

**GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 9, 2018
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CHEWS LANDING NEW JERSEY**

Pledge Allegiance to the Flag

Statement: Mr. Mercado read a statement setting forth the time, date, and place of this meeting, that it was properly advertised, posted and filed in the Office of the Township Clerk pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call:	Mr. Hutchison	Mr. Carlamere, Solicitor
	Mr. Owens	Mr. Cardis, Business Administrator
	Mrs. Stubbs	Mrs. Power, Township Clerk, RMC
	Mrs. Winters	Mr. Lechner, Community Development
	Mr. Mignone	Chief Earle, Police
	Mrs. Trotto – abs.	
	Mr. Mercado	

R-18:04-091

**RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC FROM DISCUSSION
OF EXEMPTED SUBJECT MATTER AT A REGULAR OR SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GLOUCESTER PURSUANT
TO N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 ET SEQ. OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT**

WHEREAS, The Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey provides that certain matters may be discussed in “Executive Closed Session” without members of the public being permitted to attend, and

WHEREAS, The following items, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, are permitted closed session discussion,

1. Confidential Matter under Federal or State Statute or Court Rule.
2. Matter which would jeopardize the receipt of Federal Funds.
3. Matter constituting unwarranted invasion of individual privacy.
4. Matter involving collective bargaining.
5. Matter involving purchase, lease or investment using public funds, or involving setting of bank rates.
6. Matters involving investigation of violations or possible violations of law. Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public, provided that disclosure could impair such protection.
7. Matters involving Attorney Client privileges.
8. Matters involving personnel.
9. Matters involving proceedings which could result in civil penalty, suspension or loss of license.

NOW THEREFORE, be it Resolved by the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester that there exists a need to discuss Litigation and Personnel, in executive closed session, and that the public be and is hereby excluded from this discussion on April 9, 2018 at 7:30 pm.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that disclosure to the public of the executive closed session matter shall not be made public until such matter has been resolved.

Adopted: April 9, 2018

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP CLERK

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Owens. Roll Call Vote: All in favor. Motion Carried. 6-0

PRESENTATION: Gloucester Township Scholarship Committee Scholarship Drawing

PUBLIC PORTION:

Mr. Mercado opened the public portion.

Dwayne Little of Chews Landing Road wished to speak about 1501 Chews Landing Road, a 100 year old farm located in the township. Mr. Mercado asked Mr. Little to speak during the second public portion.

Joanne Carr of Timberbirch questioned why the Open Space Tax Levy is up for vote now and whether or not it is used up every year. Ms. Carr asked if the Tax Appeal Counsel worked for the township or for the residents. Mr. Mercado stated for the township tax office.

Shaquille Latti of Blackwood stated that taxes have gone up two times since he has moved here. Mr. Latti questioned how much the bathrooms at Veterans’ Park cost and how much the park on Somerdale Road cost. Mr. Cardis stated the bathroom cost approximately \$80,000. Mr. Latti stated that the township does not get taxes from the outlets. Mr. Mercado explained the taxing structure on the outlets.

Lillian Berg of Rosegate stated that taxes are up \$10,000 in Rosegate and there are numerous abandoned homes and businesses in the township.

John Campenella of Downing Road asked if council could explain the 2% cap on property taxes that was promised by a previous governor. Mr. Mercado stated that he could speak during the second public hearing as this is for agenda items only.

A resident asked that council announce publicly the meetings for the zoning changes mentioned in the ordinances on the agenda. Mr. Mercado stated that there was a Planning Board meeting on March 27th. The resident also questioned Resolution 98, an agreement between the township and Blau & Blau. Mr. Carlamere stated that this was for the Special Tax Appeal Counsel.

Ray Polidoro of Erial asked Council if they would waive the time limit during the second public portion this evening. Mr. Mercado stated absolutely, anyone wishing to speak during the second public portion will be heard. Mr. Polidoro also asked Council if they would table the discussion and hold meeting in a larger venue.

There being no further comment, the public portion was closed.

