The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Fitzpatrick. The Salute to the Flag was recited, followed by the reading of the Open Public Meetings Act Statement by Deputy Clerk Kathy Costello.

ROLL CALL: GABEL (arrived at 7:15), GOLINSKI, KUSER, LYDEN, SCOLLANS, SMITH, FITZPATRICK

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: MAYOR ANDES, ADMINISTRATOR WARD, TOWNSHIP ENGINEER JOHN RUSCHKE AND ENGINEER LEO COAKLEY OF HATCH MOTT MAC DONALD

OPEN PUBLIC PORTION: President Fitzpatrick invited the public to come forward to discuss any subject, other than Flood Mitigation, since there will be two (2) public portions later in this meeting on flooding issues. No one wished to be heard. CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

President Fitzpatrick asked Mayor Andes if he would like to make a few comments before the beginning of the presentation.

Mayor Andes spoke about the creation of the Advisory Committee on Rivers and Streams. He said that Committee is working very hard and is the driving force towards bringing us to this meeting tonight. The Mayor related how he approached our State Legislators in an attempt to encourage them to get legislation passed for a Regional Dam Release Program. He said that such a bill went to the Assembly and the Senate and is in committee. Mayor Andes advised that he calls both Senator Bucco and Assemblyman Bucco on a regular basis to remind them to give this legislation a nudge.

Mayor Andes noted that a Mayors' Coalition for De-snagging the River was formed. He explained that all of the Mayors on the Rockaway River upstream of the Reservoir got together and started planning a de-snagging program for each section of the Rockaway. The Mayor stated that, in August, all of the DPW's from these towns got together to de-snag the whole stretch of the Rockaway. He added that, before that clean-up, our own DPW, along with members of the Rivers & Streams Committee and a large number of volunteers, held a four-day clean-up of the Rockaway River in Denville. The Mayor reported that gaskets for the sanitary sewers have been purchased and they have been installed in the downtown area to try and prevent storm water from backing up into the sanitary sewers and therefore, into people’s homes. Mayor Andes advised that a letter was sent to the residents to educate them about sump pumps. He said that it is illegal to have a sump pump hooked into the sanitary sewer system.

The Mayor noted that the Council funded a Flood Mitigation Study in last year’s budget and that is the presentation that we will hear tonight. He said that it is a game plan that
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will take a long time and cost a lot of money, but it is a start. Mayor Andes added that, if we get enough rain, Denville will flood.
The Mayor advised that he does have another meeting that he must attend tonight so he will have to slip out for a half hour or so. He said that he has seen the presentation and will be back as soon as possible.

Administrator Ward noted that this meeting was originally advertised as a budget workshop meeting. He said that the intent was to incorporate the Flood Mitigation Study into the budget meeting but, after seeing a preview of the presentation, they realized that it was important enough to warrant its own meeting. He added that there will be a brief discussion at the end of the meeting regarding some of the recommendations made by the Engineers. Mr. Ward stated that the budget books were put together today and are available to the Council after the meeting. He noted that the next budget meeting is on February 7th and another budget meeting will be held on February 11th.

President Fitzpatrick commented on the accomplishments of this past year and the work of the Rivers and Streams Committee and the Mayors’ Coalition. He added that this study, which is at the Denville level, has not been done before. Mr. Fitzpatrick pointed out that the Mayor and Administrator should be commended for the work they have done on the FEMA buyout program, which was a great accomplishment.
The Mayor interjected that of the 11 houses that are being acquired we have closed on 6. He said that questions have been asked about what the Township will do with the property. The Mayor explained that the Township is working with Rutgers University and is planning a riparian buffer and a rain garden. He further explained that a rain garden recharges the water into the soil and keeps it out of the river and the buffer will create some deterrent for the river to flood over. The Mayor said that it may help to keep the water out of someone’s house. He added that some of the houses will be torn down by the end of February.

President Fitzpatrick explained that the larger part of the presentation concerns what has happened to date. He said that there may be some questions after that part of the presentation, so he will open it up to the public before going on to the solutions part of the program. He said that he would like to keep it moving along in order to leave ample time for questions regarding solutions.

Engineer John Ruschke suggested that the Council members take seats in the audience in order to be able to watch the Power Point presentation. President Fitzpatrick noted that the presentation will be posted on the web site and the audio will be put into a movie with the slide show. He said that anyone who has something to say to be sure to speak into the microphone to that everything is captured.

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Mr. Ruschke advised that the presentation will be made by himself as Township Engineer as well as Leo Coakley, PE, PP, who will discuss some of the past reports. He said that Mr. Coakley has devoted most of his career to storm water management and flood control and has a little over 48 years experience.

Mr. Ruschke noted that the topics that will be discussed in detail are:

1. Hurricane Irene in Perspective
   Rainfall and flood frequency
2. Flood Maps and Updates
3. Prior Mapping and Reports
4. Denville Center - Concepts

Mr. Ruschke began the Power Point presentation (a copy of which is attached to these minutes.).

Councilman Gabel arrived at 7:15 p.m.
Mayor Andes left at 7:25 p.m.
Mayor Andes returned at 7:45 p.m.

President Fitzpatrick called for a five-minute break after which questions from the public will be entertained.
The break began at 8:27 p.m.
The meeting resumed at 8:36 p.m.

President Fitzpatrick thanked Mr. Ruschke and Mr. Coakley for the first part of the presentation and said that he looks forward to next part. He said that he is sure there are some questions from the public and asked that they keep the questions brief, in order to have time for the Denville portion of the program.

OPEN PUBLIC PORTION:

The following residents asked question and had comments and suggestions for the presenters:
Frank Burdynski, 13 Edgewood Rd.
Charles J. Fisher, 12 Orange Trail
Franz Fuertges, 109 Ford Rd.

Mr. Ruschke and Mayor Andes addressed the questions and provided explanations to the residents.

The Council members then asked question of Mr. Ruschke and Mr. Coakley. The Council also made some suggestions and commented on some of the proposals that were made.

Following the second half of the Power Point presentation, President Fitzpatrick again Township Council
opened the floor to the public for comments and questions.  

The following residents had questions and comments with regard to the proposals that were presented by Mr. Ruschke:

Ed King, 51 Snyder Ave.  
Tony Mollegard, 38 Snyder Ave.  
Colleen O’Dell, 13 Edgewood Rd.  
Scott Reid, 64 Hinchman Ave.  
John Walker, 44 Riverside Dr.  
Mark Forand, 16 Gardner Rd.  
Charlie Weldon, 40 Lenape Trail

Answers and explanations were provided for all questions and suggestions from these residents.

The Council then had an opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Ruschke and Mr. Coakley. The questions concerned much of what was presented in the Power Point presentation and Mr. Ruschke and Mr. Coakley responded in detail.

In response to a question from Mr. Golinski about any concrete recommendations from Mr. Ruschke and Mr. Coakley, Mr. Ruschke replied that the recommendation is to do additional engineering studies to quantify the concepts put forth in the presentation.

Mayor Andes noted that the items he will now mention are for future discussion. He advised that Administration will be seeking the following in this year’s capital budget:

- Removal of the piers near the La Cucina Restaurant $50,000.00
- Two (2) flood gates 60,000.00
- Phase II of Mitigation Study 25,000.00

Councilman Golinski asked where the flood gates would be. Mr. Ruschke replied that one would be where the water drains from Hinchman and Corey and the other where the water drains from the Bloomfield Municipal Parking Lot.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: MOVED BY MEMBER GOLINSKI, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN

AYES: UNANIMOUS

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen A. Costello  
Deputy Township Clerk