

**TOWNSHIP OF BRANCBURG  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**OFFICIAL MINTUES  
APPROVED 07/27/2015**

**REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 13, 2015**

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Branchburg was called to order by Mayor John Sanford at 7:01 PM on July 13, 2015. Members of the Township Committee present were Mr. James Schworn and Mr. Robert Petrelli. (Township Committee member Patricia Rees resigned from the Committee effective July 6, 2015, due to a prohibition from holding political office in her new job.) Mr. Thomas Young entered at a later point in the meeting. Township Administrator Gregory Bonin entered at a later point during the Executive Session. Township Clerk Sharon Brienza and Township Attorney Mark Jolanta Maziarz were also present. There were no members of the public present.

Ms. Brienza read the “Sunshine Statement” indicating the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and Mayor Sanford led the flag salute.

**EXECUTIVE RESOLUTION**

Executive Resolution No. 2015-189, as filed in the Township Clerk’s Office, was adopted on motion of Mr. Schworn, seconded by Mr. Petrelli, carried unanimously.

The meeting reconvened at 8:05 PM with Mayor Sanford, Mr. Schworn, Mr. Petrelli, Mr. Bonin, Ms. Brienza and Mrs. Maziarz as well as 40 members of the public present that included members of the Rolling Thunder for the “Chair of Honor” ceremony.

Mayor Sanford stated since Ms. Rees had to resign from the Township Committee and was not able to address the public before tonight, he wanted to give her the opportunity to make a few remarks. He opened the meeting to Ms. Rees.

Ms. Rees thanked Mayor Sanford for the opportunity to speak. She made the following comments:

“I have recently started a new full time position with the New Jersey School Board Association in Trenton. As an apolitical government organization focused on supporting and promoting public education through effective governance, staff members are precluded from holding elective office. As a result, I have stepped down from the Township Committee. It is bittersweet for me in that I have enjoyed serving the residents of Branchburg and working with my colleagues on this dais, as well as the many staff members of the town and I will miss that. However, I am excited to work with people to advance public education and promote the achievement of students within school boards.

**TOWNSHIP OF BRANCHBURG  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
APPROVED 07/27/2015**

**REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 13, 2015**

I would like to thank the many people who have been supportive of me over the years. And thanks to all the great employees of the Township who have helped me, but also work every day to make and keep Branchburg the great place that is is.  
Thank you!”

Mr. Schworn commented that although her tenure was brief, her professionalism and camaraderie on the Committee will be greatly missed.

Mr. Petrelli commented that one of the reasons he ran for the School Board was due to Ms. Rees’ experience on the School Board. He stated that her calm demeanor and stick-to-it-iveness will be greatly missed. He thanked her for doing an “A-Plus” job.

Mayor Sanford stated that for a number of years when Ms. Rees was on the School Board, he tried to convince her to run for the Township Committee for some of the same qualities Mr. Schworn and Mr. Petrelli have alluded to. He stated that even though her tenure has only lasted two and a half years on the Township Committee, it is better than nothing. He thanked her for her hard work and dedication which is the same as she has done on the school board and a lot of the other areas she has involved herself with over the years.

**NOMINATION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

Mayor Sanford called for nominations for Deputy Mayor and on motion of Mr. Schworn, seconded by Mayor Sanford who relinquished the gavel, Mr. Petrelli was unanimously selected Deputy Mayor for an unexpired term to expire December 31, 2015.

ROLL CALL: AYES: PETRELLI, SCHWORN, SANFORD  
NAYS: NONE  
ABSENT: YOUNG

Mr. Petrelli was sworn into office by Ms. Brienza.

**POW/MIA CHAIR OF HONOR DEDICATION**

John introduced members of Rolling Thunder and stated being a Navy veteran himself and having a son who served in Desert Storm, he is honored to have this event in Branchburg.

He referred to the Neshanic Volunteer Fire Company’s Memorial Day parade where attendance has been down and he thinks people forget about the sacrifices the military has made over the years. He is happy to be part of this ceremony and thanked everyone for attending.

