

**TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 10, 2003**

Mayor DeMeo called the workshop meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham to order at 7:35 p.m.

**Adequate Notice** of this meeting of the Township Committee was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice was given to both The Chatham Courier and the Morris County Daily Record on January 3, 2003; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on January 3, 2003; and notice was filed with the Township Clerk on January 3, 2003.

Mayor DeMeo led the flag salute.

Answering present to the roll call were Committeeman Brower, Committeewoman Fair, Committeeman O'Connor, Deputy Mayor Hoag and Mayor DeMeo.

**Approval of Agenda**

Prior to approving the Agenda, Committeeman Brower motioned to add two items to the Agenda, namely Mt. Vernon Avenue Bridge and Yellow Ribbons in Town. His motion was not seconded so it did not pass. Mayor DeMeo requested the committee members to place on the Agenda items for discussion in advance of the meeting.

Committeeman Brower protested what he called refusal of the committee members to discuss the items he requested. He stated for the record "he strenuously objected that a member of the Township Committee is being gagged at a public meeting for discussion purposes so the public can be informed how this town is being run." Mayor DeMeo stated that Committeeman Brower can report items to the committee but the committee members are not prepared to discuss items that are not placed on the Agenda in advance. Committeeman Brower said that he felt he had to respond to a certain allegation against him, but if the committee chooses not to hear him he intends to go public and send letters to all citizens in the township.

Committeewoman Fair moved to approve the agenda as is. Committeewoman Hoag seconded the motion. The motion carried except for Committeeman Brower who opposed it and voted, Nay.

**Reports**

Mayor DeMeo reported on two items from the meeting of the Public Safety Committee. He reported on a proposal for professional services contract from a firm called Intertech for providing communications and electronics engineering services to the Police Department. The system would provide for internal wireless mobile computing system to be integrated with other service areas of the township that would enhance the public safety. The cost of the contract would be \$ 13,000. He recommended it for approval and requested a resolution to that effect at the next meeting. Committeeman Brower wanted to know whether bidding was advisable and how they had decided on that specific company. Mayor DeMeo replied that Chief Goeckel would respond at the next meeting.

Mayor DeMeo also announced that both speed limit and weight limit on Mount Vernon Avenue are going to be studied. The Chief of Police would provide a traffic study for the speed, with the intention of lowering the speed limit from 35 to 25 mph, if possible. Also, the weight limit would be studied with the possibility of lowering it as well. Studies were also being made for Woodland Road so that there was consistency among neighboring towns.

Committeewoman Fair reported that the Planning Board looked into the parking on Southern Boulevard. The Chatham Club is expanding their parking lot and the Planning Board recommended that the County look into either eliminating the parking on Southern Boulevard from Hickory Place north or requiring extra safety precautions for vehicles. Committeewoman Fair would like to ask the Police to look into the situation and make a recommendation to the Township Committee. She also reported that the few letters she has received regarding the Mt. Vernon Avenue Bridge have been forwarded to the County Freeholders at their address at Morris County, P O Box 900, Morristown, NJ 07963.

Deputy Mayor Hoag reported the resignation of Dr. James Rommer from the Board of Health due to business and personal reasons. She said Dr. Rommer was a very valuable member of the board and she regrets his resignation. She mentioned that there is another individual being considered and she will discuss him/her at the Executive Session.

Committeeman O'Connor reported that the Board of Recreation acknowledged six volunteers who retired from the Board, at a dinner last Friday. He represented the Township Committee and Mayor Kiehn represented the Borough Council. The dinner was well attended.

Committeeman Brower inquired whether there was any old business list on the Agenda. Mayor DeMeo said that the township does not keep a running list of old business. As issues are discussed they get off the agenda, and they are either resolved or reappear on the agenda again. Committeeman Brower said that there were issues pending that he would like to know of their status, and he mentioned Metcalf & Eddy and the way they do their billing. Deputy Mayor Hoag said that Metcalf and Eddy had responded, and the matter was discussed at the last meeting. Accordingly, she reported to the Board of Health, which is the responsible party to deal with the issue. However, it can be discussed further, but it should be put on the agenda for another meeting. Committeeman Brower said that Metcalf & Eddy charges in half-hour increments and this is unacceptable. He also objected to the contract with Metcalf & Eddy, because they are so far away from the township, especially if their billing is based on the distance.

