

MINUTES FOR
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
March 19, 2020

1. Montgomery Township Committee met at the Municipal Building, 2261 Van Horne Road, Belle Mead, NJ at 7:00 p.m. on the above date. Those present were:

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE: Mayor Jaffer, Deputy Mayor Schuldiner, Committee members Gural, Keenan and Huang

Also present were:

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY - Kevin Van Hise, Esq.

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR - Donato Nieman

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER - Michael Pitts

TOWNSHIP CLERK - Donna Kukla

2. Mayor Jaffer stated the following: "Although this meeting is the regularly scheduled meeting of the Montgomery Township Committee, due to the State of Emergency that exists as a result of the COVID-19 Coronavirus crisis, and in accordance with Executive Order No. 104 issued by Governor Murphy on Monday, March 16 limiting public gatherings, this meeting is being held virtually by webcast, simulcast on Comcast Cable Channel 29, and public participation is enabled by Zoom Meeting. Instructions for participating in this meeting are provided on the Township's website at www.twp.montgomery.nj.us. In light of these special circumstances, it is the Committee's intention to limit the agenda during this State of Emergency to items necessary for the continued operation of the Township and to conclude this meeting as soon as practicable.

3. Mayor Jaffer led the Salute to the Flag.

4. **COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE**

Health Officer Stephanie Carey stated that these are extraordinary times and extraordinary circumstances. On Monday, March 16, the Governor declared an Executive Order that banned most larger gatherings, food service and restaurants and gym participation. Those restrictions have only been added to. Today there was an amendment to the Executive Order that closed barber shops, salons and spas. Non-essential businesses must close by 8:00 p.m. and must be able to demonstrate that they can practice social distancing. The case count in New Jersey just about doubled within the last 24 hours. She warned that not all of those are new cases because testing is gradually becoming more available. She stated that as of mid-day today there were 742 cases in New Jersey. 23 of those cases are in Somerset County and 5 of those cases are in Montgomery itself. The numbers are expected to increase steadily in the coming days for two reasons: 1. As more people are able to be tested, there will be a backlog of people who needed tested that are coming into the system; and 2. The increasing prevalence of community spread. It has only been 7 days since the first documented community spread in New Jersey. Community spread now appears to be the primary way that this disease is transmitted. That is why we have these extraordinary measures in place that have not been asked of the American people since 1918. The Montgomery Township Health Department has been working tirelessly to try to manage this situation within the community. She is eternally grateful to the dedicated Health Department staff who have been working all hours of the day and night to try to fight this outbreak. They have just established a dedicated call line for residents of Montgomery and their shared service partners to be able to call and get accurate information and answers to their questions. That number, starting on March 20, is 908-533-9319. This number is for Coronavirus questions and concerns only. She stated that testing for the Coronavirus remains a huge issue and is steadily becoming more available, but there is still a tremendous backlog. She explained that people who are not sick should not be tested at this time. She read the following statement which was just posted on the Township Health Department website:

"The facts cannot be ignored or minimized. The COVID 19 virus is already present in our community, regardless of anyone's relationship to a specific case. The likelihood of more cases being detected in the community is high. It is critically important that all residents diligently and proactively social distance now and continue until our advisories change. This practice is intended to protect you and your families as well as the health and safety of the entire community.

Stay home. Avoid non-essential trips, and maintain a six-foot distance from other people when you must go out. Doing otherwise threatens your health and the health of others. This is not the time for sleepovers, play group, birthday parties, friends over, or congregating of any kind.

This is the time when *your* actions can make the difference between life, illness, and death. They are necessary steps to proactively slow this outbreak. We have learned from countries with outbreaks - social distancing is essential, to reducing the risk of harm to the community."

- 4-1. Administrator Nieman complimented Ms. Carey and staff. They have been working literally around the clock.
- 4-2. Committeeman Huang thanked Ms. Carey and staff for their hard work. He asked if the hotline would be 24 hours a day/7 days a week? Ms. Carey responded that initially it would be covered during business hours only. If the volume grows they have the capability of expanding the hours.

(Item #4 Cont.)

4-3. Committeewoman Keenan thanked Ms. Carey and staff for their hard work. She stated that she was helping with the business side of this issue and there is a question about non-essential. Her understanding is that non-essential businesses were offices as opposed to retail. Ms. Carey clarified that the Governor is not asking large employers to close but those employers must be able to demonstrate their ability to practice social distancing and that can be by staggering shifts, encouraging people to work from home, and doing virtual meetings.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

5-1. Barbara Preston, Montgomery News, stated that the Township was doing a great job.

