

# **HAINESPORT TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**July 12, 2016  
7:30 P.M.**

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of July 12, 2016 was included in a meeting notice sent to the Burlington County Times and Courier Post On January 11, 2016 and January 14, 2016 and advertised in said newspapers on January 13, 2016 and January 19, 2016 respectively, posted on the bulletin board in the municipal building on January 19, 2016 and has remained continuously posted as required under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – by Mayor Dickinson at 7:30 P.M.
2. **FLAG SALUTE**
3. **ROLL CALL** - present were Committeeman Boettcher, Committeeman MacLachlan, Committeeman Fitzpatrick, Deputy Mayor Porto and Mayor Dickinson. Also present were Administrator/Clerk Leo F. Selb, Jr. and Solicitor Theodore Costa.
4. **MINUTES**

**A. APPROVAL OF REGULAR COMMITTEE MINUTES OF June 14, 2016**

**B. APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF June 14, 2016**

**MOTION: COMMITTEEMAN BOETTCHER. SECOND:  
COMMITTEEMAN FITZPATRICK. ALL YES.**

## **5. REPORTS**

- A. **Tax Collector** – June, 2016, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Ending June, 2016
- B. **Code Enforcement** – June, 2016
- C. **Fire Official** – June, 2016
- D. **Construction** – June, 2016

**Motion to approve the reports and to spread the Tax Collector's report across the minutes: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. Second: Deputy Mayor Porto. All yes.**

## **6. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION**

### **A. NJSP Report**

**State Trooper Storm Colleton** gave a report on some of the various events that occurred during the month of June. He also introduced Sgt. Cassiano and Lt. Michael Ambrosia to the audience. Mayor Dickinson gave a special thanks to the State Troopers for a protest that was held Sunday. The New Jersey State Police and the Lumberton Police were out in force to maintain the crowd. They had great control on everything and kept it calm.

## **7. ORDINANCE**

- A. ORDINANCE 2016-9-6** – An Ordinance Amending the Code of the Township of Hainesport, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey Eliminating Healthcare Benefits for Members of the Governing Body retiring or Ending Service (**Public Hearing and Final Adoption**)

**Motion to open the floor to the public: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. Second: Deputy Mayor Porto. All yes.**

**Anna Evans, 63 Parry Drive** – said she was at the last meeting in June and she believes the public made it very clear that they are not happy with this ordinance. She also said 2 of the committee members voted against the ordinance. She went on to say that she thought it is the duty of the elected officials to take notice of what the public says.

**Roger Schneider, 611 Broad Street** – said the decision to force out Mr. Boettcher seems to him that it is very arbitrary and asked if the committee had any reasons as to why it is being done. Mayor Dickinson said it is a step in the direction to end health benefits. Mr. Schneider said it seems kind of arbitrary to do this in July. He thinks Mr. Boettcher should be able to finish his time on the committee. It doesn't seem fair. Deputy Mayor Porto said the ordinance is proposed for all the committee members; it is not directed at anyone in particular. Mr. Schneider asked about the 26 hours that the committee members have to do each week. He was informed that the comments right now should be about the ordinance that is being talked about, not any other subjects. Mr. Schneider said he would be back then.

**Kathy Parker, 1819 Creek Road** – said corruption in government goes from the top, with presidencies all the way down to municipal government; we've seen governors, we've seen municipal people right here in our town rob our town.

Now the committee turns around and take the benefits from Mr. Boettcher who could retire at the end of the year. This board wants to take him and force him into retirement so that he can keep his benefits. Ms. Parker's question to the committee is "why?" Before they answered, she said she would tell them the answer. She said they want Mr. Boettcher out so they can put someone else in that believes the same way that most of them do. That would give them what is called a "super majority vote" which can be used for budgets and also for getting rid of certain personnel. It's been noted and heard around town that the committee wants to get rid of the municipal clerk. Why? Because he doesn't play ball with certain politicians? He only plays ball across the board with all politicians. That he's equal and fair with anyone that walks through the door? He doesn't take sides. With Leo Selb out, which opens the door for a municipal clerk that some of the committee might want to be one of the good ole boys in town and have a job. It keeps you closer to home. She went on to say that they should think about what they are doing, they are blackmailing, they are the ones that should be arrested for blackmailing someone who has sat on the committee that has given his whole life to the honestly to the township. More so than anyone else sitting on the committee.

**Deborah Plaia, 50 Bancroft Lane** – said she is an attorney and is not representing anyone. Mr. Costa explained to her that she cannot speak about anything else but the topic at hand, which is the ordinance at hand. Ms. Plaia said she is going to speak about that. She said all the members of the committee were a client of the attorney when the 2 members of the committee met with the attorney. It wasn't just the 2 members who were the client, but all 5 of them were. Mr. Costa then said that he thinks Ms. Plaia was getting off the topic of the ordinance and said that if the committee wants to allow her to continue that is up to them. Mayor Dickinson said he thinks she is getting off the topic. She said she reserves the right to bring up the subject at a later time.

**Barbara Johnson, 11 Maple Lane** – said she moved into this town 12 years ago because of the way the governing body operated. She was proud to be a member of Hainesport Township. She serves as a volunteer to the fire department and does other things for the township. She will continue to do those things for the township, however, this ordinance taking away medical benefits from someone who has devoted 30 plus years to this township is reprehensible. The only way she could see the committee doing that is if every one of them gave up their benefits as well.

