The Meeting was called to order by President Fitzpatrick at 7:32 p.m. The Salute to the Flag was recited, followed by an Invocation given by Councilman Golinski. The Open Public Meetings Act Statement was read by Township Clerk Donna Costello.

ROLL CALL: KUSER, GABEL, GOLINSKI, LYDEN, SCOLLANS, SMITH, FITZPARTICK

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: MAYOR ANDES, ADMINISTRATOR WARD, TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY JANSEN AND CFO GUARINO

President Fitzpatrick noted that tonight’s agenda is relatively light so there will be time to discuss the budget after the meeting’s business is concluded.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Councilman Gabel reported that he met with the Recreation Committee as liaison for the first time. He said they had a reorganization meeting in January and elected Lene Jennings and Don Casse as Co-Chairs of the Committee. Mr. Gabel noted that dates for the Senior Socials will be announced shortly and the Baseball Parade will be held on April 12th on Broadway.

Councilman Gabel advised that he met for the first time with the Local Assistance Board and they have set several dates already for their events during the year.

Councilman Gabel added that he is looking forward to working with the Morris Hills Regional School Board as well.

Councilman Kuser advised that he was selected, and approved by the Freeholders, to sit on the Morris County Open Space Committee. Mr. Kuser noted that the Green Sustainability Committee will sponsor their annual Green Fair on April 26th. He added that Councilman Gabel will be doing an article on the Green Sustainability Committee in the June 1st issue of Denville Life.

Councilwoman Smith reported that she, Mayor Andes and Councilwoman Lyden attended a Library dinner honoring Al Atkinson for 30 years of service on the Library Board. She extended her congratulations to Mr. Atkinson for thirty years of excellent service to the Library and to Denville.

Councilwoman Lyden reported that she attended the first meeting of the Denville Board of Education in January. She said that there was a “meet and greet” with the new Superintendent and it seems that there will be a very smooth transition.

Councilman Golinski advised that he attended the Planning Board Meeting and the main topic was the Estling Lake Village. He said that there was an error in the public notice, one number was incorrect, so the meeting had to be rescheduled to March 1st.

Councilman Scollans reported that he attended the Rockaway River Watershed meeting and they will be planning a presentation to the Council some time next month.

Mr. Scollans advised that at the Deer Committee Meeting it was reported that a total of 53 deer have been harvested.

Township Council
Councilman Scollans noted that the Community Development Grant applications have been submitted. He said that the St. Patrick’s Day Parade will be held on March 15th. President Fitzpatrick asked Mr. Scollans to have the Rockaway River Watershed Committee reach out to him about their presentation because the March workshop is already pretty full. President Fitzpatrick reported that the Rivers and Streams Committee is doing very well and has acquired some new members. He said that this year’s river cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 17th.

MAYOR’S REPORT:
Mayor Andes commented that he believes the date that Councilman Gabel gave for the Little League Parade is actually the date for the Rid Litter Day and the Parade is two weeks later. He asked that the dates not be published until they can be confirmed. The Mayor stated that this has been the snowiest winter in history for northern New Jersey and our DPW has done a splendid job dealing with it, even with the scarcity of salt. Mayor Andes advised that a Nixle alert was sent out asking residents to clear fire hydrants and catch basins. Councilwoman Smith interjected that residents also received a notice from the Post Office requesting that mailboxes be cleared. Mayor Andes asked for the Council's Advice and Consent on the appointment of Gino Lolacono to the Recreation Committee and Bob Plumb to the Mayor’s River and Streams Advisory Committee.

MOTION TO GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF GINO LOLACONO AND BOB PLUMB: MOVED BY MEMBER KUSER, SECONDED BY MEMBER SMITH
AYES: KUSER, SMITH, GABEL, LYDEN, GOLINSKI, SCOLLANS, FITZPATRICK

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:
Administrator Ward noted that he provided the Council with updated capital budget sheets that contained a couple of items that had been discussed previously, as well as a couple of new items. He said that one item is the addition of five (5) ice rescue suits at a cost of $3,000 per suit to replace the existing suits. Mr. Ward advised that one of the current suits leaked during a training exercise. The Administrator reported that the very difficult winter conditions have claimed two (2) additional DPW vehicles, resulting in a request for two additional trucks and three plows above the previous DPW capital requests. He added that there were also four (4) transmissions that had to be replaced. Mr. Ward reiterated the Mayor’s praise of the work that has been done by the DPW during these snow storms. He said that snow guidelines have been posted on the web site along with a request that the public exercise extreme caution. Mayor Andes advised that John Egbert has a crew working midnights to take care of the real problem areas. He said that eight workers have volunteered to work the night
shift for a week, doing snow removal.

