

TOWNSHIP OF VERNON

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL REORGANIZATION MEETING

January 3, 2011

The Reorganization Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:06 p.m. on Monday, January 3, 2011 in the Vernon Municipal Center, 21 Church Street, Vernon, New Jersey with Mayor Sally Rinker presiding.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Adequate notice of this Reorganization Meeting was provided to the public and the press on December 23, 2010 and was posted at the Municipal Building in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J. S.A. 10:4-7

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Rinker led the assemblage in the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present were Council Members Richard Carson, Valerie Seufert, Harry Shortway, and Mayor Sally Rinker. Also present were Township Manager Jerry Giaimis and Township Attorney John Ursin. Council Member Brian Lynch was in attendance by speakerphone.

Mayor Rinker announced that Township Council meetings for 2011 will be moved to the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month. Mayor Rinker also announced the resignation of Vernon Township Tax Assessor, Lynne Schweighardt, and wished her well in her future endeavors. Dave Pullis, Department of Public Works Director was thanked by Mayor Rinker for a job well done with this season's first snowstorm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Rinker opened the meeting for Public Comment.

Jessi Paladini, [REDACTED] questioned the availability of a directory, listing Board Member term expirations and vacancies. Ms. Paladini commented on the Citizen's Service Act stating that such a directory shall be created listing the term expirations, and also states that volunteers from the community shall be sought, and those individuals shall file Citizen Leadership forms. Ms. Paladini questioned an agenda item regarding a resolution for the Township Engineer contract being increased from \$10,000 to \$30,000. The Mayor said this would come up for Council discussion later in the meeting. Ms. Paladini also questioned if any of the professional positions went out to bid or Request for Qualifications; the Mayor responded there were none. Ms. Paladini spoke regarding the loss of our Tax Assessor to the County. Ms. Paladini questioned the status of the open positions for Municipal Clerk and Land Use Administrator.

Mayor Rinker commented on concerns that sitting members on Boards and Commissions have not been sufficiently notified of open seats, and that the open seats were not advertised to the public. Mayor Rinker stated the Municipal Clerk will be asked to get those letters out to the members and to advertise to the public for the next Council meeting, scheduled for January 10, 2011.

Township Attorney John Ursin stated there is no requirement for RFP's and RFQ's. It is the Council's decision on a yearly basis as to whether to go out for bids on those contracts or not; there are certain pay to play restrictions if they don't go out for bid.

Tom McClachrie, Vernon Taxpayers Association, commented that the Vernon Taxpayers Association agrees with the NJ Comptroller, who stated that all professional contracts should be going out to bid. Mr. McClachrie stated that, in past years, the Township Engineer and Township Planner were all put out to bid. Mr. McClachrie stated his disagreement with Mr. Ursin and commented on the importance of getting the lowest bidder, especially in these financial times. Mr. McClachrie also spoke regarding the budget and keeping Vernon Township residents' needs in mind.

Robert Oliver, [REDACTED] stated that he personally feels that the budget is totally unrealistic. Mr. Oliver agreed with Mr. Lynch in regard to implementing a 5 year financial plan. Mr. Oliver commented that the Financial Advisory Committee would have been able to do a good job helping to sort out the issues in regard to snow plowing the private communities.

Jamie Rickey, Vernon, stated that he hopes the current Mayor and Council help to make a smooth transition for the new government coming in, and to seek wisdom for the sake of Vernon Township.

Doreen Edwards, Highland Lakes, questioned the hiring of two new police officers and where the money would come from to hire them. Mr. Giaimis explained that the new officers are replacing 4 retiring officers. Mr. Giaimis offered to provide a breakdown to show how this will be a savings for the Township. Ms. Edwards also expressed her hope that the current Council and new Council, coming in, be transparent to the people they are serving.

Seeing no one else from the public wishing to speak, Mayor Sally Rinker closed the public portion of the meeting.

RESOLUTIONS REQUIRING SEPARATE ACTION

RESOLUTION #11-01

DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR 2011

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:53-1 et al. of the Open Public Meetings Act requires that the governing body of every municipality designate an official newspaper or newspapers for the publication of all advertisements and notices required by law to be published by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the second newspaper designated by this body must be one which has the greatest likelihood of informing the public within the jurisdictional boundaries of this body of such meetings; and

WHEREAS, *The New Jersey Herald/Sunday Herald* is hereby designated to receive all notices of meetings as required under the Open Public Meetings Act and *The Advertiser News* and the *Vernon Aim* will be designated as the alternate newspapers; and

WHEREAS, It is the opinion of this public body that *The New Jersey Herald/Sunday Herald*, have the greatest likelihood of informing the public within the jurisdictional area of this public body of such meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey that *The New Jersey Herald/ Sunday Herald* is hereby designated as the official newspaper for the 2011 Calendar Year and will receive all Notices of meetings of the Township Council as required by the Open Public Meetings Act, and *The Advertiser News* and the *Vernon Aim* will be designated as alternate newspapers of the Township of Vernon.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