5-2. Vicki Reback, Brookline Court, asked via email, "should any of us get sick and calls to our personal doctors are not immediately returned as they may be either overwhelmed with too many patients or unavailable for any reason, then what do we do and who do we call?". Administrator Nieman responded that first the person should call the person's primary care physician. Do not visit the doctor's office because very few if any of the primary care physicians have protective gear. If the person can't get through to their primary care physician and they have a Teledoc or Telemed option, use that. Failing that, if they are in very serious condition and feel they need to go to the Emergency Room, they must call ahead to identify themselves as someone who is potentially infected with the COVID-19 virus. Emergency Rooms are segregating those patients from general emergency room patients to prevent the spread of the infection. Mayor Jaffer stated that the Governor has also set up a hotline 211 for people to call if there are questions. She suggested if a person is not able to get through to their primary care physician, call 211 to get some information or call the Township's Health Department. There are websites through the CDC and the Township's Health Department that may be able to help. The State is in the process of setting up some drive-through testing sites.

Administrator Nieman stated that Ms. Reback also asked what can be done to protect oneself from any unnecessary services, such as the spraying of pesticides and lawn toxins. He responded that this is a concern to be brought up to the Homeowners Association or one's own landscaper. The Township does not have the legal authority to ban those.

5-3. Brett Borowski, York Drive, stated that he appreciated the increased level of communication. He stated the more channels the Township uses, the more coverage for the public.

5-4. John McKnight, Servis Road, stated that there had been a family who was affected who had a child in the Lower Middle School. He asked what investigation, if any, has been done to find out who this child was in contact with. Mayor Jaffer stated that within a day of that information coming to them, the Health Department did their epidemiology of tracing their close contacts based on their process and did inform everyone. There is a heightened need for all families who have children in the Lower Middle School to keep an eye out for the symptoms. She urged everyone to practice social distancing and stay at home as much as possible, no matter whether you think you have had contact with someone or not. Mr. McKnight asked what was going to happen in the future. Mayor Jaffer stated that as of right now, the Health Department is contacting everyone who has been in contact with all of the confirmed cases. In the future that may change, depending on how overwhelming this may become.

6. Committeewoman Gural and Committeeman Huang recused themselves from the meeting.

7. **ORDINANCE #20-1634 - Kid Connection Enrichment Program - Public Hearing**

A. Mayor Jaffer read the title of the ordinance as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY IN SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY SETTING FEES FOR KID CONNECTION AM & PM KINDERGARTEN ENRICHMENT AND AMENDING SECTION 2-18 OF CHAPTER II OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY (1984).

B-1. Mayor Jaffer opened the hearing to the public.

B-2. Committeewoman Keenan stated that there had been an email that came in during the week regarding Kid Connection. Administrator Nieman stated that both Mayor Jaffer and Kid Connection Director Andrea McKenna responded to the email. Mayor Jaffer explained that if someone wanted something included in the public hearing, they should put that in an email or call in during this period.

B-3. Deputy Mayor Schuldiner moved that the public hearing be closed. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Keenan and carried unanimously.

C. BE IT RESOLVED By the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery that the foregoing ordinance be hereby adopted this 19th day of March 2020 and that notice thereof be published in an official newspaper as required by law.

7-1. Deputy Mayor Schuldiner moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Keenan and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL - Ayes - Keenan, Schuldiner, Jaffer
Nays - None

8. Committeewoman Gural and Committeeman Huang returned to the meeting.

9. ORDINANCE #20-1635 - 2020 Sewer Service Rates - Public Hearing

A. Mayor Jaffer read the title of the ordinance as follows:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER XII SEWER AND WATER OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY (1984) TO ESTABLISH 2020 SEWER SERVICE RATES.

B. Mayor Jaffer opened the hearing to the public. There being no comment, Deputy Mayor Schuldiner moved that the public hearing be closed. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Keenan and carried unanimously.

C. BE IT RESOLVED By the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery that the foregoing ordinance be hereby adopted this 19th day of March 2020 and that notice thereof be published in an official newspaper as required by law.