PROCLAMATION: The Township Clerk read the Alcohol Awareness Month Proclamation 2018

BIDS:

BLOCK 9801, LOT 1 STORMWATER PIPING AND HEADWALL REPLACEMENT

BIDS RECEIVED MARCH 28TH, 2018 @ 11:00 AM

<u>CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>TOTAL BID PRICE</u>
Crown Pipeline	\$112,979.60
R. Moslowski Excavating, Inc.	\$86,132.00
Mount Construction	\$199,610.00
DiMeglio Construction Co.	\$182,805.00
Mathis Construction Co., Inc.	\$140,319.10
Neri’s Construction & Rental, Inc.	\$163,680.00

EDGEWATER COURT BANK STABILIZATION

BIDS RECEIVED MARCH 28TH, 2018 @ 10:40 AM

<u>CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>TOTAL BID PRICE</u>
Crown Pipeline	\$144,855.50
Mount Construction	\$229,905.00
R. Moslowski Excavating, Inc.	\$78,783.00
Sub-level Installations, Inc.	\$81,800.00

LINCOLN DRIVE STORMWATER PIPING & HEADWALL REPLACEMENT

BIDS RECEIVED MARCH 28TH, 2018 @ 10:00 AM

<u>CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>BASE BID</u>	<u>TOTAL ALTERNATE BID</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Mount Construction	\$455,052.00	\$12,320.00	\$467,372.00
DiMeglio Construction Co.	\$585,857.00	\$9,408.00	\$595,265.00

Mathis Construction Co., Inc.	\$318,198.50	\$6,496.00	\$324,694.50
Neri's Construction & Rental, Inc.	\$458,290.00	\$11,200.00	\$469,490.00
Think Pavers Hardscaping, LLC	\$448,746.00	\$11,200.00	\$459,946.00

**PASADENA DRIVE STORMWATER PIPING AND HEADWALL REPLACEMENT
BIDS RECEIVED MARCH 28TH, 2018 @ 11:20 AM**

<u>CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>TOTAL BID PRICE</u>
Crown Pipeline	\$129,261.75
Mount Construction	\$268,190.00
DiMeglio Construction Co.	\$221,616.00

**SPRING HILL DRIVE STORMWATER OUTFALL REPAIRS
BIDS RECEIVED MARCH 28TH, 2018 @ 10:20 AM**

<u>CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>TOTAL BID PRICE</u>
Mount Construction	\$259,175.00
DiMeglio Construction Co.	\$276,978.00
Neri's Construction & Rental, Inc.	\$175,660.00

**FY2017 NJDOT TRUST FUND: GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP BICYCLE PATH (HEALTH AND FITNESS TRAIL PHASE XI)
BIDS RECEIVED APRIL 4TH, 2018 @ 9:30 AM**

<u>CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>BASE BID #1</u>	<u>BASE BID #2</u>
Kline Construction CO., Inc.	\$450,000.00	\$122,849.20
Jerry and Son Exc. Inc.	\$565,940.00	\$118,780.00
Ricky Slade Construction, Inc.	\$853,650.00	\$168,835.00
Decker's	\$890,134.00	\$224,944.00
Gambale Concrete, LLC	\$734,465.50	\$199,220.50
Command Co., Inc	\$533,945.00	\$127,000.00
Diamond Construction	\$730,250.00	\$232,410.00
Fred M. Schiavone Construction	\$801,568.50	\$203,493.00

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to accept the bids, seconded by Mr. Owens. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 6-0.

ORDINANCES: SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

O-18-03 ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GLOUCESTER, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING ORDINANCE O-03-03, LAND DEVELOPMENT ADOPTING AN INCLUSIONARY AFFORDABLE APARTMENT OVERLAY (IA – APT) ZONING DISTRICT FOR 1495 CHEWS LANDING ROAD BLOCK 8401 LOT 12.02.