RESOLUTION #11-02

DESIGNATING MEETING DATES OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL FOR THE 2011 CALENDAR YEAR

BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et. seq., the Reorganization Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon shall convene at 7:00 p.m. on January 3, 2011 at the Vernon Municipal Center, 21 Church Street, Vernon, New Jersey. Formal action will be taken at the Reorganization Meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et. seq., the Regular Meetings of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon shall convene on the Second and Fourth Mondays of each Month at 6:00 p.m. at the Vernon Municipal Center, 21 Church Street, Vernon, New Jersey for the following meeting dates:

January 10 and 24
February 14 and 28
March 14 and 28
April 11 and 28*
May 12* and 23
June 9* and 27

July 11 and 25
August 8 and 22
September 12 and 26
October 13* and 24
November 14 and 28
December 12 and 27*

* Meeting Day moved due to conflict

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council shall immediately convene into Executive Session after opening their Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in order to discuss those matters in executive session from which the public shall be excluded and at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter, the public portion of the meeting will recommence. Formal action may be taken at any Regular Council Meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all meetings shall be opened to the public and public participation will be entertained at all meetings but limited to five (5) minutes for each speaker to provide the Governing Body sufficient time to complete its work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Notices required by the Open Public Meetings Act shall be published in *The New Jersey Herald/Sunday Herald* and if needed as alternate newspapers, *The Advertiser News* and *The Vernon Aim*, and shall be posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.

RESOLUTION #11-03

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, that for the year 2011, the following shall serve as the cash management plan of the Township of Vernon.

1. Cash Management and Investment Objectives

The Township of Vernon has the following objectives.

- A. Preservation of capital.
- B. Adequate safekeeping of assets.
- C. Maintenance of liquidity to meet operating needs.
- D. Investment of assets in accordance with State and Federal Laws and regulations.
- E. Maximize Yield.

2. Designation of Official Depositories

The following Government Unit Protection Act approved banks are authorized depositories for deposit of funds:

Sussex Bank
Valley National Bank
Highlands State Bank
Lakeland Bank
PNC Bank

3. Cash Management

- A. All funds shall be deposited within 48 hours of receipt in accordance with N.J.S.A.40A:5-15

B. The Chief Financial Officer shall minimize the possibility of idle cash accumulating in accounts by assuring that any excess amounts not needed to cover expenses or in excess of negotiated compensating balances are kept in interest bearing accounts or promptly swept into the investment portfolio.

C. Investment decisions shall be guided by the cash flow projections prepared by the Chief Financial Officer.

4. Permissible Investments

- A. Certificates of Deposits.
- B. Savings and Loan Associations and Saving Bank Accounts.
- C. New Jersey Cash Management Plan
- D. MBIA Municipal Investors Service Corporation CLASS

5. Authority for Investment Management

The Chief Financial Officer is authorized and directed to make investments on behalf of the Township. All investment decisions shall be consistent with this plan and all appropriate regulatory constraints.

6. Reporting

The Chief Financial Officer shall report to the Township Council investments in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-15.2.

7. Audit

The Cash Management Plan shall be subject to annual audit conducted pursuant to
N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-14.

8. Disposition of Abandoned Property

The Chief Financial Officer shall escheat to the State of New Jersey checks which remain outstanding for more than twelve months after the date of issuance.

RESOLUTION #11-04

REAUTHORIZING PETTY CASH FUNDS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2011

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-21 authorizes the establishment of a Petty Cash Fund in municipalities by application and resolution; and,

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Township of Vernon to establish the following Petty Cash Funds for calendar year 2011 as follows:

Department	Custodian	Amount Authorized
DPW	Dave Pullis	\$100.00
Finance	William I. Zuckerman	\$300.00
Recreation	Patricia Seger	\$600.00

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes such action and that the Township Clerk file two copies of this resolution with the Division of Local Government Services, State of New Jersey

RESOLUTION #11-05

ESTABLISHING INTEREST RATES
FOR DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 permits the governing body of each municipality to fix the rate of interest to be charged for nonpayment of taxes or assessments subject to any abatement or discount for the late payment of taxes as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 has been amended to provide an additional penalty of up to six percent (6%) on delinquent taxes and all municipal charges in excess of \$10,000.00 that are not paid prior to the end of the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is necessary for efficient and uninterrupted operations of the business of the Tax Collector.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that:

1. The Tax Collector of Vernon Township is authorized to cancel all payments of taxes of \$10.00 or less.
2. That no interest shall be charged if payment of any installment is made within ten (10) days after date upon which the same became payable.
3. That the rate of interest to be charged for nonpayment of taxes on or before they would become delinquent shall be 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of the delinquency and 18% per annum, on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00, and;
4. Interest at the rate of 8% per annum on the unpaid balance of assessment is charged with each installment on due date. Any installment not paid on or before due date is subject to 8% interest, 18% interest over \$1,500.00.
5. That the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Vernon is hereby authorized to make investments for the Township of Vernon.