**Report - Joseph R. Smith, Jr., Director of Public Works Dept.**

The Director of Public Works, Joe Smith made a presentation to the Township Committee of the various jobs the department has performed during the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2003. He referred to the constant plowing and sanding operations in the forty miles of township roads his department has performed during the repeated snowstorms that totaled 59" of snow this winter. He also described how labor intensive the snow plowing for the trucks has been. In addition, he gave an overview of other jobs the department has performed in the town and in preparing Colony Pool for the summer. Committeeman Brower, as well as all Committee Members acknowledged the great job the Public Works Department is doing and thanked Joe Smith for their contribution.

**Report - Michael Bennett, P.E. – Stormwater Rules Update**

Township Engineer Michael Bennett gave an overview of the new rules that are proposed on a state level for storm water management. The new rules stem from the Clean Water Act of 1972 that referred to sewage treatment plants and industrial discharges. In the mid 1990s with the Phase I Storm Water Program of the CWA, the concentration was on storm water management that affected large municipalities. The Phase I program affected the Township of Chatham on construction sites of 5-acre disturbances only, in a program administered by the County Soil Conservation. The Phase II Program will affect all municipalities and initiate requirements that are already mostly in place in the Township of Chatham. The program for storm water management will require new stringent ordinances across the state but not as stringent as the township has adopted since 1997 with Ordinance 1997-001. Engineer Bennett distributed copies of Statewide Basic Requirements to the committee members and briefly described how they would affect the township. The state requires the municipalities to adopt the Phase II New Storm Water Management Regulations and apply for a request for authorization for a general permit of discharge of storm water. The application has to be done within 30 days after the adoption of the regulations, and latest by early summer. Administrator Tom Ciccarone has to sign the documentation of compliance with the new rules under the Phase II New Storm Water Regulations. Following the application for the general permit, there are a number of deadlines that have to be met by the township. Furthermore, Engineer Bennett described in detail the Statewide Basic Requirements, with input from the committee members. Committeeman Brower asked whether the township regulations are stricter than those of the state. Engineer Bennett replied in the affirmative and said that this is because of the Great Swamp, but also because the state rules are of minimum standards to be applied to all municipalities. He congratulated the township for having implemented rules that are more stringent than those of the State.

## **Hearing of Citizens/Petitions**

Mayor DeMeo opened the Hearing of the Citizens.

Committeeman Brower asked to speak as a private citizen since he could not speak as a committeeman.

Mr. Mike Lazzari, 685 River Road, wanted to know about the River Road sewer project and how that project could be moved forward. Deputy Mayor Hoag said that the subject is on the Agenda for discussion later in the evening and Mr. Lazzari's questions would be addressed.

Mr. Peter Hoffman, 82 May Drive, stated that the senior population of the Township is growing and he would like to know whether the Township Committee is thinking of doing anything to assist with low cost housing for the seniors. He asked if any of the new facilities being built in town, would have any affordable housing for seniors. He further asked whether the Skate Park would impinge with any low cost housing development in the future. Committeewoman Fair said that the Planning Board is starting a new master plan with this in mind. Mr. Hoffman said that it would be wise to set aside open space acquired through taxes for future needs. He also suggested that the township should apply the same requirements as the state has for the storm water regulations, if this is going to save money for the town.

Committeeman Brower reiterated that he believes the Skate Park should be built in Woodland Park and not in the area that it has been assigned. Deputy Mayor Hoag responded that there was a search for the right place to build a skate park and extensive discussions followed. The Woodland Park is purchased together with the Borough of Chatham and they did not agree to place the Skate Park on Woodland Park, as discussed during the last meeting.

