board of Education
Referendum Question on November 2016 Ballot**

WHEREAS Township of Union a municipality within the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District, and students in this municipality attend school in the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District in grades 9 through 12;

WHEREAS the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District Board of Education has approved a referendum question to be placed on the general election ballot on November 8, 2016, seeking voter approval for the sale of bonds for projects at North Hunterdon and Voorhees High Schools to maintain safe school facilities and improve students’ learning environment;

WHEREAS the projects to be funded upon voter approval include the following, all of which have been reviewed and approved by the New Jersey Department of Education:

- **Replacement of most windows at North Hunterdon High School**
- **Replacement of all windows at Voorhees High School**
- **Renovations of the library/technology center at North Hunterdon High School**
- **Renovations of the library/technology center at Voorhees High School**
- **Upgrades to HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) system at North Hunterdon High School**
- **Replacement of the stadium visitor bleachers with ADA upgrades at Voorhees High School**
- **Replacement of stadium visitor/band bleachers and tennis court bleachers at North Hunterdon High School**
- **ADA accessibility to home stadium bleachers at Voorhees High School**
- **Renovation of the athletic field house at North Hunterdon High School**

WHEREAS the proposed projects would benefit all students of the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District, including students residing in Township of Union;

WHEREAS the total estimated cost of the proposed projects is not to exceed \$9,743,000; and if the referendum is approved, the State of New Jersey will provide \$2,888,800 in debt service aid, reducing the cost of the projects to be borne by local taxpayers to \$6,854,200; and such state aid will be granted only if the referendum receives voter approval;

WHEREAS, simultaneous with the issuance of bonds for the projects, the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District will retire its existing debt on previous projects, which existing debt required a larger annual debt service payment than the proposed projects; and therefore the proposed projects will result in NO ADDITIONAL TAXES for local taxpayers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of Township of Union finds that the projects listed above at North Hunterdon and Voorhees High Schools would benefit all students in the regional high school district, including students residing in Township of Union, and would result in no additional taxes for local taxpayers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee of Township of Union hereby expresses its support for the referendum question to be placed on the general election ballot, seeking voter approval for the sale of bonds for projects at North Hunterdon and Voorhees High Schools, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council/Committee urges voters to vote YES on the referendum question on November 8, 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to the Board Secretary of the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District Board of Education, and a copy shall be attached to the minutes of this meeting of the Township Committee and published on the website of Township of Union.

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 Denied

14. REPORTS

a. Attorney’s Report

- Solar Ordinance Amendment – asked if Committee was ready to proceed with the Ordinance. Mayor Mazza and Ms. McBride agreed to provide a report to the Planning Board at their meeting tomorrow night.
- Property Maintenance Ordinance – Following extensive discussion, Committee would like to wait for input from Mr. Bischoff. Mr. Hirt was designated as liaison to compile changes from Committee members and to review Draft Ordinance with Mr. Jost.
- Matter for Executive Session.

b. Committee Reports

Ms. McBride reported the following:

- Commented on the Raritan Headwaters Association presentation at UTEC’s September 13, 2016 meeting regarding Union Township Well Tests. Ms. McBride expressed appreciation to UTEC Chair Sandra Howland for the program.
- Received an email from Heidi Budsock requesting an updated letter from Mayor authorizing Michael Fariello Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 119 access to Hoffman Park.

- Provided copy of Senator Doherty’s Fire Department and Emergency Services Compensation Draft Bill to Marc Strauss, Public Safety Coordinator. Mr. Strauss will contact Fire Chiefs of Companies serving Union Township and they are to report back to Mr. Strauss regarding the Bill.

