

**VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

January 10, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:14 p.m. in the Vernon Municipal Center, Church Street, Vernon, New Jersey with Mayor Austin Carew presiding. There were 26 interested persons in attendance.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to the public and the press January 2, 2008 by delivering to the press and posting at the Municipal Building a copy of the "Annual Notice of Meetings" pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The roll call of members was called and Richard Carson, Neil Desmond, Glenn McLaughlin and Austin Carew answered the call. Also present were Melinda Carlton, Township Manager and Joseph Ragno, Jr., Township Attorney. Mayor Carew stated that James Oroho is running late and will be sworn in when he arrives. Let it be noted that at 7:35 p.m. Councilman Oroho joined the meeting.

Senator Oroho stated at the Legislative Academy meeting held at Princeton University today they were discussing health care, budget, taxes, and money. It has been confirmed by the Legislative that he will be serving on the State budget appropriations committee and Economic growth.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

Senator Steve Oroho read the Statement of Determination and administered the Oath of Office to Councilman James Oroho.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

OPEN THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Jeff Blank. He commented that the town council minutes are running two to three months behind. He asked how much longer it will take to get all the minutes posted on the website. Mayor Carew stated approximately 2 to 3 months for the clerk's office to catch up.

Sally Rinker. She stated a preliminary subdivision approval was granted in March 2007 with conditions set forth; and one of the conditions is that she confers with the council on eventual ownership and responsibility of detention ponds in the subdivision. She stated the clock is running and has to finalize everything before final approval is granted. Ms. Rinker said condition 13 states *the developer shall act to the township council to assume ownership of the detention basins. If the developer's request is denied Ownership of the basins must be assumed by the home owners' association established by the developer.* Greg Fehrenbach suggested to Sally Rinker, in July 2007, that she meet with the council if the township is willing to assume ownership of the basins. Joseph Ragno stated two meetings were held and the general opinion consensus that the township unlikely would accept the detention basins. However, no final decision was made. Neil Desmond stated the town council needs to establish a policy whether or not they will assume responsibility for future detention basins. Glenn McLaughlin expressed that the township did not want to assume ownership since it would be a long term

obligation and expensive. Sally Rinker said a definitive answer would be needed in time to come; but at this time the conditions set forth in the resolution is offering her that opportunity to meet with the town. Secondly, economics is one major issue, factors involving legal responsibility to the township, and home owners' associations are ill-equipped to meet the requirements to report to the DEP. The subdivision is located on Lake Wallkill Road, which is independent to Lake Wallkill Association. Mayor Carew asked if the town manager could schedule a meeting with Sally Rinker and the appropriate parties to discuss the detention basins. He said these basins could go well beyond than what is currently being discussed tonight.

Tom McClachrie, Vernon Tax Payers Association. He asked if the council could post the special meetings and department budget meetings on the website.

There being no further questions and/or comments, the Mayor closed the meeting to the public.

PRESENTATIONS AND SPECIAL ITEMS

Robert Benecke – Town Center Presentation – Mr. Benecke stated at the town council meeting of October 11 ordinance #07-43 Town Center Redevelopment Plan was adopted after numerous re-examinations by the Town Council, Planning Board and receiving input from the public. The redevelopment area is a tool to the zone district along with the various five sub-districts and expands into the entire Town Center. Approximately 60 properties are located in the Town Center, which of the 22 are in the redevelopment area. He said amendments were contemplated back in September to the Town Center/Redevelopment Area of the zoning district where the Planning Board and the Township Council wanted to restrict gas stations uses. The major amendment allows service stations/car wash may be redeveloped as to permit the improvement and upgrade of the facilities on these properties. A table is shown identifying properties, including sub-districts that are covered by the provisions of this Ordinance and located in the Town Center Zoning District and Redevelopment Area. Properties that are located in the Redevelopment Area are denoted as ®. The second clarification refers to the bulk standards that shall apply to those properties in the Vernon Town Center, and each of the Sub Districts. Mr. Benecke said the shared commercial parking issues required some clarification to supermarkets. The ordinance addresses *a variance is permitted for the supermarket use, when proof of shared parking and other proofs are provided to the Vernon Planning Board to necessitate appropriate relief from this limitation. Ordinance #07-43 was amended to add this provision.* Finally, the Planning Board may issue a variance to the minimum square feet requirement for residences to be built in the Main Street and/or the West Church Street Sub district. A rental or condominium dwelling unit is limited to a minimum of 750 square feet of livable space. He suggested that the Town Council appoint the Design Review Committee (DRC) who will be involved with the processing of all Town Center site plan applications and/or minor issues. Austin Carew stated the council previously discussed this and their take was to get the committee appointed. Glenn McLaughlin asked if the township would be required to have affordable housing to every five market units, and Mr. Suljic said the market states for every four market units there has to be a single low affordable housing. Mr. Carson asked if any of these amendments affect potential drive-thru, and Mr. Benecke said no. The members of the DRC shall include the Township Planner, the Township Engineer, a resident appointed by the Mayor, who shall not be a member of the Planning Board or the Board of Adjustment, and two residents appointed by the Township Council, both of whom shall not be a member of the Planning Board or Board of Adjustment. Mr. Suljic suggested that the Mayor consider someone who has architectural and/or design background. Councilmen Oroho and Carson asked if there should be a specific color scheme addressed in the ordinance rather than bold colors. Mr. Suljic said a committee would recommend to the council on a pallet of colors. Mr. Desmond asked if the lots and blocks could be cross-referenced to a map to give the council a clear understanding to what properties are located in the Town Center Zoning District and Sub Districts; and if apartments and/or condominiums are permitted above stores on Main Street. He asked if the council want townhouse units built along Main Street. Mayor Carew asked what is considered a townhouse, and Fred Suljic said it is a duplex or in a group of 8. Mr. Desmond stated the ordinance needs further clarification because it discusses duplexes, age restricted housing, senior housing, and strip malls being built on Block 141, Block