9-1. Deputy Mayor Schuldiner moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeeman Huang and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL - Ayes - Huang, Keenan, Gural, Schuldiner, Jaffer
Nays - None

10. PROCLAMATION - ARBOR DAY - April 3, 2020

WHEREAS, In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, This holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the 148th Anniversary of Arbor Day; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, Trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products; and

WHEREAS, Trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and

WHEREAS, Trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery Township has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its tree-planting ways.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Montgomery Township Committee hereby proclaims April 3, 2020 as ARBOR DAY in the Township of Montgomery, and urges all citizens to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands and to support our Township's urban forestry program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Governing Body urges all citizens to plant trees to gladden the hearts and promote the well-being of present and future generations.

10-1. Deputy Mayor Schuldiner moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Keenan and carried unanimously.

11. PROCLAMATION - INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - March 8, 2020

WHEREAS, "International Women's Day" commemorates the role of ordinary women in making a difference in history, and is rooted in the centuries-old struggle of women to participate in society on an equal footing with men; and

WHEREAS, In 1910, at an international meeting in Copenhagen with over 100 women present from 17 countries, "Women's Day" was established to honor the movement for women's rights and assist in achieving universal suffrage for women; and

WHEREAS, As a result of a decision made at the Copenhagen meeting, "International Women's Day" was designated for the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland on March 19, 1911; and

WHEREAS, On that day more than one million women and men attended rallies concerning not only the right to vote and hold public office, but also the right to work, to vocational training and an end to job discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Women around the world have the fundamental right to participate in the political, social, and economic lives of their communities, play a critical role in providing and caring for their families, contribute substantially to economic growth and the prevention and resolution of conflict, and as farmers and caregivers, play an important role in the advancement of food security for their communities; and

(Item #11 Cont.)

WHEREAS, 2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, at which 189 countries committed to integrating gender equality into each dimension of society, and the 9th anniversary of the establishment of the first United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security; and

WHEREAS, The National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security includes a comprehensive set of commitments by the United States to advance the meaningful participation of women in decision making relating to matters of war or peace; and

WHEREAS, The plan states that "deadly conflicts can be more effectively avoided, and peace can be best forged and sustained, when women become equal partners in all aspects of peacebuilding and conflict prevention, when their lives are protected, their voices heard, and their perspectives taken into account."; and

WHEREAS, Currently, 63 national action plans have been implemented around the world, and several additional plans are known to be in development; and

WHEREAS, The joint strategy of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development entitled "Department of State & USAID Joint Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism" notes that women can play a critical role in identifying and addressing drivers of violent extremism in their families, communities, and broader society; and

WHEREAS, The joint strategy commits to supporting programs that engage women as key stakeholders in preventing and countering violent extremism in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Despite the historical underrepresentation of women in conflict resolution processes, women in conflict-affected regions have nevertheless achieved significant success in moderating violent extremism, countering terrorism, resolving disputes through nonviolent mediation and negotiation, and stabilizing societies by improving access to peace and security; and

WHEREAS, According to the United Nations, peace negotiations are more likely to end in a peace agreement when women's groups play an influential role in the negotiation process; and

WHEREAS, A study by the International Peace Institute, shows that a peace agreement is thirty-five percent more likely to last at least 15 years if women participate in the development of the peace agreement; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 15,000,000 girls are married every year before they reach the age of 18, which means that 41,000 girls are married every day or one girl is married every two seconds; and

WHEREAS, According to UNICEF, twenty-five percent of girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are victims of physical violence, and it is estimated that one in three women around the world has experienced some form of physical or sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, 603,000,000 women live in countries in which domestic violence is not criminalized, and approximately fifty percent of the 65,300,000 refugees, internally displaced, or displaced persons in the world are women and children; and

WHEREAS, The 2016 report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled "Global Report on Trafficking in Persons" states that seventy-nine percent of all detected trafficking victims are women and children; and

WHEREAS, While trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor are the most prominently detected forms of trafficking, the trafficking of women and girls for the purpose of forced marriage is emerging as a more prevalent form of trafficking; and

WHEREAS, The ability of women and girls to realize their full potential is critical for a country to achieve strong and lasting economic growth political and social stability; and

WHEREAS, Women around the world are more likely to manage households or engage in agricultural work than men and have access to fewer income earning opportunities; and

WHEREAS, This inequity makes women more vulnerable to economic insecurity caused by natural disasters and long term changes in weather patterns; and

WHEREAS, Violence, discrimination, and harmful practices against women and girls are a direct result of negative social norms that undervalue females in society; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative to alleviate violence and discrimination against women and to afford women every opportunity to be full and productive members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, March 8th of every year is recognized as "International Women's Day" all over the globe to celebrate the economic, political, and social achievements of women in the past, present, and future and highlight the obstacles women face in their struggle for equal rights and gender equality; and

WHEREAS, "International Women's Day" is a time to reflect on the progress made in women's rights and reaffirm the world's commitment to end discrimination and violence against women and girls, pursue strategies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls both Statewide and throughout the globe, promote meaningful and significant participation of women in every aspect of society and community, and support policy initiatives that seek to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women.