**TOWNSHIP OF BRANCHBURG  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**OFFICIAL MINTUES  
APPROVED 07/27/2015**

**REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 13, 2015**

Mayor Sanford turned the meeting over to Elaine Martin, Rolling Thunder Secretary who, on behalf of Rolling Thunder, thanked Mayor Sanford, Mr. Bonin, the Township Committee, distinguished guest and contributor Senator Kip Bateman, fellow Rolling Thunder members and all others in attendance. Mrs. Martin made the following comments: "Today we come together to dedicate the POW/MIA Chair of Honor. This is a black chair, an empty seat in memory of more than the 91,000 soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice or were held prisoner of war or listed as missing in action, remains not returned. I read "that there is no greater love, than for one to lie down his life for another". Today we honor those who put themselves in harm's way and sacrificed themselves, not only for our freedom and safety, but the freedom and safety of those living in foreign lands that cannot protect themselves. This chair will stand as a memorial to remind us of their service and sacrifice."

After Mrs. Martin's remarks:

- Presentation of Colors:
  - Jay Horne, Viet Nam Vet, US Navy
  - Gary Stansbury, Viet Nam Vet, US Army
  - Joseph Kotch, Viet Nam Vet, US Navy
- Pledge of Allegiance:
  - Gary Domanski, Viet Nam Vet, US Army
- Invocation:
  - Steve Siefkes, US Air Force Chaplain, retired
- Missing Man Ceremony:
  - Joseph Kotch, Viet Nam, US Navy
  - Elaine Martin, Rolling Thunder Secretary
- Unveiling and Dedication:
  - Artie Muller, Director of Rolling Viet Nam, US Army
  - John Sanford, Township of Branchburg Mayor
- Taps:
  - John Saleeby

**Remarks:**

Senator Christopher (Kip) Bateman stated it was his honor to be in attendance and to participate in a very moving ceremony. He stated he has seen this ceremony a few times and it never gets old. He felt this one was very special since it is being held in his hometown - Branchburg. He stated it is their responsibility to pass this on to the next generation so they do not forget the sacrifices that have been made.

Mayor Sanford stated he feels the same way Senator Bateman does. He stated he has a son who was injured serving in the military. This "Chair of Honor" will be in a prominent place in the

**TOWNSHIP OF BRANCHBURG  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**OFFICIAL MINTUES  
APPROVED 07/27/2015**

**REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 13, 2015**

building and anyone who comes into the building will see the “Chair” and perhaps they will give pause of the sacrifices the military has made and think about those missing in action and the Prisoners of War. He stated this was a very moving ceremony and thanked Senator Bateman for sponsoring the program and the Rolling Thunder for giving Branchburg the privilege of having the “Chair of Honor” in the municipal building.

Artie Muller, Director of Rolling Thunder thanked Mayor Sanford, the Township Committee, Senator Bateman and guests. He explained when he came home from Viet Nam he learned live Americans were left behind; Rolling Thunder was instrumental in getting legislation passed where 97% of bills are paid for troops and their families.

He also stated that he is proud that his hometown has the “Chair.”

Mrs. Martin asked all veterans to stand to be recognized. The Committee and public applauded their service.

The ceremony concluded with Andrew Kerr, US Navy, playing Amazing Grace on the bagpipes.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Sanford opened the meeting to the public and there being no questions or comments, the meeting was closed to the public on motion of Mr. Schworn, seconded by Mr. Petrelli, carried unanimously.

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 22, 2015, were approved on motion of Mr. Schworn, seconded by Mr. Petrelli, carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The following Resolution Nos. 2015-190 through 2015-216, with the exception of Resolution No. 2015-201 where Mayor Sanford abstained, and the Departmental Reports, as filed in the Township Clerk’s Office, were unanimously adopted on motion of Mr. Schworn, seconded by Mr. Petrelli:

- 2015-190      ACCEPTANCE OF 2014 ANNUAL AUDIT
  
- 2015-191      ACCEPTANCE OF 2014 ANNUAL COURT AUDIT

**TOWNSHIP OF BRANCHBURG  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
APPROVED 07/27/2015**

**REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 13, 2015**

- 2015-192 ACCEPTANCE OF 2014 CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN
- 2015-193 ABC RENEWAL – WILLIE MCBRIDES OF BRANCHBURG
- 2015-194 ABC RENEWAL – SELECT HOTELS (HYATT HOUSE)
- 2015-195 ABC RENEWAL – STONY BROOK GRILLE
- 2015-196 ABC RENEWAL – MCRS BRANCHBURG (RESIDENCE INN)
- 2015-197 ABC RENEWAL – TIPPERRARY INN (MURPHY’S NESHANIC INN)
- 2015-198 ABC RENEWAL – THIRSTY’S
- 2015-199 ABC – NEW HOTEL LICENSE (HOMWOOD SUITES)
- 2015-200 PERSONNEL – QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT – DENISE PISZKOWSKI
- 2015-201 PERSONNEL – DEPUTY TOWNSHIP CLERK – DEBORAH BROOKS
- 2015-202 PERSONNEL – TUITION REIMBURSEMENT – EDWARD EDGAR
- 2015-203 PERSONNEL – RECREATION PROGRAMS
- 2015-204 NEGLECTED PROPERTIES (MAY)
- 2015-205 NEGLECTED PROPERTIES (JUNE)
- 2015-206 NEGLECTED PROPERTIES
- 2015-207 ACCEPTANCE OF DEVELOPER’S AGREEMENT (AMERICAN CLASSICS)
- 2015-208 AUTHORIZATION TO BID – CHEMICAL FEED FOX HOLLOW PUMP STATION
- 2015-209 HOMESTEAD REBATE REFUND

**TOWNSHIP OF BRANCHBURG  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**OFFICIAL MINTUES  
APPROVED 07/27/2015**

**REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 13, 2015**

- 2015-210 TAX BILL GRACE PERIOD EXTENSION
- 2015-211 INCREASE IN BID/QUOTE THRESHOLDS
- 2015-212 CANCELLATION OF OUTSTANDING CHECKS
- 2015-213 AWARD OF CONTRACT – WASTEWATER PUMPS - FOX HOLLOW PUMP STATION
- 2015-214 AWARD OF CONTRACT – WASTEWATER PUMPS - COUNTY LINE PUMP STATION
- 2015-215 AWARD OF CONTRACT – SEWERAGE GRINDER - FOX HOLLOW PUMP STATION
- 2015-216 RECREATION DEPARTMENT REFUNDS

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

ADMINISTRATION	JUNE	\$ 5,380.79
CODE ENFORCEMENT	JUNE	\$ 61,598.00
ENGINEERING	MAY	\$ 1,385.75
ENGINEERING	JUNE	\$ 837.00
HEALTH DEPARTMENT	JUNE	\$ 2,380.00
FIRE SAFETY	JUNE	\$ 2,414.00
LICENSING OFFICIAL	JUNE	\$ 818.00
MUNICIPAL COURT	MAY	\$ 37,689.10
MUNICIPAL COURT	JUNE	\$ 33,586.51
POLICE DEPARTMENT	MAY	\$ 545.45
POLICE DEPARTMENT	JUNE	\$ 413.60
REGISTRAR	JUNE	\$ 1333.00
SEWER UTILITY	MAY	\$ 196,059.00
TOWNSHIP CLERK	JUNE	\$ 30,505.00
ZONING/LAND USE	MAY	\$ 1,432.10
ZONING/LAND USE	JUNE	\$ 950.00

ROLL CALL: AYES: PETRELLI, SCHWORN, SANFORD (with the exception of Resolution No. 2015-201 where Mayor Sanford abstained)  
NAYS: NONE  
ABSENT: YOUNG

**TOWNSHIP OF BRANCBURG  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**OFFICIAL MINTUES  
APPROVED 07/27/2015**

**REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 13, 2015**

**CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT**

The Claims for Payment, as attached, were approved for payment on motion of Mr. Schworn, seconded by Mr. Petrelli, carried unanimously.

ROLL CALL: AYES: PETRELLI, SCHWORN, SANFORD  
NAYS: NONE  
ABSENT: YOUNG

**AUDIO/VIDEO EQUIPMENT**

Mr. Petrelli reviewed his proposal for renovations to the Court Room Audio/Video System. Mayor Sanford pointed out that part of the cost is being offset by \$44,000.00 received from ComCast.

