

**BOROUGH OF BLOOMSBURY  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 28, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was held on April 28, 2015 at Borough Hall, 91 Brunswick Avenue, Bloomsbury, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by the reading of the Sunshine Law by Lisa Burd Reindel.

As required by the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was provided on January 8, 2015 by the publication of said notice in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the posting of said notice in the Municipal Building on the same date.

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	Chris James	Al Stiehler
	Kathleen Jordan	Chris Smith
	Vicky Papics	Eric Weger
	Martha Tersigni, Mayor	William Edleston, Esq.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Jordan moved Council approve the February 24, 2015 meeting minutes; seconded by Mrs. Papics. Stiehler-abstain. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Stiehler moved Council approve the March 24, 2015 meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Weger. Jordan abstain. All ayes. Motion carried.

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Smith moved Council approve the Tax Collector's Monthly Report of March 31, 2015; seconded by Mrs. Jordan.

ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Jordan-aye; Papics-aye; Smith-aye; Stiehler-aye; Weger-aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST**

Mr. Stiehler moved Council approve the Bill List of April 28, 2015; seconded by Mr. Smith.

ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Jordan-aye, abstain from payroll; Papics-aye, abstain from payroll; Smith-aye; Stiehler-aye; Weger-aye. Motion carried.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Mr. Smith moved Council accept the Code Enforcement Report of April; seconded by Mr. Stiehler. All ayes. Motion carried.

**SECOND READING – 2015 BUDGET**

Mr. Francisco stated that due to the reassessment in 2014, the tax rate went from \$0.48 to \$0.60. He explained that this Budget increases by about \$10,000 collectively throughout the town, and the average homeowner based on last year's assessment would pay about \$27 more per year.

**2015 Municipal Budget  
of the Borough of Bloomsbury, County of Hunterdon, for the fiscal year 2015.**

**Revenue and Appropriation Summaries**

Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	2015	2014
<b>1. Surplus</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>186,900</b>
<b>2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues</b>	<b>82,837</b>	<b>81,137</b>
<b>3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>85,510</b>
<b>4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes</b>	<b>541,835</b>	<b>531,203</b>
<b>b) Addition to Local District School Tax</b>		
<b>Total Amount to be Raised by Taxes</b>	<b>541,835</b>	<b>531,203</b>
<b>Total General Revenues</b>	<b>870,672</b>	<b>884,750</b>

Summary of Appropriations	2015 Budget	Final 2013 Budget
<b>1. Operating Expenses: Salaries &amp; Wages</b>	<b>173,040</b>	<b>168,675</b>
<b>1. Operating Expenses: Other Expenses</b>	<b>448,604</b>	<b>467,124</b>
<b>2. Deferred Charges &amp; Other Appropriations</b>	<b>28,928</b>	<b>28,651</b>
<b>3. Capital Improvements</b>	<b>40,700</b>	<b>41,300</b>
<b>4. Debt Service ( Include for School Purposes )</b>		
<b>5. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes</b>	<b>179,400</b>	<b>179,000</b>
<b>Total General Appropriations</b>	<b>870,672</b>	<b>884,750</b>
<b>Total Number of Employees</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>

Balance of Outstanding Debt				
	General	Water Utility	Sewer Utility	Utility-Other
<b>Interest</b>				
<b>Principal</b>				
<b>Outstanding Balance</b>				

**Notice is hereby given that the budget and tax resolution was approved by the Governing Body of the Borough of Bloomsbury, County of Hunterdon, on March 24th, 2015.**

**A hearing on the budget and Tax resolution will be held at the Bloomsbury Boro Municipal Building on April 28th, 2015 at 7:00 PM at which time and place objections to the Budget and Tax Resolution may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.**

**Copies of the entire budget are available in the office of Lisa A. Burd Reindel, Borough Clerk, at the Municipal Building, 91 Brunswick Avenue, Bloomsbury, New Jersey, or by calling (908) 479-4200 during the hours of 9 AM to 4 PM.**

Mrs. Papics moved Council open the Public Hearing of the 2015 Budget; seconded by Mr. Stiehler.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. James moved Council close the Public Hearing; seconded by Mrs. Papics. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Stiehler moved Council adopt the 2015 Budget as presented; seconded by Mr. Smith.

ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Jordan-aye; Papics-aye; Smith-aye; Stiehler-aye; Weger-aye. Motion carried.

## **AUDIT OF 2014**

### **BOROUGH OF BLOOMSBURY SUMMARY OR SYNOPSIS OF AUDIT REPORT FOR PUBLICATION**

Attention is directed to the fact that a summary or synopsis of the audit report, together with the recommendations, is the minimum required to be published pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:5-7.

Summary or Synopsis of 2013 Audit Report of the Borough of Bloomsbury as required by N.J.S. 40A:5-7.

COMBINED COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET

	December 31,	
	2014	2013
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 812,775.12	\$ 738,374.19
Taxes, Liens and Utility Charges Receivable	339,977.84	315,274.07
Foreclosed Property	121,100.00	121,100.00
Accounts Receivable	558,095.89	577,663.35
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>\$ 1,831,948.85</u>	<u>\$ 1,752,411.61</u>
 <u>LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES</u>		
Other Liabilities and Special Funds	\$ 797,945.16	\$ 349,183.30
Reserve for Certain Assets Receivable	512,316.27	895,009.64
Other Reserves		
Capital Improvement Fund	21,904.77	25,804.15
Reserve for Foreclosed Property	121,100.00	121,101.20
Fund Balance	378,682.65	361,313.32
Improvement Authorizations - Funded		
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES</u>	<u>\$ 1,831,948.85</u>	<u>\$ 1,752,411.61</u>

Ms. Lee stated that the Borough is in good financial shape and the fund balance went up about \$53,000 and there is only one recommendation relating to segregation of duties in the Borough and is common among small municipalities in the State of New Jersey as they do not have the resources to hire the additional staff.

**RESOLUTION #30-15 - GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

**WHEREAS**, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2014 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Borough Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A.40a:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and

**WHEREAS**, R.S. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall, by resolution, certify to the Local

Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the section of the annual audit entitled "Comments and Recommendation"; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed, as a minimum, the Annual Report of Audit, specifically the section of the Annual Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendation", as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and

**WHEREAS**, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and

**WHEREAS**, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and

**WHEREAS**, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the Local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52, to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52: A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date of fixed compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Common Council of the Borough of Bloomsbury, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

Mr. Weger moved Council adopt Resolution # 30-15; seconded by Mrs. Papics.  
ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Jordan-aye; Papics-aye; Smith-aye; Stiehler-aye; Weger-aye.

All members of Council signed the Certification of Audit.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***V.Papics:***

#### **Fire Department-**

- Mrs. Papics stated that the Fire Department is concerned about pot holes in the Borough and she believes the DPW is working on the same.

#### **Rescue-**

- Nothing new to report.

**OEM-**

- Mrs. Papics stated that everyone is working on their assignments for the Hazardous Mitigation worksheets.

**BCC-**

- Townwide sale will be the second Saturday in June.

*E. Weger:*

**DPW-**

- Mr. Weger stated that he has nothing new to report but as everyone is aware, due to the loss of our Supervisor Bob, we are working to keep things going now.

*C. James:*

**Environmental Committee –**

- Mr. James stated that there are no meetings scheduled currently. Mrs. Tersigni asked if Mr. James would be in favor of convening a group to assist with storm basin cleaning or if he would prefer that this be handled by Council. Mr. James stated that he feels that is usually handled by the Clerk and paid for with Clean Communities funds.

**Golf Outing –**

- Mr. James reported that they have about 25 players and 7 have paid.

*K. Jordan:*

**Board of Education-**

- Mrs. Jordan stated that the Board of Education meeting is tonight and someone will provide her with an update which she will present to Council next month.
- Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Jersey came to visit students at Bloomsbury Elementary School. She explained that 4<sup>th</sup> Grader Phoebe Montemuro wrote a letter to the Lieutenant Governor asking her as a woman in politics what she does. Mrs. Jordan stated that Mrs. Tersigni also attended, as did Freeholder John King. She stated there was a lot of security and cameras at the event and the kids were all very excited. Pictures of the event are online.
- Graduation has been moved to June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Newsletter-**

- The Newsletter will go out on June 1<sup>st</sup>, submission should be submitted by May 24, 2015.

*C. Smith:*

**Recreation –**

- Mr. Smith reported that a week ago Sunday was the 1<sup>st</sup> lacrosse game, and they grossed about \$400 in snack stand sales.
- The Easter Egg Hunt held at the beginning of April went well.
- Mr. Smith stated that he is looking forward to the Golf Outing on Sunday, that Mr. James as usual has done a great job coordinating the same.

**A. Stiehler:**

**Bloomsbury and Bethlehem Joint Court-**

- Mr. Stiehler stated that he and Mr. Francisco met with the Court, and that both Donna Surdich and Mayor Muir attended. Paul Muir apologized for the tone of the letter which was sent to the Borough. Mr. Muir had been unable to attend their last Council meeting and will present the information the Governing Body at their next meeting and then meet with Al and Kim again.

Mr. Stiehler stated that he and Mr. Francisco discussed that it may be better for the Borough to become part of the shared court, rather than part of the joint court to simplify things and only be concerned with our records, our summonses, etc. as part of our next contract.

**PERRYVILLE STATE POLICE**

Trooper Walsh stated that he has fielded only one complaint about truck parking near the truck stops since the last meeting, explaining Lisa had received a complaint from a member of the Planning Board about the same. He explained that he told the Clerk that he will contact the resident directly but has not had an opportunity to do so to date. Mrs. Tersigni stated that it was Ann Ferrero and she had expected her to attend the meeting tonight. Trooper Walsh reiterated his point from last month, that the local truckers can be told and they will not do it again, but most of them are from all over the Country. He stated that they are out there, and he is unsure why she feels they are not in town and aware of this ongoing problem.

Trooper Walsh stated that he understands that she felt she almost witnessed an accident happen, and although he doesn't want to minimize that experience in any way, Troopers will not respond to something that didn't happen. Discussion followed. Trooper Walsh stated that there are similar issues at the Pilot in Union Township too, where trucks back up, Troopers move them along and clear it out and then later it occurs again. Council discussed possibly sending a letter to Pilot and Travel Centers to ask for their assistance with keeping the trucks from double parking. Eva Baranowski, 82 Brunswick Avenue asked if the truck stops could be fined or held accountable. Lengthy discussion followed.

Mr. James voiced concern about ATV's continuing to travel on the Borough streets. Discussion followed. Trooper Walsh gave his cell phone number to Council members.

**Mayor Tersigni for the Clerk/Administrator:**

#### **4 Ton Weight Limit –**

- The Clerk has given approval to the Borough Engineer to move forward with the report to the DOT. Mrs. Tersigni stated that she spoke to Mr. Roseberry today and he should have a report ready in the next week or two. That report can take up to six months to review and Council can then consider adopting the required Ordinance.

#### **Catch Basin Repairs –**

- The Clerk met with Matt Korbobo to look at the damaged catch basins as follows:

49 Brunswick Avenue – 24” deep – needs side and front repairs - two sink holes forming

112 Brunswick Avenue – 28” deep - needs side and front repairs

113 Brunswick Avenue – 34” deep – needs 3 walls repairs

In all cases, the roadway will need to be saw cut, repairs made as needed and the roadway patched. A written quote is expected in advance of the next meeting.

Mrs. Papics stated that there is a sink hole near the old koh-i-noor building. Discussion followed.

#### **Copier Purchase -**

- The Clerk reported the new copier has arrived and she signed a 60 month lease for \$118.44/month, which is under the budgeted amount of \$140/month.

#### **Aqua New Jersey – Street Opening Permit-**

- Mrs. Tersigni stated that if Aqua were charged individual fees for each opening the total would be almost \$70,000. After discussion with the Borough Engineer, his recommendation was that the Borough waive fees for the Main Street work which we requested be completed and accept \$2,500 from them.

Mr. Weger moved Council authorize Mr. Roseberry move forward with negotiating with AQUA, That the Borough accept \$2,500 in street opening fees for the work reflected in the report; seconded by Mrs. Papics.

ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Jordan-aye; Papics-aye; Smith-aye Stiehler-aye; Weger-aye. Motion carried.

#### **2015 Financial Disclosure Statements-**

- The Clerk reported that to date, nine people still needed to file for 2015 and the State is cracking down on this. The Clerk believes that all three who were found to be in violation for 2014 have sent letters of appeal.

#### **Water Damage Insurance Claim -**

- The Clerk is still working with the adjuster regarding the Borough losses.

### **Fawn Run Sink Hole-**

- The Clerk has not received any additional information regarding the sink hole in Fawn Run which was mentioned last meeting by Chris Smith. Mr. Smith stated that the resident whose driveway the hole was near has filled the same with stone, and it does not appear to have been as significant as original thought.

### ***M. Tersigni:***

#### **Planning Board-**

- Mrs. Tersigni reported an incorrect zone is listed in the tax duplicate for 30 Church Street. The Tax Assessor will be making the necessary correction.
- The Board discussed the open violation on what they call the Pasculli property regarding the illegal shed.
- The Board discussed the COAH declaratory judgement filing and the Board recommended a letter be sent to Council, which is included in tonight's meeting packet.

#### **Employment Practices Liability-**

- Mrs. Tersigni reported that she attended a class with Mrs. Papics, Mr. Francisco and Mr. Weger and the Borough should receive a \$250 credit per person off the insurance premium. The class is available online for anyone else who is able to take it. Discussion followed.

#### **OEM Meeting –**

- Mrs. Tersigni stated that she attended an OEM meeting on Mrs. Papics behalf as they are all during the day. She said that was the last worksheet, #7 and they will get together to work on it as May 27, 2015 is the deadline.

#### **Borough Park -**

- Mrs. Tersigni stated the mulch was delivered and installed and it looks great. She will be ordering stone soon. AQUA, NJ will be coming back on May 9, 2015 to repair and re-seed the ruts left in the grass at the park.
- The door for the bathroom was expected to be delivered today.

#### **Pot Hole Repair-**

- Pot hole repair will continue throughout the week weather permitting. Mr. Weger stated that he feels the major repairs should wait until summer.

#### **Road Salt-**

- Mrs. Tersigni reported that we received our final salt bill and the Borough used over 40 tons last winter. Mr. Francisco stated the total cost was over \$1,700.

#### **Street Sweeping-**

- Last year street sweeping cost \$1,715 and we have Clean Communities Grant money available for this again this year. Discussion followed.

Mr. Weger moved Council authorize the Mayor or Clerk to contract for street sweeping for 2015 for a cost not to exceed \$2,000; seconded by Mr. Stiehler.

ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Jordan-aye; Papics-aye; Smith-aye; Stiehler-aye; Weger-aye.  
Motion carried.

**Bloomsbury Elementary School -**

- Mrs. Tersigni reported that the social studies teacher gave her a description of work he would like to organize on the Borough's Stone Walk property. He would like the work to begin on May 11<sup>th</sup> and wrap it up on May 12<sup>th</sup>. He has worked with the archaeological company before it is part of their WIN program.
- He explained that they would disturb 2 areas, each approximately 10' wide by 10' long and they would do a shovel test to see how deep they would go but they estimate 3 – 4 feet deep. They would do everything with actual archeological equipment that he would borrow and when finished they will put everything back and then reseed it. Discussion followed.

**Recreation Committee -**

- Mrs. Tersigni will appoint Meghan Henry as chair, Scott Gonzalez and Colleen Kerfoot as members and Chris Smith as Council liaison.

**Mill Redevelopment -**

- Mrs. Tersigni stated that the gentleman who had previously expressed an interest in the Mill came in to Borough Hall again and discussed ideas he has for the property. Discussion followed.

**Planning Board -**

- Jennifer Rittenhouse resigned from her Planning Board seat as she is moving out of the Borough.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**MAIN STREET PHASE III UPDATE**

Mrs. Tersigni asked if the performance bond is still being held. Mr. Francisco stated that he believes so and that the Borough is still waiting to be reimbursed by the State, explaining we paid about \$140,000 and have only gotten \$9,000 back. Discussion followed.

**BRUNSWICK AVENUE PHASE I**

Nothing new to report.

**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS**

Mrs. Tersigni stated that she spoke to Freeholder King and he advised that the County would act as our surrogate for engineering on the project. The funds have not been returned and the Borough will see what can be done at this point.

**NORTH STREET/PICKEL LANE**

Nothing new to report.

**NEW BUSINESS-**

**CONSENT AGENDA –**

**RESOLUTION # 31-15 - CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the maltreatment, abuse and neglect of children is a significant social problem that damages children physically, mentally and emotionally and inflicts immeasurable harm on society as a whole and all children deserve to be nurtured, protected and free from physical or emotional harm; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey and the Department of Children and Families believe that the best place to raise children is among strong, healthy families; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey is committed to building a continuum of community-based child abuse prevention and intervention programs that are culturally competent, strength-based and family-centered and that achieve positive outcomes for parenting and family relationships, as well as empower domestic violence victims and their children; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families embraces the Standards for Prevention Programs developed by the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect; and

**WHEREAS**, all sectors of the community, including law enforcement, medical professionals, schools, courts and media outlets, as well as numerous public and private agencies, have joined forces to promote public awareness and community involvement in strengthening families during the month of April and continuing throughout the year.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bloomsbury do hereby proclaim April 2015 as *Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month* and urge our residents to become involved in efforts aimed at strengthening families and communities and preventing our children from being abused and neglected.

**RESOLUTION # 32-15 - MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK**

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part of local government exists throughout the world, and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants, and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels, and

**WHEREAS**, Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering services to all, and

**WHEREAS**, Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and annual meetings of their state, provincial, county and international organizations,

**WHEREAS**, it is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Municipal Clerk,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bloomsbury do hereby recognize the week of May 3 through May 9, 2015, as Municipal Clerks Week, and further extend appreciation to our Municipal Clerk, Lisa A. Burd Reindel and to all Municipal Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the community they represent.

**RESOLUTION # 33-15 - IN SUPPORT OF S-2658 LEGISLATION TO LIMIT TUTION RATES CHARGED BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

**WHEREAS**, in 2010, the New Jersey Assembly passed a 2 percent property tax cap by a vote of 73-4 in favor ; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2010, the New Jersey Senate passed a 2 percent property tax cap by a vote of 36-3 in favor ; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Christie signed this overwhelming bipartisan legislation into law on July 13, 2010 ; and

**WHEREAS**, this legislation has allowed for property tax stabilization throughout the State; and

**WHEREAS**, certain boards and commissions currently are exempt from this 2 percent cap; and

**WHEREAS**, governmental entities forced to pay higher rates than 2 percent are forced to cut already lean services to make up for higher increases; and

**WHEREAS**, S-2658 eliminations one exemption by creating a limit of 2 percent on increases in tuition rates charged by school districts to sending districts;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bloomsbury strongly urge the Legislature to support and pass S-2658; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge Senator Teresa Ruiz to allow this bill to be discussed and released at the Senate Education Committee; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Pohatcong Township, Lopatcong Township, Greenwich Township and Alpha Borough.