RESOLUTION #11-06

AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL TAX ASSESSOR AND THE MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY TO DEFEND THE TOWNSHIP BEFORE THE SUSSEX COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION FOR TAX APPEALS

WHEREAS, the County Tax Board requires the governing body of each municipality to pass a resolution authorizing the Assessor and municipal attorney of the municipality to file and prosecute any and all tax appeals, farmland rollback complaints, and any added and omitted assessment complaints before the Sussex County Tax Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Township of Vernon that the Assessor and municipal attorney are hereby authorized to file, prosecute, defend, stipulate, and/or agree upon all contested appeals before the Sussex County Board of Taxation and Tax Court of the State of New Jersey, and to initiate municipal appeals to correct the Township of Vernon tax list, including but not limited to, rollback complaints, added and omitted assessment complaints, and such other appeals as are necessary to correct property assessments for the Township of Vernon; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessor and the municipal attorney are hereby designated as the agents of the Township of Vernon for the purpose of signing settlements of the foregoing matters by stipulation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk is directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Sussex County Tax Board.

RESOLUTION #11-07

APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

WHEREAS pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 17:27-1 the Township of Vernon is required to designate a Public Agency Compliance Officer on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS said Public Agency Compliance Officer shall act as the official liaison for all equal opportunity employment matters in the administration of public contracts; and

WHEREAS the Township designates the Township Manager as the Public Agency Compliance Officer for calendar year 2011;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that it hereby designates the Township Manager as the Township's Public Agency Compliance Officer for calendar year 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk shall forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the New Jersey Department of the Treasury Affirmative Action Office as required.

RESOLUTION #11-08

APPOINTING TOWNSHIP MANAGER AS ADA COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, every municipality is required to designate an ADA Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the ADA Coordinator's role is to ensure the Township's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that the Township Manager is hereby appointed as the ADA Coordinator for Vernon Township.

RESOLUTION #11-09

DESIGNATING DEPUTY CUSTODIANS OF PUBLIC RECORDS

WHEREAS, the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. provides public access to local government records; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Records Act further provides that in municipal government the Municipal Clerk shall be the custodian of records; and

WHEREAS, many public officials, officers or employees, including but not limited to the Township Manager, Police Chief, Chief Finance Officer, Tax Collector, Tax Assessor, Chief Construction Official, and all municipal department or division heads, have an inherent record-keeping duty and responsibility in maintaining specific types of local government records; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Records Act allows the Municipal Clerk to name deputy custodians of records to assist in the handling of, and responsibility for, public records,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Vernon Township Council that in order to facilitate speedy citizen access, efficiency in administration, and compliance with government record access laws, the Township Manager, Police Chief, Chief Finance Officer, Tax Collector, Tax Assessor, Chief Construction Official, and all municipal department and division heads are hereby designated to serve as Deputy Custodians of Public Records in the performance of duties and responsibilities pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

Motion to approve Resolutions #11-01 through #11-09

MOVED: Valerie Seufert

SECONDED: Richard Carson

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Richard Carson, Brian Lynch, Valerie Seufert, Harry Shortway, Sally Rinker

NAYES: No

Resolutions #11-01 through #11-09 were approved.

RESOLUTION #11-10

ADOPTION OF 2011 TEMPORARY MUNICIPAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, The Local Budget Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-1 et seq., provides that until the official Annual Budget for the budget year is adopted, a temporary budget not exceeding 26.25% of the total of all appropriations including appropriations for debt service, capital improvement fund, and public assistance must be adopted covering the first quarter of the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-1 et seq. further provides that the governing body of a municipality must adopt by resolution within the first thirty (30) days of the budget, by affirmative vote of the full membership of the governing body, a temporary budget; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council desires to establish temporary appropriations pursuant to the Local Budget Law; and

WHEREAS, total appropriations for the 2011 Annual Budget, exclusive of any appropriations for debt service, capital improvements, and public assistance was \$19,095,119.00; and

WHEREAS, 26.25% of total appropriations for the 2011 Annual Budget, exclusive of any appropriations for debt service, capital improvements, and public assistance is \$5,565,549.00

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that the attached Schedule 'A' entitled "2011 Temporary Appropriations" is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Introduced Official Budget shall serve as the Temporary Budget pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19.1 if the Director of the Division of Local Government Services extends the budget dates pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5.1.

MOVED: Valerie Seufert
SECONDED: Harry Shortway

Council Member Valerie Seufert commented that this temporary budget is based on projections for the 2011 budget.

Council Member Richard Carson commented on citizen concerns in terms of Council Members doing their due diligence in looking at every penny as Council considered this budget, even though it is temporary.

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Richard Carson, Brian Lynch, Valerie Seufert, Harry Shortway, Sally Rinker
NAYES: None
Resolution #11-10 was approved.