141.05, and portion of Block 148 consisting of 28.8 acres. He asked if COAH would accept housing with a mix of 20%, one bedroom 60%, two bedroom 20%, three bedroom 20%, and residential buildings to be village scaled, and Fred Suljic said yes. Mr. Benecke stated the entire Town Center District and Sub Districts map were filed with the manager's and township clerk's office. The Town Center District was acquired and categorized into five Sub Districts indicated by the symbol ® as the redevelopment parcels. Mayor Carew asked if these parcels are not in the redevelopment area than what control does the township have, and Mr. Benecke said it is a state endorsed zoning design standards for the town center area. The ordinance states *though there are a few vacant and underutilized parcels, new development will be very limited given the lack of vacant land and available sewer allocation.* Mr. Desmond expressed concern that Route 94 should be subject to the design guidelines. There was a lengthy discussion to the types of uses including office, retail, civic, industrial and government uses, as well as a limited amount of residential uses, design and bulk standards, and buildings to be built in the town center based on COAH's obligation, LRK's recommendation; and the occupants would benefit to the sewage services connection in the Redevelopment and Sub District Area. Mr. Desmond asked if Church Street and Omega Drive are in the Redevelopment Area, and Mr. Benecke said no. Many of the properties on Church Street, Theta Drive, and Omega Drive are contiguous to other properties in the Redevelopment Area where they could be redeveloped in the future. The Planning Board considered that Theta Drive, Omega Drive, and West Church Street may qualify as an area but not to be built out at this time. The board asked if the council would consider in having Bob Benecke restudy that area sometime in the future for build-out and sewers.

Fred Suljic – Summary Presentation on the Highlands Regional Master Plan - Fred Suljic said some major changes were made to the Highlands Regional Master Plan. The Highlands Council will be sending to Fred Suljic a 200 foot scale map to illustrate parcels in the Town Center as an existing community area but not all agricultural. He said comments have to be made back to the Highlands Regional Council by February 28, 2008. Changes were made on the programs and descriptions outlined in the Regional's Master Plan. The Land Use capability map is a series of five maps, which includes zones, water availability, water supply, wastewater utility capacity and septic system. Delineation to the zones was significantly revised where 640 acre minimum was allowed and now it is downsized to a 75 acre minimum. In addition, three zones were classified as protection, conservation, and existing. Three sub-zones were created with regard to the existing community and conservation. The *protection zones* allow activity to be extremely limited due to high natural resource value lands to be preserved. *Conservation zone* are significant agricultural lands associated with woodlands environmental feature to be preserved. Thirdly, the *existing community zone* is the significant concentrated growth where in-filth growth could occur. *Environmentally constraint sub-zone* and *conservation zone* are significant environmental features that preserve other than non-agricultural development. Mayor Carew asked if the property owners would experience any impact from the Highlands Regional request, and Fred Suljic said there would be tremendous impact. Mr. Suljic stated Vernon Township has to consent with the Highlands Master Plan. If not, then the township would have to revise their master plan, development regulations, or otherwise, the Highlands would take over everything in Vernon's preservation area. Vernon has approximately 65% in the preservation area. The Highlands expects the township to apply the 35% standards to the planning area. The nitrate dissolution models indicate that minimum lot sizes would increase 20 to 88 acres. Melinda Carlton asked if the council should provide their comments to Fred Suljic before the end of the 90 day period. Mayor Carew asked if the council could read the document and submit their comments to the planner in 2-3 weeks.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gary Martinsen. He asked for clarification if the council is still in agreement allowing gas stations continue auto repairs and renovate and add a convenient store. Mayor Carew said this can be addressed at a Planning Board meeting. Discussion followed to auto repairs in the Town Center, and it was decided that no new auto repair or increase the size of service stations be permitted. Fred Suljic said one gas station in particular is to convert the building into a convenience/deli store and relocate their pumps to the other side of their property. Mr. Martinsen asked if there are going to be numerous bed/breakfasts in town, and Mr. Desmond said 15 pertain to the number of rooms allowed

in bed/breakfasts. Mr. Martinsen would provide the council with redevelopment packages Vermont put together for their own town. The package illustrates the before and after look of the town.

Tom McClachrie. He asked what the cost to build a COAH is; and if the township is allowed to collect for COAH obligations, and Fred Suljic said 1 to 2 percent was previously acceptable on new development, and the new regulations will increase 1 to 2 percent for residential, and 2 to 3 for non-residential; and the cost factor to build a low moderate income non-rental was \$141,000 but increased to \$180,000. 133 units were proposed on the property owned by Glenwood Management adjacent to the McAfee Ski Shop, but with 27 that is a 20% rule that would be set aside and be mandated to all rentals. Mr. McClachrie asked if the rate is 1 to 2% what is the height limitation and charge higher rates, and Mr. Suljic said the tax payers would have to pay out a very minimum amount.

