

REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 18, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held in Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 and was called to order by Mayor Minkoff at 7:06 PM. Mayor Minkoff read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

Present: Mayor Minkoff, Councilpersons Brill Mittler, Erickson, Foster-Dublin (7:12 PM), Millet, Potts, Welkovits; Borough Attorney Tauriello; Borough Administrator Kovach; Borough Clerk Hullings.

Absent: None.

Main Street Minute – Jenni Chapman, Chairperson Main Street Highland Park thanked H. James Polos for his service to the Main Street organization. He is stepping down from the Main Street Highland Park Board. Ms. Chapman introduced the new Executive Director of Main Street Highland Park, Rebecca Hersh. She is a licensed Urban Planner and a Highland Park resident. She started out as a volunteer with Main Street Highland Park and they are excited that she has accepted the position as Executive Director. Ms. Hersh noted that she looks forward to working with the merchants, the Council and the community to continue making Highland Park an even more vibrant and walkable destination for shopping, dining and community events.

Mayor Minkoff invited PSE&G to the meeting this evening to address the recent power outages and any comments and questions.

Mayor Minkoff asked the Council members to present their reports.

Councilwoman Brill Mittler reported that the Park Partners program was a huge success. The grant give back program was sponsored by the Borough. They received 20 applications and 14 applicants were invited to present their ideas. The voting was held on February 9th with 170 people casting votes. There were winners chosen in 5 categories: Environment – Raritan River Walking Trail; Arts – Highland Park Outdoor Movie Theater; Universal Access or Health & Wellness – Cutting Out Hunger; Safety – Stay Informed – Red Cross Emergency Radios; and Culture & Diversity – Think HP.

Councilman Potts – No report.

Councilwoman Welkovits – No report.

Councilman Millet - No report.

Borough Administrator Kovach – No report.

Borough Attorney Tauriello – No report.

Mayor Minkoff noted that Assemblywoman Pinkun is in attendance and Tom Lynch from Senator Diegnan's office as well. He is still working with Senator Barnes' office to coordinate another meeting with PSE&G and the Board of Public Utilities. He felt this meeting was necessary to address concerns about the overall status of the infrastructure. He also wanted to address the area of communication with PSE&G between the Borough and their communications with residents. Another issue he would like to address relates to customer service. He finds it insulting and dismissive when people are sitting in cold, dark homes that when they call PSE&G they cannot reach a live person and if they do, the person they reach does not know what is going on and cannot provide any valuable information and in some instances they hang up on the residents. Lastly, he wants to bring up the matter of claims that residents would like to submit as individuals as well as the Borough. They do plan to submit bills to PSE&G for Public Works overtime as well as Police overtime. When the lights go out in the Borough, its all hands on deck. It is disruptive to the Borough's planning as well as the quality of life of the residents and can present safety issues on a number of different levels. Nobody could have predicted that there would be 9 power outages and numerous snow storms in a five week period. He is sensitive to their anger and frustration and has shared any comments, questions, information, etc. that he has read or received with PSE&G and the Board of Public Utilities. He hopes they will be able to solve some of the issues tonight and have a plan in place for improved communication and better working relations as we move forward. PSE&G has prepared a presentation and then the meeting will be opened for public comment. He asks that all comments be raised in a dignified manner and the meeting will continue for as long as is necessary.

Frank Lucchesi, PSE&G Regional Public Affairs Manager, noted that he is the liaison between elected officials in his territory. He introduced his colleagues – Matt Rigor, Electric Division, Division Operations Manager; Jim Rigler, Distribution Manager Engineering & Resources; Bill Nash, Customer Solutions Group, Director Customer Contact; Ed Szoley, Regional Manager Customer Support and Karen Johnson, Corporation Communications Group. They are here to give an update on the Edison substation that serves 5,000 residents in Highland Park and Edison. The substation sustained a critical fire on January 11th that caused not only significant plant damage, but caused major inconvenience to those customers serviced by that substation. They sincerely understand and are sympathetic to that inconvenience and apologize to the residents of Highland Park. Their goal tonight is to give residents a better understanding and educate them about the issues they were faced with, the complexity of the system operations, and the issues they are faced with when doing repairs and restoration to their infrastructure. They will have a conversation about customer contact, customer solutions and customer service.