**Peter Ruble, 2525 Creek Road** – asked who originated the ordinance; in other words, who is the one that brought up the thought of doing this ordinance? Mr. Costa said he had to object to this line of questioning. Mr. Ruble is going further than is allowed on the ordinance. He can make his comments but that is all. Mr. Ruble went on to ask Deputy Mayor Porto and Committeeman Fitzpatrick to speak into the microphones, don't talk a foot back from the mikes because they can't hear what is being said.

**Christy Curry, 1307 Tasker Avenue** – said she thinks the committee is taking a step in the right direction with the benefits, however, she sees no reason why the ordinance couldn't have gone into effect at the end of this term. She thinks it would benefit all of them in the next election. She said it would definitely show some respect for this gentleman who has done a lot for this community.

**Ray Storck, 2217 Spruce Avenue** – has lived in this township for 39 years, Mr. Boettcher was on the board of zoning adjustments when Mr. Storck came on. Mr. Boettcher has been active in this community for 40 or 50 years and he thinks it is ludicrous to have a man of Mr. Boettcher's stature be directed toward this ordinance and have him get the fallout from this. He said if they are going to eliminate health benefits, which he thinks they should do, it should be done totally. Mr. Storck said all the committee should forgo the benefits. He thinks it is horrible; he served on the township committee and never, ever, would have imagined taking benefits, which is really screwing the tax payers of this township. He said he thinks the committee is going to have a real fight on their hands if they pass this ordinance and they don't eliminate the benefits for themselves.

**Mark Murdy, 2614 Creek Road** – said that on the subject that is being discussed, he thinks the committee went a little bit overboard. Where the ordinance says that eliminates the health care benefits for members of the governing body it should end there and not go on to say "retiring or ending service". So they went over, they put too many words in there. In order for this to be voted on it would seem to him that somebody had to come up with the idea in the first place and since nobody did, it's really a non-starter and shouldn't be up here because nobody knows who came up with it. Second of all, like the constitution, when they created the problem with people drinking and they said no you can't do this anymore, they made a law that says you can't drink. In order to change that law, they had to put a new law in that says it's ok to drink now. Mr. Murdy said he doesn't see the old law that says the committee could have the benefits in the first place, so they are amending something that wasn't here by somebody who doesn't know who started it for people who are paying for it out the wazoo while the committee members are enjoying all the benefits.

**Pat Macken, 116 Masons Woods Lane** – said they all agree that Mr. Boettcher has done a great job for the township. She said she agrees with what Mr. Murdy said; that the ordinance should be applying to all of the committee members. The ordinance did go too far. It shouldn't be for retirees or anything else, it should be for all of them. Mayor Dickinson said it actually does apply to all of them. Ms. Macken said she hopes they won't be here long enough to retire.

**Committeeman MacLachlan** asked the other members of the committee who the author of the ordinance is and it was said by Mr. Costa that there is a special labor attorney involved and that answers the question. Mr. MacLachlan asked Mr. Costa if that represents that our labor attorney wrote this ordinance. Mr. Costa said it is his understanding that the labor attorney drafted the ordinance. Mr. MacLachlan then asked if it is the same attorney who piled up almost \$7,000

worth of bills to save. Mrs. Boettcher's health benefits from here to the end of the year are just about as much as we paid the labor attorney to eliminate, so we saved absolutely no money in going to a labor attorney and spending almost \$7,000 to save almost \$7,000 for Mrs. Boettcher's health benefits to force Mr. Boettcher to get out. He said it doesn't make sense to him. Committeeman Fitzpatrick said to Committeeman MacLachlan that he is absolutely wrong because that was not the only thing discussed with the labor attorney, so maybe if he had his facts straight he would understand that there were other things involved. Mr. MacLachlan said if the committee wouldn't block certain members of the committee from knowing what is going on they would know. He then started to ask Mr. Selb a question and Mr. Fitzpatrick said if Mr. MacLachlan would stay around a little longer and popped in every once in a while and had a conversation with them he would hear. He really doesn't know what he is talking about. Mr. MacLachlan asked Mr. Selb if the situation has been run by the state health benefits administrator to find out if it's a legal ordinance or not; do they have an opinion from the state? Mr. Selb said he does not have an opinion from them but he is not the health benefits administrator, Dawn Emmons is. Mayor Dickinson said there is a legal opinion from our attorney. Mr. MacLachlan said he could put a pile of money and put it in front of any attorney and ask them what to say. He said this has not been tried and tested as a legal ordinance because it has not passed the "litmus" test of the state health benefits administrator who is the one who should decide if this is a legal ordinance. It should be shelved until such a determination is made. Mayor Dickinson asked Mr. Costa what his opinion is and was told that Mr. Costa is relying on the labor attorney. He said he did read the correspondence between Mr. MacLachlan and the labor attorney and it is his understanding that the labor attorney believes that this type of ordinance applies to all employees, it is not singling anyone out specifically, although the affect may be otherwise. Under those circumstances, he cannot say it discriminates against anyone. He shares that opinion.