RESOLUTION #11-11

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY

WHEREAS, there is a need for General Legal Services including 2011 Municipal Attorney Water/Sewer; Special Labor Counsel; and Tax Appeals/Foreclosures to the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 specifically exempts professional services from provisions of public bidding as provided in the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, said specified professional services are to be rendered or performed by a person or persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession, and whose practice is regulated by law within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the performance of said professional services requires knowledge of an advanced field of learning acquired by a prolonged formal course of specialized training and study as distinguished from general academic instruction or apprenticeship and training; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon is desirous to appoint John E. Ursin, Esq. of the law offices of Courter, Kobert & Cohen, as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Finance Officer has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract may exceed \$17,500.00 has certified that funds are available for this purpose subject to the adoption of the 2011 Municipal Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended, requires that this Resolution be publicly advertised.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that Vernon Township hereby authorizes and approves the award of contract of a Professional Service Contract to John Ursin, Esq. of the law offices of Courter, Kobert & Cohen, pursuant to a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et seq. to provide General Legal Services in accordance with the attached Contracts for Professional Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the award of contract shall be contingent upon the completion and receipt of the following:

1. A fully-executed professional services contract detailing the scope of services, established fees for said professional services, mandatory Equal Opportunity Language and Affirmative Action Certificate; and
2. Receipt of all statutorily mandated "pay to play" political contribution forms pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.;
3. New Jersey Business Registration Certificate; and
4. Upon the aforementioned professional being a member in good standing in his respective profession.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute, seal and deliver the attached Contracts for Professional Services on behalf of and in the name of the Township of Vernon and that the Township Clerk shall publish the award of contract as required by law within ten (10) days of passage of this Resolution.

MOVED: Richard Carson

SECONDED: Harry Shortway

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Richard Carson, Brian Lynch, Valerie Seufert, Harry Shortway, Sally Rinker

NAYES: None.

Resolution #11-11 was approved.

RESOLUTION #11-12

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR TOWNSHIP AUDITOR

WHEREAS, there is a need for Municipal Auditing Services for the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 specifically exempts professional services from provisions of public bidding as provided in the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, said specified professional services are to be rendered or performed by a person or persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession, and whose practice is regulated by law within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the performance of said professional services requires knowledge of an advanced field of learning acquired by a prolonged formal course of specialized training and study as distinguished from general academic instruction or apprenticeship and training; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon is desirous to renew the current agreement with Francis "Bud" Jones of the firm Nisivoccia & Company, LLC for Municipal Auditing Services as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Finance Officer has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract may exceed \$17,500.00 has certified that funds are available for this purpose subject to the adoption of the 2011 Municipal Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended, requires that this Resolution be publicly advertised.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that they hereby authorize and approve the award of contract of a Professional Service Contract to Francis "Bud" Jones of the firm Nisivoccia & Company LLC pursuant to a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et seq. to provide General Legal Services in accordance with the attached Contract for Professional Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the award of contract shall be contingent upon the completion and receipt of the following:

1. A fully-executed professional services contract detailing the scope of services, established fees for said professional services, mandatory Equal Opportunity Language and Affirmative Action Certificate; and
2. Receipt of all statutorily mandated "pay to play" political contribution forms pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.;
3. New Jersey Business Registration Certificate; and
4. Upon the aforementioned professional being a member in good standing in his respective profession.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute, seal and deliver the attached Contract for Professional Services on behalf of and in the name of the Township of Vernon and that the Township Clerk shall publish the award of contract as required by law within ten (10) days of passage of this Resolution.

MOVED: Valerie Seufert

SECONDED: Harry Shortway

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Richard Carson, Valerie Seufert, Harry Shortway, Sally Rinker

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: Brian Lynch

Resolution #11-12 was approved.

RESOLUTION #11-13

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR BOND ATTORNEY

WHEREAS, there is a need for Bond Counsel Services to the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 specifically exempts professional services from provisions of public bidding as provided in the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, said specified professional services are to be rendered or performed by a person or persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession, and whose practice is regulated by law within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the performance of said professional services requires knowledge of an advanced field of learning acquired by a prolonged formal course of specialized training and study as distinguished from general academic instruction or apprenticeship and training; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon is desirous to renew the current agreement with Robert Beinfield, Esq. of the firm Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP, as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Finance Officer has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract may exceed \$17,500.00 has certified that funds are available for this purpose subject to the adoption of the 2011 Municipal Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended, requires that this Resolution be publicly advertised.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that they hereby authorize and approve the award of contract of a Professional Service Contract to Robert Beinfield, Esq. of the firm Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP, pursuant to a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et seq. to provide General Legal Services in accordance with the attached Contract for Professional Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the award of contract shall be contingent upon the completion and receipt of the following:

1. A fully-executed professional services contract detailing the scope of services, established fees for said professional services, mandatory Equal Opportunity Language and Affirmative Action Certificate; and
2. Receipt of all statutorily mandated "pay to play" political contribution forms pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.;
3. New Jersey Business Registration Certificate; and
4. Upon the aforementioned professional being a member in good standing in his respective profession.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute, seal and deliver the attached Contract for Professional Services on behalf of and in the name of the Township of Vernon and that the Township Clerk shall publish the award of contract as required by law within ten (10) days of passage of this Resolution.