(Item #11 Cont.)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Montgomery Township Committee that the Montgomery Township Committee hereby recognizes March 8, 2020 as "International Women's Day" in Montgomery Township in order to reflect on the progress made in women's rights, reaffirm the world's commitment to end discrimination and violence against women and girls, pursue strategies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls both Statewide and throughout the globe, promote meaningful and significant participation of women in every aspect of society and community, and support policy initiatives that seek to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women.

11-1. Deputy Mayor Schuldiner moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeeman Huang and carried unanimously.

12. **RESOLUTION #20-3-86 - APPOINTMENT OF POLICE CAPTAIN JAMES GILL**

BE IT RESOLVED That the Montgomery Township Committee hereby appoints James Gill to the position of Police Captain for Montgomery Township, effective March 15, 2020.

12-1. Deputy Mayor Schuldiner moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeeman Huang and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL - Ayes - Huang, Keenan, Gural, Schuldiner, Jaffer
Nays - None

13. **RESOLUTION #20-3-87 - APPOINTMENT OF POLICE DIRECTOR JAMES GILL**

BE IT RESOLVED That the Montgomery Township Committee hereby appoints James Gill to the position of Police Director for Montgomery Township, effective March 15, 2020.

13-1. Deputy Mayor Schuldiner moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Keenan and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL - Ayes - Huang, Keenan, Gural, Schuldiner, Jaffer
Nays - None

14. **RESOLUTION #20-3-88 - APPOINTMENT OF POLICE LIEUTENANT - Silvio Bet**

BE IT RESOLVED That the Montgomery Township Committee hereby appoints Silvio Bet to the position of Police Lieutenant for Montgomery Township, effective March 16, 2020.

14-1. Deputy Mayor Schuldiner moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeeman Huang and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL - Ayes - Huang, Keenan, Gural, Schuldiner, Jaffer
Nays - None

15. **CONSENT AGENDA** - All matters listed hereunder are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. Any Township Committeeperson may request that an item be removed for separate consideration.

A. **RESOLUTION #20-3-89 - APPROVAL OF INSTALLATION OF FIRE HYDRANTS - Apartments at Montgomery Crossing**

BE IT RESOLVED By the Montgomery Township Committee that authorization be given to New Jersey American Water Company to install fire hydrants at the following locations in the Apartment at Montgomery Crossing Project:

Hydrant #1 - To be located on Hartwick Drive, 30 feet from entrance of apartment Building.

Hydrant #2 - To be located on Hartwick Drive; 120 feet from Hydrant #1.

Hydrant #3 - To be located on Village Drive, approximately 300 feet from corner of Route 518 and Village Drive.

Hydrant #4 - To be located in front of main entrance of building; as shown on plan (this will be a private hydrant)

All locations are in accordance with the recommendation of the Montgomery Township Fire Marshal. All locations are shown on plans.

B. **RESOLUTION #20-3-90 - APPROVING CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE AGREEMENT - JP Morgan Chase Bank (Block 35005, Lots 6 and 7)**

BE IT RESOLVED By the Montgomery Township Committee that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a construction sequence agreement with JP Morgan Chase Bank related to Block 35005, Lots 6 and 7, subject to the review and approval of the Township attorney and the Township Engineer.

C. **RESOLUTION #20-3- 91 - AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR SEWER CAPACITY RESERVATION AGREEMENT IN STAGE II SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT FOR JP MORGAN CHASE BANK (Block 35005, Lots 6 & 7)**

BE IT RESOLVED By the Montgomery Township Committee that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with JP Morgan Chase Bank for reservation of remaining sewer capacity in the Stage II Sewage Treatment Plant for Block 35005, Lots 6 and 7, subject to review and approval by the Township Engineer and Township Attorney as to form and content.

(Consent Agenda Cont.)