Mr. Mercado opened the public hearing. Dwayne Little of Laurel Springs explained what occurred at the last Planning Board meeting. Mr. Little explained how 1501 Little Gloucester Road is a 100 year old working farm that will now be within 200 feet of the proposed apartment complex. Mr. Little asked council if they believe they are supporting the municipal plan. Mr. Mercado and Mr. Hutchison both stated yes. Mr. Little asked if it was the desire of council to limit the over crowded schools, traffic congestion, and pollution consistent with acquisition of this open space. Mr. Mercado stated that enrollment in Gloucester Township School K-8 is approximately 6,400 students down from 8,000 ten years ago. The overcrowding issue is incorrect regarding our schools. Mr. Little described how this project, which he believes should be relocated to the old Glendora skating rink, will affect traffic, pollution, and schools. Mr. Little cited a Mount Laurel court case where

the town bought back property from the developer using eminent domain. Mr. Mercado explained the township's agreement with the Fair Share Housing Council that must be adhered to. Mr. Carlamere explained that the property referred to is owned by a private developer. Denise Coyne of Blackwood discussed the 19 year old Township Master Plan which stressed redeveloping instead of developing. Ms. Coyne voiced her concerns with developing this land and the traffic repercussions that will follow.

Joseph Barbarell (sp) of Cameron Circle suggested the developer build custom built homes so the new residents will pay taxes

Jaclyn Yost of Broadmoor West discussed the Master Plan. Ms. Yost mentioned that the land being discussed was zoned as senior housing in 2006 and the rest of the surrounding ground is owned by the state. Mr. Mercado stated that when the developer bought that parcel, the original intention was for senior housing because it was a desirable model at the time for municipalities. Then the recession hit. Mr. Carlamere explained the Fair Share Housing Requirements and township's previous litigation involving this parcel. Ms. Yost stated that Mr. Bach explained it differently at the Planning Board meeting. Mr. Hutchison asked if the township is trying to find different ways to fulfill its affordable housing numbers going forward. Mr. Carlamere stated that the township is partnering with the housing authority to identify abandoned and foreclosed homes that may meet the criteria. Ms. Yost asked council why they would chose the proposed project for that particular parcel for only eleven qualified affordable housing units. Ms. Yost was concerned that there are no sidewalks or public transportation for the planned affordable housing units.

Melissa Gretskey of Glen Oaks voiced her concerns that affordable housing apartments will create safety issues and cited a gun issue that occurred in Brittany Woods. Mr. Mercado explained affordable housing. Mrs. Gretskey asked what the township is doing to maintain these apartments to prevent a drug area. Mr. Mercado explained that code enforcement and the police assist with this.

Lou Francine of Cameron Circle asked Council to table this discussion until a bigger venue could be reserved. Mr. Mercado stated that he would like to hear more comments before making a decision.

Boris Ball of Winding Way asked Council if Code Enforcement drives around and cites properties that have added additions to their homes. Mr. Ball asked if these homes are being counted in the affordable housing inventory because these additions look like homes. Mr. Mercado stated that he does not believe so.

A resident from Hobart Drive stated their dissatisfaction with the location and the proposed apartments' affect on traffic. This resident asked if students would be bussed from the proposed complex to school. Mr. Mercado stated yes.

Mary O'Connell of Madison Drive asked if Council has looked into what the Township already has in affordable housing inventory. Mr. Mercado listed the current stock: Franklin Square Senior Village, Scenic Falls, Senior Campus One in Lakeland, Blackwood West Southwind Project, Mullen Manor, this project being discussed, and then marketing abandoned homes within the township. Ms. O'Connell stated that there are more apartment complexes than Mr. Mercado listed. Mr. Mercado stated yes, but those complexes are market rate. Ms. O'Connell also asked if a traffic study has already been completed and if a traffic study was completed for The Colony which is located on the same road. Mr. Mercado stated that during the Planning process, the developer will have to provide a traffic study to the planning board. Mr. Lechner offered to provide a copy of the traffic study from the Colony.

Joanne Carr of Timberbirch asked if the two ordinances are about the same topic. Mr. Mercado stated yes. Ms. Carr stated that Council is going to vote yes, despite what the residents say. Mr. Hutchison asked Mr. Carlamere what the repercussions are if the township does not approve this ordinance. Mr. Carlamere explained the situation occurring with another developer who was denied 250 units.

Debbie Sawyer of Glen Oaks asked if there is a back-up plan in place in the event the builder pulls out. Mr. Carlamere stated yes and that the township is able to constantly update the plan and present it to the court.

A resident suggested negotiating with another private owner to purchase their ground from them on the BlackHorse Pike for affordable housing. Mr. Mercado stated that the ground is privately owned.