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Matt Rigor, Division Operations Manager, appeared and noted that he is responsible for the 24 hour restoration of customer outages in the Central Division, which includes Middlesex County. They showed a power point presentation. The problem began in the Edison substation which was built in the 1950's and is located on Clark Avenue and Rt. 27 in Edison, New Jersey. There are 5,100 customers served by the Edison substation and the load goes along Rt. 27. Most of the load from the Edison substation feeds Highland Park. On January 11th there was a catastrophic failure of a piece of equipment at the Edison substation. A breaker exploded and went on fire. They had to have the fire department respond and put water on the fire to put it out. Additionally, the station transformer failed. When the breaker failed it damaged a lot of the equipment and there was contamination from the fire department putting the fire out. It is unusual for PSE&G not to be able to put a substation back in service after failure of a piece of equipment due to the redundancy of the design of their facilities. A decision was made not to restore the substation and to come up with alternative means to get power back to Highland Park and Edison. To compound the problem there were no external ties from this system to other substations. They had to install pad mount transformers, mobile transformers, placed along neighborhood streets. They installed a total of 6 of these transformers. They had to reinforce 2,500 feet of wire on the poles along South 4th Avenue. This was done because of failure of the overhead wires.

Mayor Minkoff conveyed the gratitude of the residents of Highland Park for the workers who braved the rain and wind to install the transformer pads and the overhead wires.

Mr. Rigor explained PSE&G's decision not to re-energize the substation due to safety concerns. He also explained that they are investigating the cause of the failure and believe that the extreme temperatures contributed to the failure causing moisture inside the ductwork. There is a maintenance schedule for all facilities and an asset management program in place. Claims submitted will be handled on a case by case basis and will be addressed more fully later on. The pads will be in place for several months while repairs are made to the substation. This type of failure happened at a couple of other facilities. A team has been put together to evaluate these failures and come up with solutions for the short and long term. Hope to have a report out within the next month or so.

Mayor Minkoff touched on the communication he receives from PSE&G and the information he passes on to the residents. He heard from Frank that the pads would be in place for 4-6 weeks, now he is hearing that it is 4-6 months. He has to represent 14,000 residents and it is upsetting to hear differing information. Communication needs to change and PSE&G needs to be more truthful so that accurate information can be transmitted to the residents. He is very close to the situation and is uncomfortable with being given different information.

Jim Rigler, Engineering and Resource Manager, appeared to speak. He noted that in the last 5 years this substation, not including super storm Sandy, had some momentary outages (less than a minute) on each circuit, and 31 extended outages (up to an hour). After super storm Sandy this station was without power for approximately 2 days and there were a lot of problems with trees. Just because the station is older does not mean it is not reliable. They are leaving the substation de-energized while they are making the necessary repairs for safety reasons. They are patrolling the circuit's weekly using infrared cameras and make repairs as necessary. Long term plan is to continue updating the station with the new transformer and breaker. The station is 60 years old and it has to be custom made and it is taking a long time. They will also be replacing the wiring at the substation. They will be replacing overhead wiring coming out of the substation. They will be relocating overhead switches, some of which are located in backyards close to the substation, for easier access. They follow appropriate maintenance schedules. Tree trimming is done on a 4 year cycle and are a major part of outside plant maintenance. They have outside Consultant reviewing the situation to make recommendations. The entire station being repaired, looking at 4-6 weeks, but it could take longer due to the bad weather. Hoping to have everything back on the station at the beginning of April and they are working double shifts (16 hours). He set up a procedure with the Mayor for residents to go online and submit claim forms. Special accommodations will be made for those who cannot fill them out online. The claims department will deal with them on a case by case basis. Discussion took place about temporary "outages" in service that have been experienced in Highland Park. The small blackouts that are being experienced are how their system operates and has nothing to do with the installation of the pad mount transformers. Brief outages occur in order to isolate a particular problem. Once the substation is up and running Highland Park should not experience those temporary "outages" as frequently.

Bill Nash, Director of Customer Contact appeared. He noted that they have two call centers in New Jersey located in Cranford and Bordentown. They have approximately 300 employees working at those locations and also have a third party organization out of Atlanta, Georgia with approximately 15 representatives. He addressed the fact that residents were hung up on by PSE&G. He asked that he be notified immediately if that occurs as they take that issue very seriously. He will be able to investigate the matter as their calls are recorded. He checked into the calls received from Highland Park and they have no evidence that residents were hung up on.

Mrs. Stein, 246 Hilton Street, reported that when he called he was cursed at and he submitted a complaint with the main office. Mr. Nash to directly check into the matter and contact the resident with his findings. Mrs. Stein indicated that each time she called to find out when power would be turned back on she was told a different story. Mr. Nash indicated their representatives when on the phone with customers the best information they have available to them is through an outage management system. Unfortunately they do not have a camera eye view into the street and have to rely on electric delivery to respond. They do their best to communicate that to their customers.