There being no other interested parties the Mayor closed the meeting to the public.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Melinda Carlton said documents for resolutions R#08-26 and R#08-13 were not included in the council's packet. She asked if **Resolution #08-15 Authorizing a Contract for the Acquisition of Goods and Services** could be pulled since this resolution is not ready for discussion. **Resolution #08-20 Supporting Assembly and Senate Bills A-3093 and S-1973** bills failed at the Senate and Assembly committee level. She asked if the council could give some thought to having a special meeting to discuss the Faline Building and its property, that is located in the Town Center, or would the council prefer to discuss it at the January 24th regular meeting. In the meantime, she will meet with the department/division heads to obtain additional information on this property. Secondly, she asked if the council would like her to follow through with the implementation task Councilman Oroho recommended in his report read at the Reorganization Meeting. These steps included a complete internal control assessment of our town operations, including the duties performed by our township employees as well as the oversight role that the town council is performing; Council receive monthly financial information to monitor the financial condition of the town including analysis around township spending; contract the services of a retired state judge or former prosecutor to perform a detail review of the township's management and employee oversight on the recent corruption charges and provide the council with an assessment of any weaknesses and a recommendation for any correction actions; and finally, requesting the State's DCA to do a review of the \$1.2 million change orders, and requesting the council to consider asking the state to come in to do a complete fiscal audit of ALL spending and non-cash transactions that involves the town center project including the awarding of public contracts, and determine if there were any conflicts of interest that my involved any township employees or elected officials. The council agreed to let Councilman Oroho work along with Melinda Carlton on these concerns and report back at the next scheduled meeting. Pat Seger, Director of Parks/Recreation, was contacted by a bank at the League of Municipality Conference who offered to purchase the Maple Grange Park scoreboard with the intent to advertise their name on top of the board. Neil Desmond asked if it is a one-time fee, and Melinda Carlton said nothing was negotiated. He suggested that the Recreation Director and Township Manager bring in recurring revenues and it is aesthetically pleasing to the park. Mrs. Seger stated the park is in need of a scoreboard. Mr. McLaughlin commented he would like to see Maple Grange Park be shown. Pat Seger would submit to Melinda Carlton some renderings and proposal, which than will be brought back to the council. Pat Seger said the resolution was given to the council for their review, and if they have any inquiries she will be happy to answer any questions. Melinda Carlton asked if the council could give some thought to the Economic Development budget since they will need funds to work on as this committee is formed.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Joseph Ragno stated the township purchased a piece of property with Green Acres funds several years ago. The township sold the property, DEP took acceptance to it, and a

resolution was drawn up by Mr. Koenig of that matter for a substantial period of time where a decision was reached by last year. The council agreed, in September, to enter into an agreement to purchase the property back. The issue now is where the funds would come from. Mr. Ragno's said Open Space funds could be used to purchase the property back. He concluded the original purchase was with Green Acres funds, and secondly, sale was done and the funds went back into the general coffers. The DEP has ordered the township to repurchase this property, and fortunately the owner agreed to sell it. The cost for repurchasing the property will be approximately \$125,000. Discussion followed. He recommended that the council obtain information as to what money was left over in the Open Space fund; or reach out to the DEP to get a determination. Melinda Carlton suggested that the township reach out to the DEP and put this matter back on the agenda for January 24th.

DISCUSSION OF NEW ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE #08-01: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF THE POSITION OF TOWNSHIP ASSISTANT MANAGER

– Rich Carson asked if Melinda Carlton could explain what responsibilities the Assistant Township Manger would have. Melinda Carlton said the township is looking for someone with two to five years experience in municipal management, project management experience, economic experience, budgeting, and has a Bachelor's Degree, preferably Public Administration, or Masters Degree in Public Administration. Glenn McLaughlin asked if any employee inside the municipal building is qualified for this position, and Melinda Carlton said it would be best to recruit. She said the position was advertised in the NJ Municipal Management Association and pending on cost in the Star Ledger. The council agreed to allow Melinda Carlton to move forward in searching the right candidate for this position.

ORDINANCE # 08-02: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, SECTION 330, OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON CODE AND ESTABLISHING THE VERNON TOWN CENTER ZONING DISTRICT AND FIVE SUB-DISTRICTS, INCLUDING THE MAIN STREET SUB-DISTRICT, IN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON

– Glenn McLaughlin commented his concerns of townhouses being built than apartments placed on second floor of a retail use on Main Street. Mayor Carew asked if Neil Desmond could provide his comments/questions to Bob Benecke and Fred Suljic.

FUTURE CONSIDERATION

ORDINANCE _____; AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR KNOWN DANGEROUS SEX OFFENDERS

– Neil Desmond asked if the township manager could obtain additional information. He said that the township residents need to be protected by these dangerous sex offenders, and that the local police follow through with the certain restriction requirements established by State of New Jersey. With the holidays the council did not receive a copy of the draft ordinance, and that the legal council did not have the opportunity to review it. He asked if the town council could review Newton and Montague Ordinances and discuss with the township manager and town attorney so by the end of February this ordinance would already have been adopted. Discussion followed if this would be constitutional to have this ordinance adopted. Mr. Ragno said this type of residency restrictions has to be researched.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Bruce Zaretsky. He said there have been numerous accidents since construction began on Route 515. Mr. Zaretsky stated he owns a barn located behind the Bank of New York, which is being rented out. The tenant just gave notice they are moving since they can no longer maneuver their trucks in/out of that property. Mayor Carew said that the township engineer and township manager have been in contact with the county. Lou Kneip stated there have been some ongoing problems with the newly installed median. The county engineer's office advised Mr. Kneip that their goal is to slow down the traffic as they approach the Town Center. These goals were established years ago to have

narrower lanes, and the medians were to prevent continuous left turns. Neil Desmond asked if there is a life threatening situation on Route 515 and St. Anthony's Hospital being the closet facility what happens if the ambulance cannot make a turn around, Mr. Kneip said the intent is to slow down the traffic not stop it, but the county is looking into it to rectify the situation. Mr. Oroho stated 18-wheelers are trying to turn right onto Route 515 and are having a problem making that turn. Mr. Kneip said this information was sent back to the design county engineer for further analysis; and for the gas station, the county had to remove sections of the curbing to allow the large gas tankers to maneuver parallel to the pumps, drop its load and then exit. Mayor Carew stated this is an intolerable situation for the town. Mr. Oroho asked if the township could suggest to the county add a double yellow line and groove pavements rather than the concrete barrier causing multiple problems. He further indicated that yellow striping and groove pavements have been done to Canistear Road going south, which cause vehicles to slow down. Lou Kneip said the problem with striping in lieu of having a concrete island was based on the traffic studies done by the county. In addition, people will not abide to the striping or how many "no left turn" signs are installed along the roadway. The county's conclusion was to install a concrete barrier to allow continuous traffic flow and to avoid any left turns. Melinda Carlton stated she would contact John Eskilson and find out what the county is doing with these ongoing problems of Route 515. Mr. Zaretsky said in the event a driver should cross over the double yellow line it becomes an enforcement issue. He believes the striping would make driving more pleasant than having the concrete barriers.