There being no further comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Mignone. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 6-0.

CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING ORDINANCE O-03-03, LAND DEVELOPMENT TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP FOR TAX BLOCK 8401, LOT 12.02 ALONG CHEWS LANDING ROAD.

Mr. Mercado opened the public hearing.

There being no comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Owens. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion carried. 6-0.

**RESOLUTIONS:
CONSENT AGENDA**

R-18:04-092

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Township Council of the Township of Gloucester, in the County of Camden, that the following bills are approved by the Township Council in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance 0-82-16 and certified by the Chief Financial Officer that the claims are proper obligation of the township, that adequate funds are available to honor these claims in the account indicated and the claim should be paid:

CURRENT ACCOUNT

Per attached computer readout of the claims presented in the amount of \$ 215,337.59

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

Per attached computer read out of the claims presented in the amount of \$ 50,564.49

TRUST

Per attached computer readout of the claims presented in the amount of \$ 20,007.95

DEVELOPERS ESCROW

Per attached computer readout of the claims presented in the amount of \$ 1,989.50

ANIMAL TRUST

Per attached computer readout of the claims presented in the amount of \$ 2,964.60

MANUAL CHECKS

Per attached computer readout of the claims presented in the amount of \$ 317,327.62

Adopted: April 9, 2018

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP CLERK

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Winters. Roll call vote: All in favor.
Motion carried. 6-0.

R-18:04-093

RESOLUTION APPROVING OPEN SPACE TAX LEVY FOR 2018

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services has determined the requirement for approval of the Local Municipal Open Space Tax Rate for the municipality for Calendar year 2018, and

WHEREAS, the procedure provides for the calculation of a Municipal Tax Open Space Levy on the basis of an Open Space Trust fund as approved by the voters of the Township of Gloucester via referendum on November 6, 2001, and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester via resolution

R-02:02-070 has authorized a Trust Account entitled Open Space Trust Fund and said account is to be dedicated by rider to the Budget of the Township of Gloucester in accordance with P.L. 1997, Chapter 24, N.J.S.A 40:12-15.7 et seq.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester that the Municipal Open Space Tax Levy is hereby approved reflecting a separate Municipal Open Space Tax Levy of \$878,760.00 with certified rateables of \$4,393,804,300.00 resulting in a rate of .02 per \$100 of assessed value of the calendar year 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be filed with the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services and with Camden County Board of Taxation.

Adopted: April 9, 2018

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP CLERK

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Winters. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 6-0.

R-18:04-094

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF GLOUCESTER AND JERRY & SON EXC INC.

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester, County of Camden, determined that there is a need for FY 2017 NJDOT Trust fund Gloucester Township Bicycle Path (Health and Fitness Trail) Phase XI

WHEREAS, sufficient funds have been provided, and

WHEREAS, the Township Council received bids or quotes

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester that the proper Township Officials are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Jerry & Son Exc Inc., for FY 2017 NJDOT Trust fund Gloucester Township Bicycle Path (Health and Fitness Trail) Phase XI in the amount of \$118,780.00 which was the lowest bid or quote received.

Adopted: April 9, 2018

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP CLERK

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Winters. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 6-0.

R-18:04-095

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that the following persons be and are hereby appointed to the Gloucester Township Emergency Management Committee:

Raymond Evans	OEM Coordinator	3 years	06-01-2018 to 05-31-2021
John Swack	Deputy OEM Coordinator	3 years	06-01-2018 to 05-31-2021
Bryan Bonawitz	Deputy OEM Coordinator	3 years	06-01-2018 to 05-31-2021

Adopted: April 9, 2018

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP CLERK

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Winters. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 6-0.

R-18:04-096

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF GLOUCESTER AND PLAYPOWER LT FARMINGTON, INC.

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester, County of Camden, determined that there is a need for playground equipment, rubber surfacing and installation of the playground equipment for Wye Oak Park; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds have been provided, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester that the proper Township Officials are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with PlayPower LT Farmington, Inc. of 878 E. US Hwy 60. Monett, MO 65708, purchased through the Township established co-op purchasing agreement with NJPA, member # 31114, for playground equipment, rubber surfacing and installation of the playground equipment for Wye Oak Park in the amount of \$156,131.66.

