TOWNSHIP OF DENVILLE
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 5, 2016

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President Golinski. The Salute to the Flag was recited, followed by an Invocation given 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. Clerk Bowditch-Leon asked that all cell phones be silenced at this time.

ROLL CALL:
Present: Gabel, Witte, Kuser, Lyden, Murphy, President Golinski
Absent: Fitzpatrick

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Thomas Andes, Mayor; Steven Ward, Administrator; John Jansen, Township Attorney, Michael Guarino, Chief Financial Officer and Raymond Sarinelli, Jr., Township Auditor

PROCLAMATIONS/CEREMONIAL MATTERS

PROCLAMATION
Autism Awareness Month

Mayor Andes noted that one of the award winners at the recent PRIDE Dinner was the Mayor’s Council for People with Challenges, so this is a very timely Proclamation. The Mayor then read the Proclamation. (A copy of the Proclamation is attached to these minutes.) Mayor Andes spoke briefly about the Mayor’s Council for People with Challenges, noting the purpose for its creation and the dedication, not only of the volunteers who run the program, but also of the children and young adults who are challenged who perform volunteer work. He then presented the Proclamation to a representative of the MCPC. Peter Fifoot then spoke about autism and the challenges that he faces and how he overcomes them.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2016 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
Michael Guarino, CFO

Prior to Mr. Guarino’s presentation, Mayor Andes, Administrator Ward and Auditor Sarinelli spoke about the budget process.

Mayor Andes advised that the budget process began in September and entailed countless dedicated hours of work by the staff and elected officials. He said that there will be a public hearing on the budget tonight after which the Council will consider the resolution to adopt the 2016 Municipal Budget. The Mayor listed the following highlights of this budget which he considers to be important:

- The budget contains no increase in property taxes for the average assessed home owner in Denville, but rather contains a slight decrease.
- With the award of a grant in the amount of $84,500 to resurface a portion of Franklin Ave./Rd., the Township will be expending a total of $754,500 in 2016 for roadway resurfacing. He added that this is approximately $200,000 more than our typical annual budget for road resurfacing.
In order to insure a stable debt service payment in the future, the Township included a cash contribution of $596,000 to its capital projects thereby reducing the amount of new bonds and notes to finance municipal improvements.

The budget contains an additional appropriation of $139,000 to aggressively reduce our existing debt service.

The Mayor stated that this is a sound and responsible budget and he thanked the Township Council for their hard work during the budget process.

Administrator Ward stated that, as the Mayor mentioned, the 2016 Municipal Budget that the Council will consider for adoption tonight is one that we can all be proud of. He said that it enables the Township to continue to provide the same high level of services to its residents, address many critical infrastructure needs and provide for future budgetary and tax rate stability. The Administrator noted two events that occurred in 2015 that had a significant impact on the 2016 budget:

1. The purchase of St. Clare’s Hospital by a for-profit entity, subjecting St. Clare’s Hospital to property taxes, since it had previously been a not-for-profit entity. With that transfer, the hospital has become Denville’s highest taxpayer. The annual assessment for the hospital, established by the revaluation, is $83,552,000, bringing additional revenue into the municipality.

2. The revaluation conducted in 2015, as it relates to the budget, indicated that commercial properties appreciated at a much faster rate than residential properties between 2002 and 2015. As a result, there was a slight shift of the tax burden from residential properties to commercial properties.

Administrator Ward advised that, with regard to staff, there have been no increases or decreases but modifications have been made, to the point that Administration feels that the Township has reached the optimal staffing level. Mr. Ward commented that the Township is taking advantage of the lower cost of asphalt by resurfacing more roads for less money. The Administrator explained the snow removal trust account which the State permits municipalities to establish and carry from year to year. He said that the fund provides a budgetary cushion for particularly harsh winters. Mr. Ward noted that the past three years of bad winter weather depleted the normally $200,000 to $250,000 trust fund to a mere $7,800 as of 12/31/2015. He said that using various transfers and appropriations and a little help from Mother Nature, the fund has been rebuilt to a healthy level. Mr. Ward concluded by advising that the overall tax rate will decrease and the Open Space Tax will be reduced from $.03 per $100 of assessed value to $.025 per $100 of assessed value. He added that the increase in the ratable base will insure that we collect roughly the same amount of Open Space funds as we have in previous years. Mr. Ward extended his thanks to all who worked so hard in preparing this budget.

Auditor Raymond Sarinelli, at President Golinski’s request, explained his role in the budget process. Mr. Sarinelli said that he is the Township Auditor which means he is the independent party who ensures that the Township is in compliance with the statutes governing the budget. Mr. Sarinelli noted that the budget was introduced on March 1, 2016, was properly advertised and may now be considered for adoption by the Township Council this evening.