Paul Kos, Owner of Lukoil. Mr. Kos expressed concern to the numerous accidents occurring at the intersection of Routes 94 515, which majority of them are due to reckless driving. He said tractor trailers do not see the concrete barrier as they make that right hand turn and are scraping the telephone pole erected on that corner. In addition, he has seen drivers driving recklessly across his driveway to bypass other vehicles to go to Chase Bank or other businesses in town.

Sally Rinker. She said there was an accident today involving three vehicles, where the one vehicle actually hit the gas pump. She voiced that there is going to be a fatality one day if this matter is not resolved soon.

There being no further questions and/or comments, the Mayor closed the meeting to the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following minutes were presented for approval: Regular Meeting of August 27, 2007; and Executive Session of August 27, 2007. A motion was made by James Oroho to approve the above minutes and the motion was seconded by Glenn McLaughlin. Neil Desmond asked to be abstained from the vote for the 2007 minutes.

A roll call vote was taken. James Oroho, yes; Glenn McLaughlin, yes; Austin Carew, yes. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION #08-24: AMENDING RESOLUTION #07-263

WHEREAS, it was the intention of the Township Council to adopt Resolution #07-263 with the words "3rd pay in November" for Payroll Checks, Payroll Deductions and Total Gross Payroll; and

WHEREAS, Resolution #07-263 inadvertently set forth "1st pay in December" for said items; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the prior Resolution to correct the wording in question.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Resolution #07-263 is hereby amended to change the wording for Payroll Checks, Payroll Deductions and Total Gross Payroll from “1st pay in December” to “3rd pay in November”.
2. A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded by the Township Clerk to the Treasurer’s Office authorizing the Treasurer’s Office.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

RESOLUTION #08-11

Resolution – Authorizing the Approval of Bills List

Be it resolved that the following bills lists are hereby approved:

Current	Ck# 27846	to	Ck# 27925
Current	Ck# 27927	to	Ck#
Current	Ck# 27928	to	Ck# 27976
Current	Ck# 27978	to	Ck# 28043
Current	Ck# 28049	to	Ck# 28078
Capital	Ck# 2410	to	Ck# 2416
Capital	Ck# 2417	to	Ck# 2423
Capital	Ck# 2424	to	Ck# 2429
Capital	Ck# 2430	to	Ck# 2434
Grant	Ck# 27926	to	Ck#
Grant	Ck# 27977	to	Ck#
Grant	Ck# 28044	to	Ck# 28048
Grant	Ck# 28079	to	Ck#
Planning & Zoning	Ck# 3582	to	Ck# 3585
Planning & Zoning	Ck# 3586	to	Ck# 3596
Planning & Zoning	Ck# 3597	to	Ck# 3599
Planning & Zoning	Ck# 3600	to	Ck#

Recreation Trust	Ck# 730	to	Ck#
Recreation Trust	Ck# 731	to	Ck# 732
Recreation Trust	Ck# 733	to	Ck# 734
Dog Trust	Ck# 1004	to	Ck#
Dog Trust	Ck# 1005	to	Ck#
Other Trust	Ck# 724	to	Ck# 726
Other Trust	Ck# 727	to	Ck#
Other Trust	Ck# 728	to	Ck# 729
Other Trust	Ck# 730	to	Ck# 733
Senior Citizen Trust	Ck# 1013	to	Ck# 1015
Senior Citizen Trust	Ck# 1016	to	Ck#
Outside Services	Ck# 1387	to	Ck# 1390
Outside Services	Ck# 1391	to	Ck# 1397
Outside Services	Ck# 1398	to	Ck# 1403
Unemployment Trust	Ck# 1103	to	Ck# 1104
Open Space Trust	Ck#	to	Ck#
PVL Dam Rehab Asm	Ck# 228	to	Ck#
PVL Dam Rehab Exp	Ck#	to	Ck#
COAH	Ck# 217	to	Ck#
Sewer Operating	Ck# 109	to	Ck#
Sewer Capital	Ck# 91	to	Ck#
Developer’s Bonds	Ck# 90	to	Ck#
Road Assessment	Ck# 1002	to	Ck#
Road Assessment	Ck# 1003	to	Ck#

Payroll Checks	Ck# 31451	to	Ck# 31526 (1 ST Pay in Dec)
Payroll Deduction	Ck# 2795	to	Ck# 2802 (1 st Pay in Dec)
Total Payroll Gross	\$371,916.74	(1 st Pay in Dec)	

Payroll Checks	Ck# 31527	to	Ck# 31608 (2 nd Pay in Dec)
Payroll Deduction	Ck# 2803	to	Ck# 2817(2 nd Pay in Dec)

Total Payroll Gross \$378,914.12 (2nd Pay in Dec)

RESOLUTION #08-13

January 10, 2008

TRANSFER RESOLUTION - 2007 BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that the following transfer of Appropriations (2007 Municipal Budget) in accordance with N.J.S. 40A 4-58 be and is hereby approved.