Committeeman Brower, speaking as a private citizen, wanted to know the status of the Florham Park lawsuit with regards to the Exxon property, as well as the status of the European Builders lawsuit, so that the public would know that the town is being sued. Mayor DeMeo responded that these issues would be discussed in the Executive Session. Committeeman Brower asked that yellow ribbons be placed in public buildings to honor our troops. He also would like to know the status of the audio system in the courtroom. He further questioned whether the subject of insurance would be discussed during the Executive Session. He mentioned that he had certain misgivings and wanted to contact the insurance agent directly, which was not agreeable with Administrator Tom Ciccarone. Mayor DeMeo stated that the Township Committee Members, in their capacity as legislators, have assigned the matters of insurance to the Executive Administrator who is Mr. Ciccarone. Committeeman Brower had used up his time and since he could not address another issue, he gave his response to the newspaper reporter present.

At this point, Mayor DeMeo addressed the public and stated that in his Mayor's Message he explained how the township government works. All members are equal but they are legislators and not executives. Therefore, they cannot individually represent the town, or contact any professionals the township does business with, this is done through the Administrator collectively. The insurance is assigned to the Sub Committee of Finance/General Administration of which Committeeman William O'Connor is the chair and insurance is his responsibility, and he is the vice chair, and any issues of insurance should be referred to either of them. Administrator Tom Ciccarone clarified that he explained to Committeeman Brower that in his capacity as Administrator he was the person to contact the insurance agent for any information. Although he was hesitant to provide the direct contact, Administrator Tom Ciccarone gave Committeeman Brower the telephone number of the insurance agent. He also mentioned that he appreciates the fact that the other members of the Township Committee do not operate in the same manner.

Committeeman Brower requested the opportunity to respond at the next meeting. Deputy Mayor Hoag said that if an issue were placed on the Agenda then it would be discussed because the committee members would be prepared to discuss it.

**Introduction of Ordinances**

**ORDINANCE 2003-005**

**SEE ATTACHED**

Attorney Woodward explained Ordinance 2003-005 Length of Service Awards Program for the Chatham Emergency Squad. He said that it is similar to the one adopted for the Fire Departments three years ago. The total cost is \$ 40,000 annually. The Township of Chatham will pay \$ 20,000 per year and the Borough of Chatham will pay \$ 20,000. - He further clarified that even if the ordinance is adopted it will become valid only if it is placed on the Ballot in the November General Election and approved by the voters. It will have to be approved by both the Township of Chatham and the Borough of Chatham, since the Emergency Squad serves both towns. Attorney Woodward explained the point system is for 100 points before a member of the Squad becomes eligible, as opposed to the firefighters 50-point system. Committeeman Brower requested clarification for the probationary status, what it means and how it applies to junior firefighters. Deputy Mayor Hoag, being the Liaison to the Squad, said that she would relay the question and reply at the next meeting.

Deputy Mayor Hoag moved to introduce Ordinance 2003-005 to provide Length of Service Awards Program for the Chatham Emergency Squad. Committeewoman Fair seconded the motion.

**Roll call:** Committeeman Brower, Aye; Committeewoman Fair, Aye; Committeeman O’Connor, Aye; Deputy Mayor Hoag, Aye; Mayor DeMeo, Aye.

The Public Hearing will be scheduled for May 8, 2003.

**Consent Agenda**

Prior to approving the Consent Agenda, Resolutions 2003-091 and Resolution 2003-092 were pulled out for further discussion.