Auditor Sarinelli spoke about the fund balance and noted that it remained the same, with only a slight decrease of $3,000, between 2014 and 2015. He said that the reason for that is that the Township has continually prepared responsible budgets that do not overuse the fund balance. Mr. Sarinelli noted that knowing that the fund balance can be regenerated provides for stability in the tax rate.

Mr. Sarinelli also mentioned St. Clare’s Hospital becoming a ratable and the results of the revaluation as important factors impacting this budget. He said that, with regard to compliance, the budget is under
both the tax levy and the appropriation caps. Mr. Sarinelli noted that, this being the year that Denville is subject to State review, the State has reviewed and approved this budget.
President Golinski asked Mr. Sarinelli where the $10 million difference between the amount of the budget and the amount to be raised by taxes comes from.
Mr. Sarinelli replied that it comes from various items such as grants and various miscellaneous revenue items.
CFO Guarino added that various fees that are collected are a part of it as well as State aid and the use of fund balance. Mr. Guarino noted that the auditors see many other municipalities and can give us ideas on how to keep our town in a sound fiscal position. Mr. Guarino advised that the Township has a Double A2 rating with Moody’s and we get very good rates for bonding due to that rating. He said that our budget practices are very sound and progressive. He said that we received a very speedy approval from the State with regard to its review of our budget which indicates that we are doing everything correctly.
Councilwoman Lyden asked if we can expect the same $4 million to be in the fund balance at the end of 2016. Mr. Sarinelli replied that assuming all factors remain the same, the Township will be able to regenerate the $4 million fund balance.
Councilmen Gabel, Kuser and Murphy commented on how good this budget is and thanked all involved for doing an excellent, professional job.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2016 MUNICIPAL BUDGET: No one wished to be heard.
CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2016 MUNICIPAL BUDGET.

R-16-97: Resolution Authorizing Adoption of the Township of Denville 2016 Municipal Budget
MOTION TO APPROVE R-16-97:
MOVED BY MEMBER KUSER, SECONDED BY MEMBER WITTE
Prior to Roll Call, President Golinski read portions of a letter from Councilman Fitzpatrick.
He noted that Councilman Fitzpatrick writes that he regrets that he is unable to attend this evening but he would like the record to reflect his support of this year’s municipal budget. In his letter, Mr. Fitzpatrick reiterated the salient points that allowed for this sound and responsible budget. He thanked all those responsible for their work during the budget process. President Golinski added his praise for all who worked so hard to produce this budget.
Attorney Jansen read pertinent parts of R-16-97 into the record.

AYES: KUSER, WITTE, GABEL, LYDEN, MURPHY, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI
ABSENT: FITZPATRICK

LIAISON REPORTS:
Councilman Murphy noted that the Morris Hills Regional District Board of Education will hold their budget hearing on April 25th. Mr. Murphy reported that the Green Sustainability Committee did not receive the grant that it applied for because there was another grant that was not closed out.
Administrator Ward explained that the electric vehicle charging station just went on line last Friday and the grant that funded it could not be closed out until the station was up and running. He said that there is another round of grants in June or July and the Township plans to pursue the Green Sustainability Committee’s grant request at that time.
Mr. Murphy reported that presentations are being made to the various senior groups: the Denville Board of Education’s Superintendent Steve Forte spoke on Monday and was warmly received; Surrogate John Pecoraro will address the seniors on Friday, April 8th with regard to probate issues and Chief
Wagner will speak about fraud on April 21st. Mr. Murphy noted that the Senior Social will be held this Sunday, April 10th.

Councilwoman Lyden reported that, with the help of Administrator Ward, the Paths and Trails Committee has applied for a State grant to fund the first section of a new trail system. She said that the Committee is planning to start work on it this summer on the south side of town.

Councilman Kuser reported that he met with the Morris County Open Space Committee last Wednesday and, since service on the Committee rotates, Denville’s term is coming to an end.

Councilwoman Witte reported that the Denville Board of Education had a ninety (90) minute presentation on NJ Sustainable Schools. She said that they are working on getting a Superintendent’s certification. Ms. Witte advised that the schools have been working on electrical energy sustainability but there are many other areas for them to explore. Ms. Witte noted that, due to the presentation given to the Council on the Fair Share Plan, she was able to clarify some incorrect information that had been given to some of the Board of Education members.

Councilwoman Witte reported that she was asked about water testing by the Board of Education and, after speaking with Administrator Ward on where and how the water is tested, she passed the information on to the Board. She said that this week, since the schools are closed, all sources of drinking water are being tested for lead in all of the Denville schools.