Adopted: April 9, 2018

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP CLERK

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Winters. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 6-0.

R-18:04-097

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GLOUCESTER, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY CONFIRMING THE PURCHASE OF A PLAYGROUND STRUCTURE WITH RUBBER SURFACING THROUGH THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY (ESCNJ), A STATE APPROVED NATIONAL COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011,c139 allows the Township of Gloucester, as a local contracting unit, to utilize national cooperative contracts as a method of procurement, and

WHEREAS, Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) is a cooperative purchasing program in which the Township of Gloucester is a participating municipality, and

NOW THEREFORE, it is herein RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester does hereby confirm, authorize and approve the purchase of a playground structure with rubber surfacing pursuant to the following State Approved cooperative purchasing awards through the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey for 2018.

<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>ESCNJ NUMBER</u>	<u>PRESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
MRC Inc.	#17/18-20 65MCESSCCPS	Equipment w/Installation	\$ 86,377.07
RubberRecycle	#17/18-18	Rubber Surfacing/curbing	\$ 35,315.00

Adopted: April 9, 2018

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP CLERK

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Winters. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 6-0.

R-18:04-098

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE TOWNSHIP OF GLOUCESTER AND BLAU & BLAU**

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester, County of Camden, determined that there is a need for a Special Tax Appeal Counsel

WHEREAS, sufficient funds have been provided, and

WHEREAS, the Township Council received bids or quotes

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester that the proper Township Officials are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Blau & Blau for Special Tax Appeal Counsel.

Adopted: April 9, 2018

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP CLERK

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Winters. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 6-0.

R-18:04-099

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF
GLOUCESTER TO ACCEPT A SUBGRANT AWARD FY17 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING AND FOR THE
TOWNSHIP'S CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO CERTIFY THE AVAILABILITY OF
FUNDS**

WHEREAS, The Township of Gloucester, Office of Emergency Management has been awarded FY 17 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant CFDA 20.703 from the State of New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management. The Subgrant, consisting of a total amount of \$11,900.00, including \$11,900.00 Federal Award for the purpose of enhancing Gloucester Township's ability to train personnel to respond to accidents and incidents involving hazardous materials during the period of September 30, 2017 through September 30, 2018; and

WHEREAS, The subgrant award incorporates all conditions and representations contained or made in application and notice of award #FY17 HMEP Grant Subaward-2017 ; and

WHEREAS, The Gloucester Township Office of Emergency Management, designated by the State of New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, has submitted an Application for Subgrant Award that has been required by the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester hereby accepts the award of the FY 2017 Hazardous Materials Preparedness Grant Program Subgrant Award FY 2017-05 in the amount of \$11,900.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of \$11,900.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption FY2017 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Gloucester Township Administrator, the Chief Financial Officer and the Gloucester Township Director of Emergency Management are authorized to accept and sign the appropriate subgrant award documents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the State of New Jersey Division of Law and Public Safety; the Director of the Division of Local Government Services; the Chief Financial Officer; The Gloucester Township Division of Emergency Management, Office of the Treasury and the Camden County Office of Emergency Management and the Camden County Health Department.

Adopted: April 9, 2018

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP CLERK

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Winters. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 6-0.

R-18:04-100

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL TAX SALE CERTIFICATE #17-00759 AND REFUND THE LIEN HOLDER FOR ERRONEOUS LIEN DUE TO BANKRUPTCY

WHEREAS, on December 28, 2017 Certificate of Sale #17-00759, was sold to US Bk Cust for PC7 Firsttrust for delinquent sewers for Block 14902, Lot 43, assessed to 13 Raintree Drive in the amount of \$513.28 and;

WHEREAS, the certificate was sold in error due to a bankruptcy filed,

WHEREAS, the lien holder has been informed and requests a refund,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Council of the Township of Gloucester are hereby authorizing the tax collector to cancel the certificate and issued a refund in the amount of \$578.84.

Certificate Amount	\$513.28
Legal Interest	.56
Affidavit/Record Fee	<u>65.00</u>
Total Due	\$578.84

Adopted: April 9, 2018

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP CLERK

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Winters. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 6-0.

