The Meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by President Golinski. The Salute to the Flag was recited, followed by an Invocation given by Councilman Scollans. Township Clerk Bowditch-Leon read the Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, advised that this is a non-smoking facility and asked that all cell phones be silenced at this time.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Gabel, Kuser, Smith, Lyden, Fitzpatrick, Scollans, President Golinski
Absent: None

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Thomas Andes, Mayor; Steven Ward, Administrator; John Jansen, Township Attorney

PRESENTATIONS/CEREMONIAL MATTERS:

President Golinski noted that the Council has a small token of their appreciation for the two departing Council members.

President Golinski addressed Councilman Scollans and said that he, personally, would like to thank Mr. Scollans for all of his service, not just for the past four years, but for the many years before that as well. He added that when he thinks of Mr. Scollans and his service he thinks of energy, passion and enthusiasm. President Golinski presented Councilman Scollans with a plaque to remind him of his service on the Municipal Council.

Councilman Scollans spoke briefly about his service on the Council, which he considered an honor and a privilege. He thanked everyone on the Council and the Administration and wished God’s blessing for them.

President Golinski advised that the next presentation is to Councilwoman Deborah Smith. He thanked Mrs. Smith for her service but also thanked her husband, Steven for his sacrifice of time with Mrs. Smith over a period of twenty (20) years of her serving on the Council. President Golinski said that what comes to mind when he thinks of Mrs. Smith is her concern for the public and her desire to educate the public. He then presented Councilwoman Smith with a plaque to commemorate her many years of service.

Councilwoman Smith invited everyone to attend her swearing-in as a Freeholder in January. She noted that she has been married for twenty-eight (28) years and her husband has always supported her in whatever she has done. Mrs. Smith reflected on many memories of the last twenty (20) years on the Council and expressed her gratitude for everyone’s support through all of that time. Mrs. Smith wished Happy Holidays to everyone.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Councilman Scollans reported on the School Board meeting. He noted that there was a very interesting presentation by a Valleyview student concerning his Smart Board design; a presentation on demographics and a discussion on the trailers at the school which henceforth will only be used for storage and office space. Mr. Scollans further reported that the sale of the Union Hill School was discussed and everyone was in favor of the sale. He advised that two tier busing was discussed and there was a great deal of concern about the start and finish times. Mr. Scollans noted that the Board of Education will reevaluate the issue and more meetings will be held on the subject.
Councilman Scollans advised that the Deer Management Committee reported that there has been a lot of trespassing on Township property.

Councilman Fitzpatrick had no report but thanked Councilman Scollans and Councilwoman Smith for their help and support in so many ways.

Councilwoman Lyden thanked Councilman Scollans and Councilwoman Smith for their help and guidance. She wished everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilman Gabel reported that the Morris Hills Regional School Board met last night but there were no significant issues to report. He said that he would like to share the one word that comes to mind when thinking of Councilman Scollans and that would be courage. Mr. Gabel noted that Mr. Scollans always had the courage of his convictions when he disagreed with other members on a specific issue.

Councilman Gabel stated that his one word for Councilwoman Smith is wisdom. He thanked Mrs. Smith for sharing that wisdom with this Council as well as previous Councils.

Councilman Kuser reported that he also attended the Board of Education meeting last night. He noted that there was a discussion regarding the Board of Education moving into the Town Hall and they voted to move forward with more investigation of that possibility. Mr. Kuser advised that there was one no vote but the rest of the Board voted in the affirmative. Councilman Kuser thanked both Councilman Scollans and Councilwoman Smith for their service.

Councilwoman Smith reported that the Senior Reorganization Meeting will be held on January 5, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. She noted that at the General Quarterly Meeting in April Surrogate John Pecoraro will be the guest speaker.

President Golinski reported that he stopped by the Social Services office to see how the toy drive is going and to thank the volunteers. He said that the success of the toy drive is absolutely overwhelming and the Community Room was packed to overflowing with very generous gifts. President Golinski advised that the Recreation Committee made Santa calls last night and will judge the holiday lighting tomorrow night. He added that the Senior Social was held on Sunday and a nice holiday dinner was enjoyed by all. President Golinski reported that the Fire Department has elected Jason Lezcano as its new Chief for the next two years.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

Mayor Andes added his thanks to the Councilman Scollans and Councilwoman Smith and said that it was a pleasure to serve with them. The Mayor reported that the Senior Social was a delightful event, enhanced by a visit from Santa Claus. He commended the Recreation Committee for the fine job it has done throughout the year and thanked the Council members for their help at the Socials.

Mayor Andes advised that the contract for the sale of the schoolhouse has been signed and returned to Administration. He added that members of the Board of Education have been in our building reviewing the space. Mayor Andes also wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Administrator Ward stated that he must report some somber news to the Council. He said that our Tax Assessor Ginny Klein’s husband passed away this morning after a short battle with cancer. Mr. Ward noted that the Council will be advised of the arrangements as soon as they are available.

The Administrator gave kudos to the new Social Services Coordinator and his staff of volunteers for the great job they did on the toy drive. He noted that there was a fund raiser last week for a family who suffered a house fire and another individual, a single mother with children, passed away so a fund raiser for the children is being coordinated by Steve Dublanica.

Administrator Ward reported that he met with the County Officials today regarding the Openaki Bridge replacement which is scheduled to occur in 2018 – 2019 through a Federal grant. He said that there are
public hearing requirements so there will be a presentation for the public in the Community Room sometime in February or March to go over the plans. The Administrator spoke about R-15-290 on tonight’s agenda. He noted that it concerns our shared service agreement with Mt. Lakes for Court services and recommended that the Council approve this resolution which will authorize a three (3) year extension of the agreement with Mt. Lakes. Mr. Ward advised that Mt. Lakes did not pass their resolution at last night’s meeting but they are placing it on their Reorganization Meeting Agenda. He stated that, by passing this resolution there will be a minimal gap in the arrangement if Mt. Lakes approves the extension in January. Administrator Ward added that, in the event that Mt. Lakes does not approve their resolution in January, there are other neighboring municipalities that are interested in a long-term shared service agreement with Denville for court services.

Mr. Ward requested that the Council members advise Clerk Bowditch-Leon of their availability for the proposed budget meeting dates by Friday. Administrator Ward reminded the Council that they are invited to attend the Holiday Luncheon and Employee Recognition Ceremony tomorrow which will be held in the Community Room from Noon to 1:30 p.m. He added that the Recognition Ceremony will be held at 12:45 p.m.

Councilman Kuser asked why we don’t just sign with one of the other interested towns that want a long-term agreement. Administrator Ward explained that, under the Administrative Office of the Courts rules, if we share with one municipality it is a Shared Court, if there is more than one municipality, it becomes a Joint Court and the appointment of the judge, prosecutor and public defender would be made by the Governor, so the Township would lose a degree of control in that situation. It was also noted that the other municipalities that are interested in long-term shared services are currently under contract until December 31, 2016.

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:
Councilman Kuser commented that it was eye opening to hear at the Scholl Board meeting that there are families in this town that can’t afford to pay for lunches for their children. He said that people are talking about the economy getting better but that is not the case for everyone.
Councilman Scollans interjected that, in an affluent town like Denville, no child should go without breakfast or lunch. He said that he thinks either the School Board or this Governing Body should step up and do what needs to be done to be sure that the children are taken care of.
Councilwoman Smith added that Social Services Coordinator Steve Dublanica should direct people to the Office of Public Assistance at the County.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION:
#26-15
BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:
An Ordinance to Amend Chapter VIII, Parking Lots and Parking Meters, of the General Ordinances of the Township of Denville, with Respect to the Bloomfield Avenue Parking Lot

Be Read by Title on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon:

MOTION TO READ BY TITLE: MOVED BY MEMBER SCOLLANS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GABEL
AYES: SCOLLANS, GABEL, KUSER, SMITH, LYDEN, FITZPATRICK, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: No one wished to be heard.
CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:
An Ordinance to Amend Chapter VIII, Parking Lots and Parking Meters, of the General Ordinances of the Township of Denville, with Respect to the Bloomfield Avenue Parking Lot

Be passed on Final Reading and that a Notice of Final Passage be Published in the 12-23-2015 issue of The Citizen newspaper.

MOTION TO ADOPT: MOVED BY MEMBER SCOLLANS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FITZPATRICK
AYES: SCOLLANS, FITZPATRICK, GABEL, KUSER, SMITH, LYDEN, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI

President Golinski noted that there are twelve (12) resolutions on the Consent Agenda and he read the title of each.

CONSENT AGENDA:
R-15-269: Resolution Reappointing Kathleen A. Costello as Township of Denville Deputy Municipal Clerk
R-15-270: Resolution Establishing a “Dedication by Rider” for Contributions to the Township of Denville
R-15-271: Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of Funds for Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2015 Holiday Crackdown from 12-11-15 to 01-01-16
R-15-272: Resolution Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87
R-15-273: Resolution Authorizing a Refund of a Building Permit Fee in the Amount of $320.00
R-15-274: Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Money Due to the Redemption of a Tax Sale Certificate in the Amount of $1,936.33
R-15-275: Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Money Due to the Redemption of a Tax Sale Certificate in the Amount of $782.08
R-15-276: Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Money Due to the Redemption of a Tax Sale Certificate in the Amount of $1,308.09
R-15-277: Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Money Due to the Redemption of a Tax Sale Certificate in the Amount of $1,206.40
R-15-278: Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Money Due to the Redemption of a Tax Sale Certificate in the Amount of $790.25
R-15-279: Resolution Authorizing Reinstatement of the Original Sewer Assessment Installment Plan for Certain Properties in the Township of Denville
R-15-280: Resolution Authorizing Raffle Licenses in the Township of Denville

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

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA: MOVED BY MEMBER SCOLLANS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GABEL
AYES: SCOLLANS, GABEL, KUSER, SMITH, LYDEN, FITZPATRICK, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI

NON-CONSENT ITEMS:
R-15-281: Resolution Approving Executive Session Minutes
MOTION TO APPROVE R-15-281: MOVED BY MEMBER SCOLLANS, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
DISCUSSION: Councilman Kuser asked how people can approve Executive Session minutes when they weren’t even on the Council at the time.
Attorney Jansen replied that he doesn’t think there is anyone here this evening that wasn’t on the Council at the times in question. President Golinski said that there may have been some absences. Councilman Gabel interjected that he would be the only one and that would be only for January 10, 2012 because he was not yet on the Council. Attorney Jansen noted that a yes vote would be interpreted as being for those meetings at which the member was present. He added that there are still some very old executive session minutes that have never been approved. Mr. Kuser asked about the redaction of some items in the minutes, such as priorities on property acquisitions.
Attorney Jansen replied that all of these minutes have been redone because some of them were incredibly long and far too detailed. Kathy Costello spent a great deal of time redoing them. He noted that there is an indication in the center column of R-15-281 as to whether or not the minutes are to be released. Mr. Jansen said that the minutes relating to matters that have been completely resolved can be immediately released but other minutes are not to be released at this time. He added that if someone makes a request for those minutes once they have been approved by the Council, the position of the Government Records Council, which enforces the Open Public Records Act, is that the minutes are available but, for those matters that have not yet been resolved certain information can be redacted. Attorney Jansen stated that review and redaction would occur if and when there are requests for those minutes.
AYES: SCOLLANS, LYDEN, GABEL, SMITH, FITZPATRICK, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI, for those for which they were present.
NAY: KUSER
R-15-282: Resolution Refunding the Payment of Taxes Overpaid Due to Judgment by the Tax Court of New Jersey in the Amount of $8,067.62
MOTION TO APPROVE R-15-282: MOVED BY MEMBER FITZPATRICK, SECONDED BY MEMBER GABEL
DISCUSSION: Councilwoman Smith asked what property is referred to in this resolution. It was determined that it is the Nissan dealership on Route 10.
AYES: FITZPATRICK, GABEL, KUSER, SMITH, LYDEN, SCOLLANS, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI
R-15-283: Resolution Authorizing Tax Refunds and the Cancellation of Tax Delinquencies under Ten Dollars ($10.00)
MOTION TO APPROVE R-15-283: MOVED BY MEMBER SCOLLANS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FITZPATRICK
AYES: SCOLLANS, FITZPATRICK, GABEL, KUSER, SMITH, LYDEN, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI
R-15-284: Resolution to Cancel 2015 Taxes for Certain Properties
MOTION TO APPROVE R-15-284: MOVED BY MEMBER SCOLLANS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FITZPATRICK
DISCUSSION: Councilman Gabel asked for the rationale behind this resolution. Administrator Ward explained that these are now Township-owned properties that the Township has foreclosed upon.
AYES: SCOLLANS, FITZPATRICK, GABEL, KUSER, SMITH, LYDEN, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI
R-15-285: Resolution Refunding the Payment of 2016 Taxes in the Amount of $2,519.89
Attorney Jansen explained that these taxes were prepaid and the house is being sold. To avoid tax escrow problems at the closing the taxes are being refunded.
MOTION TO APPROVE R-15-285: MOVED BY MEMBER FITZPATRICK, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
AYES: FITZPATRICK, LYDEN, GABEL, KUSER, SMITH, SCOLLANS, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI
R-15-286: Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Calendar Year 2015 Budget Appropriations
MOTION TO APPROVE R-15-286: MOVED BY MEMBER SCOLLANS, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
AYES: SCOLLANS, LYDEN, GABEL, KUSER, SMITH, FITZPATRICK, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI

R-15-287: Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Money Due to the Redemption of a Tax Sale Certificate in the Amount of $3,034.86
MOTION TO APPROVE R-15-287: MOVED BY MEMBER SCOLLANS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FITZPATRICK
AYES: SCOLLANS, FITZPATRICK, GABEL, KUSER, SMITH, LYDEN, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI

R-15-288: Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Money Due to the Redemption of a Tax Sale Certificate in the Amount of $10,065.90
MOTION TO APPROVE R-15-288: MOVED BY MEMBER SCOLLANS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FITZPATRICK
AYES: SCOLLANS, FITZPATRICK, GABEL, KUSER, SMITH, LYDEN, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI

R-15-289: Resolution Refunding the Payment of Overpaid 2015 Taxes for Certain Properties
MOTION TO APPROVE R-15-289: MOVED BY MEMBER FITZPATRICK, SECONDED BY MEMBER GABEL
AYES: FITZPATRICK, GABEL, KUSER, SMITH, LYDEN, SCOLLANS, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI

R-15-290: Resolution Authorizing Renewal and Amendment of Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Mountain Lakes
MOTION TO APPROVE R-15-290: MOVED BY MEMBER SCOLLANS, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
AYES: SCOLLANS, LYDEN, GABEL, KUSER, SMITH, FITZPATRICK, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF 11-10-15, 11-24-15 AND 12-8-15: MOVED BY MEMBER SCOLLANS,
SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
AYES: SCOLLANS, LYDEN, GABEL, KUSER, SMITH, FITZPATRICK, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI

MOTION TO ADJOURN: MOVED BY MEMBER SCOLLANS, SECONDED BY MEMBER SMITH
AYES: UNANIMOUS.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kathleen A. Costello
Deputy Township Clerk