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Porto. Second: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. Mayor Dickinson yes. All others no.**

**Committeeman MacLachlan** asked to make a motion to amend the agenda for the introduction of an ordinance. Committeeman Boettcher seconded the motion. Mr. MacLachlan said he would like to have the ordinance passed out and give him the opportunity to talk for 10 minutes under Roberts Rules. Mr. Costa said the gentleman is correct, he is allowed make a comment. Mr. MacLachlan said now that the committee has eliminated Mr. Boettcher's benefits, he would like to give them the opportunity to make it carte blanche. He has been sitting up on the dais when Mr. Ruble comes up and basically makes him feel like a crook. Sometimes justifiably so. A long time ago Hainesport had no health benefits. Mr. Boettcher was on the committee. The township committee had to join in the pool of employees here to qualify to actually receive the benefits. That's how it started. Hainesport was not unique, a lot of other towns have had health benefits. So over the years, when Mr. MacLachlan replaced Paul Tuliano on the committee he was appointed by the party to serve as committeeman. He was retired and the

health benefits was one of the main reasons he took the position. Over the years the premiums have gone up and he has been elected 4 times with everybody knowing that he took the health benefits. When he was actually more active in the township politics he actually lost income handling township business. Mr. MacLachlan said he always felt the health benefits were out in the open and they were taken. These guys swore they would never take health benefits. They made sure they singled Mr. Boettcher and himself out as the bad guys for taking them in their campaign pieces. They changed the employee manual in the middle of the night to get them, they lied about their working hours to get them, they denied it to get re-elected and it took another \$5,000 bill for John Paff to get it out in the open. Mr. Costa then inserted that despite the merits or non-merits of whatever Mr. MacLachlan is talking about, he must say these matters involve, number 1 a rice notice because apparently he is inviting allegations to be answered and some of these things, according to the speaker, involve improprieties. This is the wrong forum to go through with all that. He certainly has a right to make an amendment to the ordinance or add his own, but to go into other things that require certain due process according to law would be improper and Mr. Costa must say we are going beyond that now. Mr. MacLachlan said he was done with that, now let's talk about health benefits. He said it takes 200 homes entire municipal tax to pay for health benefits. He advocated eliminating health benefits last year and he thinks the entire committee should do it at once. Frankly, why should he do it if they are not going to do it? They have an ordinance in front of them that he will vote yes on to eliminate health benefits for the entire committee. It's just too much money and it has gotten out of hand over the years. Mr. MacLachlan said they all brag about how many businesses they have and this and that. He has a business too and he has a motion to bring it to a vote now. Mr. Fitzpatrick commented that it is interesting how the shoe is on the other foot, all those years Mr. MacLachlan took those benefits. Mr. Fitzpatrick said he was the only 1 that ran with everybody knowing that he took the benefits. There was a heated discussion between Mr. MacLachlan and Mr. Fitzpatrick concerning the health benefits.

**There was a roll call to amend the agenda. Mr. MacLachlan and Mr. Boettcher voted yes and Mr. Fitzpatrick, Deputy Mayor Porto and Mayor Dickinson voted no.**

- B. ORDINANCE 2016-10-7** – Ordinance of the Township of Hainesport, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter 152 Smoke Alarm **(First Reading and Introduction) (Public Hearing and Final Adoption August 9, 2016)**

**Motion: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. Second: Deputy Mayor Porto. All yes.**

## **8. RESOLUTIONS**

- A. RESOLUTION 2016-121-7** – Resolution Approving a Block Party for South Hunterdon Avenue Residents – **Jaime Kennedy Made the Request**

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Porto. Second: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. All yes.**

- B. **RESOLUTION 2016-122-7** – Resolution Authorizing a Change Order in Contract for Auditor Fees – **Bowman & Company**

**Mr. Boettcher** said he had a question about the resolution and Mr. Selb explained to everyone about it.

**Motion: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. Second: Deputy Mayor Porto. All yes.**

- C. **RESOLUTION 2016-123-7** – Resolution to Amend the Adopted Budget for Additional Items of Revenue and Offsetting Appropriation (Chapter 159)

**Motion: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. Second: Deputy Mayor Porto. All yes.**

**Mr. Selb** said that at this point the agenda has to be amended to add 3 resolutions; these are Resolutions 125-7, 126-7 and 127-7. The first 1 has to deal with a lien against a property for cutting the grass, the second has to do with paying our vendor who did the baseball fields and the third has to do with another lien that we have to put against a property for cutting the grass. This is all to do with code enforcement maintenance of properties that have been abandoned.

**Motion to amend the agenda to include the resolutions described by Mr. Selb: Deputy Mayor Porto. Second: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. All yes.**

- D. **RESOLUTION 2016-125-7** – Resolution to Authorize a Lien for the Property Maintenance Expenses for Property Located at **1203 Washington Street**

**Motion: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. Second: Deputy Mayor Porto. All yes.**

- E. **RESOLUTION 2016-126-7** – Resolution to Authorize a Change in the Contract in the Re-Construction of the Softball-Baseball Fields in the Municipal Complex

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Porto. Second: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. All yes.**

- F. **RESOLUTION 2016-127-7** – Resolution to Authorize a Lien for the Property Maintenance Expenses for Property Located at **601 Lumberton Road**

**Motion: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. Second: Deputy Mayor Porto. All yes.**

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. **Thank You Note** – Cameron Maruca and Tyler Petty