Salaries & Wages

From:		TO:
Police 10574515	10,000.00	Health 10578515

OTHER EXPENSES

FROM:		TO:
Economic Dev. 10535099	15,000.00	Roads 10576599
Recycling 10553199	15,500.00	Workmen's Comp. Insur. 10573699
Finance 10570599	5,000.00	
Assessing 10571099	5,000.00	
Legal 10571299	12,500.00	
Prosecutor 10575799	8,000.00	
TOTAL	<u>71,000.00</u>	

A motion was made by Neil Desmond to approve the Consent Agenda and the motion was seconded by Glenn McLaughlin.

A roll call vote was taken. Richard Carson, yes; Neil Desmond, yes; James Oroho, yes; Glenn McLaughlin, yes; Austin Carew, yes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS FOR SEPARATE ACTION

RESOLUTION#08-14: RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING THE SALE OF AN OFFERING OF \$2,850,000 SEWER BONDS OF 2008 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The award by Monica Goscicki, as the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, of the offering of \$2,850,000 Sewer Bonds of 2008 (the "Bonds"), of said Township, dated January 1, 2008, to Roosevelt & Cross, Inc., as the low bidder thereof, at the net interest rate of 4.383161% per annum at the price of \$2,850,000 is hereby approved, ratified and confirmed in every respect. The Bonds were awarded pursuant to authority of the resolution of the governing body of the Township adopted December 10, 2007 and entitled: "Resolution determining the form and other details of \$2,850,000 Sewer Bonds of 2008 of the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, and providing for their sale".

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately

A motion was made by Neil Desmond to adopt the above resolution and the motion was seconded by James Oroho.

A roll call vote was taken. Richard Carson, yes; Neil Desmond, yes; James Oroho, yes; Glenn McLaughlin, yes; Austin Carew, yes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #08-15: AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF GOODS OR SERVICES PURSUANT TO NJSA 19:44A-20.4 AND/OR NJSA 19:44A-20.5 WITH GENE OSIAS

Melinda Carlton said that this resolution was pulled until further consideration.

RESOLUTION #08-16: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP CLERK TO SUPPORT PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW JERSEY CANCER EDUCATION & EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM (NJCEED) OF ST. CLARES HOSPITAL, SUSSEX, NJ VERNON TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, there are many community resources in this area to help individuals deal with the cancer disease,

WHEREAS, advances in prevention, early detection, and treatment are reducing cancer rates and increasing the likelihood of survival; and

WHEREAS, prevention and early detection measures have been identified by medical experts as key strategies in the fight against cancer; and

WHEREAS, Municipal Health Departments participating in **The New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection Program(NJCEED) of Saint Clare's Hospital in Sussex, NJ** will be reimbursed by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services for services rendered as per attached agreement; and

WHEREAS; the time period for this contract is from July1, 2008 – June 30, 2009;

WHEREAS, this agreement is attached and made part of this resolution; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE Mayor and Township Council support the participation of the Vernon Township Health Department in the NJ Cancer Education and Early Detection Program of St. Clare's Hospital, Sussex, NJ.

1. The time period for this contract is from July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009
2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately according to law.

Melinda Carlton said the Vernon Health Department participates in this program through the hospital, which the township is reimbursed. This program has been going on for years.

A motion was made by Neil Desmond to adopt the above resolution and the motion was seconded by James Oroho.

A roll call vote was taken. Richard Carson, yes; Neil Desmond, yes; James Oroho, yes; Glenn McLaughlin, yes; Austin Carew, yes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION#08-17: AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE FOR THE PURCHASE OF ROAD SALT TO BE UTILIZED BY VERNON TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR TOWNSHIP OWNED ROADS

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has a need to purchase Road Salt, to be utilized for Township Owned Roads, by the Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township is a member of the Morris County Cooperative; and

WHEREAS, prices were received through competitive bidding from the Morris County Cooperative; and

WHEREAS, the Township Director of Public Works has reviewed the Morris County Cooperative prices, and determined it would be cost effective for the Township to utilize the Morris County Cooperative in lieu of public bidding by private contractors; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Works recommends that the Township Council pass this resolution authorizing use of the Morris County Cooperative for the purchase of the Road Salt ; and

WHEREAS, the cost estimate for the purchase is \$100,000.00 per the cost breakdown of \$48.78 per ton; and

WHEREAS, the vendor for the Morris County Cooperative for this purchase is International Salt, Clarks Summit, PA; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Vernon, has determined and certified the funds of this agreement; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that the Morris County Cooperative be utilized to purchase the Road Salt as listed in the proposal, and that it will be purchased from International Salt, Clarks Summit, PA, in accordance with the attached estimate in the amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer has certified the availability of funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

Melinda Carlton said DPW checked prices with Morris County and Sussex County Cooperatives and found Morris County gave a better rate.

A motion was made by Neil Desmond to adopt the above resolution and the motion was seconded by James Oroho.

A roll call vote was taken. Richard Carson, yes; Neil Desmond, yes; James Oroho, yes; Glenn McLaughlin, yes; Austin Carew, yes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #08-18: AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH HAWKINS, DELAFIELD & WOOD

WHEREAS, there exists a need for professional services for the Township of Vernon in the matter of municipal bond counsel services; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40:11-1 et seq) requires that the resolution authorizing these "Professional Services" without competitive bids must be publicly advertised; and

WHEREAS, Vernon desires to appoint Hawkins, Delafield and Wood pursuant to a contract under the provisions of NJSA 19:44A-20.4 and/or NJSA 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEEAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that the value of the contract will exceed \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, the term of the contract will be for a year term January 1, 2008 thru December 31, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Hawkins, Delafield and Wood has submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification in compliance with law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 10th day of January, 2007, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey as follows:

The Township of Vernon is authorized to engage Hawkins, Delafield and Wood for the purpose of municipal bond counsel services.

1. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Professional Services Contract with Hawkins, Delafield and Wood.

Said Professional shall be engaged pursuant to contract to be entered by and between the Professional and the Township and for such periods of time as permitted by law and for such compensation as agreed.

This appointment is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because these services are rendered by members of recognized professions.

A copy of this Resolution shall be published in the New Jersey Herald by the Township Clerk as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage and a true copy of same shall be available for inspection in the office of the Township Clerk.

A copy of the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and the Certification of Value shall be filed with this Resolution.

A motion was made by Neil Desmond to adopt the above resolution and the motion was seconded by James Oroho.

A roll call vote was taken. Richard Carson, yes; Neil Desmond, yes; James Oroho, yes; Glenn McLaughlin, yes; Austin Carew, yes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION#08-19: AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE CONTRACT #41 FOR THE PURCHASE OF RADIO EQUIPMENT TO BE UTILIZED BY THE VERNON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENTS

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon Fire Departments have a need to purchase radio equipment, to be utilized for the fire department radio frequencies; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township is a member of the Morris County Cooperative; and

WHEREAS, prices were received through competitive bidding from the Morris County Cooperative; and

WHEREAS, the Township Director of Public Works has reviewed the Morris County Cooperative prices, and determined it would be cost effective for the Township to utilize the Morris County Cooperative Contact #41 in lieu of public bidding by private contractors; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Works recommends that the Township Council pass this resolution authorizing use of the Morris County Cooperative Contract #41 for the purchase of the radio equipment ; and

WHEREAS, the cost estimate for the purchase is \$17,390.00 per the cost breakdown of:

- Two (2) Motorola CDR-700 repeaters to include:
 - o Wall mount configuration
 - o CDM 1250 radios
 - o 40 watt RF power
 - o Total @ \$3,200.00 each: \$6,400.00
- Two (2) antenna systems to include:
 - o 3 db gain antenna

- Side arms
- 7/8 inch cable
- Installation at Lake Conway & Lake Panorama
- Total @ \$3,995.00 each: \$7,990.00
- Two (2) mobile radios installed
- Total @ \$1,500.00 each: \$3,000.00
- Total for both locations: \$17,390.00

WHEREAS, the vendor for the Morris County Cooperative Contract #41 for this purchase is Royal Communications, Inc. in Wharton, NJ; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Vernon, has determined and certified the funds of this agreement; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that the Morris County Cooperative Contract #41 be utilized to purchase the radio equipment as listed in the proposal, and that it will be purchased from Royal Communication, Inc. in Wharton, NJ, in accordance with the attached estimate in the amount not to exceed \$17,390.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer has certified the availability of funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

A motion was made by Neil Desmond to adopt the above resolution and the motion was seconded by Glenn McLaughlin.

A roll call vote was taken. Richard Carson, yes; Neil Desmond, yes; James Oroho, yes; Glenn McLaughlin, yes; Austin Carew, yes. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #08-21: MEMORIAL TREE AND PARK BENCH/
PICNIC TABLE DONATION POLICY**

It is the policy of Vernon Township to accept donations for the purpose of planting trees and installing benches and/or picnic tables within Vernon Township to memorialize a departed family member of friend, or to commemorate a special occasion. All donations shall be in compliance with the following:

- A. The Department of Recreation & Leisure will work with the individual or groups who would like to make a donation. The department will coordinate with the DPW, Town Manager, Township engineer and any person the Township Manager designates should be involved in the donation.
- B. All donor(s) will be required to fill out the proper donor application, return it to the Department of Recreation & Leisure who will submit application, once it is deemed completed with location etc. to council for approval of a resolution
- C. Donations for Memorials will be accepted only for the purpose of purchasing and planting of trees, and for purchasing and installing park benches/picnic tables recommended by the Department of Recreation & Leisure and approved by the Township Council.
- D. Memorials shall be self supporting, e.g. all costs related to a memorial shall be at the expense of a donor(s), including repair or replacement, if necessary.
- E. Any tree that is mutually agreed upon by the donor and the Department of Recreation & Leisure, which will keep within the planning of the town's plans, is acceptable.
- F. Memorial tree(s) and bench (es)/picnic tables are permitted at any park site, open space, provided that the location is chosen under the direction of the Township Department of Recreation & Leisure and approval by the Township Council.

- G. Memorial tree(s) and bench (es) / picnic tables are permitted to memorialize a departed family member or friend, or at the discretion of the Council to commemorate a special event.
- H. Standard memorial plaques shall be used to promote consistency, in cost, size, type and mounting, with plaque language approved by the Township Council.
- I. A ceremony or gathering at the time of a tree planting is permitted, but must be arranged in advanced with the Recreation & Leisure Department.
- J. Vernon Township does not guarantee tree survivability or replacement of any donation that is damage, vandalized, theft or demined not safe.
- K. The Recreation & Leisure Department staff shall maintain a record of each donation. The record shall contain all pertinent information such as the donor's name, person's name that is being memorialized, tree location, and type of tree, bench (es), picnic table(s) etc.
- L. The Township will provide donor with type of picnic table/bench and choices of the tree(s) the donor(s) may chose from.

Pat Seger said Greg Fehrenbach introduced this policy to the council because of her getting donations. The program would honor the memory of a loved one. The council asked if Pat Seger could put together a price package to the cost for installing benches, tables, or trees at thee Maple Grange Park. An additional cost of \$50 would be for the plaque. Mrs. Seger said the total cost was incorporated for the items and installation. Discussion followed as to whether or not to charge the additional \$50 for the plaque. She expressed that these few donations cannot move forward until the council gave their approval.