GT E-GOV ACCESS

Mr. Henry Disanti of Sicklerville asked the following questions:

1. *Why was the school roof not put out to bid?*
2. *Why were solar panels installed on a roof that would need repairing or replacement soon after solar panels were installed?*

Mr. Mercado stated that this is a school board question that should be addressed to the school board.

Mr. Glenn Giveans of Blackwood asked the following question:

1. *Can you please advise why the council meeting notes have not been listed on the town's website since early January?*

Mrs. Power stated that she took over the position in February and the office has been transitioning. The previous clerk retired during one of the most crucial times for the clerk's office during licensing season. Mrs. Power explained that during the interim, the meetings can

be viewed in the Township's video archive on the township website.

Mr. Ryan Baines of Laurel Springs asked the following question:

1. *What is the progress with the entertainment and nice restaurants for our community in regards to the premium outlets?*
2. *What benefits as a tax payer do we get from allowing low income apartments to be built close to our neighborhoods with the drugs, crime, and filth they bring with a majority of the people living there that just don't care?*

Mr. Mercado stated that the Premium Outlets are privately owned and the property managers are actively recruiting new stores and restaurants. Mr. Mercado stated that he would address the second question directly to Mr. Baines.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Mr. Mercado opened the public portion.

Nancy Schmidt of Williamstown Road asked why the township is spending so much money and how is the township planning to save money. Ms. Schmidt expressed that the township does not need services for seniors such as the senior bus and the senior club. Mr. Mercado described the taxing entities in our township and explained that approximately .28 of every dollar goes to the municipality. Mr. Mercado explained that the township does not control the other taxing entities. Ms. Schmidt suggesting cutting back on benefits. Mr. Mercado explained there are six different unions with contractual obligations.

Bob Sambuca of Blackwood stated that council needs to take control of the situation and stop blaming others. Mr. Sambuca suggested council take the lead and control the other taxing entities.

Paul Jamison of Erik Court stated that taxes have gone \$1,000 every year. Mr. Jamison asked council how to plan for his family.

David Brown of Mulberry Station stated that council members all have a hand in the tax situation because they are all Team Mayer. Mr. Brown questioned why there are so many fire commissioners being paid and suggested the township consolidate to one. Mr. Brown expressed his concern for the state of roads in the township and questioned why tax payers had to pay for repairs instead of the township forcing contractors repair their poor microsurfacing jobs. Mr. Mercado stated that he would look into that.

Tip Stanley, a resident, submitted a budget for the Township to use after spending 30 hours reviewing the current budget. Mr. Stanley gave a brief explanation of his background and expertise. Mr. Stanley expressed his concern with "fuzzy" data used in the township budget. Mr. Stanley asked how similar municipalities' budgets can operate on a budget that is approximately \$113k less than Gloucester Township. Mr. Stanley asked why the township's retirement fund for police is not performing and must be subsidized by the tax payers?

Anthony Miller of Glendora wanted to state as a follow up to a previous question, that 95% of the fire departments are volunteers.

Karen Lederly of Erial expressed her concerns about the taxes increasing. Ms. Lederly stated that she wants to retire but cannot afford to and that there are no job opportunities. Ms. Lederly also expressed her disappointment with the road surfaces throughout the township.

Andy Blizzard of Rosegate asked council if they are happy with the tax increase. As someone who travels around the country, Ms. Blizzard asked why our township taxes are so much higher than other places. Ms. Blizzard asked how the taxes can be justified. Ms. Blizzard also asked what services our township provides that other townships do not. Mr. Mercado dispelled the rumors revolving around the Mayor receiving a raise. Mr. Mercado explained that council is listening and no one on council wants to see bills raise. Ms. Blizzard asked why are our taxes so much higher when every municipality is doing the same services. Ms. Blizzard asked where is the money going. Mr. Mercado stated that we live in the state of New Jersey, in Camden County, in a growing community of approximately 70k residents. Mr. Cardis stated that there are many factors in the tax increase of the budget. Ms. Blizzard expressed that her question has not been answered but thanked council for the information.