**RESOLUTION # 34-15 – TRANSPARENT TAX ACT OF 2015**

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill No. A-4235 supplementing Chapter 4 of Title 54, R.S.54:4-65 and designated the “Transparent Tax Act of 2015” is being considered for adoption by the New Jersey State Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, the amendment would permit the local jurisdiction to print separate tax bills to each taxpayer, one showing the amount of property taxes due and payable for municipal tax purposes, the other shall state the amount of property taxes due and payable for county purposes, school purposes, fire district purposes, and for the purposes of any other special district on behalf of which the municipality collects property taxes; and,

**WHEREAS**, both bills shall include a brief tabulation showing the distribution of the total amount to be raised by taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, A-4235 would require the municipal tax collector to send notice of the pro rata share, if any, of the property tax appeal refunds paid by the municipality during the tax year to the county, school districts, and fire districts for inclusion in their annual budgets;

**WHEREAS**, in the following tax year in which the refunds were paid, the municipal tax collector is then required to deduct the applicable pro rata share of the property tax refund from the amounts to be paid to the county, and each school and fire district; and

**WHEREAS**, these amendments, if adopted, will assist the general public to understand the tax bill, the structure of the taxes, and the level of support for each agency, and will further provide a more equitable structure to share the obligation of paying approved tax appeals as the title states, creates transparency in the tax supporting local assessments.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bloomsbury, County of Hunterdon, and State of New Jersey, hereby supports Assembly Bill A-4235 amending Title 54:4-65 and urges the Legislature to approve and pass the bill for the reasons expressed herein; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the members of the NJ State Assembly, the members of the NJ Senate, and the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, the Municipal Clerks’ Association of New Jersey; and all Hunterdon County Municipalities.

Mrs. Papis moved Council adopt Resolutions #31-15, #32-15, #33-15 and #34-15 by consent agenda; seconded by Mrs. Jordan. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **COAH UPDATE**

Mrs. Tersigni stated that the Borough number has bounced around from the 20's down to a fair share obligation for 2015, 3<sup>rd</sup> round need calculated as high as 57 units. She advised that the maximum is capped at 1,000. Mr. Edleston stated that COAH has been dysfunctional for 4 – 5 years now and the Supreme Court ruled that they will put the matter back in front of the courts and they have indicated that towns should consider filing for a protective relief to say that they have either complied with the requirements or they have submitted information indicating we would be in compliance. Mr. Edleston stated that originally the Borough's Land Use Board Attorney indicated that he didn't think it was in the Borough's interest to do anything because the Borough is in the Highlands Preservation Area but nevertheless, he has sent correspondence saying he now feels it is in our interest to file for the declaratory judgement. Discussion followed.

Mr. Weger moved Council authorize Mr. Edleston to file a declaratory judgement; seconded by Mr. James. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Mrs. Tersigni stated that the Musconetcong Watershed Association asked to appear before Council to make a presentation today but provided a written report instead because the meeting agenda was full. Mrs. Tersigni stated that the report says we have leaves in our stormdrains. The Street sweeping will be scheduled and the Borough will move forward with having the three damaged catch basins repaired.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Weger moved Council open the meeting to the public; seconded by Mrs. Jordan. All ayes. Motion carried.

Eva Baranowski, 82 Brunswick Avenue asked about Borough owned commercial buildings on North Street. Council explained that the properties are being considered by the Planning Board for a potential redevelopment zone. Discussion followed.

Ms. Baranowski asked if the municipality gets involved in what will be done with the old Crackle Barrel and pizza place. Mrs. Tersigni stated that Council does not as they are privately owned properties. Discussion followed.

Ms. Baranowski asked if the Musconetcong River is still part of the wild and scenic designation and if the dam will still be removed. Council explained they have not heard any updates. Discussion followed.

Karen Murray, 120 Willow Avenue, noted repairs were being done at 30 Church Street. Mr. Creveling stated that permits were issued for the owner to do the roof, some drywall inside and to have a dumpster on the street.

Mr. Weger moved Council close public comment; seconded by Mr. Stiehler. All ayes. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Smith; seconded by Mr. Stiehler. All ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa A. Burd Reindel, RMC, CMR  
Borough Clerk/Administrator