Mr., Lucchesi added that he is the direct liaison to the Mayor to provide updated information. They saw a disconnect in the process with estimated restoration times and they are working on that. He provides the Mayor with the best information he has from the Field guys and Bill's group is working off an outage management system which is historically more conservative than what the guys in the field are reporting. Internally, from a communications standpoint, they set up a better communication chain so all four units can flow between the groups and be more consistent. The crews tend to provide information to the Police Department which can be different than the information provided from the call center.

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Mrs. Stein brought up the fact that their power goes out when the wind blows, when it rains on a consistent basis and her neighbors have power. She thinks something should be done.

Mr. Lucchesi stated that he was sorry about the situation and understands her frustration. Providing electricity to go on at the flip of a switch is very complicated and should not be taken for granted.

Mayor Minkoff commented that the frustration here is the extraordinary lack of information, lack of process, lack of system and lack of communication. He believes this whole situation was mishandled and there should be a case study done. This was not super storm Sandy and you did not have 200 towns without power. Residents were in the dark and in the cloud and frightened without reason and when they called they got a recorded message. When a resident called from their place of business, their call was answered immediately and they were provided with the necessary information. What will happen if things don't go right with the repairs? The other frustration was the handling of customer service.

Mr. Nash commented on the recorded message and noted that with the scale of outages it would not be possible to staff the call center to answer all those calls. When a significant outage occurs, customers are routed into an automated platform to generate an order for restoration. Anytime when they are in that platform and have an emergency such as a gas leak or a wire down, they can opt out and get in queue to reach a live agent.

Councilman Millet suggested that they come up with a proactive way to communicate information to customers especially when it happens in a localized area. This should be made part of your long term solution.

Mayor Minkoff commented that when there is lack of information, the Dispatchers at the Police Department get inundated with phone calls seeking information, What needs to come out of this is a definite timetable that outlines the things that PSE&G will be doing going forward. He is not happy, and he personally does not feel helped by this presentation. He should not have to wait to get updated information on outages in his community. If PSE&G is a 24 hour operation they need to be set up to support this community and every other town.

Mr. Nash commented that they are a 24 hour operation and they are staffed and the phones are manned. They have best practices in place to man their operations. This was a unique situation with a catastrophic failure. They have a platform in place that has been working well for some time. The root of the problem for Highland Park was rude customer service agents and the misinformation provided. Can go back to investigate the complaints received by Mayor Minkoff with the added information of who called and when. When the incident occurred they generated an outbound campaign to Highland Park residents and set up a dedicated number for them to call if they wanted to talk in greater detail about the outage and what they were experiencing. They had 25 calls to that number and they contacted over 2,100 customers.

Mayor Minkoff commented that without electricity residents don't have landlines. PSE&G should have had representatives come to Highland Park to see what was going on. The way the line crews responded was terrific. He feels PSE&G should have dedicated customer service reps to specifically deal with all Highland Park calls until the problem was resolved. He finds it insulting to him and the residents of Highland Park that they are now asking what he thinks should be done. That question should have been asked a month and a half ago, and at least by the 3rd outage. It seems to him that there were a ton of things they could have done if they weren't so bureaucratic.

Mr. Nash commented that it would be great to have real time information at the call center, but they don't always know of outages until residents call in. Residents are always encouraged to call when they lose power to report it. When residents call in and they see the outages are in a grouping, they know that the outage is more widespread. They hear the frustration of the Governing Body and they will review their procedures. He explained that there is an alarm at the station that goes off when there is a problem. Unfortunately, they do not have a map that would show when power goes out in a particular town. There is a large percentage of their system that tells them something is not operating. Hoping to modernize the older systems and computerize them so that they are aware of outages sooner.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin commented that if the information about the transformer blowing up had been communicated to Highland Park residents it would have solved a lot of the headaches the Borough had and PSE&G is having.

Mr. Nash commented that they have an app called "my alerts" to be notified of outages.

Mayor Minkoff commented about the updates he received which were then communicated to the residents and the estimated time of restoration came and went.

Mr. Lucchesi again reiterated that claims are handled by their business insurance group and they are governed by their tariff. Forms are available online and will be made available in Borough Hall.

Mayor Minkoff asked that they make representatives available to handle questions and assist in the filing of the claim forms.

Mr. Lucchesi advised that the claim is just like filing an insurance claim, but he cannot guarantee that representatives will be made available. He sent the Mayor the link to get the claim forms that can be downloaded and faxed or mailed in.

Mayor Minkoff commented that he thinks this meeting is just a baby step. He hopes that nothing like this happens again. He thanked them for coming and hopes to have follow up in the future.