Councilman Gabel reported that he attended that last Library Board meeting and will defer to Mayor Andes with regard to the results of the Board’s search committee for a new Director. Mr. Gabel noted that he had the honor of nominating and introducing the Mayor’s Council for People with Challenges at the PRIDE Dinner last Friday evening as the Volunteer Group for 2016. He advised that the Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Thursday evening and he urged everyone to participate, in any way, in the Relay for Life to be held on June 4th and 5th.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

Mayor Andes reported that the PRIDE Dinner was a fabulous success. He noted that there were great and worthy award recipients: Melissa Cook, Bob Ott, Susan Banks and the Mayor’s Council for People with Challenges. The Mayor commented that the kids from the MCPC were “dressed to the nines”, well behaved and so happy and proud of themselves that it was a joy to see them.

Mayor Andes advised that he presented Former Mayor Gene Feyl with the key to the city for his many years of dedicated volunteerism to the Township of Denville and to the County.

The Mayor announced that the Library Board has selected, out of a pool of highly qualified candidates, Ms. Siobhan Koch who was formerly with the Lodi library to fill the position of Library Director. He said that Ms. Koch will start her new position at the end of the month. Mayor Andes advised that, after Ms. Koch has a chance to settle in, she will be invited to a Council meeting to meet everyone.

The Mayor noted that Saturday, April 9th is Rid Litter Day and the Land Use Bus Tour will be held on April 16th. Mayor Andes stated that he is delighted to inform the Council of this great piece of news. He gave a brief recap of the events leading up to the application to be considered for inclusion in the Army Corps of Engineers flood mitigation study project. The Mayor said that the news received today is that Denville has passed the first phase which means the Army Corps of Engineers will spend up to $100,000 on a feasibility study to take Denville to the next level. He added that the next level involves up to $10 million in Federal and State money for a flood study. The Mayor said that this will take time but we are in the pool. Mayor Andes commented that, because of the $50,000 that the Council allocated for Engineer Ruschke’s study, John Ruschke was able to provide the answers to all of the Army Corps of Engineers questions when they came to tour Denville.
ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:
Administrator Ward reported that the electric vehicle charging station went live last Friday. He proposed a ribbon-cutting ceremony for next Tuesday at 6:45 p.m., before the Council meeting. Mr. Ward noted that the Boy Scout who spearheaded the project and the Rotary Club that gave a generous donation towards the project are available for the event. Mr. Ward advised that there are only three (3) public charging stations within a twenty (20) mile radius of Denville. He added that an electric vehicle owner can log onto chargepoint.com and find a wealth of information, including the cost to use the station.

The Administrator reported that FEMA has preliminarily released firm flood maps. He said that we will be able to put a link to the maps up on our website as soon as it is provided to us. Mr. Ward noted that he has physical copies in his office that indicate the boundaries of those properties that require flood insurance. He added that the 500 year flood zone is now mapped out but homeowners in that zone, although there is a policy available, are not required to have flood insurance. Mr. Ward advised that, later this summer, public hearings will be held at which they will unveil the maps and answer questions from the general public. After the hearings, and any corrections or modifications that may be needed are made, the maps will be presented to each town. Mr. Ward added that, at some point after that, the towns will have to endorse and adopt the flood map. If the Township does not adopt the map, our residents will not be eligible for flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance program.

Administrator Ward reported that NJ Transit has put in a petition to the Dept. of Transportation to close the railroad crossing at Lackawanna Avenue. He said that a preliminary meeting is scheduled for Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. and representatives of our Police Dept., Administration and Engineering Dept. will attend. Mr. Ward stated that, after an on-site inspection, it was determined that it would be a detriment to the Township to have this crossing closed. He said that the Township will be fighting against this plan to close the Lackawanna Ave. crossing. In response to a question from President Golinski, Mr. Ward explained that the goal of NJ Transit is to eliminate as many at-grade crossings as possible for liability purposes.

Administrator Ward advised that there have been a couple of new hires. He said that at the end of last year a member of the clerical staff at DPW moved out of state and Mary Ann Cuneo, who has been with the Township for almost twenty (20) years, will be retiring on April 8th. He said that interviews were conducted for those two (2) positions and Jennifer Ciambrone, who was a part-time meter reader will fill the clerical position and Jane Garvey, a resident of Indian Lake, will fill Mary Ann Cuneo’s position. Councilman Kuser asked if Chief Wagner will be at the NJ Transit meeting on Thurs. Mr. Ward replied that the Chief is out of town but Captain Nigro will attend the meeting. He said that they expect to get a better handle on what the process is at that meeting. Mr. Ward added that Captain Nigro has pointed out many detrimental issues related to this plan. Mayor Andes interjected that he has spoken with both Assemblyman and Senator Bucco on this issue and expressed our opposition to the plan.