## 10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

**Deborah Plaia, 50 Bancroft Lane** – said she wanted to address an issue that Mr. Costa had mentioned just before in speaking about the ordinance. When he made his comment there was no opportunity for public comment. Mr. MacLachlan had said

that he wasn't sure that it would pass muster and it should be shelved until it is known and Mr. Costa said that it would apply equally. Ms. Plaia said she is not so sure that is the case and she wouldn't be so quick to say something about constitutional muster. She said on the surface a statute or an ordinance or a regulation can appear to be but it has a discriminatory affect. She gave an instance of a case that she studied in law school whereas it applied to the New Jersey State Police. There was a time where they had to be 6 feet tall to join the New Jersey State Police. It had an impact on people who were not going to be 6 feet tall through ethnicity. On the surface, this ordinance does appear to be neutral, but Ms. Plaia thinks it does appear to have a negative effect on somebody who is older in age. Whether or not it is age discrimination, she can't say. She also wanted to address the fact that last month there was an invoice that was produced. She does not know what the conversation was between the 2 committeemen who met with the labor attorney. But all 5 of the committee members, under the rules of professional conduct, are clients, including Mr. Boettcher. This rule forbids an attorney to be adverse to a client. If that attorney gave advice to 2 committee members that was adverse to Mr. Boettcher it is a violation of the rules of professional conduct. And, in fact, Ms. Plaia was reviewing these rules earlier and there are times when a client is permitted to consent to a conflict, but not in this situation because you are considered, as the township committee, a public entity. She then read the rules of professional conduct to the committee. The other thing she wanted to mention was that under the rules of professional conduct, attorneys have to keep their clients informed. Mr. Boettcher has a right to go to this attorney and ask what was disclosed. And as a client, he also has the right to waive any attorney client privilege. The Supreme Court of New Jersey says that.

**Roger Schneider, 611 Broad Street** – said when the committee members talk about their medical benefits they say something about working 26 hours a week. That is what he understands and he said he would like them to explain what it is they do to get the medical benefits. Mayor Dickinson asked Mr. Costa if that was something that was relevant now. Mr. Costa said Mr. Schneider could make his comments; in regards to any questions he asks it doesn't have to be answered this evening if they involve some type of legal issue. Mr. Schneider said he is trying to verify what they do to qualify for 26 hours a week to get these benefits. Mr. Costa said the matter was looked at by Mr. Paff who indicated that the 26 hour rule was irrelevant. In other words it is a moot point because it is not required to work 26 hours. Mr. Schneider then asked why it was given and Mr. Costa said it was apparently a mistake by the CMFO. Mr. MacLachlan said it is not a moot point, Mr. Schneider has gone up to the state health benefits administrator to question it. Mr. Costa recommended that the committee not discuss it if the matter is under litigation but Mr. Schneider can make any comment he wants to make.

**Jeanne Chonus, 117 Merion Way** – just wanted to tell the committee how happy she is that the arrow light at Route 38 and Mt. Laurel Road is there now. She knows Deputy Mayor Porto worked on it and Leila Gilmore worked on it. Mrs. Chonus said she is 1 of many people that got involved on this project. She spoke with the



administrator and even called the governor's office. It was a real safety concern and she just wanted to thank everyone that was involved in getting the matter resolved.

**Kathy Parker, 1819 Creek Road** – said she is not going to be political, but she thinks we should have had a moment of silence for the officers throughout the United States that were killed. Mayor Dickinson agreed with Ms. Parker and there was a moment of silence. She then said that the ordinance was passed and Mr. Boettcher has to resign in order for him to receive health benefits. Ms. Parker went on to say that she was very sorry to Mr. Boettcher that he has been treated this way by a township committee; he has done his best in this town to work for this town and it is a shame that it comes down to gains for people to benefit themselves and take away from others who well deserve what they have worked all their lives for. She wished him the best. Mr. Boettcher thanked her.

**Shirley Powell, 503 Lumberton Road** – said she has been here 45 years and these people are all new to the town. Mr. Boettcher has been great. It's not fair what the committee is doing to him and she will vote to eliminate all benefits if he goes. And it looks like that's what is going to happen. If he loses his benefits, she will vote that all of them lose theirs also. Ms. Powell said the committee members are all new in this town; she has been here 45 years and this disgusts her.

**Anna Evans, 63 Parry Drive** – said she would like to comment on a placard that several members of the public were holding up; she said it was a disgusting, sexual meme that was posted on Facebook by Deputy Mayor Porto and she came to the town to make a citizens complaint about Mr. Porto's behavior. She wanted to read a couple comments from the complaint to let people know what is going on. Mr. Costa said he has had a chance to look at the Facebook presentation on social media on an individually, privately owned place. Ms. Evans interjected that it also appeared on Hainesport Happenings, which is a public group. Mayor Dickinson said he thought that it was shared from someone's sight. Ms. Evans said they don't know what the facts are; whether or not someone shared it from someone's sight. At this point there was a discussion on whether or not she could read from her complaint some of the comments she wrote. At that point Mayor asked if it is in the hands of an attorney and Mr. Selb agreed that it is. Ms. Evans said that it seems to her that this committee does a very good job of trying to silence the people of Hainesport whenever they try and say anything controversial. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that it is just when people spread rumors that is when they try to silence the rumors and tell people the truth. There was a heated discussion between Mr. Fitzpatrick and Ms. Evans that Mayor Dickinson stopped. Mayor Dickinson asked Ms. Evans what she wanted to do and she replied that she wanted to read some of the citizen's complaint to the public. Mr. Costa asked her who she had filed the complaint and was told it was filed with the township clerk. Mr. Costa asked Mr. Selb if the cartoon was put out on an official basis from Hainesport Township and Mr. Selb said that the as a township administrator/clerk that she did come in but this matter has been turned over to an outside attorney to review, give an opinion and give the opportunity for the committee to ask questions. At this point, it would be too soon for anybody on the committee to make any comments about this because that is why they hired an outside attorney to review it. Mr. Costa