MOVED: Valerie Seufert

SECONDED: Harry Shortway

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Richard Carson, Brian Lynch, Valerie Seufert, Harry Shortway, Sally Rinker

NAYES: None

Resolution #11-13 was approved.

RESOLUTION #11-14

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR MUNICIPAL COURT PROSECUTOR

WHEREAS, there is a need for a Township Prosecutor for the Vernon Township Municipal Court; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 specifically exempts professional services from provisions of public bidding as provided in the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, said specified professional services are to be rendered or performed by a person or persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession, and whose practice is regulated by law within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the performance of said professional services requires knowledge of an advanced field of learning acquired by a prolonged formal course of specialized training and study as distinguished from general academic instruction or apprenticeship and training; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon is desirous to renew the current agreement with Alicia Saavedra Ferrante, Esq. of the firm Alicia Saavedra Ferrante, Esq. LLC as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Finance Officer has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract may exceed \$17,500.00 has certified that funds are available for this purpose subject to the adoption of the 2011 Municipal Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended, requires that this Resolution be publicly advertised.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that they hereby authorize and approve the award of contract of a Professional Service Contract to Alicia Saavedra Ferrante, Esq. of the firm Alicia Saavedra Ferrante, Esq. LLC, pursuant to a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et seq. to provide General Legal Services in accordance with the attached Contract for Professional Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the award of contract shall be contingent upon the completion and receipt of the following:

1. A fully-executed professional services contract detailing the scope of services, established fees for said professional services, mandatory Equal Opportunity Language and Affirmative Action Certificate; and
2. Receipt of all statutorily mandated "pay to play" political contribution forms pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.;
3. New Jersey Business Registration Certificate; and
4. Upon the aforementioned professional being a member in good standing in his respective profession.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute, seal and deliver the attached Contract for Professional Services on behalf of and in the name of the Township of Vernon and that the Township Clerk shall publish the award of contract as required by law within ten (10) days of passage of this Resolution.

MOVED: Richard Carson
SECONDED: Harry Shortway

Council Member Richard Carson praised Ms. Ferrante for a job well-done and Council Member Valerie Seufert agreed.

Mayor Rinker questioned Mr. Giaimis in regard to this Resolution being stated differently than the contract last year. Mr. Giaimis replied that the letter sent out indicated appointment at the same rate as last year.

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Richard Carson, Brian Lynch, Valerie Seufert, Harry Shortway, Sally Rinker

NAYES: None

Resolution #11-14 was approved.

RESOLUTION #11-15

RESOLUTION THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR MUNICIPAL COURT PUBLIC DEFENDER

WHEREAS, there is a need for a Municipal Court Public Defender to the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 specifically exempts professional services from provisions of public bidding as provided in the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, said specified professional services are to be rendered or performed by a person or persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession, and whose practice is regulated by law within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the performance of said professional services requires knowledge of an advanced field of learning acquired by a prolonged formal course of specialized training and study as distinguished from general academic instruction or apprenticeship and training; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon is desirous to renew the current agreement with James P. Sloan, Esq. of the firm James P. Sloan, P.C as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Finance Officer has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract may exceed \$17,500.00 has certified that funds are available for this purpose subject to the adoption of the 2011 Municipal Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended, requires that this Resolution be publicly advertised.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that they hereby authorize and approve the award of contract of a Professional Service Contract to James P. Sloan, Esq. of the firm James P. Sloan, P.C. pursuant to a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et seq. to provide General Legal Services in accordance with the attached Contract for Professional Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the award of contract shall be contingent upon the completion and receipt of the following:

1. A fully-executed professional services contract detailing the scope of services, established fees for said professional services, mandatory Equal Opportunity Language and Affirmative Action Certificate; and
2. Receipt of all statutorily mandated "pay to play" political contribution forms pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.;
3. New Jersey Business Registration Certificate; and
4. Upon the aforementioned professional being a member in good standing in his respective profession.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute, seal and deliver the attached Contract for Professional Services on behalf of and in the name of the Township of Vernon and that the Township Clerk shall publish the award of contract as required by law within ten (10) days of passage of this Resolution.

MOVED: Valerie Seufert
SECONDED: Richard Carson

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Richard Carson, Brian Lynch, Valerie Seufert, Harry Shortway, Sally Rinker

NAYES: None

Resolution #11-15 was approved.

RESOLUTION #11-16

RESOLUTION APPOINTING RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon (hereinafter "Local Unit") has joined the Statewide Insurance Fund (hereinafter "Fund"), a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Risk Management Consultant, as those positions are defined in the Bylaws, if requested to do so by the "Fund"; and

WHEREAS, the Local Unit has complied with relevant law with regard to the appointment of a Risk Management Consultant; and

WHEREAS, the "Fund" has requested its members to appoint individuals or entities to that position.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of "Local Unit", in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Township of Vernon hereby appoints Willis of New Jersey Inc. /John Moore as its local Risk Management Consultant.
2. The Mayor of the Township of Vernon (*authorized representative of the public entity*) and Risk Management Consultant are hereby authorized to execute the Risk Management Consultant's Agreement for the year 2011 in the form attached hereto.