The Clerk reported advertising an Ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK TO CONVEY TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BLOCK 61, LOT 25 AS SHOWN ON THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK TAX MAP, COUNTY OF MIDDLESX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available to the public, as required by law.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits seconded by Councilman Millet, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote, the above entitled ordinance was taken up on final reading by title.

Mayor Minkoff declared the public hearing on the ordinance open to all officials and persons present and called upon all those wishing to speak for or against the ordinance to do so.

Allan Williams, 319 Harrison Avenue, asked if property would be conveyed for free. Councilwoman Welkovits explained that the Borough received a grant for the full building costs. Transfer of the property will be for a nominal fee.

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No one else appearing to be heard and no objections having been received in writing, Mayor Minkoff closed the public hearing.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman Millet, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 14-1856, was duly adopted, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Brill Mittler, Erickson, Foster-Dublin, Millet, Potts, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits seconded by Councilman Millet and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 2-14-76

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK TO CONVEY TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BLOCK 61, LOT 25 AS SHOWN ON THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK TAX MAP, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his approval, and if approved by him, that the same be recorded in full by the Borough Clerk in a proper book kept for that purpose, and be advertised by publishing the same by title in the "Home News Tribune", of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law.

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING TAXICAB FARES AND AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010; has been introduced in writing by the Public Safety Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilman Millet, seconded by Councilwoman Brill Mittler, the ordinance entitled as above, was duly adopted on first reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Brill Mittler, Erickson, Foster-Dublin, Millet, Potts, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Millet, seconded by Councilwoman Brill Mittler, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 2-14-77

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING TAXICAB FARES AND AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010" has been introduced and duly passed on first reading;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that this Council meet at the Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage after public hearing thereon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said a Notice of Pending Ordinance and Summary of said Ordinance be published once at least one (1) week prior to the time fixed for further consideration of said Ordinance for final passage in the "Home News Tribune", of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published daily in this municipality, together with a notice of the introduction thereof and of the time and place when and where said Ordinance will be further considered for final passage as aforesaid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of said Ordinance shall be posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, forthwith and that the Borough Clerk have available in her office for the members of the general public of Highland Park copies of said Ordinance for those members of the general public who may request the same.

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING HIGHLAND PARK ZONING MAP AND AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010"; has been introduced in writing by the Economic Development & Planning Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilwoman Brill Mittler, seconded by Councilman Millet, the ordinance entitled as above, was duly adopted on first reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Brill Mittler, Erickson, Foster-Dublin, Millet, Potts, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development & Planning Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Brill Mittler, seconded by Councilman Millet, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 2-14-78

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE HIGHLAND PARK ZONING MAP AND AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010" has been introduced and duly passed on first reading;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that this Council meet at the Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage after public hearing thereon.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of said Ordinance shall be posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, forthwith and that the Borough Clerk have available in her office for the members of the general public of Highland Park copies of said Ordinance for those members of the general public who may request the same.

Consent Agenda Resolution Nos. 2-14-79 through 2-14-91 were duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Millet, seconded by Councilman Erickson, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:
 Ayes: Councilpersons Brill Mittler, Erickson, Foster-Dublin, Millet, Potts, Welkovits.
 Opposed: None.
 Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 2-14-79

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following schedule of proposed use of CDBG funds allocated to the Borough of Highland Park for the funding period 2014-2015 be and the same is hereby approved and a certified copy hereof be submitted to the Middlesex County Housing and Community Development Committee for their approval. If there is a reduction in the CDBG allocation, the reduction should be divided evenly to each project.

Main Street Highland Park – Ramp	20,000.00
Dept. of Recreation & Arts: Senior Transportation	10,000.00
Dept. of Recreation & Arts: Senior Outreach Program	15,000.00
Dept. of Recreation & Arts: Senior Medical Transportation	10,000.00
Dept. of Recreation & Arts: Summer Camp Program	15,000.00
Dept. of Recreation & Arts: Teen Youth Programming/Outreach	10,000.00
TOTAL	\$80,000.00

The following resolution, introduced by Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:
No. 2-14-80

WHEREAS, Century 21/J.J. Laufer, intends to hold a Town Wide Garage Sale on September 13 and 14, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Century 21/J.J. Laufer will work in close cooperation with the Highland Park Police Department to insure minimum inconvenience to Borough residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that approval is hereby given to Century 21/J.J. Laufer to hold the Town Wide Garage Sale on September 13 and 14, 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council hereby waives the permit fees for all residents who register to participate in the Town Wide Garage Sale; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Ballard Hutkin, Century 21/J.J. Laufer; and Stephen Rizco, Chief of Police.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 2-14-81

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Borough Finance Director that since the adoption of a resolution on January 7, 2014 showing the names of the officers and employees of the Borough of Highland Park whose salaries are on an hourly basis, there have been the following changes, to wit:

Title	Name	2014	Longevity		2014
		Base	%	Amount	Total Salary
Driver	Thomas Kohler	32.00			32.00

AMIR WRIGHT, Recreation Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$8.25, effective January 15, 2014.