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

OPEN PUBLIC PORTION:
John Ogilby, 28 Joanne Dr., Unit 2-6, stated that he read the COAH proposal and agrees with it. He said that he thinks it is a great way to incorporate the low-income community into the fabric of our community. Mr. Ogilby noted that the train whistles are a quality of life issue on the south side of town but he realizes it would be very expensive to create a quiet zone. He suggested that the Township try to get a builder’s concession for quad gates at Station Rd. and Lackawanna Ave. Mr. Ogilby noted that he is glad that he came tonight and heard about the proposed closing of the Lackawanna Ave. crossing.
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Councilman Kuser commented that the quad gates are extremely expensive and it is something that NJ Transit would have to pay for, not the Township. Mr. Ogilby suggested converting Lackawanna Ave. and Station Road into one-way streets.

There was a brief discussion concerning quad gates and how they would eliminate train whistles.

President Golinski thanked Mr. Ogilby for bringing his ideas to the Council.

Attorney Jansen interjected that Mr. Ogilby’s first suggestion was a builder’s contribution/concession and pointed out that under the Municipal Land Use Law, it is extremely difficult to impose upon builders or developers costs associated with improving facilities that are already substandard. He said that you can only impose upon a developer their pro rata share of the additional burden that they are putting on an intersection or improvement.

CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

MATTERS OF OLD AND/OR NEW BUSINESS: None.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION:

#3-16

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:
An Ordinance of the Township of Denville, County of Morris, State of New Jersey to Amend Chapter II, Administration, Regarding the Division of Health

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

MOTION TO READ BY TITLE:

MOVED BY MEMBER MURPHY, SECONDED BY MEMBER WITTE

AYES: MURPHY, WITTE, GABEL, KUSER, LYDEN, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI
ABSENT: FITZPATRICK

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: No one wished to be heard.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:
An Ordinance of the Township of Denville, County of Morris, State of New Jersey to Amend Chapter II, Administration, Regarding the Division of Health

Be passed on Final Reading and that a Notice of Final Passage be Published in the 04/13/2016 edition of The Citizen newspaper.

MOTION TO ADOPT:

MOVED BY MEMBER WITTE, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN

AYES: WITTE, LYDEN, GABEL, KUSER, MURPHY, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI
ABSENT: FITZPATRICK

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

#4-16

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 $1,982,400 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of $1,488,000 Bonds and Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof
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Be Introduced and Read by Title on First Reading:  
MOTION TO INTRODUCE:  
MOVED BY MEMBER GABEL, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
Discussion:  Attorney Jansen asked, for the record, if CFO Guarino filed the Supplemental Debt Statement with the State for this ordinance. CFO Guarino replied that he had.
AYES:  GABEL, LYDEN, WITTE, KUSER, MURPHY, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI
ABSENT:  FITZPATRICK

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 $1,982,400 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of $1,488,000 Bonds and 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 05-03-2016 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 LYDEN, SECONDED BY MEMBER MURPHY
AYES:  LYDEN, MURPHY, GABEL, WITTE, KUSER, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI
ABSENT:  FITZPATRICK

#5-16
BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:

Ordinance Providing for Various Improvements or Purposes in the Sum of $172,000 from the General Capital Improvement Fund of the Township of Denville

Be Introduced and Read by Title on First Reading:
MOTION TO INTRODUCE:
MOVED BY MEMBER KUSER, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
Discussion:  None.
AYES:  KUSER, LYDEN, GABEL, WITTE, MURPHY, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI
ABSENT:  FITZPATRICK

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:

Ordinance Providing for Various Improvements or Purposes in the Sum of $172,000 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 05-03-2016 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.

MOTION TO PASS ON FIRST READING:

MOVED BY MEMBER WITTE, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
AYES: WITTE, LYDEN, GABEL, KUSER, MURPHY, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI
ABSENT: FITZPATRICK

#6-16

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:

Ordinance Providing for Various Improvements or Purposes in the Sum of $130,000 from the Open Space Trust Fund of the Township of Denville

Be Introduced and Read by Title on First Reading:

MOTION TO INTRODUCE:

MOVED BY MEMBER GABEL, SECONDED BY MEMBER MURPHY

Discussion: President Golinski noted that, if anyone is interested in what the funds will be used for, the details are listed in Section 2 of the ordinance.