**RESOLUTION 2003-093**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS,  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REFUNDING OVERPAYMENT OF TAXES**

**WHEREAS**, due to inadvertence, error, tax appeal settlement or judgment, an overpayment of property taxes has been made for the following property; and  
**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector has recommended the refund of such overpayment,  
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham that the following refunds be made:

<b><u>TAXES</u></b>			
<b><u>BLOCK</u></b>	<b><u>LOT</u></b>	<b><u>OWNER NAME &amp; ADDRESS</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
57	4	Redmond, John & Margaret 20 Cedar Lane, Chatham	\$ 1,152.88
64.05	15.04	Mills, Judith 24 D Heritage Drive, Chatham	\$ 897.58
<b><u>SEWER</u></b>			
34	32	Kelly, David & Mary 4 Jodi Lane, Chatham	\$ 20.00

**RESOLUTION 2003-094**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RELEASING DEVELOPER ESCROW ACCOUNT AND/OR PERFORMANCE BOND BALANCES**

**WHEREAS**, developers are required to deposit monies with the Township for the purposes of offsetting Township professional costs to review plans or to inspect approved development and for the purpose of ensuring the satisfactory completion of public or private improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, these deposited monies, following all necessary withdrawals to cover Township expenses or costs, may be released upon satisfactory completion of work, receipt of review board decisions, or completion of guaranteed work, upon passage of a Township resolution authorizing such release.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham that the following guarantee amount or account balances, with interest adjustments as prescribed by state and local laws, may be released to the depositor of record:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>A/C NUMBER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
	<u>72000</u>	
Eileen Murphy/Smartacus 641 Shunpike Road	38988	\$ 829.50
Conlin, Patti and John 24 Cedar Lane	38981	\$ 42.00

Committeewoman Fair moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, Resolution 2003-093 and Resolution 2003-094. Mayor DeMeo seconded the motion.

**Roll call:** Committeeman Brower, Aye; Committeewoman Fair, Aye; Committeeman O’Connor, Aye; Deputy Mayor Hoag, Aye; Mayor DeMeo, Aye.

**RESOLUTION 2003-091**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS, PAYROLLS, SCHOOL TAXES, AND COUNTY TAXES**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that bills in the total amount of \$770,267.68 and the prior month’s payroll of \$332,111.41 Current Fund, \$35,939.60 Sewer No. 1, \$8,144.08 Sewer No. 2, and \$1,450.73 Police Private Employment be paid.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that taxes due to School District of the Chathams for the month of April 2003, in the amount of \$1,492,199.00 be paid.

Committeeman Brower questioned payment of certain bills for the Recreation Department, and also traveling expenses for Mr. Tom Denning, the Recreation Director. Administrator Tom Ciccarone responded that most of these bills are contribution accounts for recreation sponsored activities and he would be happy to provide details the following day. Committeeman Brower further questioned a bill of \$ 715.27 from Metcalf and Eddy for administrative expenses and he asked for an explanation for the charges. He also questioned a bill for \$ 3,182.50 from Frost Christenson Associates, and said that he would like to know what these charges are for.

Committeewoman Fair moved to approve Resolution 2003-091. Deputy Mayor Hoag seconded the motion.

**Roll call:** Committeeman Brower, Aye; Committeewoman Fair, Aye; Committeeman O’Connor, Aye; Deputy Mayor Hoag, Aye; Mayor DeMeo, Aye.

## RESOLUTION 2003-092

### RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM APPROVING SEWER CONNECTIONS FOR 703 AND 704 RIVER ROAD

Administrator Tom Ciccarone reported that the sewer connection for the 704 River Road residence was approved from the land use office but Township Engineer Michael Bennett has not approved the application and the proposed design. Engineer Bennett explained that the owners of property of 704 River Road have obtained permission to go through the easement on the property of 703 River Road in order to have access to the sanitary sewer across the street. In reviewing the application, Engineer Bennett found that the design is flawed and needs improvement. He said that the State of New Jersey requires Treatment Works Approval for any sewer that crosses the public right of way, which means that the owners have to apply for a TWA to the DEP, after they obtain approval from the township. The DEP may approve a waiver but Engineer Bennett said that the design has to be amended and improved considerably. Committeeman Brower urged the involved parties to expedite the process and help the owners find a solution to their problem, because they are trying to sell their house and go to England. He also asked whether there would be an increase in the assessed value of the properties involved. Attorney Woodward said that he would have to talk to the Assessor to find out. Deputy Mayor Hoag said that the Township Committee would approve the application as long as the applicants adopt the changes Engineer Bennett recommends and modify their design, which will speed the process with the DEP. Committeewoman Fair asked Engineer Bennett to do his best to accommodate the people and speed up the process. Administrator Tom Ciccarone stated that the applicants should be made aware of other expenses involved with crossing River Road, the infrastructure to be affected – River Road was recently repaved - and the cost involved, namely water mains, gas lines, etc.