Administrator Ward noted that several weeks ago $100,000 was transferred into the snow reserve account. He commented that it has kept us in a fairly good position and we still have, at this point, a reasonable balance in the snow reserve of about $107,000. Mr. Ward noted that, if we continue to get storms that drop 16 - 18 inches of snow, he would caution the Council that the Salary and Wage budget may need to be adjusted.

Administrator Ward advised that there is one more house to be demolished on Riverside Drive. He said that there were asbestos shingles on it and they have been removed and the demolition contractor has been given a Notice to Proceed. Mr. Ward noted that the contractor will also remove the fencing and debris from the site.

The Administrator advised that he will be making a presentation of our grant application for a generator for the Library to the Morris County Community Development Board on Tuesday, March 4th at 6:30 p.m. He added that he may be a little late for the Council meeting that night.

President Fitzpatrick commented that, the last he heard, the Township is awaiting word from Rutgers regarding revised plans for the rain garden. He asked if Administration has heard anything. The Mayor replied that nothing has been heard as yet.

Mayor Andes interjected that he checked his e-mail and the Little League Parade is April 26th and the Green Fair is April 12th.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: All copied to Council.

MATTERS OF OLD AND/OR NEW BUSINESS:
Councilman Gabel commented that it is always good when the town is highlighted in various publications so that the residents can better understand the workings of the Township. Mr. Gabel noted that he has written some articles for Denville Life and advised that the following articles have been or will be printed, highlighting various aspects of the Township’s daily routines:

- February: Town Hall
- March: Animal Control
- April: Mayor’s Council for People With Challenges
- May: Beautification Committee
- June: Green Sustainability

Councilman Scollans asked if anyone on the Council or the Mayor or Administrator has any information regarding the proposed development of the former Warner Lambert property on Route 53. No one had any specific information. The property is located in
President Fitzpatrick asked if anyone from the Council or the public wished to have anything removed from the Consent Agenda. No one responded.

CONSENT AGENDA:

R-14-46 RESOLUTION RATIFYING THOMAS M. ANDES AS THE TOWNSHIP OF DENVILLE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ROCKAWAY VALLEY REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY (R.V.R.S.A.)

R-14-47 RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF DENVILLE AUTHORIZING ENDORSEMENT OF TREATMENT WORKS APPROVAL APPLICATION FOR DENVILLE FOREST TRAIL PUMP STATION

R-14-48 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF MONEY DUE TO THE REDEMPTION OF A TAX SALE CERTIFICATE IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,021.54

R-14-49 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF MONEY DUE TO THE REDEMPTION OF A TAX SALE CERTIFICATE IN THE AMOUNT OF $533.08

R-14-50 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REINSTATEMENT OF THE ORIGINAL SEWER ASSESSMENT INSTALLMENT PLAN FOR CERTAIN PROPERTIES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF DENVILLE

R-14-51 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RAFFLE LICENSES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF DENVILLE

R-14-52 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL ONE DAY ABC LIQUOR LICENSE

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

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF 1-28-14: MOVED BY MEMBER SMITH, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYDEN
AYES: SMITH, LYDEN, GABEL, KUSER, GOLINSKI, SCOLLANS, FITZPATRICK

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

GENERAL DISCUSSION
MUNICIPAL BUDGET

President Fitzpatrick recapped the previous budget discussions and noted that through various recommendations from Administration, subject to the approval of the Council, the tax impact can be reduced from approximately $120 per average homeowner to
approximately $92 per homeowner. Administrator Ward noted that there seemed to have been a consensus of the Council for three of the four recommendations made by the Mayor and Administrator at the last meeting, with a 50/50 opinion on the fourth. He said that if all four of the recommendations were acted upon it would bring the tax impact down to $90.17. Mr. Ward added that if everything except the hiring of a replacement police officer were to be implemented, it would be $93.50.

President Fitzpatrick noted that his own feeling is that the Council should try to decrease the budget as much as possible. However, he added that, if there are cuts to be made, the Council must come up with concrete suggestions. President Fitzpatrick stated that if everyone is fine with the $93.50 tax impact then they will accept the budget as it is.

Administrator Ward stated that the main challenge that the Township faces this year with respect to the municipal budget is the $32.7 million loss in ratables. He said that before even discussing the budget $25.05 is accounted for by the loss in the ratable base. Mr. Ward noted that, although a settlement has not yet been agreed upon, we must prepare for the possibility of having to refund three years of back taxes for the tax appeal of our largest taxpayer. He said that the estimated tax payback is $2.0 million which we hope to structure over a two year period. Mr. Ward explained that, although we have a reserve for tax appeals account containing $1.15 million, we have to set aside an additional $500,000 for the tax appeal which amounts to another $69 increase in the tax impact. He noted that those two items amount to a $95 increase.

Administrator Ward advised that all of the department operating budgets combined have decreased by almost $19,000. He noted that we are at historic lows with regard to our increases in salaries and wages, all well under an aggregate 2% cap.

Mr. Ward commented that, with the revisions that were discussed last week, the actual impact of the local municipal budget decreases.

President Fitzpatrick noted that for every dollar they want to cut from the projected tax increase, they must cut $7,224.00 from the budget.

President Fitzpatrick polled the Council with regard to their opinions on the budget as it stands now. He noted that his position right now is that he wants to look for more cuts, if possible.

Councilman Scollans commented that the Mayor, Administrator and CFO have done an outstanding job with the budget. Mr. Scollans recommended reductions in the Street & Roads budget amounting to $51,000 and $15,000 in the Police Dispatch budget. He noted that he does not agree with moving the revaluation charge to 2015 and 2016. Mr. Scollans stated that he also does not agree with using more FEMA money this year than was previously planned. He said that the proposal regarding the Police Department is a win-win situation and he agrees with it.
Councilwoman Smith asked Mr. Scollans what his rationale is for cutting the dispatch budget. Mr. Scollans replied that during hard times, one has to make hard decisions. Administrator Ward explained that part-time dispatchers are used to cover the desk when full-time employees are on vacation. He said that prevents the necessity of having a police officer on the desk, being paid overtime, which would be considerably more than the $7,500 that Mr. Scollans is suggesting be cut from that budget. There was a lengthy discussion concerning overtime in various areas of the work force. President Fitzpatrick noted that even if the suggestions that Mr. Scollans has put forward were incorporated, the tax impact would only be reduced by $9. CFO Guarino cautioned the Council that, if they keep cutting, the surplus will fall like a rock in two years.

Councilman Golinski asked about the Planner fee increasing from $25,000 to $45,000. He asked if that has to do with the Master Plan revision. Administrator Ward explained that part of that difference is made up by a reduction in the engineering budget and part is due to Master Plan funding. Mr. Golinski had additional questions regarding the increased cost of contractual services under Building and Grounds. He noted a large increase over the last two years. Mr. Ward explained that the line item in question covers the maintenance of every Township facility. He said that the line item was augmented a bit to be sure there will be enough money to complete all of the projects at hand.

Councilman Golinski stated that he supports the recommendations given at the last meeting, with the caveat that the police hire coincide with the Academy graduation. Councilwoman Lyden stated that she accepts the four recommendations that were given last week. She said that a $30 reduction is significant, a lot easier for the taxpayer to swallow and shows them that we have done our due diligence without cutting services. Mrs. Lyden asked if it is mandatory to replace the retiring police officer. Administrator Ward replied that there is nothing contractual regarding replacing a retiring officer. He noted that the retiring officer is a ranking officer and, as such, commands a shift and he would be replaced by the senior patrolman on that shift, who would receive a shift differential. Mrs. Lyden asked if, by not replacing the retiring officer, we would not save $120,000. Mr. Ward replied that it could result in being short-staffed on some shifts, due to vacation, sick leave, etc.

Mrs. Lyden suggested that lesser traveled roads be deferred for paving for another year, for a savings of $66,000. She was informed that the roads are a bonded item and do not affect the general budget. Councilwoman Smith expressed concern over the potholes caused by the snow storms and asked if the extra costs to repair them have been considered in this budget. The Administrator replied that the Streets and Roads budget has been increased by $5,000 to cover that type of eventuality.

Mrs. Smith noted that she is fine with three of the recommendations but would like the time frame for hiring the police officer to be flexible.

Mr. Ward advised that the Chief teaches classes at the Academy and can keep his eye
Mrs. Smith said that, as long as the Chief is comfortable and it is not going to kick into overtime significantly by holding off on hiring an officer, she is comfortable with the proposals that have been made.

Councilman Kuser stated that, in his view, we are decreasing the tax impact of the municipal budget by $23.00, and the increase that we are looking at is out of our control. He commented that some of the suggestions that have been made amount to cutting services. Councilman Kuser noted that he is in favor of the recommendations made at last week’s meeting and agrees with Mr. Golinski that the hiring of a replacement officer should be up to the Police Chief. He said that he is also in favor of replacing the vehicles that are needed in DPW. Mr. Kuser advised that he is happy with the budget and thinks the Administrator, Mayor and CFO have done a great job.

Administrator Ward noted that the two police hiring options that were presented last week were as follows: one provides for a January 1st hire and the other provides for a July 1st hire. He said that, if we go for an October 1st hire, it would give the Chief a little more flexibility, in the event that a candidate became available mid-year. Mr. Ward noted that the October 1st date may bring consensus among those members who are hesitant about the hiring dates.

President Fitzpatrick took a consensus on whether the Council member would:

- Hire immediately
- Defer to Oct.
- Hire in Jan.

| Scollans | X |
| Golinski | defer to recommendation of Administration and Police Chief | X |
| Lyden | X |
| Fitzpatrick | X |
| Smith | base the decision upon what the Chief is most comfortable with. |
| Kuser | already answered, hire immediately |
| Gabel | Or | X |

Councilman Gabel commented on the budget saying that he agrees with much of what Councilman Kuser stated. He said that he concurs with all four of Administration’s recommendations. Mr. Gabel noted that it is a very responsible budget.

Councilman Gabel suggested that the Township look to acquiring sponsorship of some events and celebrations in order to lower the $20,000 proposed in the budget. The Mayor explained that the funds for fireworks and bands must be certified in advance but any money not used from that budget, goes into surplus.

Mr. Gabel’s second suggestion was with regard to new street lights. He noted that the budget for lighting went from $140,000 to $175,000 and asked if that could be looked at as well.

Councilman Golinski suggested taking a look at reducing the fuel budget.

A discussion followed concerning the fuel budget and the snow budget and the possibility of decreasing the fuel budget in order to increase the snow budget.

President Fitzpatrick noted that he is always looking to reduce the tax impact but, having gone over this budget carefully, he does not see any "big ticket" items that could
be reduced to accomplish that.
There was an extended discussion regarding the state of the municipal budget and the
issues that are beyond the Township’s control that are the cause of the increase in the
tax impact.
Administrator Ward listed several positive items that may happen next year and would
help to regenerate our fund balance.

President Fitzpatrick commented that he believes this discussion has given
Administration a good sense of where the Council stands on the budget.
President Fitzpatrick polled the Council on the need for another budget workshop.
Gabel - not necessary.
Kuser - at peace with this budget.
Smith - at peace with this budget.
Fitzpatrick - the Council meets on 3/4 and 3/11, in the event more discussion is needed.
Lyden - good with this budget.
Golinski - only possible discussion he would have would be whether any money would
be taken out of street lighting or the gas/diesel budgets
President Fitzpatrick noted that a fifteen minute discussion on the budget could be held
at the regular Council meetings if necessary so he is leaning towards not having the
March 6th budget meeting.
Scollans - not sure another meeting would change anything. President Fitzpatrick asked
if there is a time frame to give notice of cancelling the meeting of March 6th.
Attorney Jansen noted that notice relative to the cancellation of a meeting is a courtesy.
There is no legal notice requirement for a cancellation. He said that it can be done at
the last minute by posting a notice on the door and notifying people who regularly attend
the meetings.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kathleen A. Costello
Deputy Township Clerk