AYES: GABEL, MURPHY, WITTE, KUSER, LYDEN, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI
ABSENT: FITZPATRICK

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled:

Ordinance Providing for Various Improvements or Purposes in the Sum of $130,000 from the Open Space Trust 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 05-03-2016 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.

MOTION TO PASS ON FIRST READING:

MOVED BY MEMBER GABEL, SECONDED BY MEMBER WITTE

AYES: GABEL, WITTE, KUSER, LYDEN, MURPHY, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI
ABSENT: FITZPATRICK
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

R-16-98: Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Money Due to the Redemption of Tax Sale
          Certificates Totaling $7,066.44 plus Premiums

R-16-99: Resolution Authorizing Raffle Licenses in the Township of Denville

R-16-100: Resolution Authorizing Reinstatement of the Original Sewer Assessment Installment
          Plan for Certain Properties in the Township of Denville

R-16-101: Resolution Requesting the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to
          Approve a “Dedication by Rider” for Contributions for the Beautification and Betterment
          of Denville

R-16-102: Resolution Requesting the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to
          Approve a “Dedication by Rider” for Contributions for Fire, First Aid and Police
          Equipment

R-16-103: Resolution Refunding 2016 Utility Overpayment

R-16-104: Resolution Granting Permission to Bid for Morris Knolls Tank Renovation and Painting

President Golinski asked if anyone from the public or the Council wishes to have anything removed from
the Consent Agenda.

Councilwoman Lyden said that, with regard to R-16-104, she recalls a discussion on whether to renovate
or replace the tank. Mr. Ward replied that it was evaluated and the cost of replacement was more than
anticipated.

President Golinski asked for clarification, in layman’s terms, of R-16-101 and R-16-102 concerning
“Dedication by Rider”. CFO Guarino explained that the “Dedication by Rider” has been established by
the Division of Local Government Services to reserve non-tax money and allows the Township to collect
and disburse the funds without budgetary constraints. He said that those funds coming in via donations
for set purposes can be distributed as long as the Division knows that they exist.

President Golinski asked for examples of what the funds might be. CFO Guarino replied that there are
donations for benches and park upkeep and that type of thing. Mr. Jansen added that a couple of
bequests were received last year and the Council requested permission to employ this mechanism.

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA:

MOVED BY MEMBER KUSER, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN

AYES: KUSER, LYDEN, GABEL, WITTE, MURPHY, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI

ABSENT: FITZPATRICK

NON-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS:

R-16-105: Resolution Authorizing Agreement for Professional Engineering Services

MOTION TO APPROVE R-16-105:

MOVED BY MEMBER WITTE, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN

AYES: WITTE, LYDEN, GABEL, KUSER, MURPHY, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI

ABSENT: FITZPATRICK

R-16-106: Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Money Due to the Redemption of Tax Sale
          Certificates Totaling $24,362.98 plus Premiums

MOTION TO APPROVE R-16-106:

MOVED BY MEMBER WITTE, SECONDED BY MEMBER KUSER

AYES: WITTE, KUSER, GABEL, LYDEN, MURPHY, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI
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ABSENT: FITZPATRICK

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF 3/15/16 AND 3/22/16:
MOVED BY MEMBER MURPHY, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
AYES: MURPHY, LYDEN, GABEL, WITTE, KUSER, PRESIDENT GOLINSKI
ABSENT: FITZPATRICK

MOTION TO ADJOURN:
MOVED BY MEMBER WITTE, SECONDED BY MEMBER GABEL
AYES: UNANIMOUS
ABSENT: FITZPATRICK

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen A. Costello
Deputy Municipal Clerk
Proclamation

WHEREAS, autism is a pervasive developmental disorder affecting the social, communication and behavioral skills of those affected by it; and

WHEREAS, as more health professionals become proficient in diagnosing autism, more children are being diagnosed on the autism spectrum, resulting in rates as high as 1 in 68 children nationally and 1 in 45 in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, while there is no cure for autism, it is well-documented that if individuals with autism receive treatment early in their lives, it often is possible for those individuals to lead significantly improved lives; and,

WHEREAS, individuals with autism often require a lifetime of specialized and community support services to ensure their health and safety and to support families' resilience as they manage the psychological and financial burdens autism presents; and

WHEREAS, Autism New Jersey, is spearheading an awareness, acceptance, and inclusion effort in order to educate parents, professionals and the general public about autism and its effects; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor Thomas W. Andes, do hereby proclaim April 2016 as NATIONAL AUTISM AND ACCEPTANCE AWARENESS MONTH, in Denville, and urge all employees and residents to participate in National Autism Awareness Month activities, in order to become better educated on the subject of autism spectrum disorders.

Mayor Thomas W. Andes  April 5, 2016