The Township Committee decided to table the Resolution 2003-092 for a future date, and after the applicants obtain either a TWA permit or a waiver from DEP.

#### **Discussion: Possible Ordinance or Resolution**

1. **River Road Sewers** - Deputy Mayor Hoag referred to the River Road sewer project that was put on hold last year and was being reconsidered again this year. Administrator Tom Ciccarone advised that the project was put on hold due to lack of funds in the 2002 budget and the agreement was that it would be reconsidered again this year. Engineer Bennett gave a description of the project and the areas that need to be connected to the sanitary sewer system that cover part of Johnson Drive and River Road south of Fairmount Avenue. He mentioned that there is another part along Candace Lane and Mountain Ave. that was included in the proposal he made to the Township Committee last year. He said that if it is approved he can start working on the Feasibility Study to determine the most cost effective plan, easement acquisitions, and preliminary cost estimates to the owners. Committeeman Brower asked that areas of the project be prioritized so that homeowners with problems may solve them faster, rather than waiting for the larger project to complete. Engineer Bennett said that the Feasibility Study would take approximately 60 days to complete and it would determine the cost of the project, either in parts, or as a whole, which would take longer to finalize. They would need to apply for a permit for Treatment Works Approval from the State DEP and that would take another two months. Therefore, the project would not start until next year, and it could further be delayed if the township seeks financing through the state. Administrator Tom Ciccarone said that regarding the owners' portion of the expenses, the recent Ormont/River Road sewer project was apportioned to each homeowner through a special assessment fee. The owners had the option to pay in a 20-year payout plan in annual installments or make a lump sum payment. Apart from the construction cost of \$ 21,000.00 to each owner, they also paid a sewer connection fee of \$ 3,200.00. The Special Assessment Commissioners, appointed by the Township Committee, imposed these fees and they held public meetings with input from the public. The Township Committee requested that a resolution be made for the next meeting, authorizing Engineer Bennett to proceed with the Feasibility Study.

2. **Sidewalks on Southern Boulevard** - Committeewoman Fair referred to the application for funding the sidewalks on Southern Boulevard. She said that the Fairmount Country Club side might not be appropriate because of poor feasibility and wetlands consideration that would make it difficult to obtain a permit from the state. The Nash Field side is considered more appropriate for sidewalks, especially since the Skate Park will be on that side. Engineer Bennett referred to research done by the Natural Heritage and Landscapes program that identified the area as a habitat for blue-spotted salamander. He said that to obtain a permit there has to be a population survey of threatened and endangered species that can only be done during the months of March and April. The township has to pay the firm Habitat Management & Design \$ 7,500.00 for the study and they will go out for five consecutive nights to see if there are any threatened and endangered species in the area. If any are found, then the township has to indicate how to protect their habitat in great detail; otherwise the DEP will not approve the permit. This will increase the construction cost considerably. Committeeman Brower said that the study has to go ahead so that sidewalks are finalized in view of the construction of the Skate Park in the area. Committeewoman Fair said that it is very important to move forward on the study in order not to lose another year. The Township Committee decided to adopt Resolution 2003-095 Authorizing Study for the Blue-Spotted Salamander on Southern Boulevard.

#### **RESOLUTION 2003-095**

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AWARDING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Chatham is in need of the services of a professional environmental study of Blue-spotted Salamander crossing on Southern Boulevard; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Engineer has recommended the appointment of Habitat Management & Design, Inc., of Trenton, New Jersey, to provide the services listed above for an amount not to exceed \$ 7,500;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham, County of Morris, State of New Jersey that a professional services contract is hereby awarded to Habitat Management & Design, Inc., in accordance with a proposal submitted and on file in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Committeeman Brower moved to approve Resolution 2003-095. Committeewoman Fair seconded the motion.

**Roll call:** Committeeman Brower, Aye; Committeewoman Fair, Aye; Committeeman O'Connor, Aye; Deputy Mayor Hoag, Aye; Mayor DeMeo, Aye.

3. **Newsletter** – Deputy Mayor Hoag referred to a meeting she had with Mrs. Celeste Fondaco, who is the volunteer to work on a quarterly newsletter for the Township. The newsletter would be a 4-6 page letter with important information about the Township that would reach all the residents, especially those who have no Internet access and cannot reach the township's website. There is a local printer who would prepare the newsletter for mailing for \$ 1,700.00. There would be another \$ 1,200.00 for postage, for a total cost of \$ 3,000.00 for a quarterly newsletter. It was still unclear who would do the labels. Committeeman Brower objected to Mrs. Fondaco's involvement with the newsletter by saying:

“this is small town politics, which is really great. Mrs. Celeste Fondaco is probably the candidate of choice of the Democratic Party who came very close to being elected the last time. She has been backed very solidly by Mrs. Hoag and Mrs. Fair. Now, Mrs. Fondaco is going to be given the job of writing this very important community activity, which will probably fire out during Election time. This has to be one of the better moves of the people who are sitting here on this platform.”

Deputy Mayor Hoag responded that Mrs. Fondaco is the only person who has volunteered to do the job. If there were more people who would volunteer to work on the newsletter she would be more than happy to have them. She almost looked for six months to a year to find another person to replace her when she came on the Township

Committee and she could not find one soul. Mr. Brower at this point said that perhaps there is no need for a newsletter then. Both Mrs. Fair and Mrs. Hoag said that that was not so. Mr. Ciccarone said Mrs. Fondaco would not be writing the newsletter. Every department will be contributing towards the content of the newsletter, and Mrs. Fondaco will simply put the information together, organize it and take it to the printer. Mayor DeMeo commented that it is important to keep the website updated and use it as a storage facility for all township information, including posting the newsletter on it.

Committeeman O'Connor asked whether there was an established demand for the newsletter. Deputy Mayor Hoag replied that she had received a lot of comments from residents when the previous letter was stopped. She felt it was important to reach out to residents with valuable information about their local government. Committeeman O'Connor recommended to go ahead with two quarterly issues of the newsletter, but ask for some input from residents in the form of a questionnaire to be added to the second issue; based on the residents' response a decision should be made whether to continue the newsletter or not. Committeeman Brower asked whether the Township could ask businesses to underwrite the expense of the newsletter rather than spend taxpayers' money. Committeewoman Fair moved to authorize the issuance of two quarterly newsletters with a questionnaire added to the second newsletter; Mayor DeMeo seconded the motion. The motion carried, except for Committeeman Brower who abstained.