MATTHEW SUSSMAN, Recreation Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$8.25, effective January 15, 2014.

VITALEY SHAULOV, Recreation Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$8.25, effective January 15, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Finance Director be and he is hereby directed to make the necessary changes in the payroll records of the Finance Department in accordance with the changes established by this resolution.

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development & Planning Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 2-14-82

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Special Counsel for Mt. Laurel Litigation; and

WHEREAS, such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A.: 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey R. Surenian and Associates, LLC, is an Attorney at Law Firm of the State of New Jersey with experience in municipal law and has heretofore been appointed as Special Counsel for the above mentioned period; and

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WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide a written agreement providing for the compensation of the Special Counsel; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the method of compensation for the Special Counsel as per the attached Agreement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough, an Agreement for professional services with Jeffrey R. Surenian and Associates, LLC, a copy of which is attached hereto, and that notice of this contract be published as required by law and that a copy of executed Agreement be placed on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 2-14-83

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Special Planning Consultant for the calendar year of 2014 and

WHEREAS, such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Philip B. Caton is a licensed professional planner of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in municipal land use and planning matters and has heretofore been appointed as Special Planner for 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide a written agreement providing for the compensation of Special Planner; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the a method of compensation for the Special Planner as per the attached Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough, an Agreement for professional services with Philip B. Caton, Clarke Caton Hintz, 100 Barrack Street, Trenton, NJ 08608, a copy of which is attached hereto, and that notice of this contract be published as required by law and that a copy of executed Agreement be placed on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 2-14-84

WHEREAS, Suzanne Glovak and Robert Gerald Hala, Sr. have filed with the Clerk of this Borough an application for a License to operate taxicabs under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such Licenses for the year 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police and/or his designee has investigated said applicants and has reported favorably upon said applications;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that said applicants are qualified and that public necessity and convenience would be served by the issuance of said Licenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue an Operator License to the aforesaid applicants.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 2-14-85

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that all claims presented prior to this meeting as shown on a detailed list prepared by the Borough Treasurer, and which have been submitted and approved in accordance with Highland Park Ordinance No. 1004, shall be and the same are hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall include in the minutes of this meeting a statement as to all such claims approved as shown in a Bills List Journal in accordance with said Ordinance.

The bills approved for payment at this meeting, Bills List 2/18/14, can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 33.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 1-14-86

WHEREAS, NICOLE YOUNG, POLICE DEPARTMENT/DETECTIVE, has RESIGNED from the Highland Park Police Department effective February 06, 2014; and

WHEREAS, per the requirements of the Agreement between Borough of Highland Park and P.B.A. Local No 64, Nicole Young is entitled to unused accrued time payments in the amount as calculated below.

	Calculation	Amount Due
Vacation	17 hours x \$58.18	\$989.06
Total Payment		\$989.06

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the unused accrued time payment in an amount not to exceed \$989.06 be approved and distributed in the next available pay cycle.

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 2-14-87

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 7-12-218, adopted by the Borough Council on July 17, 2012, a contract was awarded to H & S Construction & Mechanical, Inc. Elizabeth, NJ, for Highland Park New Police Building Capital Project; and

WHEREAS, it appears from Pay Estimate No. 17, filed by the Goldstein Partnership, architects that certain work under said contract has been completed and approved, and there is due to H & S Construction & Mechanical, Inc. the sum of \$197,804.68 in accordance with said Pay Estimate for work performed from January 1, 2014 to January 31, 2014; and

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WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. C-04-55-811-225 in the amount of \$197,804.68, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Kovach, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Chief Financial Officer be and is hereby authorized and directed to pay H & S Construction & Mechanical, Inc. the sum of \$197,804.68, as certified by the Architect in Pay Estimate No. 17, subject to the Clerk's receipt of the Certified Payroll and Project Manning Reports and additional documents as necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Kovach and the Goldstein Partnership forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:

No. 2-14-88

WHEREAS, from time to time property owners within the Borough of Highland Park will appeal their assessment to the Middlesex County Board of Taxation or the New Jersey Tax Court; and

WHEREAS, said appeals are addressed by the Highland Park Tax Assessor, Thomas Mancuso and Special Counsel to the Borough of Highland Park for Tax Appeals, Martin Allen, Esq.; and

WHEREAS, it is determined from time to time that the appropriate disposition of said real property tax appeals may involve agreeing to a settlement of said appeals; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park wish to authorize Misters Mancuso and Allen to settle said real property tax appeals when in their opinion to do so serves the best interest of the Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Highland Park Tax Assessor Thomas Mancuso and Highland Park Special Counsel for Tax Appeals Martin Allen, Esq. are hereby authorized on behalf of the Borough of Highland Park to consent to real property tax appeal settlements when they deem doing so is in the best interest of the Borough. This shall include negotiating said settlements and executing the necessary stipulations of settlement.