Patrick Holmes of Sicklerville stated that the Wye Oak development taxes have gone up \$2,000. Mr. Holmes stated that the township allows taxes to be frozen at the age of 70, however he makes too much money to qualify for the freeze.

David Bonani of Marshall Avenue, Chairman of the Board for Fire Commissioners for District 4, stated that consolidating fire districts would save the township money and lower taxes by eliminating 5 of the 6 districts paid fire commissioners.

Darlene Ober of Hider Lane questioned what the goods and services are that the township provides to residents through tax dollars. Ms. Ober stated that trash collection was twice a week

and now reduced to once a week. Ms. Ober also stated that recycling was supposed to save the residents money and questioned how much money has been saved and where has that money gone. Ms. Ober suggested limiting what seniors pay in school tax. Mr. Mercado stated that apartments pay school tax. Mr. Mercado stated that property taxes are used to pay for schools, this comes from the state, municipalities cannot change this. Mr. Cardis stated we are Toby Rector of Annapolis Drive wanted to discuss third party electric provider savings. Mr. Rector also questioned what the utility savings were on township buildings. Mr. Cardis explained that the township goes out for bid through the county for electric service providers. Mr. Rector questioned tax assessments, reassessments, and re-evaluation on the county level. Mr. Mercado stated the last reevaluation was 2009/2010. Mr. Mercado stated that the township is due again in 2019/2020.

Joe Reed of Millbridge suggested council spend less money.

Vince, a resident of Forsythe Avenue, questioned if the Mayor will ever be at a council meeting. Mr. Hutchison explained that council is a legislative body, not an executive branch. Vince questioned why the township is looking to hire an auctioneer. Vince also questioned what the township pays in snow removal and stated that the service should be cut back. Mr. Cardis stated that the township does not pay standby time, but it does pay time and a half and double time based on the contractual obligations.

David Haag of Highland Village, suggested council cut the budget to help out the seniors of the town. Mr. Haag asked if there was anything said this evening that would sway council to reevaluate the budget. Mr. Mercado stated that there were many things said this evening that he and council will have to discuss. David also stated that Blackwood Clementon Road was a disaster with many closed stores. Mr. Hutchison recalled an experience assisting Mr. Haag with cleaning up the ground behind his home. Mr. Haag asked council to hold the line with taxes.

Judy Jones of Somerdale stated that Owens Corning is behind her home. Trees were cut down three years ago and left piled up behind her home. Ms. Jones stated that with the amount she pays in taxes, the trees should have been removed despite her attempts to call Public Works. Ms. Jones stated that with the 8% increase in her taxes, she will have to sell her home and this will be difficult with the giant pile of trees behind her home. Mr. Mercado stated that Ms. Jones will receive a call tomorrow.

Cheryl Burley, a resident, asked if council has the final say on the budget. Mr. Mercado stated that council is responsible for just .27 cents of the budget. Mr. Mercado stated that the elected officials of the other entities are responsible for their portion. Ms. Burley stated that residents are being forced out and are unable to use the services the township provides because everyone is too busy working.

Steve Nicholson of Roosevelt Drive stated that he grew up in Glen Oaks and continues to live in Glen Oaks with his wife and family and now cannot give his children the childhood he had because the township has priced him out of the district. Mr. Nicholson stated he is paying more in taxes than his mortgage.

William McCauley resident of Little Gloucester Road stated that responsibility of the budget does not fall on six council members. Mr. McCauley stated that the community should work together to determine which services are essential and not essential to help lower taxes. Mr. McCauley thanked council.

Joseph of Creek Drive stated that he has been in the township for 38 years and is by himself. Joseph had stated that neighbors cannot afford to keep their homes up. Joseph suggested laying off employees to lower taxes. Mr. Mercado stated that it is a catch-22, in that there are residents that work for the township and the school district.

Susan Slathe of Deerborne Avenue stated that she has lived in Gloucester Township for approximately 18 years. Ms. Slathe stated that she is unhappy with the tax increase and the appearance of many locations such as the stores near Sam's Bar and Grille, Kmart, and other empty store fronts. Ms. Slathe wanted to know what is going to happen with these empty plazas. Mr. Mercado agreed with Ms. Slathe about the condition of the plaza where Sam's Bar and Grille is located. Mr. Lechner stated that the Dunkin Donuts has been completed and the landscaping has been completed. Mr. Lechner stated that building permits have been taken out, but it is private property and the Township cannot force the owner to complete the work. Mr. Mercado stated code enforcement can be involved.