4. **Public Hearing of Citizens** - The Township Committee discussed a request from Mr. Peter Hoffman to allow the hearing of citizens to be added at the end of the meetings, in addition to the beginning of the meetings. Committeeman O'Connor said that would be a good idea to let the citizens speak twice at the meetings. Committeewoman Fair agreed but added that there may be times that would not be feasible if a meeting is running very late, especially since, according to the By-Laws of the Township, the Township Committee meetings have to be adjourned by 11:00 p.m. Committeeman Brower suggested that it would be advisable to add the same request to other boards like the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment. Attorney Woodward advised that it would be up to the Chairpersons of those boards to decide. Mayor DeMeo suggested that the Chairpersons of the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustments be asked if they could add time for hearing of citizens at the beginning of their meetings, where new business items, apart from the agenda items, could be discussed. Deputy Mayor Hoag and Committeewoman Fair, as members of those boards, would make the request and report back to the Township Committee. The Township Committee members agreed to allow time for hearing of citizens at Township Committee meetings to be added at the end of the agenda, in addition to the beginning of the agenda, provided there is enough time. The change to the agenda will apply to both regular and workshop meetings, effective immediately.
5. **Morris County Shade Tree Invitation** - Deputy Mayor Hoag announced that Morris County Shade Tree Commission celebrates Arbor Day on a yearly basis. This year they are asking the township to plant a tree, which they will provide. She said that the Tree Protection Committee is planning an Arbor Day celebration. Unfortunately, the schools will be closed on Arbor Day, which is the last Friday in April, but they are looking for alternative days. She advised that they have trees that have been bought with fine fees and she recommends that the township accept the tree offered by the Shade Tree Commission. Committeeman O'Connor inquired about the status of the tree protection ordinance that the Tree Protection Committee was working to update. Attorney Woodward said that he would try to distribute a draft copy on the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Committeeman Brower mentioned that he strongly opposes any stipulation in the ordinance that prohibits owners of cutting their own trees.
6. **Special Meeting at the Condos** – Deputy Mayor Hoag referred to the meeting planned for April 29, 2003, at 8:00 at the Chatham Glen Community Center. She said that Sharon Sexton advised her that the items to be discussed would involve the status of Mt. Vernon Avenue Bridge, repairs to the Sewer Plant No., 2, information about the cable company renewal, and whatever other issues the township wants to discuss. Mayor DeMeo requested Administrator Tom Ciccarone to prepare an official agenda for that meeting. Committeeman Brower offered to make available a room for the meeting if the people are too many to be accommodated at the Community Center.

Administrator Tom Ciccarone briefly addressed the issue of the assisted listening device and said that he, acting on the committee's authorization, ordered the audio system that will probably be installed by either the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, or definitely by the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Hearing of Citizens**

Mayor DeMeo opened the Hearing of Citizens to the public.

Mr. Peter Hoffman, 82 May Drive, requested that copies of resolutions be given to the newspaper reporters in advance, so that their job is made easier. He also questioned the need for a newsletter. He suggested that once a year there should be some information sent out to the residents together with the recycling letter or the tax bill. He also had a comment regarding putting new sanitary sewers in the township. He said that it is preferable to put sewers into areas of Green Village where the water table is very high, and he certainly does not want residents of Green Village to feel that their part of town represents second-class citizens. Committeewoman Fair mentioned about a survey that was done in the past that showed people did not want to put sewers and many of them have installed new septic tanks since then.

Angela Lazzari, 685 River Road, announced that she is a new resident in town and finds that there is lack of information, however, the newsletter is very expensive. She suggested that in the survey of the second newsletter, people can be asked to visit the website for additional information, provided that the website is supplemented and updated regularly.

Mayor DeMeo closed the Hearing of Citizens to the public.

### **Executive Session**

#### **RESOLUTION 2003-P-07**

#### **RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING CONFERENCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham that it adjourn to an executive session to discuss the following subject matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-2b

Potential Litigation  
Contract Negotiations  
Personnel

The matters discussed will be made known to the public at such time as appropriate action is taken on said matters, and when disclosure will not result in unwarranted invasion of individual privacy or prejudice to the best interests of the Township of Chatham; provided such disclosure will not violate Federal, State or Local Statutes and does not fall within the attorney/client privilege.

Committeewoman Fair moved to adopt Resolution 2003-P-07 at 10:30 p.m. Deputy Mayor Hoag seconded the motion.

**Roll call:** Committeeman Brower, Aye; Committeewoman Fair, Aye; Committeeman O'Connor, Aye; Deputy Mayor Hoag, Aye; Mayor DeMeo, Aye.

The Committee returned from Executive Session at 11:20 p.m. Committeewoman Fair made a motion to adjourn. Deputy Mayor Hoag seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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Thomas E. Ciccarone  
Deputy Clerk