MOVED: Valerie Seufert
SECONDED: Harry Shortway

Mr. Giamis indicated that the name was not on the agenda and informed Mayor and Council that it is the same professional as last year, John Moore.

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Richard Carson, Brian Lynch, Valerie Seufert, Harry Shortway, Sally Rinker
NAYES: None
Resolution #11-16 was approved.

RESOLUTION #11-17

RESOLUTION APPOINTING FUND COMMISSIONER

WHEREAS, Township of Vernon (hereinafter "Local Unit") is a member of the Statewide Insurance Fund (hereinafter "Fund"), a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Fund's Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Fund Commissioner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Local Unit that Gerald J. Giamis, Township Manager, is hereby appointed as the Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Local Unit's Fund Commissioner is authorized and directed to execute all such documents as required by the Fund.

MOVED: Valerie Seufert
SECONDED: Harry Shortway

Mr. Giamis indicated that the name was not on the agenda, but it was regarding the Township Manager.

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Richard Carson, Brian Lynch, Valerie Seufert, Harry Shortway, Sally Rinker
NAYES: None
Resolution #11-17 was approved.

RESOLUTION #11-18

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON

WHEREAS, there is a need for Professional Engineering Services for 2011 in the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 specifically exempts professional services from provisions of public bidding as provided in the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, said specified professional services are to be rendered or performed by a person or persons licensed to practice a recognized profession; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon is desirous to renew the current agreement with Harold E. Pellow & Associates located at 17 Plains Road, Augusta, New Jersey, 07822 as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 *et seq.*, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Finance Officer has certified that funds are available for this purpose subject to the adoption of the 2011 Municipal Budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that they hereby authorize and approve the award of contract of a Professional Service Contract to Harold E. Pellow & Associates located at 17 Plains Road, Augusta, New Jersey, 07822, pursuant to a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et seq. to provide Township Engineering Services in accordance to the attached Contract for Professional Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the award of contract shall be contingent upon the completion and receipt of the following:

1. A fully-executed Professional Services Contract detailing the scope of services, established fees for said professional services, mandatory Equal Opportunity Language and Affirmative Action Certificate,
2. Receipt of all statutorily mandated "pay to play" political contribution forms pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq. and
3. New Jersey Business Registration Certificate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute, seal and deliver the attached Contract for Professional Services on behalf of and in the name of the Township of Vernon and that the Township Clerk shall publish the award of contract as required by law within ten (10) days of passage of this Resolution.

Motion to approve Resolution #11-18.

MOVED: Valerie Seufert

SECONDED: Richard Carson

Mayor Rinker commented on this contract being increased from \$10,000.00 last year to \$30,000.00 this year. Mayor Rinker further commented on her concern that the Council had not been involved in that change and wants it removed from tonight's agenda, pending discussion with the Council in Executive Session. Council Member Richard Carson agreed with Mayor Rinker and expressed his serious concerns. Mr. Giannis explained there was an error and the \$30,000.00 should have been \$20,000.00. Mayor Rinker commented on the agenda being distributed late in the day on Friday with no opportunity for collaboration. Mayor Rinker further commented that changes in contracts should be discussed prior to being placed on the agenda. Council Member Richard Carson requested more detail regarding the reasons that warranted an increase.

Motion to remove Resolution #11-18 from the agenda.

MOVED: Sally Rinker

SECONDED: Valerie Seufert

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Richard Carson, Brian Lynch, Valerie Seufert, Harry Shortway, Sally Rinker

NAYES: None

Resolution #11-18 was removed from the agenda.

RESOLUTION #11-19

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL PLANNING SERVICES FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON

WHEREAS, there is a need for Professional Planning Services for 2011 in the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 specifically exempts professional services from provisions of public bidding as provided in the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, said specified professional services are to be rendered or performed by a person or persons licensed to practice a recognized profession; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon is desirous to renew the current agreement with Jessica Caldwell of the firm, Harold E. Pellow & Associates located at 17 Plains Road,

Augusta, New Jersey, 07822, as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Finance Officer has certified that funds are available for this purpose subject to the adoption of the 2011 Municipal Budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that they hereby authorize and approve the award of contract of a Professional Service Contract to Jessica Caldwell, Harold E. Pellow & Associates located at 17 Plains Road, Augusta, New Jersey, 07822, pursuant to a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et seq. to provide Township Engineering Services in accordance to the attached Contract for Professional Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the award of contract shall be contingent upon the completion and receipt of the following:

1. A fully-executed Professional Services Contract detailing the scope of services, established fees for said professional services, mandatory Equal Opportunity Language and Affirmative Action Certificate,
2. Receipt of all statutorily mandated "pay to play" political contribution forms pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq. and
3. New Jersey Business Registration Certificate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute, seal and deliver the attached Contract for Professional Services on behalf of and in the name of the Township of Vernon and that the Township Clerk shall publish the award of contract as required by law within ten (10) days of passage of this Resolution.