asked if this cartoon was put out on township websites. Mr. Selb said he is being asked to discuss something that has been turned over to an attorney who is involved in it. Mr. Costa said it is his understanding that this cartoon, however offensive, did not originate from the township website proper or was not authorized by the township. It is his understanding that it was done on a private account only. That once noted, Mr. Costa said she could make her objection or whatever she wanted to say. Ms. Evans then read several comments she had made in her citizens complaint. She was interrupted by Mayor Dickinson and Ms. Evans said her daughter cried when she showed the cartoon to her. Deputy Mayor Porto asked who shares this with children. Ms. Evans said she shares things with her children; she educates them about things that go on in this township. Deputy Mayor Porto said this is why he blocked her months ago because she stalked him on Facebook. It was noted that she had gone over the 5 minute mark and she said she had quite a bit of interjections from the township committee members. Ms. Evans said she thinks she is done. Mayor Dickinson said somehow the meeting ended up here tonight. They were never asked to change the meeting place.

**Barbara Johnson, 11 Maple Lane** – said she realizes that the meme was done on a private Facebook page and it was done as a joke. It was, however, exceptionally disgusting and distasteful. Recently in Pennsylvania, a high ranking official posted a joke of a sexual nature to other colleagues. That person has since lost her job. As a township elected official, she cannot fathom anyone posting something of that nature on any kind of social media. It reflects badly on the town, it reflects very badly on the township committee and it reflects badly on the people that live in this town that support the township committee. There is an election coming up in November and she knows that part of the reason they want Mr. Boettcher gone is so they can post somebody temporarily in his seat and then they have a quorum and they can get rid of other people that they don't agree with. Mrs. Johnson said she thinks this is wrong, this is reprehensible. They were elected by the people of this town and they are supposed to be supporting the people of this town. Every one of them, supposedly, is a resident of this town as are all of the people in this crowd. Mr. Boettcher is a resident of this town and he has been treated very poorly. Shame on all 3 of them.

**Louis Glasper, 10 Whitney Place** – said he was going to get a little emotional because he knows most of the men on the committee. He said he doesn't know Deputy Mayor Porto. Mr. MacLachlan helped him when he lost his job which interrupted his life and Mr. MacLachlan gave him back his life. Mayor Dickinson and his wife have always been pleasant to him and he loves them for that. He thinks they are great citizens and do a great job. Mr. Glasper said he doesn't know what is going on in this township but it doesn't sound like anything good. He said he doesn't know Mr. Fitzpatrick and for the comments he has made so far, and the arrogance he has, it is unacceptable. Mr. Glasper said that for Deputy Mayor Porto to have done something so despicable and still have a smile on his face the entire time, he would absolutely not have a smile on his face. It just doesn't make sense. Mr. Glasper said he wrote a book that is titled "Children Don't Come with a Book, Recipes for Raising Successful Kids". He went on to say that he moved to Hainesport so he could raise his kids in a decent place. His kids have never made a scene. This lady wrote his

book for him for free because he was un-employed. So for him to say anything despicable about her, Mr. Glasper despises it.

**Natalie Schneider, 611 Broad Street** – said she thinks for the sake of transparency and keeping the record complete and accurate it would be a good idea for the township meetings to be filmed. There are a lot of people who can't make it to the meetings and later on people will say they didn't say something or say something was said so that there won't be any confusion. She asked what the committee thought of it and Mayor Dickinson said it was a good opinion. Deputy Mayor Porto said he thinks she has already taken care of that. Ms. Schneider said it shouldn't be her responsibility. The township could put it on the internet and hopefully it shouldn't take long for that to happen.

**Lee Schneider, 611 Broad Street** – asked Deputy Mayor Porto why he was smirking at the people, especially the last gentleman who was up here. She said she had to know. Deputy Mayor Porto said he heard a wonderful story back in the day about a gentleman who put someone on his payroll and then got money back. Mr. MacLachlan said that is how dumb he is. Ms. Schneider asked if Deputy Mayor Porto was disoriented because he is not answering her question. She said he has dodged every question he has been asked. She then asked if he was drunk and he replied that he was not drunk. She repeated her question. He asked if that is why the people are upset because they made copies of something they are offended about. She asked him if he would like that to be said about his wife or daughter. Deputy Mayor Porto said his wife was attacked on Facebook and no one came to her defense. He went on to say that he has done everything for this town and this town is a great place to live in and everyone is making hay out of a Facebook post. We all post things that we realize later that maybe we shouldn't have. Ms. Schneider said he is a disgrace. She went on to say that her dad introduced him to people when no one would give him the time of day. Her dad made him and look at him now. She said he is a disgrace and he has no soul and it is embarrassing that they were even associated with him. She asked if they realize that it is only a matter of time before they turn on each other.

**Mary McCleery, 135 Tartan Lane** – spoke to Deputy Mayor Porto and said he was disgusting, just the fact that he would put that on Facebook, it doesn't matter who he can say it was against, it was against all women. He should be ashamed of himself for putting it on a blog where young children could see it. Because it had Kermit the Frog on it, they would have gone right to it. He should be ashamed of himself. Deputy Mayor Porto said that is not how Facebook works. Ms. McCleery said he can sweep this under the rug but the public is not done. Deputy Mayor Porto said he knows there are people in this town that don't like him but he has always done what he thinks is right for this town.

**Pete Ruble, 2525 Creek Road** – said that maybe some of the people didn't realize how much Hainesport Township is paying to the State of New Jersey for the health benefits for the township committee. Mr. Fitzpatrick said they know his because it was all over town. It was on every billboard and sign during the last election. Mr.

