BUENA VISTA TOWNSHIP
CAUCUS MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014

A Caucus Meeting of the Township Committee of Buena Vista Township was called to order by Mayor Chiarello at 7:10 p.m. on the above mentioned date at the Municipal Building, 890 Harding Highway, Buena, New Jersey.

Statement of the Open Public Meetings Act Compliance: Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Mayor Chiarello announced that public notice of this meeting was provided by an annual notice sent to The Press of Atlantic City, The Daily Journal and posted on the bulletin board in the municipal building. All requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met for this meeting in compliance with the Sunshine Law.

The following roll call was recorded: PRESENT: Ms. Barber, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Martinelli, Mr. Williams and Mr. Chiarello. ABSENT: None

Also present were staff members, Township Administrator/CMFO Quinones, Township Solicitor April, Township Engineer Scheidegg, Public Works Manager Calareso and Township Clerk Gonzales.

Mayor Chiarello announced that the flag salute would be led during the Regular Meeting.

Mayor Chiarello announced that items #1 through #4 on the Caucus Meeting agenda are a review to the Regular Meeting Agenda.

ITEM NO. 1.
DISCUSSION
OBJECTING AND OPPOSING THE ENACTMENT OF SENATE BILL S-1801 AND ASSEMBLY BILL A-2621 *(COUNTY-WIDE TAX ASSESSOR PROGRAM)*
Mayor Chiarello explained the repercussions should both bills be signed into law. Our local Tax Assessor for one, would be eliminated from office. All responsibilities of the Tax Assessor would be shifted to the County. No data has been presented to determine this enactment to be cost effective, nor a way to provide any property tax relief to the taxpayers of Buena Vista.

ITEM NO. 2.
REVIEW
BILL LIST PROVIDED BY THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
The Township Committee reviewed the bill list submitted by the Chief Financial Officer. Upon the review, the committee had no objections to the bill list.

Mayor Chiarello announced on the following proposed resolutions presented are a review for action during the Regular Meeting portion.

ITEM NO. 3.
REVIEW PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

- PERMITS FOR ASSEMBLAGE OF OVER 250 PERSONS

[CAMP JAM IN THE PINES, LLC - BUENA VISTA CAMPGROUND - MAY 15, 2014 TO MARCH 18, 2014 AND FRIENDS OF INDIA SOCIETY, INC., - BUENA VISTA CAMPGROUND - JUNE 14, 2014]

- WAIVER OF RELATED FEES FOR THE USE OF TOWNSHIP FACILITIES

[FAMILY REUNION - WILDER HINES PARK - AUGUST 9, 2014]

- PERMITS FOR STREET OPENINGS BY SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY

[INSTALL GAS MAIN - NORMAN ROAD & BERTI ROAD AND INSTALL GAS SERVICE - 3117 VINE ROAD]

- INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION RESOLUTIONS

[PYROTECHNICS CONTRACT FOR FIREWORKS - GRANTING SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT FIREWORKS DISPLAY - COUNTY PERMISSION FOR CEDAR AVENUE ROAD CLOSURE AND FULL COVERAGE OF INSURANCE TO THE SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE]

- ENGINEERING SERVICES

[CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION & CONSTRUCTION OBSERVATION SERVICES FOR THE 2013 LOCAL ROAD PROGRAM TO SNS CONSULTING ENGINEERS IN THE AMOUNT OF $22,400.00]

- ENGINEERING SERVICES

[CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION & CONSTRUCTION OBSERVATION SERVICES FOR THE WEYMOUTH/MALAGA ROAD PHASE II PROJECT TO SNS CONSULTING ENGINEERS IN THE AMOUNT OF $16,500.00]

- SUPPORT RESOLUTION ON SCHOOL FUNDING IN THE FY15 NEW JERSEY STATE BUDGET

[URGES THE NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE TO INCREASE STATE AID TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN FY15 BY AT LEAST 5% OR APPROXIMATELY $370 MILLION IN ORDER TO LESSEN THE IMPACT OF SFRA UNDERFUNDING, RESULTING IN HARMFUL CUTS TO PROGRAMS, STAFF AND SERVICES]

- 2014 WAGES AND SALARIES OF THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

[RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2014]

- GRANT APPLICATION FOR HAVA (HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT)

[GRANT FOR MUNICIPALITY FOR ACCESSIBLE POLLING PLACES]

- OBJECTING AND OPPOSING THE ENACTMENT OF SENATE BILL S-1801 AND ASSEMBLY BILL A-2621

[COUNTY-WIDE TAX ASSESSOR PROGRAM / IF SIGNED INTO LAW, GIVES TOTAL CONTROL OF THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS TO THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND WOULD ABOLISH THE OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL TAX ASSESSOR]

- PAYMENT OF TOWNSHIP BILLS

[AUTHORIZES PAYMENT OF BILLS SUBMITTED BY CFO]

- AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

[ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE / 1266 HARDING HIGHWAY / BUENA HISTORICAL SOCIETY]

Upon the Township Committee's review of the proposed resolutions, Mayor Chiarello asked the Township Committee if they had any questions. Deputy Mayor Kelly commented on both bills and is in support of objecting and opposing them as there has not been enough data to proof the abolishment of our municipal tax assessor to give the county total control. Mayor Chiarello referenced the like program, County Wide Dispatching and we still get taxed by the county.

<u>ITEM NO. 4.</u>
REVIEW
REGULAR AND CLOSED SESSION AGENDAS
The Township Committee reviewed the Regular and Closed Session Agendas.

Mayor Chiarello made an announcement on the passing of former Buena Vista Township Mayor Butch Armore. The Armore family sent the Township a thank you card for our condolences which was passed on to the members of the Township Committee by the Mayor.

Mayor Chiarello asked Township Administrator/CFO Quinones if all was good for the Municipal Alliance Meeting. Ms. Quinones indicated yes and that she would call tomorrow to ensure that all backup paperwork for the grant was in.

Mayor Chiarello reported the following county roads that will be repaved in the near future Tuckahoe Road near Cranberry Run and also Landis Avenue, Oak and Union Roads.

There being no further business for the Caucus Meeting, Mayor Chiarello asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Kelly moved and Mr. Williams seconded the motion to adjourn. The above mentioned motion was unanimously passed.

Mayor Chiarello announced that the governing body will enter into Closed Session and return back at 8:00 p.m. for the Regular Meeting.

Mayor Chiarello read into the record the following resolution to be held for discussion as follows:

<u>RESOLUTION NO. 128 - 2014</u>
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC UNDER N.J.S.A.10:4-12(b)(7)
<u>MATTERS RELATING TO THE ATTORNEY- CLIENT PRIVILEGE</u>
<u>1266 HARDING HIGHWAY / BUENA HISTORICAL SOCIETY</u>

Mr. Martinelli moved and Mr. Williams seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 128 - 2014. The motion on the floor was objected by Committeewoman Barber indicating that she believed the discussion does not meet the criteria to be held in Closed Session as the matter is not a litigation or personnel matter and indicated that she would not participate in the Closed Session. Mayor Chiarello stated that the subject could not be discussed in open session as the governing body has not met to discuss the matter to divulge such to the public. Ms. Barber indicated into the record that she moves and makes a motion to discuss the matter in open session. The motion did not receive a second. The motion died. Ms. Barber asked for the Township Solicitor's legal opinion. The Township Solicitor advised that he could not elaborate on whether this matter should be discussed in open session as he has no knowledge of the matter to make that determination. The Solicitor cited the permissible grounds to hold a Closed Session. The statute indicated for the discussion in tonight's Closed Session falls under those permissible grounds to discuss as an Attorney-Client Privilege. He advised that should the discussion be held during Closed Session, he would advise the governing body accordingly based upon his determination of the discussion. The original motion was voted in the affirmative 4-1.

Mayor Chiarello announced that the governing body will now go into Closed Session and will convene back into open session. Mayor Chiarello indicated that depending on the outcome of the discussion held in Closed Session, should the matter be deemed no longer a Closed Session matter, the outcome would be reported in open session. Ms. Barber announced that she would not be a participant in the Closed Session and would return back for the 8:00 p.m. Regular Meeting. The Caucus Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Gonzales, RMC
Township Clerk