Motion to approve Resolution #11-19

MOVED: Richard Carson

SECONDED: Harry Shortway

Mayor Rinker questioned Pellow & Associates providing planning services for the Township of Vernon when Bob Benecke Economics is the Township Planner. Mr. Giaimis explained that this Resolution deals with Highlands and COAH. Mayor Rinker asked if this should go through the Land Use Board. Mr. Ursin explained that the Township Council is authorized to appoint a Planner to do work for the Township Council. Mr. Ursin further explained that, typically, the Land Use Board has a Planner and it makes a lot of sense for it to be the same Planner. Mr. Ursin stated that there are some instances when the Planner does work directly for the Township Council, rather than the Land Use Board and Highlands and COAH come from the governing body.

Mayor Rinker made a motion to remove Resolution #11-19 from the agenda. Council Member Richard Carson seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Richard Carson, Valerie Seufert, Harry Shortway Sally Rinker

NAYES: Brian Lynch

Resolution #11-19 was removed from the agenda.

RESOLUTION #11-20

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR UTILITY PURPOSES FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON

WHEREAS, there is a need for Professional Engineering Services for 2011 in the Township of Vernon for Utility Purposes; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 specifically exempts professional services from provisions of public bidding as provided in the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, said specified professional services are to be rendered or performed by a person or persons licensed to practice a recognized profession; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon is desirous to renew the current agreement with Hatch Mott MacDonald located at Perryville III, 53 Frontage Road, Suite 170, Hampton, New Jersey, 08827 as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Finance Officer has certified that funds are available for this purpose subject to the adoption of the 2011 Municipal Budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that they hereby authorize and approve the award of contract of a Professional Service Contract to Hatch Mott MacDonald located at Perryville III, 53 Frontage Road, Suite 170, Hampton, New Jersey, 08827, pursuant to a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et seq. to provide Township Engineering Services in accordance to the attached Contract for Professional Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the award of contract shall be contingent upon the completion and receipt of the following:

1. A fully-executed Professional Services Contract detailing the scope of services, established fees for said professional services, mandatory Equal Opportunity Language and Affirmative Action Certificate,
2. Receipt of all statutorily mandated "pay to play" political contribution forms pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq. and
3. New Jersey Business Registration Certificate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute, seal and deliver the attached Contract for Professional Services on behalf of and in the name of the Township of Vernon and that the Township Clerk shall publish the award of contract as required by law within ten (10) days of passage of this Resolution.

MOVED: Valerie Seufert

SECONDED: Richard Carson

Mayor Rinker asked for confirmation from Mr. Giannis that the amount of this contract was no greater than last year. Mr. Giannis confirmed that \$20,000.00 was the same amount as the previous year's contract

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Richard Carson, Valerie Seufert, Harry Shortway, Sally Rinker

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Brian Lynch

Resolution #11-20 was approved.

Council Member Lynch was unavailable by speakerphone at 7:50 pm.

RESOLUTION #11-21

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL WATER TESTING AND ANALYSIS SERVICES FOR THE YEAR 2011 FOR MUNICIPAL FACILITIES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON

WHEREAS, there is a need for Professional Water Testing and Analysis Services for Municipal Facilities for the year 2011; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 specifically exempts professional services from provisions of public bidding as provided in the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, said specified professional services are to be rendered or performed by a person or persons licensed to practice a recognized profession; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon is desirous to award a contract to Agra Environmental and Laboratory Services located at 90½ West Blackwell Street, Dover, NJ 07801 as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Finance Officer has certified that funds are available for this purpose subject to the adoption of the 2011 Municipal Budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that they hereby authorize and approve the award of contract of a Professional Service Contract to Agra Environmental and Laboratory Services located at 90½ West Blackwell Street, Dover, NJ 07801, pursuant to a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et seq. to provide Water Testing and Analysis Services in accordance to the attached Contract for Professional Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the award of contract shall be contingent upon the completion and receipt of the following:

1. A fully-executed Professional Services Contract detailing the scope of services, established fees for said professional services, mandatory Equal Opportunity Language and Affirmative Action Certificate,
2. Receipt of all statutorily mandated “pay to play” political contribution forms pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq. and
3. New Jersey Business Registration Certificate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute, seal and deliver the attached Contract for Professional Services on behalf of and in the name of the Township of Vernon and that the Township Clerk shall publish the award of contract as required by law within ten (10) days of passage of this Resolution.