Mr. Schworn stated this was long overdue; 16 years in any technology is ancient and is necessary and will be a benefit to the residents. He stated he fully supports the project.

Mayor Sanford stated the system is expandable and will not be obsolete in two years. He stated the Township has certainly gotten its money worth out of the current equipment. He also pointed out that Branchburg was one of the first, if not the first, municipality in the State to broadcast meetings live. He stated the biggest complaint he gets is that residents cannot see who is speaking and cannot hear the broadcast.

Mr. Bonin stated a capital ordinance for the balance of the funds will be introduced at the next meeting. Once adopted, contracts can be executed with vendors for the equipment. He pointed out most of the equipment is on State contract and what is not, is well within the bid threshold.

The Committee thanked Mr. Petrelli for all of the time he has put in on this project.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Ron Lally, Robbins Road, stated he heard that Pedowitz was moving when their lease was up. He asked whether the Committee would consider adopting an ordinance to prevent this type of company moving in as he does not want to go through this for another ten years.

**TOWNSHIP OF BRANCHBURG  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
APPROVED 07/27/2015**

**REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 13, 2015**

Mayor Sanford stated this property is in the I-2 Zone and is not sure what could be amended as the conditions would have to apply to the entire zone globally and not just that particular property as the Committee cannot “spot” zone.

Mr. Bonin stated he will speak to the Township Attorney Mark Anderson and Township Planner Michael Sullivan to for a possible ordinance.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Frank Poulson, Evergreen Drive, Mayor Sanford stated the law allows hotels with 100 or more sleeping rooms to apply for a liquor license. Ms. Brienza added this falls under the “hotel/motel” exception.

Mr. Poulson also referred to the 2009 road reconstruction plan and pointed out the Township is following it pretty closely, although some roads are a few years behind. He noted that anyone could look up the report on the website and that the report gave reasons why the road would be chip sealed, verses paved, overlay, etc. Mr. Bonin noted there is a new spread sheet on the website that shows the work done in the last 4 or 5 years and the projection of future roadwork.

Mr. Robert Bouwman, North Branch River Road, thanked the Committee for looking at new audio/video equipment.

He reported the State Historic Preservation Commission will be holding a hearing on the Neshanic Station application for historic status.

He reminded everyone that the Country Fair will be held on September 27 and encouraged any groups who would like to participate to download an application from the Country Fair website. He also thanked the Township Committee for their support.

There being no questions or comments, the meeting was closed to the public on motion of Mr. Schworn, seconded by Mr. Petrelli, carried unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Mr. Bonin reported on the following:

- COAH filed declaratory judgment was filed.
- The Somerset County Jointure has leased Old York School and he will be meeting with the Executive Director tomorrow to see how resources might be shared.

**TOWNSHIP OF BRANCHBURG  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**OFFICIAL MINTUES  
APPROVED 07/27/2015**

**REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 13, 2015**

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS**

**Mr. Schworn:**

- An application for outside sales at Shop Rite will be heard by the Planning Board meeting tomorrow night. He has heard from some residents who have concerns over pedestrian safety.
- Businesses have reached out to see if the Committee would consider revisiting the sign ordinance. He stated the problem is that it could work in some areas, but not in all areas. Mr. Young stated Branchburg is very restrictive especially compared to neighboring municipalities and he would like to be more business friendly. Mr. Schworn agreed, but wondered how they can help businesses with signage without changing the character of the Township.

**Mr. Young:**

- No report.

**Mr. Petrelli:**

- “Chair of Honor” was extremely moving and he hopes the camera caught most of it so it can replayed on Memorial Day and July 4.
- Regarding Ms. Rees’ departure, he feels it is a little ridiculous that an employer can handcuff someone from holding public office, but he understands.

**Mayor Sanford:**

- Agreed the “Chair of Honor” ceremony was very moving. Being ex-military, he is very sensitive to the subject.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM on motion of Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Schworn, carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Brienza, RMC/MMC  
Township Clerk