2. Misters Mancuso and Allen shall advise the Borough Administrator and she/he in turn the Mayor and Council if there is a proposed settlement of a significant real property tax appeal which may involve a significant refund of real property taxes paid.

The following resolution, introduced by Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:

No. 2-14-89

WHEREAS, the Highland Park First Aid Squad ("Squad") provides an invaluable service to the Highland Park community; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park pursuant to a lease dated November 21, 1949 leases real property to the Squad designated at Block 91, Lots 4, 5 and 6, Borough of Highland Park Tax Map and commonly known as 128 South 11th Avenue for use by the Squad as its headquarters and the location for the Squad's vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park provides support and assistance to the Squad by providing insurance coverage for the above-referenced property, the building located thereon and vehicles operated by the Squad; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park wishes to memorialize its commitment to provide said insurance coverage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Borough of Highland Park agrees to provide insurance coverage to the Highland Park First Aid Squad with regard to certain real property and improvements located thereon on Block 91, Lots 4, 5 and 6, Borough of Highland Park Tax Map, said property commonly known as 128 South 11th Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 2-14-90

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director be and is hereby authorized and directed to remit to the following the amount set opposite, the same being the amount of overpayment of 2014 1st quarter taxes for the property indicated:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>REMITTEE</u>	<u>BE REMITTED</u>
107	14.02	David Feiler 1603 Central Avenue	\$3,563.68

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Finance Department and Tax Collector forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 2-14-91

WHEREAS, a need has arisen to provide adequate funds for certain budget items pending adoption of the Local Municipal Budget for 2014 and NJSA 40A:4-20 provides for the making of emergency appropriations in such cases; and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary resolutions adopted in the year 2014 pursuant to the provisions of NJSA 40A:4-20 (Chapter 96, PL 1951), as amended, including this resolution, total \$7,034,826.25;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of Highland Park (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with NJSA 40A:4-20;

1. An emergency temporary appropriation be and the same is hereby made for the budgetary appropriations herein:

		2014
	Account Number	TEMPORARY
		BUDGET
		#2
MAYOR & COUNCIL		
Salaries & Wages	20-110-1	30,000.00
Other Expenses	20-110-2	5,000.00
BOROUGH ADMINISTRATION		
Salaries & Wages	20-100-1	26,185.00
Other Expenses	20100-2	10,000.00
MUNICIPAL CLERK		
Salaries & Wages	20-120-1	100,000.00
Other Expenses	20-120-2	5,000.00
CENTRAL SERVICES		
Other Expenses	20-316-2	50,000.00
MOTOR POOL		
Salaries & Wages	26-315-1	35,000.00
Other Expenses	26-315-2	75,000.00
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION		
Salaries & Wages	20-130-1	100,000.00
Other Expenses	20-130-2	25,000.00
AUDIT SERVICES		
Other Expenses	20-135-2	0.00
TAX ASSESSMENT		
Salaries & Wages	20-150-1	30,000.00
Other Expenses	20-150-2	3,000.00
TAX COLLECTION		
Salaries & Wages	20-145-1	30,000.00
Other Expenses	20-145-2	5,000.00
LEGAL SERVICES		
Other Expenses	20-155-2	75,000.00
ENGINEERING & PLANNING		
Other Expenses	20-165-2	12,000.00
BUILDING & GROUNDS		
Salaries & Wages	26-310-1	25,000.00
Other Expenses	26-310-2	15,000.00
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION		
Other Expenses	27-335-2	1,700.00
PLANNING BOARD		
Other Expenses	21-180-2	25,000.00
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT		
Salaries & Wages	21-185-1	
Other Expenses	21-185-2	10,000.00
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION		
Other Expenses	21-191-1	1,000.00
RENT LEVELING BOARD		
Other Expenses	21-192-2	
CABLE TELEVISION		
Other Expenses	30-411-2	2,150.00
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		
Other Expenses	20-140-2	30,000.00
MUNICIPAL COURT		
Salaries & Wages	43-490-1	150,000.00
Other Expenses	43-490-2	8,000.00
FIRE OSHA		
Other Expenses	25-268-2	
PUBLIC DEFENDER		
Salaries & Wages	43-495-1	1,500.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT		
Salaries & Wages	25-265-1	100,000.00
Other Expenses	25-265-2	25,000.00
POLICE DEPARTMENT		
Salaries & Wages	25-240-1	2,000,000.00
Other Expenses	25-240-2	75,000.00