Melinda Carlton commented that there may be some state requirements that have not been met. She suggested that this resolution be carried to the next meeting to allow Mrs. Seger ample time to obtain legal advice. Mrs. Seger asked if she can move ahead with the four benches that people already gave their donation. Mrs. Carlton said the council will adopt this resolution contingent upon legal review and acceptance.

A motion was made by Neil Desmond to adopt the above resolution with the contingency upon legal review and acceptance, and the motion was seconded by Glenn McLaughlin.

A roll call vote was taken. Richard Carson, yes; Neil Desmond, yes; James Oroho, yes; Glenn McLaughlin, yes; Austin Carew, yes. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION#08-22: AUTHORIZING AN APPOINTMENT
AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH
JAMES P. SLOAN, ESQ., PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE YEAR
2008**

WHEREAS, there exists a need for professional services for the Township of Vernon in the matter of legal services as public defender; and

WHEREAS, James P. Sloan, Esq. has emerged as the most qualified and best available candidate; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40:11-1 et seq) requires that the resolution authorizing these "Professional Services" without competitive bids must be publicly advertised; and

WHEREAS, Vernon desires to appoint James P. Sloan pursuant to a contract under the provisions of NJSA 19:44A-20.4 and/or NJSA 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEEAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that the value of the contract will exceed \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, the term of the contract will be from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008; and

WHEREAS, James Sloan, Attorneys at Law, has submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification in compliance with law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 10th day of January, 2008, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Township of Vernon is authorized to engage James Sloan for the purpose of legal services as public defender.
2. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Professional Services Contract with the James Sloan.

Said Professional shall be engaged pursuant to contract to be entered by and between the Professional and the Township and for such periods of time as permitted by law and for such compensation as agreed.

This appointment is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because these services are rendered by members of recognized professions.

A copy of this Resolution shall be published in the New Jersey Herald by the Township Clerk as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage and a true copy of same shall be available for inspection in the office of the Township Clerk.

A copy of the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and the Certification of Value shall be filed with this Resolution.

A motion was made by Neil Desmond to adopt the above resolution and the motion was seconded by Glenn McLaughlin.

A roll call vote was taken. Richard Carson, yes; Neil Desmond, yes; James Oroho, yes; Glenn McLaughlin, yes; Austin Carew, yes. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #08-23: AMENDING RESOLUTION #07-215
AND AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF CASH BONDS FOR
MOUNTAIN CREEK APPALACHIAN "B"**

WHEREAS, it was the intention of the Township Council to release all performance and cash bonds associated with the development of Appalachian B by Mountain Creek; and

WHEREAS, Resolution #07-215 inadvertently released only the performance bond and not the cash bond.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Resolution #07-215 is hereby amended to release all cash bonds associated with Appalachian B and this Resolution hereby releases all cash bonds so associated based upon the prior recommendation of the Planning Board and Township Engineer.
2. A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded by the Township Clerk to the Treasurer's Office authorizing the Treasurer's Office to release all such cash bonds.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Land Use Administrator and the Planning Board.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

A motion was made by Neil Desmond to adopt the above resolution and the motion was seconded by Glenn McLaughlin.

A roll call vote was taken. Richard Carson, yes; Neil Desmond, yes; James Oroho, yes; Glenn McLaughlin, yes; Austin Carew, yes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #08-25: AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH BENECKE ECONOMICS, ROBERT BENECKE FOR THE YEAR 2008

WHEREAS, there exists a need for professional services for the Township of Vernon in the matter of Redevelopment and Financial Consultant; and

WHEREAS, Robert L. Benecke, Esq. has emerged as the most qualified and best available candidate; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40:11-1 et seq) requires that the resolution authorizing these "Professional Services" without competitive bids must be publicly advertised; and

WHEREAS, Vernon desires to appoint Robert L. Benecke pursuant to a contract under the provisions of NJSA 19:44A-20.4 and/or NJSA 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that the value of the contract will exceed \$17,500.00 and not to exceed \$22,800.00; and

WHEREAS, the term of the contract will be from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Robert L. Benecke, has submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification in compliance with law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 10th day of January, 2008, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Township of Vernon is authorized to engage Robert L Benecke for the purpose of Redevelopment and Financial Consultant.
2. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Professional Services Contract with the Robert L. Benecke.

Said Professional shall be engaged pursuant to contract to be entered by and between the Professional and the Township and for such periods of time as permitted by law and for such compensation as agreed.

This appointment is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because these services are rendered by members of recognized professions.

A copy of this Resolution shall be published in the New Jersey Herald by the Township Clerk as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage and a true copy of same shall be available for inspection in the office of the Township Clerk.

A copy of the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and the Certification of Value shall be filed with this Resolution.

A motion was made by Neil Desmond to adopt the above resolution and the motion was seconded by Glenn McLaughlin.