D. **RESOLUTION #20-3-92 - EXTENSION OF TIME FOR THE COMPLETION OF IMPROVEMENTS - Various Projects**

WHEREAS, Gail Smith, Township Engineer, has certified on March 5, 2020 that adequate funds remain in the posted guarantees to cover the remaining public improvements in the following developments and therefore recommends time extensions to complete said improvements:

Development	New Completion Date
Bedens Brook Valley (24 Sunnyside Lane)	April 16, 2021
Bloomberg Business Park - Attended 101 Parking Area	May 10, 2021
Carrier Clinic New Addition and Alterations	April 21, 2021
Country Club Meadows - Phase 3 - Single Family Homes	April 25, 2021
Country Club Meadows - Phase 3 - Single Family Homes - Safety & Stabilization	April 25, 2021
Montgomery Place - Pike Run Plaza - Area 2	April 25, 2021
Montgomery Place - Pike Run Plaza - Area 2 - Safety & Stabilization	April 25, 2021
Cummings	April 16, 2021
Handler Estates	April 10, 2021
JER/Herring - Sidewalk Along Route 206	June 9, 2021
Land Rover-Jaguar Dealership	June 5, 2021
Tapestry at Montgomery, Phase 1B-1 Site w/o Force Main & Pump Station	June 30, 2021
Tapestry at Montgomery, Phase 1B-2 Site w/o Force Main & Pump Station	June 13, 2021
Tapestry at Montgomery, Phase 1B-3 Site w/o Force Main & Pump Station	May 20, 2021
Waldorf School of Princeton, Phases 1 & 2, Build & Pathway	May 13, 2021

15-1. Deputy Mayor Schuldiner moved the adoption of the **CONSENT AGENDA**. the motion was seconded by Committeewoman Keenan and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL - Ayes - Huang, Keenan, Gural, Schuldiner, Jaffer
 Nays - None

16. **RESOLUTION #20-3-93 - AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS**

WHEREAS, The 2020 Municipal Budget has not been adopted and there is a need to increase the Temporary Budget prior to the 2020 Budget being adopted in order to maintain operations until such time as the Township Budget is in place; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides for approval of emergency temporary appropriations prior to the Municipal Budget being adopted, by a confirming vote of two-thirds of the full governing body.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By confirmation of two-thirds of the full governing body, that the Chief Finance Officer is authorized to increase the temporary emergency appropriations as follows:

Current Fund

General Administration	
Other Expenses	\$ 10,000.00
Mayor & Council	
Other Expenses	\$ 2,000.00
Municipal Clerk	
Other Expenses	\$ 10,000.00
Data Processing	
Other Expenses	\$ 30,000.00
Shade Tree	
Other Expenses	\$ 10,000.00
Revenue Administration	
Other Expenses	\$ 10,000.00
Environmental Commission	
Other Expenses	\$ 3,600.00
Animal Control	
Other Expenses	\$ 3,000.00
Kid Connection	
Other Expenses	\$ 20,000.00
Kid Connection	
Salary & Wages	\$100,000.00
Public Events	
Other Expenses	\$ 4,000.00
Public Health	
Other Expenses	\$ 25,000.00

Current Fund

Financial Administration	
Other Expenses	\$ 10,000.00
Geographic Info. Systems	
Other Expenses	\$ 5,000.00
Zoning Board of Adj.	
Other Expenses	\$ 3,000.00
Police Department	
Other Expenses	\$ 90,000.00
Buildings & Grounds	
Other Expenses	\$ 50,000.00

(Item #16 Cont.)

- 16-1. Deputy Mayor Schuldiner moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Keenan and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL - Ayes - Huang, Keenan, Gural, Schuldiner, Jaffer
Nays - None

17. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Regular Session minutes of March 5, 2020 were approved as printed.

18. **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

WHEREAS, The Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery has received bills to be paid as listed; and

WHEREAS, The Chief Finance Officer and the Township Administrator have reviewed these bills and have certified that these bills represent goods and/or services received by the Township, that these are authorized and budgeted expenditures and that sufficient funds are available to pay these bills.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery as follows:

1. That these bills are hereby authorized for payment; and
2. That checks in the proper amounts are prepared and that necessary bookkeeping entries are made; and
3. That the proper Township Officials are authorized to sign the checks.

- 18-1. Deputy Mayor Schuldiner moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Keenan and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL - Ayes - Huang, Keenan, Gural, Schuldiner, Jaffer
Nays - None

19. **LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY**

Mayor Jaffer stated that the Governing Body is declaring a local State of Emergency. This will allow the Township to file for certain reimbursements and is in line with the other States of Emergency that have been declared by municipalities and the State.