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POLICE DISPATCH/911		
Salaries & Wages	25-250-1	100,000.00
Other Expenses	25-250-2	2,500.00
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE		
Salaries & Wages	25-275-1	34,000.00
Other Expenses	25-275-2	
FIRST AID		
Contribution	25-260-2	26,000.00
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT		
Salaries & Wages	25-252-1	
Other Expenses	25-252-2	6,500.00
FIRE OFFICIAL		
Salaries & Wages	25-266-1	
Other Expenses	25-266-2	
UNIFORM FIRE SAFETY ACT		
Fire Prevention - OE	25-267-2	
BOARD OF HEALTH		
Other Expenses	27-330-2	1,330.00
COMMISSION FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS		
Other Expenses	27-331-2	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - AGING		
Salaries & Wages	28-371-1	100,000.00
Other Expenses	28-371-2	10,000.00
COMMUNITY SERVICES - RECREATION		
Salaries & Wages	28-370-1	
Other Expenses	28-370-2	7,655.00
PUBLIC WORKS		
Salaries & Wages	26-290-1	750,000.00
Other Expenses	26-290-2	50,000.00
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
Other Expenses	20-170-2	37,000.00
ARTS COMMISSION		
Other Expenses	28-374-2	750.00
SHADE TREE COMMITTEE		
Other Expenses	28-375-2	2,500.00
UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE		
Salaries & Wages	22-195-1	200,000.00
Other Expenses	22-195-2	9,000.00
COMMUNICATIONS		
Salaries & Wages	20-105-1	
Other Expenses	20-105-2	5,000.00
UNCLASSIFIED		
Gasoline	31-460-2	50,000.00
Electricity & Gas	31-430-2	100,000.00
Telephone & Telegraph	31-440-2	60,000.00
Street Lighting	31-435-2	100,000.00
Sanitary Landfill	32-465-2	200,000.00
Accumulated Sick & Vacation	30-415-1	
STATUTORY EXPENDITURES		
Social Security System	36-472-2	150,000.00
Unemployment Compensation Insurance	23-225-2	
INSURANCE		
General Liability/Workers Compensation	23-211-2	326,816.00
Employee Group Health	23-220-2	1,087,928.00
LIBRARY		
Library S & W	29-390-1	300,000.00
Library OE	29-390-2	200,000.00
GARBAGE COLLECTION		
Apartment Collection	26-305-2	0.00
LOSAP		
Other Expenses	25-265-2	0.00
INTERLOCAL MUNICIPAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS		
County Health Services OE	42-401-2	10,062.25
M.C.I.A. RECYCLING		
Other Expenses	42-402-2	2,250.00
ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES		
Other Expenses	27-340-2	20,000.00
SUBTOTAL		7,034,826.25

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GRANTS		
Business Stimulus Grant		
EPA Cherry Hill		
Municipal Alliance		
County Message Board		
Outreach		
NJ DDEF		
Recycling MCIA Grant		
Smart Growth		
Clean Communities		
Subtotal		7,034,826.25
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	44-901-2	
STATUTORY EXPENDITURES (OUTSIDE OF CAP)		
Public Employees' Retirement System	36-471-2	415,518.00
PFRS Other Expenses	36-475-2	0606,021.00
DEBT SERVICE		
Bond Principal	45-920-2	1,230,000.00
BAN Principal	45-925-2	0.00
Interest on Bonds	45-930-2	361,888.00
Interest on Notes	45-935-2	0.00
Lease Agreement	45-950-2	238,155.00
EDA Loan	45-955-2	6,500.00
EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION	46-870-2	0.00
SPECIAL EMERGENCY	46-875-2	0.00
RESERVE FOR TAX APPEAL	46-876-2	0.00
RESERVE FOR UNCOLLECTED TAXES	50-899-2	0.00
Grand Total		9,892,908.25

WATER & SEWER

	2014
	TEMPORARY
	BUDGET
	#2
OPERATING	
Salaries & Wages	284,065.00
Other Expenses	2,196,494.00
Middlesex County MUA	1,000,000.00
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	
Capital Outlay	
DEBT SERVICE	
Payment of Bond Principal	410,000.00
Interest on Bonds	117,000.00
Interest on Notes	
DEP Waste Water Loan Repayment	
STATUTORY EXPENDITURES	
Public Employees' Retirement System	15,000.00
Social Security System	25,000.00
Deferred Charges	
TOTAL	\$ 4,047,559.00