Ruble said it will probably be on more. He read the medical benefits for all the committee members and how much they paid for them. Mr. Ruble talked to the committee members about how they should not be receiving medical benefits. He told them that the amount of money that is being paid for the benefits would reduce taxes in the township if they stopped receiving them. He went on to say that he thinks the township minutes should be put on the internet exactly as the Joint Land Use Board are. He believes they should be done verbatim. He is not happy with the answers that are given in the minutes. Mr. Ruble said he would like to make a correction on a statement he made last time. He said that Ronald Reagan made the statement that both politicians and diapers should be changed often and for the same reason. In further research, he found out that was attributed to Samuel Langhorne Clemens and if they don't know who that is, it is Mark Twain. He has quite a series of comments like that. Mr. Ruble said they have talked before about speed humps and the township should put some speed humps out here in the parking lot. People come in off of that road with kids in the car and come sailing on through. Being that there are no sidewalks here you have to watch yourself if you step out. So there should be some speed humps here. Mr. Ruble said the 5 minute rule stinks. They cut a woman off tonight when she had a lot more to say and a lot more to be brought up and a lot more interest. That's a censorship if there ever was one.

**Rebecca Porto, 403 Marne Highway** – just wanted to say that her husband, Anthony Porto, does a lot for this town. Her birthday was last Monday on Independence Day. After being out all day celebrating her birthday they pulled into the driveway to find a resident there on their front porch with a huge German Shephard. It was running around town, friendly as can be. Deputy Mayor Porto risked catching all kinds of grief from her for doing township business on her birthday to help a resident. Within 2 or 3 hours the dog found his family. Mrs. Porto went on to talk about the Facebook incident with Kermit the Frog. It is a personal thing and she sees many things on Facebook that she does not agree with. She doesn't look at them, she doesn't share them, and she just reads it and says ok that's their thing and move on. She said she left work today from Motor Vehicle, which is a physical job to say the least. Mrs. Porto said she helped a man today that was a handicapped veteran. He had half of his body blown away from a bomb and he came home in a wheelchair very disabled and she helped him. For him to go through that is a real issue. That is something that everyone should be holding up signs and upset about, not something that came liked or disliked on Facebook. She has a 10 year old son and she monitor him when he is on the internet. If parents are so concerned about what their children read they should monitor them.

**Mark Murdy, 2614 Creek Road** – commented that he works for the county at Burlington County Special Services. Since he is a county employee, his school has cut back on everyone's health benefits. In fact they fired a lot of people and cut back on their hours to 25 ½ hours as per the county's health benefit program. Because if you work more than that they have to give health benefits. So they have approximately 295 people working there and almost a quarter of them lost their job and their benefits. He is curious where they got the idea that they don't have to work any number of hours to get benefits. Because the committee is on a county health

benefits program. Second of all, Mr. Murdy said he just heard Deputy Mayor Porto say we have all posted things on Facebook maybe we shouldn't have. Deputy Mayor Porto said he regrets posting it but it was not directed at anyone. People took it and shared it and it got taken the wrong way and it is not something he is proud of. Mr. Murdy thanked him for finally coming up and saying that. He appreciates it, it would have been nice for Deputy Mayor Porto to put up a blog afterwards that said he had made a mistake. There was a young lady that asked how you can say it wasn't posted up there, Deanna Murdy said it was there. She would have come tonight but she has been made sick by the people who are up here on the right side. They have lived in this community since 1999. Mrs. Murdy saw the post on 6/16/16 at 6:15 P.M. Mr. Murdy saw it and so did their son. Mayor Dickinson asked him if he knew if it was shared to the other website and Mr. Murdy said his son said if that were the case it would say that someone had shared it. Mr. Murdy said now that Deputy Mayor Porto said he had made a mistake and he feels bad about it, Mr. Murdy will not recommend that he gets censored from the township and he does not recommend that you keep it along this line. Mr. Murdy said that Deputy Mayor Porto said he made a mistake, it was a really tacky one and he is sure with a due respect that he feels 100% bad about it. Mr. Murdy said to Mr. Boettcher his hat is off to him. He said to Mr. MacLachlan that doesn't know how the township people could put a vote in to vote against everybody else for getting these wonderful Cadillac health care benefits that they chose to give themselves. He told Mr. Costa that he is not impressed with him; he cost our township \$5,000 when Mr. Paff came to us by saying that is not correct. Last month the township can spend \$2,000 for a lawyer, the committee exceeds that by double of \$4,000 plus for their lawyer and nobody has a tag about what is going on. He said this is one of those amazing townships where nothing ever happens. No offence to the Democrats here but it sounds like a Clinton Foundation project; I don't know, I never saw what was coming on, and that's all there is to it.

**Ginny Cliver, 118 Mt. Laurel Road** – said she hasn't been here in a while because her husband had fallen and broken his leg. She said she is shocked about what she has been hearing about the township. She may be 1 of the oldest ones here and has been here 65 years and what has been reported to her about what is happening is disgusting. She just can't imagine how it can be happening. Mrs. Cliver said we had someone steal from the township before but it sounds like the 3 committee members are doing the same thing but in a different way. The money being spent on the medical benefits sounds like a lot of money when there are people in this township that she hears are having difficulty getting food stamps to feed their families. And she thinks if anything, the township needs to lower their taxes instead of raising them. She just can't imagine how 3 people can sit up there and sleep at night stealing from the public like they are. She said not to tell her it's not stealing.

**Dennis Dones, 67 Easton Way** – has only lived in the township a few years and doesn't know the history behind what has happened. He said he can only attest to what he sees around the community and who he sees. He said he sees Mr. Fitzpatrick at a lot of events and he represents the township well, appearance wise. Mr. Boettcher he sees at all times of the day and night. If he were a betting man, and anything and everything we do is checks and balances, he can account for Mr.

Boettcher's time. He is sure anybody can do that. Mr. Dones said he really doesn't understand it. These positions are public office positions and they are holding them like they own them. That doesn't make any sense to him. That's why they have established time lines for people to serve in these positions because of these same situations. Manipulation. Mr. Dones said he served his country for 20 years in combat, Special Operations. He knows what it is to sacrifice and serve his country. He retired here in Hainesport because he didn't think any of this nonsense was happening. It is sad that his child has to hear about this. The checks and balances just don't equate. If he is not mistaken there was someone that was receiving health benefits that had to be taken off them and placed on payroll because they were no longer allowed to have health benefits. And that person is still here. So the question is why is it that he had to get off the health benefits because he didn't meet the criteria and you're kicking somebody off that deserves it.

**Christy Curry, 1307 Tasker Avenue** – said this is to both the committee and the Democratic Party and the political stuff that is going on; it's embarrassing from both sides. Someone posted decorum today and she thinks some of that is needed. She said she has seen personal attacks on both sides and it is time to step back and do what is right for Hainesport. Ms. Curry said everyone should act like grown people and knock it off. Work for the township and stop working against each other. It is ridiculous.

**Catherine McNelis, 407 Bischoff Avenue** – thanked Deputy Mayor Porto and Mr. Fitzpatrick for being their normal selves; laughing and joking about everything that is going on and all the different things that are happening and pointed out the fact that if it wasn't for the few people here that come to every meeting nobody in this room would be aware that they are getting benefits. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that everybody knew that he was getting benefits and Ms. McNelis told him that this is her 5 minutes and he should not interrupt her. She said this is what he does all the time; he sits back, laughs and then tries to interrupt everybody. She said she is so glad that everyone is able to see just exactly how he acts; they have been called so many dirty names because they bring stuff out. She said they let everyone know what is going on. Ms. McNelis said she wanted to thank them for that.

**Dr. Elizabeth Forbes, 139 Glengarry Lane** – said she has been living here for 13 years and she just started coming to the meetings and she is really embarrassed. She moved here from Delaware County and for educated people to react the way people react in political positions that they were voted in is a disgrace. And when people come up to talk into the mike they should have their own 5 minutes without any discussion from this panel up here. Dr. Forbes said she did vote for some of them and she is sorry. And another thing, they came to her house when they were campaigning and she opened her door and one of the things they said was that they would not take health benefits and they were running on that. She doesn't see it and it is still going on here today and she really think they need to grow up. She doesn't know what kind of education each one of them had but they should act their age and be appropriate.

**Pat Macken, 116 Masons Woods Lane** – said there had been a lot of talk about the meme that was put out there, a lot of talk about the health benefits for Mr. Boettcher. She said her heart and her hat go out to him. It has been an honor working with him. She is disgusted that this is still going down and that the 3 of them voted for it. As far as the meme that was put out there Ms. Macken said she is glad to say that at least he acknowledges that what he did was wrong. She thinks he should have gone 1 step further and publically apologize to Anna. Because of the little meme that was put out there it has cost this township \$6,000 plus and we are not done yet. Thank God it is not going to a law suit. But it would be nice if he would stand up and apologize to Anna. Ms. Macken worked in a man's field, male dominated industry for almost 40 years and put up with being groped, spat at, and cussed at, all kinds of things. She thought they broke through that ceiling almost 40 years ago. To have an elected official say it now, it brought her right back to all those years when women that she worked with had to put up with that. She said he could make amends tonight and apologize to Anna.

**Irene Baggio, 177 Merion Court** – said she too is embarrassed listening to all of this going back and forth. But for the record, she wanted to make something clear, that all 5 of these individuals, including Mr. MacLachlan and Mr. Boettcher, willingly accepted the health benefits. None of which, we agree, that they really deserve. Let's not make Mr. Boettcher out to be a saint per se. None of them should have had health benefits but they all willingly accepted them. Mrs. Baggio agrees that they should all go away at the same time for everyone and not hand pick who has them go away. Let's just make it clear that it's not just these 3 individuals that have been taking our money, it is these 2 as well.

**Ray Storck, 2217 Spruce Avenue** – said this is all supposed to be about public service. Unfortunately, it is no longer about public service. He served on the committee in the early 1980's and it was all about the public service then. Mayor Dickinson tried to answer Mr. Storck and was asked to give Mr. Storck his 5 minutes. Mr. Storck went on to say it's all about the public service and it has gotten lost in Hainesport. One of his favorite sayings is when John Kennedy was inaugurated president back in 1960. Mr. Kennedy's statement was "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country". Mr. Storck said it has gotten lost in Hainesport. In Hainesport it is "Ask not what I can do for Hainesport but what Hainesport can do for me". And that is pathetic. When he was on committee, they would have 3 meetings a month, some of the meetings would last until 11, 12 or even 1 o'clock in the night. And sometimes they would do it 3 times a month. And that is lost today. There is only 1 meeting a month now and he has been here when the meeting is over at 8:30 in the evening. And that is where it is getting lost. There was no administrator, there was a 3 member committee and they sat at public level. Mr. Storck said the present committee is sitting up there on a dais looking down on the public. That is losing the whole concept of a democracy. That's what is missing in Hainesport any more. They sat at a table that was level with the public. Bob Shinn is here and he served on the committee back in the 1970's. Mr. Shinn said it started in 1968. Mr. Storck said there are 2 people in this room that have stellar public service records in this township; 1 of them is Bob Shinn and the other is Mr. Boettcher. It is

unfortunate that it is getting lost in this. It's all about the public service. And it's all about what I can do for Hainesport.

#### 11. COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

**Mr. Selb** wanted to thank Mr. Boettcher and wish him well.

#### 12. COMMENTS FROM THE SOLICITOR

**Mr. Costa** wished everyone a nice day tomorrow.

#### 13. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

**Mr. MacLachlan** thanked Mr. Boettcher for his service and said that some of the people that he had a hand in putting them on the committee did him in. He said it may be his last meeting. He has some things that he has to work out concerning his situation with the township. He has not wanted to come to the meetings for the last few years; frankly, if it weren't for the benefits, he said he wouldn't have come because it just isn't worth it. Now, with the benefits, it isn't worth it, so he will be losing the benefits one way or another. Mr. MacLachlan said he couldn't be paid enough to sit through the arrogance and immaturity coming from the dais, it is just unbelievable. He spoke to Natalie Schneider and told her she was a young lady and has more maturity than some of the members on the dais. He went on to say that she is a rising star in the township and he wishes her the best of luck. He wanted to change the face of this committee a number of years ago to avoid this kind of behavior and the stuff that is going on here. With that Mr. MacLachlan walked off the dais and repeated that this could be his last meeting.

**Mr. Boettcher** thanked everyone no matter if they are a Democrat or Republican, he just wanted things for Hainesport. He thanked everyone for coming out.

**Mr. Fitzpatrick** asked Mayor Dickinson if he had been requested to move tonight's meeting to the school. He received a phone call from a resident wanting to know. Mayor Dickinson said he talked to Mr. Selb this morning and asked if there was any kind of request and was answered in the negative. Mr. Fitzpatrick then said it must have been a rumor. He asked Mr. Selb if he had wanted to move the meeting and Mr. Selb said not without the committee's approval. Mr. Fitzpatrick said it was a rumor that the township didn't want to move the meeting to the school. Mayor Dickinson said they would have had to have 48 hours' notice to move the meeting. Mr. Fitzpatrick said it was a rumor that people are portraying trying to make everybody look bad. He said he was going to look Mr. Selb in the eye and tell him that Mr. Fitzpatrick does not want his job; you couldn't pay him enough to sit in his seat. So everyone out there that thinks that he wants Mr. Selb's job can think again. So that is the second rumor that he would like to clarify; he doesn't want Mr. Selb's job. He went on to say that he is sure there will be talk about him taking over the middle school as well; he doesn't want that job either. He is not going to take Dr. Campissi's job either. If there are any other rumors feel free to give him a call. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the committee absolutely does take health benefits. Is that wrong? People



can have their opinions, and that's fine. But people can't say that anybody in this room that just voted did not know that he was getting health benefits; you could fly a plane over the township and see the billboards and see that. So saying that he is stealing; don't vote him in next time, he doesn't care. That's no big deal, but to say they didn't know the last time is wrong. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked people to please stop the rumors; if they want to start rumors come to the source. Don't start rumors that Mayor Dickinson didn't let you hold the meeting at the school, because that wasn't true. He was never asked to change the meeting to the school, Mr. Fitzpatrick was never going to take the administrator's position, he doesn't want Dr. Campissi's job. So stop the rumors, it is dividing people and causing everybody to fight amongst each other. It is not what we are about, we are Hainesport. It is really sad that the rumors are going on, if it true and you want to talk about the benefits then talk about them, but don't talk about rumors. Mr. Fitzpatrick told Mr. Boettcher he did a good job and he appreciates it very much.

**Deputy Mayor Porto** thanked everybody for coming out tonight and looks forward to continue working to improve Hainesport.

**Mayor Dickinson** also thanked everybody for coming out tonight. Like Mr. Fitzpatrick said if you have a question ask Mr. Selb please, that is what he is here for. It is easy to write things on Facebook. We all watch the Facebook pages.

#### 14. **BILL LIST**

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Porto. Second: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. Deputy Mayor Porto recused himself from the bill G0241717301 for the Cub Scouts. His wife was involved as a contact person on that. Committeeman Fitzpatrick abstained on the following item: 16-004904. Committeeman Boettcher abstained from Rico 3. He will not pay for the attorney that asked him to leave. Mayor Dickinson: yes. Committeeman MacLachlan has already left the dais.**

#### 15. **EXECUTIVE SESSION @9:31PM**

**A. RESOLUTION 2016-124-7 – Resolution to Enter into Executive Session**

##### **1. Personnel –**

##### **i. Applicant Review**

##### **2. Litigation**

##### **i. Sewer Connection Billing**

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Porto. Second: Mayor Dickinson. Committeeman Fitzpatrick: yes. Committeeman Boettcher: no.**

#### 16. **Motion to come out of Executive. 10:18PM**

**Motion: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. Second Deputy Mayor Porto, All yes.  
Committeeman Boettcher did not go into Executive.**

**17. ADJOURNMENT @ 10:19 P. M.**

**Motion: Committeeman Fitzpatrick. Second Deputy Mayor Porto. All yes.**