Mr. Severino reported the following:

- Clean Communities Monies – CFO Brennan should be contacted regarding use of those Monies.
- Thank you note should be written to Alan Dille, Franklin Township Clean Communities Coordinator for assistance to Union Township with certification of Tonnage Grant Report.
- Mentioned a large couch was dumped on Bank of America Property on Bank Street. Will contact appropriate person.
- Spoke with Rotary Club Member Andy West regarding Gift Cards for Union Hill Residents affected by 2013 fire. Committee suggested Mr. Severino contact the Homeowners Association for Union Hill.

Mr. Hirt reported the following:

- Announced info about Transco Gas Pipeline Training Meetings if anyone was interested.
- Received estimate from Mr. P’s Painting to scrape off paint and repaint portions of walls in the basement of Municipal Building
- Replacement/Extension of Gutters on Salt Shed/Bins.

Atty. Jost asked that the following motion be approved:

To authorize scraping and painting of basement walls at a cost of \$820.00 and authorize two 18-foot extensions of gutters in the amount of estimate, not to exceed \$600.00.

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. Mayor’s Report

- Status Report on Roads and Tree Maintenance

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Francis Goger, Bethlehem Township Resident appeared on behalf of North Hunterdon/Voorhees Boards of Education asking the Committee to support Referendum Question on November 2016 Ballot. Deputy Mayor Severino apprised Mr. Goger of the reason the Committee voted against Resolution.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION –

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION #2016-96
Providing for a Meeting Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the
Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Union is subject to certain requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et. seq.,; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10-4-12, provides that an Executive Session, not open to the public, may be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by Resolution; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Township Committee of the Township of Union to discuss in a session not open to the public certain matters relating to the item or items authorized by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b and designated below:

1. _____ Matters Required by Law to be Confidential: Any matter which, by express provision of Federal law or State statute or rule of court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.
2. _____Matters Where the Release of Information Would Impair the Right to Receive Funds: Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the Government of the United States.
3. _____Matters Involving Individual Privacy: Any material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy such as any records, data, reports, recommendations, or other personal material of any educational, training, social service, medical, health, custodial, child protection, rehabilitation, legal defense, welfare, housing, relocation, insurance and similar program or institution operated by a public body pertaining to any specific individual admitted to or served by such institution or program , including but not limited to information relative to the individual's personal and family circumstances, and any material pertaining to admission, discharge, treatment, progress or condition of any individual, unless the individual concerned (or, in the case of a minor or incompetent, his guardian) shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publicly.
4. _____Matters Relating to Collective Bargaining Agreements: Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of the terms and conditions thereof with employees or representatives of employees of the public body.
5. _____Matters Relating to the Purchase, Lease of Acquisition of Real Property or the Investment of Public Funds: Any matter involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of banking rates or investment of public funds, where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed.
6. _____Matters Relating to Public Safety and Property: Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public, provided that their disclosure could impair such protection. Any investigations of violations of possible violations of the law.
7. X Matters Relating to Litigation, Negotiations and the Attorney-Client Privilege: Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is, or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is require in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer.
8. _____ Matters Relating to the Employment Relationship: Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting.

9. _____Matters Relating to the Potential Imposition of a Penalty: Any deliberations of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party bears responsibility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Union, assembled in public session on September 21, 2016 at 7:53 p.m. in the Union Township Municipal Building, 140 Perryville Road, Hampton, New Jersey, for the discussion of matters relating to the specific items designated above.

It is anticipated that the deliberations conducted in closed session may be disclosed to the public upon the determination of the Township Committee that the public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality.

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

The Committee returned to regular meeting session at 8:07 p.m.

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

The following action was taken after returning to open session:

Atty. Jost asked that the following motion be approved:

To authorize the Township of Union Tax Assessor to retain the services of either John Musnoff or Norman Goldberg for an expert appraisal report in connection with the Kramer Electronics Tax Appeal, subject to her discretion as to which one to use appropriately and subject to approval by the Township Committee Special Services Contract.

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

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Township Committee at this time Mr. Severino made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Mr. Hirt seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote.

Transcribed by: Grace Kocher, Deputy Clerk

Frank Mazza, Mayor