2. Said emergency temporary appropriations will be provided for in the 2014 budget under the various captions listed herein.
3. A certified copy of this Resolution will be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Mayor Minkoff appointed the following to serve as members of the Library Board of Trustees for terms to expire as indicated:

Helen Rovner, Mayor's Alt.	December 31, 2014
Jessie Hughes, Supt. Alt.	December 31, 208

The above appointments were confirmed on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman Millet, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Brill Mittler, Erickson, Foster-Dublin, Millet, Potts, Welkovits.
 Opposed: None.
 Absent: None.
 Abstained: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Erickson, seconded by Councilman Millet and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 2-14-93

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority seeks to privatize toll workers jobs, which would eliminate pensions, health benefits and job protections of the unionized workers; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's unemployment rate is 7.8%, as reported in the December 19, 2013, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development jobs report, which is one of the highest unemployment rates in the region, and our poverty rate is at an all-time high; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey workers and their families need decent middle-class jobs; and

WHEREAS, firing more workers at a time when unemployment is already extremely high and decent jobs are hard to find will only put more of a burden on the public, increasing the need for social services and public assistance, and result in more home foreclosures; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Turnpike toll collectors have already sacrificed by taking pay cuts of 30% and making many other concessions to save their jobs; and

WHEREAS, newly hired New Jersey Turnpike toll collectors make less than \$35,000 a year, and privatization will reduce the worker's wages to poverty levels; and

WHEREAS, privatization has a track record in the State of New Jersey of failing to take into consideration the interests of taxpayers, residents, and employees, and often does not live up to lofty cost-savings projections; and

WHEREAS, there is limited oversight and a lack of accountability to the public because private companies do not fall under the Open Public Records Act and there is no state agency that monitors privatization contracts; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority has saved more than \$30 million dollars as a result of the pay cuts and concessions toll workers have already made;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Borough of Highland Park acknowledges its support of the workers and union members on the New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway and recommends that the New Jersey Turnpike Authority not privatize toll workers jobs.

Mayor Minkoff opened the meeting for public discussion and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves.

Ruth Bickhardt, 307 Magnolia Street, commented that there is discrepancy with taxi fares between Highland Park and New Brunswick. Mayor Minkoff advised that the fares are regulated by separate entities. Ms. Bickhardt complained about the conditions of the streets (lack of plowing) and sidewalks after the numerous snow storms. Mayor Minkoff advised that the Department of Public Works has been plowing for the better part of one month. Ms. Bickhardt indicated that she was talking about the shoveling and plowing near crosswalks. Mayor Minkoff indicated that the Borough Administrator will have follow up conversations with the Department of Public Works regarding access. As of today, the Borough has had 55" of snow and nowhere to put it. They will look at the issues raised and balance it with the challenges DPW faces. Ms. Bickhardt commented that when the schools were closed for snow, not one teenager stopped and offered to shovel. She suggested the Borough hire them to shovel. She did not see any enforcement being done by the Borough about clearing sidewalks of snow. Mayor Minkoff advised that the senior center has a list of teenagers who could shovel. The Police Department was busy getting cars relocated so that the streets could be plowed. These were extreme conditions. The problem at Rite Aid will be looked at and they will also look at the issues encountered on Raritan between 1st and 2nd Avenues. Councilman Millet added that the Borough will be facing challenges moving forward and they will be looking at ways to improve. If property owners do not do their due diligence, then the borough has to assess fines. Mayor Minkoff additionally noted that the borough cannot compel teenagers to volunteer or be willing to be paid to shovel. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin commented that the Department of Public Works did a fantastic job along with the Public Safety Departments. This winter season there have been 36 days of snow. Residents have to work together. A Police Officer was helping a resident and fell and wound up in the hospital. Residents need to exercise some patience and caution. Ms. Bickhardt suggested that the Borough institute alternate side of the street parking to widen street and provide parking spaces. Mayor Minkoff noted that the Police Department and Department of Public Works will meet after the snow season. He encouraged residents to park their vehicles in their driveways. This has been an extraordinary winter for the Borough. He offered kudos to the residents for putting up with PSE&G and the snow. He thanked the Police Department, Fire Department, and First Aid Squad for keeping the Borough safe.

Allan Williams, 319 Harrison Avenue, asked about the ordinance regarding the zoning map. Councilman Millet explained that the zoning where the Kaplan property is located was changed and they are now fixing the zoning map to match the current zoning.

No one else appearing to be heard, the Mayor closed the public discussion.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman Millet, seconded by Councilwoman Brill Mittler, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned to the Conference Meeting at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk