The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Council President Gabel. The Salute to the Flag was recited, followed by an Invocation by Councilman Murphy. Municipal Clerk Kathryn Bowditch-Leon read the Notice of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act and noted that this is a non-smoking facility. The Clerk requested that all electronics be silenced at this time.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Murphy, Buie, Witte, Bergen, Lyden, Borowiec, President Gabel  
Absent: None

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Thomas Andes, Mayor; Steven Ward, Administrator; John Jansen, Township Attorney; Michael Guarino, Chief Finance Officer

PRESENTATIONS/CEREMONIAL MATTERS:

Proclamation National Library Week

Mayor Andes asked that Siobhan Koch, Library Director and Members of the Library Board, come forward. He then read the proclamation, which may be found at the end of these minutes, and declared April 7th to April 13th to be National Library Week.

Ms. Koch gave a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted activities that occurred at the Denville Library in 2018 as well as some planned activities for 2019.

Proclamation National Donate Life Month

Mayor Andes asked Kathleen Farrell from the New Jersey Sharing Network to come forward. He then read the proclamation, which may be found at the end of these minutes, and declared April 1st to April 30th as National Donate Life Month.

Ms. Farrell expressed her thanks and encouraged everyone to consider registering as an organ and tissue donor.

Presentation of the 2019 Municipal Budget

Mayor Andes read the 2019 Mayor's Budget Statement and Chief Finance Officer Guarino then read his statement explaining this year's State review of the Township's budget. Both statements may be found at the end of these minutes.

R-19-73: Resolution to Read Budget by Title

MOTION TO APPROVE R-19-73:

MOVED BY MEMBER MURPHY, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN  
AYES: MURPHY, LYDEN, WITTE, BUIE, BERGEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENT GABEL  
NAYS: NONE  
ABSENT: NONE

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON ADOPTION OF THE 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

No one wished to be heard.

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING

R-19-74: Resolution Authorizing Adoption of the Township of Denville 2019 Municipal Budget

MOTION TO APPROVE R-19-73:
MOVED BY MEMBER WITIE, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN

Discussion: Councilman Bergen asked if the budget included the capital items. Mr. Guarino stated that the budget includes the Township's Capital Budget Plan and the down payment money for capital items, but that specific capital items would be authorized by the ultimate adoption of the Bond Ordinance and the other capital ordinances listed on tonight's agenda for introduction.

AYES: WITIE, LYDEN, MURPHY, BUIE, BERGEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENT GABEL
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

LIAISON REPORTS:
Councilman Borowiec reported that the Deer Management Committee met and advised that they had a successful harvest and will be exploring whether there are closer locations which are authorized to accept meat donations. Mr. Borowiec then advised that the Vamp Up Vets Field project is gearing up and that they hope to have the project completed by the end of the summer.
Councilwoman Lyden had nothing to report.
Councilman Bergen had nothing to report.
Councilwoman Witte had nothing to report.
Councilman Buie reported that the Committee Day which was held this past Saturday was well attended.
Councilman Murphy reported that the Downtown Denville BID Executive Committee will meet tomorrow and then advised of the upcoming events being sponsored by the BID - Spring into Denville Eggstravaganza on April 20th; BID's monthly meeting on April 23rd and an Art Walk on May 9th. He advised that the hanging baskets for the center of town are scheduled to be delivered and hung up by Mother's Day. He then reported that the Environmental Committee met and reviewed numerous Planning and Zoning Board applications.
President Gabel reported that he will be meeting with the Fire Department and the Historical Society. He advised that the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life will be held at Parsippany Hills High School on May 18th. He announced that the BSA Patriot's Path Council Good Scout Dinner will be held on April 11th and will honor John Bartolotta, Harry Fahrer, Liisi Lescarro, Bridget Mesa, Wesley Sharples and Albert Green, who will receive a 60-year Award.

MAYOR'S REPORT:
Mayor Andes advised that Rid Litter Lay will be held on April 6th and then thanked Don Tidey and Dave Sipple for hosting a successful Township Committee Day. He then announced that the Township received a $168,000 grant from NJ DOT for the paving of Franklin Avenue and Knoll Drive. He then advised that Denville has been rated as the 3rd safest city in the United States by SafeWise.
Mayor Andes then voiced his support for Resolution R-19-80, Resolution Awarding a Contract for the First Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Rebid.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:
Administrator Ward reported that Tilcon has been scheduled to mill and pave those streets which were not done last year due to the rainy weather. He then advised that he and Dave Sipple from the Beautification Committee met with NJ Transit to discuss beautifying the NJ Transit owned property along Route 53 by the train trestles. He stated that NJ Transit has agreed to provide a permit to do the work.

CORRESPONDENCE:
All correspondence has been copied and distributed to Council.

OPEN PUBLIC PORTION
No one wished to be heard.
CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION
MATTERS OF OLD AND/OR NEW BUSINESS:

R-19-75: Resolution to Introduce, Approve and Set Public Hearing for the 2019 Budget of the Township of Denville Downtown Business Improvement District

MOTION TO APPROVE R-19-75
MOVED BY MEMBER MURPHY, SECONDED BY MEMBER BERGEN
AYES: MURPHY, BERGEN, BUIE, WITTE, LYDEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENTGABEL
NAYS: NONE

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION:
Ordinance No. 05~19:
BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:
An Ordinance of the Township of Denville, County of Morris, and State of New Jersey, to Amend and Supplement Chapter 4, General Licensing, of the Township Code to Establish Section 4-16, Games of Chance
Be Read by Title on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon:
MOTION TO READ BY TITLE:
MOVED BY MEMBER LYDEN, SECONDED BY MEMBER WITTE
AYES: LYDEN, WITTE, MURPHY, BUIE, BERGEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENTGABEL
NAYS: NONE

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING
No one wished to be heard.
CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING
BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:
An Ordinance of the Township of Denville, County of Morris, and State of New Jersey, to Amend and Supplement Chapter 4, General Licensing, of the Township Code to Establish Section 4-16, Games of Chance
Be passed on Final Reading and that a Notice of Final Passage be published in the 04/10/2019 edition of The Citizen newspaper.
MOTION TO ADOPT:
MOVED BY MEMBER WITTE, SECONDED BY MEMBER BERGEN
AYES: WITTE, BERGEN, MURPHY, BUIE, LYDEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENTGABEL
NAYS: NONE

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:
Ordinance No. 07~19
BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:
Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Capital Improvements in and by the Township of Denville, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, Appropriating $3,071,080 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of $2,124,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof
Be Introduced and Read by Title on First Reading:
MOTION TO READ BY TITLE:
MOVED BY MEMBER WITTE, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
Discussion: Discussion ensued about the proposed shed which was requested to be built at DPW to house both DPW and Fire Department equipment and whether there is a justification for spending the money. Administration advised that if further justification is being requested, there is time to do so before adoption of this ordinance which is scheduled for May 7th.
Township Council
04-02-2019

Township Attorney Jansen asked Mr. Guarino if the Supplemental Debt Statement had been filed as required by law, to which Mr. Guarino answered yes.

AYES: WITTE, LYDEN, MURPHY, BUIE, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENT GABEL
NAYS: BERGEN

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:

Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Capital Improvements in and by the Township of Denville, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, Appropriating $3,071,080 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of $2,124,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof

Be Passed on First Reading

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said ordinance shall be considered for final passage at a meeting of the Municipal Council of the Township of Denville on 05-07-2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the evening, prevailing time, at the municipal building in said Township of Denville at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk be authorized and directed to advertise this ordinance in The Citizen newspaper according to law.

MOTION TO PASS ON FIRST READING:
MOVED BY MEMBER WITTE, SECONDED BY MEMBER MURPHY
AYES: WITTE, MURPHY, BUIE, LYDEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENT GABEL
NAYS: BERGEN

Ordinance No. 08-19

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:

An Ordinance Providing for Various Improvements or Purposes in the Sum of $313,500 from the General Capital Improvement Fund of the Township of Denville

Be Introduced and Read by Title on First Reading:
MOTION TO READ BY TITLE:
MOVED BY MEMBER BUIE, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
AYES: BUIE, LYDEN, MURPHY, WITTE, BERGEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENT GABEL
NAYS: NONE

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:

An Ordinance Providing for Various Improvements or Purposes in the Sum of $313,500 from the General Capital Improvement Fund of the Township of Denville

Be Passed on First Reading

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said ordinance shall be considered for final passage at a meeting of the Municipal Council of the Township of Denville on 05-07-2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the evening, prevailing time, at the municipal building in said Township of Denville at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk be authorized and directed to advertise this ordinance in The Citizen newspaper according to law.

MOTION TO PASS ON FIRST READING:
MOVED BY MEMBER BUIE, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN

pg.4
AYES: BUIE, LYDEN, MURPHY, WITTE, BERGEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENT GABEL
NAYS: NONE

Ordinance No. 09-19
BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:

An Ordinance Providing for Various Improvements or Purposes in the Sum of $1,267,500 from the Township of Denville Open Space Trust Fund and $445,000 from Morris County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund

Be Introduced and Read by Title on First Reading:

MOTION TO READ BY TITLE:
MOVED BY MEMBER WITTE, SECONDED BY MEMBER BUIE
AYES: WITTE, BUIE, MURPHY, BERGEN, LYDEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENT GABEL
NAYS: NONE

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:

An Ordinance Providing for Various Improvements or Purposes in the Sum of $1,267,500 from the Township of Denville Open Space Trust Fund and $445,000 from Morris County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund

Be Passed on First Reading

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said ordinance shall be considered for final passage at a meeting of the Municipal Council of the Township of Denville on 05-07-2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the evening, prevailing time, at the municipal building in said Township of Denville at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk be authorized and directed to advertise this ordinance in The Citizen newspaper according to law.

MOTION TO PASS ON FIRST READING:
MOVED BY MEMBER WITTE, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
AYES: WITTE, LYDEN, MURPHY, BUIE, BERGEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENT GABEL
NAYS: NONE

Ordinance No. 10-19
BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:

An Ordinance Appropriating $44,000 from the Dog Trust Fund of the Township of Denville for the Purchase of a Replacement Animal Control Vehicle

Be Introduced and Read by Title on First Reading:

MOTION TO READ BY TITLE:
MOVED BY MEMBER MURPHY, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
AYES: MURPHY, LYDEN, BUIE, WITTE, BERGEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENT GABEL
NAYS: NONE

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:

An Ordinance Appropriating $44,000 from the Dog Trust Fund of the Township of Denville for the Purchase of a Replacement Animal Control Vehicle

Be Passed on First Reading
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said ordinance shall be considered for final passage at a meeting of the Municipal Council of the Township of Denville on 05-07-2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the evening, prevailing time, at the municipal building in said Township of Denville at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk be authorized and directed to advertise this ordinance in The Citizen newspaper according to law.

MOTION TO PASS ON FIRST READING:
MOVED BY MEMBER WITTE, SECONDED BY MEMBER MURPHY
AYES: WITIE, MURPHY, BUIE, BERGEN, LYDEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENT GABEL
NAYS: NONE

Ordinance No. 11~19
BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:
An Ordinance of the Township of Denville, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, to Amend Chapter 22, Parks and Recreation Areas, of the Township Code to Extend the Turf Field Season at Veterans Memorial Park

Be Introduced and Read by Title on First Reading:
MOTION TO READ BY TITLE:
MOVED BY MEMBER BOROWIEC, SECONDED BY MEMBER BERGEN
Discussion: It was recommended that an additional turf field be part of the Township’s future plans.
AYES: BOROWIEC, BERGEN, MURPHY, BUIE, WITIE, LYDEN, PRESIDENT GABEL
NAYS: NONE

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:
An Ordinance of the Township of Denville, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, to Amend Chapter 22, Parks and Recreation Areas, of the Township Code to Extend the Turf Field Season at Veterans Memorial Park

Be Passed on First Reading

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said ordinance shall be considered for final passage at a meeting of the Municipal Council of the Township of Denville on 05-07-2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the evening, prevailing time, at the municipal building in said Township of Denville at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk be authorized and directed to advertise this ordinance in The Citizen newspaper according to law.

MOTION TO PASS ON FIRST READING:
MOVED BY MEMBER MURPHY, SECONDED BY MEMBER BERGEN
AYES: MURPHY, BERGEN, BUIE, WITTE, LYDEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENT GABEL
NAYS: NONE

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:
NONE

CONSENT AGENDA:
R-19-76: Resolution Authorizing Raffle Licenses in the Township of Denville
R-19-77: Resolution Authorizing Reinstatement of the Original Sewer Assessment Installment Plan for Certain Properties in the Township of Denville

R-19-78: Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Money Due to the Redemption of a Tax Sale Certificate

President Gabel asked if anyone from the public or from the Council would like to have any resolutions removed from the Consent Agenda. No one responded.

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA:
MOVED BY MEMBER WITIE, SECONDED BY MEMBER BUIE
AYES: WITIE, BUIE, MURPHY, BERGEN, LYDEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENT GABEL
NAYS: NONE

NON-CONSENT AGENDA:
R-19-79: Resolution Authorizing 2019 Fireworks Display
MOTION TO APPROVE R-19-79
MOVED BY MEMBER BERGEN, SECONDED BY MEMBER WITIE
AYES: BERGEN, WITIE, MURPHY, BUIE, LYDEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENT GABEL
NAYS: NONE

R-19-80: Resolution Authorizing 2019 Fireworks Display
MOTION TO APPROVE R-19-80:
MOVED BY MEMBER MURPHY, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
AYES: MURPHY, LYDEN, BUIE, WITIE, BERGEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENT GABEL
NAYS: NONE

R-19-81: Resolution Authorizing the First Extension to Contract with Water Works Supply Co., Inc. for the Furnishing of Denville Public Works Department Water Fittings and Valves
MOTION TO APPROVE R-19-81:
MOVED BY MEMBER WITIE, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
AYES: WITIE, LYDEN, MURPHY, BUIE, BERGEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENT GABEL
NAYS: NONE

R-19-82: Resolution Acknowledging the Acquisition of Professional Insurance Associates, Inc. and PIA Security Programs, Inc. by World Insurance Associates, LLC and Authorizing the Continuation of Services in Accordance with the Public Contract for Insurance Consulting Services for 2019
MOTION TO APPROVE R-19-82:
MOVED BY MEMBER WITIE, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
AYES: WITIE, LYDEN, MURPHY, BUIE, BERGEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENT GABEL
NAYS: NONE

R-19-83: Resolution Approving Deviations from the Minimum Separation Distances for a Septic System Disposal Field Set Forth at N.J.A.C. 7:9A, Standards for Individual Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems, for a Septic System Located at 3 Running Brook Court (Block 51102, Lot 6)
MOTION TO APPROVE R-19-83:
MOVED BY MEMBER WITIE, SECONDED BY MEMBER BERGEN
AYES: WITIE, BERGEN, MURPHY, BUIE, LYDEN, BOROWIEC, PRESIDENT GABEL
NAYS: NONE

MINUTES FOR ADOPTION:
March 12, 2019
March 19, 2019
MOVED BY MEMBER BUIE, SECONDED BY MEMBER WITIE
AYES: BUIE, WITIE, MURPHY (abstain for 3/12/2019), BERGEN, LYDEN (abstain for 3/19/2019), BOROWIEC, PRESIDENT GABEL
NAYS: NONE

MOTION TO ADJOURN:
MOVED BY MEMBER WITIE, SECONDED BY MEMBER BUJE
AYES: UNANIMOUS

The Meeting adjourned at 8:41 P.M.

Kathryn Bowditch-Leon, RMC
Municipal Clerk
WHEREAS, today's libraries are not just about books but what they do for and with people;

WHEREAS, libraries of all types are at the heart of cities, towns, schools and campuses;

WHEREAS, libraries have long served as trusted and treasured institutions where people of all backgrounds can be together and connect;

WHEREAS, libraries and librarians build strong communities through transformative services, programs and expertise;

WHEREAS, libraries, which promote the free exchange of information and ideas for all, are cornerstones of democracy;

WHEREAS, libraries promote civic engagement by keeping people informed and aware of community events and issues;

WHEREAS, librarians and library workers collaborate with other civic organizations to make sure their community's needs are being met;

WHEREAS, libraries and librarians empower their communities to make informed decisions by providing free access to information;

WHEREAS, libraries are a resource for all members of the community regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or socio-economic status, by offering services and educational resources that transform lives and strengthen communities;

WHEREAS, libraries, librarians, library workers and supporters across America are celebrating National Library Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Thomas W. Andes Mayor of the Township of Denville, proclaim National Library Week, April 7-13, 2019. I encourage all residents to visit our beautiful library this week, explore what is new at the library, and engage with your librarian. Because of you, Libraries Transform.

April 2, 2019
Proclamation

Whereas; Realizing the urgent need for organ and tissue donors across the country, the National Donate Life Month observance promotes a greater understanding about the life-saving benefits of donation and transplantation. Moreover, the need is increasing. New Jersey Sharing Network is committed to addressing that need through increased awareness; and

Whereas; The transplantation of organs and tissue is a miracle of modern medicine made possible through the compassion of organ and tissue donors, enabling surgeons to save thousands of lives every year. One organ donor can save eight lives and one tissue donor can restore health to over seventy-five others. People of all ages, ethnic backgrounds and religions are touched by donation and by the serious shortage of organ donors that exists. Currently, there are nearly four thousand New Jersey residents and one hundred and fifteen thousand Americans awaiting life-saving transplant operations; and

Whereas; Every capable person should support this vital effort by registering as an organ and tissue donor, making their family aware of their wishes and being willing to give the precious gift of health, sight and life to people in need; and

Whereas; Registering as an organ and tissue donor at a local Motor Vehicle Agency or online at www.NJSharingNetwork.org signifies our fundamental human responsibility to help others; and

Now, therefore; Thomas W. Andes, Mayor of the Township of Denville, recognize National Donate Life Month as an opportunity to join the New Jersey Sharing Network in its life-saving mission. I therefore proclaim April 1st to the 30th National Donate Life Month in Denville and I encourage all citizens to join me in promoting and supporting the importance of organ and tissue donor education throughout National Donate Life Month.

April 2, 2019
In advance of the public hearing and anticipated vote on the 2019 municipal budget, I would like to make some brief comments to highlight the goals and accomplishments the proposed budget aims to achieve this coming year. As you know, the budget process commences in September of each year with departmental budget hearings held in November, followed by department presentations to the Township Council which start in December, followed by a more comprehensive and robust discussion of the overall goals and impacts of the budget between Administration and the Township Council in January and February. As local elected officials, the crafting of the municipal budget is one of the, if not THE, most important projects we undertake each year. The budget is a plan, it establishes goals, objectives and priorities for the coming year and during the year, Administration monitors the adopted budget to ensure the goals, objectives and priorities of the Township Council are achieved. This is truly a team project and I would like to extend my thanks to the Township Council, the Township staff, including CFO Michael Guarino and Administrator Steven Ward, along with our Auditor for lending helpful financial guidance.

The 2019 budget is a conservative budget. It highlights our continued financial strength in the form of a healthy fund balance while providing adequate protections against potential pending exposures. The budget demonstrates our various departments ability to effectively live by the motto, "do more with Jess" as the majority of departmental budgets are equal to or less than their 2018 approved budget. And, finally, the budget continues with our "pay as you go approach" to capital projects with the ultimate goal of reducing the amount of the total municipal debt.

Our year end fund balance increased for the 4th consecutive year and remains at a healthy conservative level of $4.3 million of which we are utilizing $2.6 million as fund balance anticipated to reduce the amount to be collected by taxation. Based upon anticipated revenues, we feel confident we will be able to regenerate our fund balance to the same or even higher levels during this budget year.

Nearly 70% of the municipal budget is salary and wages of our dedicated staff, with more than 95% of the employees covered by one of five collective negotiation agreements. The Township has voluntarily entered into responsible and fair agreement with all five (5) of its collective bargaining units which are valid thru December 31, 2021.

As discussed as part of the Police Department's budget, the 2019 budget will increase the authorized compliment of sworn officers from 32 to 33. Much of the focus of the additional personnel will be focused on traffic enforcement and traffic complaint response, supplementing the exceptional job the Police Department already performs to keep our roadways and community safe.

In order to ensure our Fire apparatus meet all ISO requirements, one of the fire engines at Valley View Fire House will be replaced as it has aged out. The ISO rating of a municipality, which largely relates to the Fire Department's equipment and training, plays a large part in determining the rates paid by every resident in our community for their homeowner insurance policy. This purchase, albeit one of the largest we are periodically required to approve, will serve to both protect our residents from potential fires as well as potential increased insurance premiums.

Also, related to the Fire Department, I am happy to announce that after several appeals going back more than 5 years, the Township finally received a check from FEMA within the past two months in the amount of $369,861 for the reconstruction of the Valley View Fire House, which was destroyed during Hurricane Irene in 2011.
The capital budget proposes $720,000 for road resurfacing, which continues the elevated level of appropriation for this purpose, approximately $200,000 more per year on average than before I took office.

The budget also appropriates dedicated funding for flood mitigation, including the installation of a state-of-the-art flap valve on the Rockaway River adjacent to Riverside Drive and Hinchman Avenue as well as dedicated funding to have a private contractor pull out trees or larger snags that our DPW and dedicated volunteers are unable to safely remove.

The 2019 budget continues an initiative we started several years ago to reduce our overall debt by aggressivelty paying down our existing debt instruments and making greater cash contributions towards current capital projects, thus reducing the amount of new debt. This year, the Township is making a 23% cash contribution towards its capital projects and also paying more than the minimum payments of our outstanding debt. It is my goal by 2022 or 2023 to reduce our debt to a level where we can operate on a virtual "pay as you go" system.

It is the above conservative approach to municipal financial management that earned the Township a Aa1 rating from Moody's in September 2017 when we were last rated, the second highest rating conferred.

The 2019 budget is not without its headwinds with an additional $75,000 in legal fees being appropriated to defend the Township and preserve the character of the community as part of the pending Declaratory Judgment Action that will ultimately determine our affordable housing obligation for the period of 2015 - 2025. The Township's Reserve for Tax Appeals was also bolstered by an additional $450,000 to protect the Township from the pending tax appeal from our largest taxpayer Saint Clare's Hospital/Prime Healthcare. The State appeal is now entering its 4th year.

The budget contains a modest $26.46 per year impact to the average assessed property owner in Denville or approximately $2.20 per month. Although it is always our goal to keep the tax rate as low as possible, our trend of 5 consecutive years with an average increase of $2 per month for the average property tax payer for the municipal portion shows a trend of financial consistency.

Therefore, I endorse the 2019 Municipal Budget before you this evening and encourage its adoption.

Thank you.
Every third year, the Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) reviews one of three group's budget submission. 2019 is Danville's year for budget examination. After introduction on February 19th, copies of the Budget, Annual Financial Statements, and Budget Transmittal Package were sent to DLGS.

On February 27, 2019 Denville received from the Division of Local Government Services, its "2019 Budget Examination Notes". The Division of Local Government Services asked for clarification on 19 different items. Over the next two days, Danville's auditor Ray Sarinelli Jr. and I adjusted, answered, and addressed Annual Financial Statement Sheets, Budget Sheets and Questions on Denville's Finances. A response was sent down to the Division early morning on March 1st. That same day, prior to noon, DLGS responded thanking Denville for its "quick and concise response". Denville was advised all was in order to adopt 2019's budget except New Jersey State aid figures were not currently available. March 5th Governor Murphy's proposed budget state aid funding remained the same as prior years. Denville was cleared to proceed for hearing and adoption.