Ms. Price of Roosevelt Avenue asked about the open space on Somerdale Road and what it is going to be used for. Mr. Mercado stated this area was brought to the mayor by the historical society. From that area, you can see the front of Gabriel Davies Tavern and it was planned to used as an informational historical park. Mr. Mercado stated that there are challenges in that area. Mr. Mercado stated that the work was completed within the township. Ms. Price asked if the historical society paid for this park or did the township pay for the park. Mr. Mercado stated

that the historical society is part of the township. Mr. Cardis stated that there are cameras in front of the tavern and it was planned to clear trees and light up the front so it is visible from Somerdale road. Ms. Price asked who maintained the tavern. Mr. Cardis stated it is a partnership between public works and the historical society.

John Campanella of Somerdale asked if the township is collecting taxes on vacant homes. Mr. Mercado stated that the banks who own the properties pay the taxes. Mr. Campanella asked if the township would consider waiving the taxes for people who wanted to buy those homes, fix them up, and sell them to improve the community. Mr. Carlamere stated that he would have to look into it, but his first reaction would be no, that the township would not have the ability to waive the taxes. Mr. Hutchison stated he thought that the city of Camden did something similar, however taxes are being paid on the properties and now we would be forgoing that money in order to improve the neighborhood. Mr. Carlamere cited an abandoned property act in New Jersey. Mr. Campanella asked who is notified if an abandoned property is in need of grass cutting, etc. Mr. Mercado stated code enforcement.

Ray Polidoro of Erial equated the budget to cleaning out your garage. Mr. Polidoro asked if council had ever considered a zero based budget. Mr. Polidoro stated that many people were in the hallway tonight and left without being heard. Mr. Polidoro asked if council would consider holding the next meeting at Timbercreek High School so that everyone may be heard. Mr. Mercado stated that there are factors that need to be considered, such as the live streaming service so that residents who cannot make it out can watch from home.

Christopher, a resident from Roosevelt Drive questioned what Heritage Park, on Somerdale Road, cost the tax payers. Christopher felt that discretionary money should not have been spent on that park.

Paul of Sicklerville stated that his property value is decreasing because Sicklerville is divided into 3 different municipalities. Paul asked if something could be done to change his zip code to Gloucester Township. Mr. Mercado stated that there are 8 different zip codes in Gloucester Township and this is a federal issue with the postal service. Mr. Cardis stated that in the past, the post office wanted the township to build a new 5 million dollar post office in order to have our own zip code.

Anthony Miller stated that there is a vacant house 2 doors down covered by trees. Mr. Miller asked why he had to file a claim to his insurance company when a township vehicle hit his parked vehicle in front of his home if the township is self insured. Mr. Cardis stated that the township health care and workmen's compensation is self insured. Mr. Cardis stated that on General Liability Property and Casualty, the township is fully insured.

Joanne Carr of Timberburch stated that the historical committee did not approach the township in regards to Heritage Park. Ms. Carr stated that the township came to the historical committee for assistance with the park. Ms. Carr invited residents and council to come out to the tavern. There being no further comment, the public portion was closed.

POLLING OF COUNCIL

Mr. Hutchison stated that council listened and heard everything that was said and thanked everyone for coming out.

Mr. Mignone stated that the field of dreams event is coming up the next weekend.

Mr. Owens thanked everyone for coming out. Mr. Owens thanked all of the first responders.

Mrs. Stubbs thanked everyone and appreciates everyone's passion.

Mrs. Winters thanked everyone and stated that she appreciated everyone's comments.

Mr. Mercado stated that he understands and that council wants to find a way to keep everyone in the community. Mr. Mercado cited a scene from "It's a Wonderful Life," where people were pulling money from the bank. Mr. Mercado stated that many people do not utilize all of the services provided by the township, but we are taking care of each other. Mr. Mercado stated that he appreciated everyone's comments and thanked the police officers and employees for staying.

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Owens. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 6-0.