A roll call vote was taken. Richard Carson, yes; Neil Desmond, yes; James Oroho, yes; Glenn McLaughlin, yes; Austin Carew, yes. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #08-26: AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE
MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP CLERK TO SIGN A CONTRACT
WITH CHASEN, LEYNER & LAMPARELLO, PC,
MICHAEL D. WITT, ESQ. FOR LEGAL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, there exists a need for legal services provided by a Township Attorney pursuant to the Ordinances of the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq) requires that a Resolution authorizing employment for Professional Services without competitive bids must be publicly advertised; and

WHEREAS, Vernon desires to appoint the Township Attorney pursuant to a contract under the provisions of NJSA 19:44A-20.4 and/or NJSA 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified that the value of the contract with the Township Attorney will exceed \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, the term of the contract will be one year; and

WHEREAS, Chasen, Leyner & Lamparello, PC has submitted a proposed contract for the Position of Township Attorney, the total consideration of which will not exceed \$153,000.00; and

WHEREAS, Chasen, Leyner & Lamparello, PC has submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification in compliance with the law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AS FOLLOWS:

1. A contract shall be awarded by the Township of Vernon, New Jersey for a period commencing January 10, 2008 and terminating December 31, 2008 to, for services herein specified.
2. The cost of said agreement shall not exceed \$153,000.00.
3. That payment for said services pursuant to the contract shall be paid to the law firm Chasen, Leyner & Lamparello, PC
4. That Michael D. Witt, Esq., is a member of the law firm of Chasen, Leyner & Lamparello, PC et al and it is authorized that other attorneys of the firm perform services for the Township of Vernon under the terms of this Resolution and the Contract.
5. This contract is awarded without competitive bid as a Professional Services Contract under the provisions of NJSA 40A:11-5 (1) (a).
6. That a notice of this action shall be published once in the official newspaper in accordance with law, and said notice to provide that the contract awarded and the Resolution authorizing same are available for public inspection in the office of the Township Clerk.
7. That a copy of the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Certification of Value be filed with this Resolution.

Neil Desmond thanked Joseph Ragno for his legal services to the township.

A motion was made by Neil Desmond to adopt the above resolution and the motion was seconded by Richard Carson.

A roll call vote was taken. Richard Carson, yes; Neil Desmond, yes; James Oroho, yes; Glenn McLaughlin, yes; Austin Carew, yes. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE #08-01: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF THE POSITION OF TOWNSHIP ASSISTANT MANAGER

The above ordinance was read by title only. A motion was made by Glenn McLaughlin to introduce the above ordinance on first reading and so advertise with second reading and final adoption on January 24, 2008. The motion was seconded by James Oroho.

A roll call vote was taken. Richard Carson, yes; Neil Desmond, yes; James Oroho, yes; Glenn McLaughlin, yes; Austin Carew, yes. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE # 08-02: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, SECTION 330, OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON CODE AND ESTABLISHING THE VERNON TOWN CENTER ZONING DISTRICT AND FIVE SUB-DISTRICTS, INCLUDING THE MAIN STREET SUB-DISTRICT, IN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON.

The above ordinance was read by title only. A motion was made by Glenn McLaughlin to introduce the above ordinance on first reading and so advertise with second reading and final adoption on February 14, 2008. The motion was seconded by James Oroho.

A roll call vote was taken. Richard Carson, yes; Neil Desmond, no; James Oroho, yes; Glenn McLaughlin, yes; Austin Carew, yes. Motion carried.

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ORDINANCES

Mayor Carew stated there are no proposed ordinances scheduled at this time for second reading.

MANAGER'S APPOINTMENTS

Health Advisory Committee: Carol Williams Maureen Cianci

Melinda Carlton made a recommendation that these two women be put on the Health Advisory Committee.

A motion was made by James Oroho that Carol Williams and Maureen Cianci is put on the Health Advisory Committee and the motion was seconded by Richard Carson. No roll call vote taken since it was done by recommendation.

OLD BUSINESS

Jim Oroho asked Melinda Carlton if she could provide the council information on the sewer projects and easements, cost, and what is the time frame to complete this project. Melinda Carlton said the council should be brought up-to-date on any outstanding capital projects and will provide that information. In addition, United Water Company will be giving their presentation on January 24th, which is a key component to the sewers. Mayor Carew asked if Melinda Carlton could put together dates for special meetings, and she agreed. Mr. Oroho asked if the council could be provided a copy of the Code of Ethics.

Mayor Carew suggested that the council put together a list of goals they would like to see accomplished, forward them to him, and would be discussed at a meeting at a date uncertain. The Environmental Commission should be included in all the development plans the township is implementing. They are a group of educated people who could give their valuable input on these projects. In addition, a copy of Newton's Ordinance on "signs" was given to Greg Fehrenbach, which he forwarded it to the Code

Enforcement Officer to review. Mayor Carew said the Planning Board should discuss the ordinance on how these “sandwich signs” may/may not have an impact on businesses and design of the sign. He suggested that the parking at the Appalachian Trail remain open for future discussion. Mayor Carew stated there are numerous grants (DOT, Smart Growth, DEP, COAH, ANJI GRANTS) available that Vernon Township could apply for to assist with them with their projects.

NEW BUSINESS

Rich Carson asked if the Town Council would let Gerald Calabrese come to a council meeting to discuss the status of emergency vehicles. The reason is that over the past week the Vernon Township Ambulance squad had 3 out of 4 vehicles out of service, but three vehicles are now back up and running. In addition, two fire chief vehicles are reported in fair to poor condition and were previously purchased used from out of state. The one vehicle has continuous mechanical problems, and the other vehicle has electrical issues. Mr. Carson said these are safety and liability concerns. Secondly, emergency personnel are experiencing problems with radio frequency during tragedy situations. Mr. Carson commented a call came in to an accident located on Route 517 in Glenwood. When he approached the Municipal Center he lost contact due to a dead zone. In addition, there were other accidents in the township and was unable to communicate with the EMS and fire department personnel. He suggested that the emergency personnel need to be on a VHS frequency band similar to what was requested by the fire department. A number of fire rescue squads have been able to receive federal grants through the help of Senators and/or Congressmen for radio equipment and other equipment that is needed. He suggested that the township look into the availability of these grants to assist the ambulance and fire departments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Carew stated there are no matters to be discussed in executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business on the agenda, a motion was made by Neil Desmond to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Glenn McLaughlin.

The Regular Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Lycosky, R.M.C.
Township Clerk

Presider