Motion to approve Resolution #11-21

MOVED: Valerie Seufert

SECONDED: Richard Carson

Council Member Richard Carson questioned if this company had an affiliation with the County Health Department. Mr. Giaimis explained that there is no affiliation with the County. Mr. Carson further questioned if any Vernon Township employees work for this company. Mr. Giaimis answered that he was not aware of any. Mayor Rinker advised that the owner of this company sits on the Vernon Township Environmental Commission. Mayor Rinker questioned the possibility of this being a conflict. Mr. Ursin advised the Council could take more time to consider the possibilities of a conflict of interest.

Mayor Rinker made a motion to remove Resolution #11-21 from the agenda. Council Member Richard Carson seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Richard Carson, Valerie Seufert, Harry Shortway, Sally Rinker

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: Brian Lynch

Resolution #11-21 was removed from the agenda.

Council Member Valerie Seufert made a motion to table the Council appointments to the Boards, Commissions and Committees until the next Township Council meeting on January 10, 2011. Council Member Richard Carson seconded the motion.

Council Member Richard Carson commented that it is an outrage that proper and legal procedure was not followed in regard to lack of notification to Board and Commission members who's terms were expiring, as well as the open positions on these Board's not being properly noticed in the newspaper. Council Member Richard Carson offered his apologies to those Board, Commission and Committee members affected by this situation. Mayor Rinker agreed with Mr. Carson. Council Member Harry Shortway asked that the vacancies be advertised in the newspaper as well as our website.

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Richard Carson, Brian Lynch, Valerie Seufert, Harry Shortway, Sally Rinker

NAYES: None

Mayor Rinker commented that she is on some of the Boards, Commissions and Committees and she feels it is important that those people who volunteer their time

trying to help the Township should be appreciated and dealt with in a respectful manner by appointing them properly.

Council Member Valerie Seufert advised that there is an application that needs to be filled out by new applicants and asked if the application is on the Vernon Township website. Mayor Rinker answered that the application is on the website.

MANAGER'S APPOINTMENTS:

SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

Charles Galvano	Larry Kacmarcik	Larry Pettigano
Kurt Reinhardt	Michael Sauer	James Vette
Douglas Vince	Roger Titus	

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Roy Wherry, Chief of Police

ANIMAL CONTROL CONSTABLE

Warren Burgess, Sr.

Mayor Rinker recognized Warren Burgess for all of his volunteer work with Animal Control and would like to see him get a commendation.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council Member Richard Carson spoke of his disappointment in regard to moving ahead with such issues as the Town Center, sewers, Mountain Creek and the 2011 Budget. Mr. Carson commented that what Vernon would like to have and what Vernon needs to have is going to be more of a focus now, than ever before. Mr. Carson spoke of there being a lot of potential in Vernon Township. Mr. Carson stated that Vernon Township has dedicated employees as well as volunteers who serve on the Boards. Council Member Carson also spoke of the tragedy of a number of drug overdose fatalities, this year and how out of that tragedy came a resurgence of community awareness, as well as a demonstration against drug use back in June 2010, which was well attended. Mr. Carson spoke of a renewed emphasis on the MAC Committee to educate, offer programs and additional community resources. Council Member Richard Carson commented on more work to be done and in the coming year and that it is time to go after the drug dealers. Mr. Carson commented on his hope that last year would have been more fruitful for Vernon Township. Mr. Carson further commented that the Council will have to move forward prudently and with due diligence. Mr. Carson wished everyone a very healthy and Happy New Year.

Council Member Valerie Seufert commented that 2010 voted on many changes for the Township. Ms. Seufert further commented on the Public being vocal in regard to what they want and don't want. Ms. Seufert stated that It is the Council's responsibility to work together for the betterment of Vernon Township and all it's residents. Ms. Seufert commented on the loss of jobs as well as foreclosures in 2010. Ms. Seufert stated that Vernon Township has been very fortunate with the tax rate and her hope that 2011 will see us collect as much. Ms. Seufert pledged herself to do the best job she can, moving forward.

Council Member Harry Shortway commented about the issues being faced over the next six months and that there should be open workshops to address issues with the most transparency possible. Mr. Shortway further commented on his agreement with Mr. Rickey to make this a smooth transition for the new government coming in.

Mayor Rinker commented on her expectations for the Township Manager to collaborate with all the financial expertise, at hand, for the Budget such as the CFO, Bob Benecke, the Financial Advisory Committee and Township Council. Mayor Rinker stated not wanting to raise taxes for Vernon residents. Mayor Rinker commented on her unhappiness with key position's being vacant such as the Municipal Clerk, Tax Assessor and Land Use Administrator. Mayor Rinker stated that she would like the Manager to treat these vacancies with more urgency. The Mayor promised that the Council is working to the best of their ability. Mayor Rinker than thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a healthy and Happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business to be conducted on the agenda, a motion for Adjournment was made by Council Member Valerie Seufert; motion seconded by Council Member Harry Shortway with all members voting in favor.

Mr. Giaimis advised the Council to review the schedule for Township Council meetings that will now be on Mondays.

The Regular Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Bates
Acting Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved: February 14, 2011