20. **COMMITTEE COMMUNITY UPDATES**

20-1. **REDEVELOPMENT SEMINAR**

Deputy Mayor Schuldiner reported that Committeewoman Keenan, Township Planning Director Lori Savron, Township Engineer Gail Smith and he attended a Redevelopment Seminar. He stated he posted some notes on his Deputy Mayor Facebook page and would provide more information in the near future

21. **COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

21-1. **MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE**

Committeeman Huang reported that the Municipal Alliance received updates from the High School and discussed the Health Department's COVID-19 website. They spoke about a couple of upcoming events, but with all of the precautions over COVID-19, he felt these would be cancelled or postponed. They also discussed a Somerset County grant geared toward at risk youth.

21-2. **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Committeemembers Keenan and Huang reported that the Wildlife Management Committee met and had three individuals from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. They reviewed the Township's current ordinance and gave some suggestions on how to strengthen some items they thought might cause some confusion. There is a program called "Hunters for the Hungry" where hunters can donate meat. Committeewoman Keenan stated that 7% of the donations to this program actually come from Montgomery Township. The Wildlife Management Committee would like to appear before the Township Committee with a presentation in the near future, if possible.

21-3. **OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

Committeewoman Keenan stated that the Open Space Committee did a neighborhood clean-up on Spring Hill Road. They were able to get a path all the way through to Hollow Road.

21-4. **BOARD OF HEALTH**

Committeewoman Gural reported that the Board of Health heard a presentation given by two high school students who were taking the lead on a late school start time study. They found, through their data collection, that the majority of the student population favors the later school start time. She reported that Health Office Carey provided a detailed update on the COVID-19 virus and what the Township is doing to minimize the spread of the virus. The Strategic Planning session scheduled for April 1 has been postponed tentatively until June 3.

(Item #21 Cont.)

21-5. TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Deputy Mayor Schuldiner reported that the Transportation Advisory Committee discussed:

- Route 518 and Route 601 intersection;
- Route 518 and Village Drive intersection;
- River Road and Bridgepoint Road 4-way stop sign;
- Updates on several bridges.

He stated that he would post updates on his Deputy Mayor Facebook page.

21-6. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mayor Jaffer reported that she has attended numerous meetings with the Emergency Management Committee. There have been daily calls with Freeholder Director Shanell Robinson for all Mayors. She has had calls with Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker and Representatives from the Governor's office, the Montgomery Business Association, and the Chairs of the Municipal Boards and Commissions. She read the following statement:

"I recognize that these are challenging days and there will be many more challenging days to come. I commend our municipal staff, particularly the Health Department, Police Department and Administrative and Communications staff as well as my fellow elected officials who have been working hard to serve this community. The challenges posed by COVID-19 is unlike anything most of us have seen in our lifetimes. It has the potential to cause great harm and for the time being there is no cure and no vaccine. I understand that the restrictions from the local, state and federal governments can seem difficult and harsh. They hinder our very human desire to connect with one another. But right now for the sake of ourselves, our loved ones and our neighbors, we must abide by them. I am thankful that the focus of this community has been on helping each other. The measures we must take to shelter at home and ensure social distancing will help protect us. Especially the most vulnerable populations and healthcare workers, who have our utmost respect and gratitude. I also want to thank the supermarket and pharmacy workers as well as gas station attendants who continue to work to keep the people in our town sustained. I have been in contact with our county, state and federal elected officials and we are working together to address the impact that COVID-19 is having on our community. I have also spoken to leaders of Montgomery schools, Municipal boards and commissions, as well as with the business community as we try to plan for the changes in the functioning of our Township. Our aim is to continue the services we can in the safest way possible. We will continue these dialogs in the days and weeks to come. Any member of the public is welcome to reach out with comments or questions. We are already in the process of developing resources for our businesses, for mental health for our community, as well as resources for families. In the coming days, we will have a chance to reassess what really matters. I hope we will realize just how interconnected we are. A virus has no nationality, no race nor religion. It threatens us all equally. Let's take this opportunity to do what can to work together for the health of Montgomery and our wider world as well. Thank you."

ADJOURNMENT was at 7:52 p.m. on a motion by Deputy Mayor Schuldiner. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Keenan and carried unanimously.

Date of Approval:

Donna Kukla, Township Clerk