

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 7, 2008**

1. Call to Order

Mayor Arthur Ondish welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

Councilwoman Cerasoli, Councilwoman Mulligan, Councilman Doran, Mayor Ondish, Councilman Sorge (not present – ill)

- 3. Adequate notice** of this meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice was published in the Roxbury Register and the Daily Record on Thursday, December 20, 2007; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on December 11, 2007 and has been available to the public; notice of this meeting is on file in the office of the Borough Clerk

4. Flag Salute

Mayor Arthur Ondish led the flag salute.

5. Swearing in of New Council Members

Tina Mayer, Assistant to the Clerk, read the Statement of Determination into the record, as signed and sealed by Morris County Clerk Joan Bramhall on November 15, 2007.

6. Swearing in of New Council Members

Tina Mayer, Assistant to the Clerk administered the oath of office to Councilman John Driscoll and Councilwoman Nita Galate Goodman, individually, and they took their places on the dais.

7. Roll Call of the 2008 Council Members

Councilman Sorge (not present – ill), Councilwoman Cerasoli, Councilwoman Galate Goodman, Councilman Driscoll, Councilwoman Mulligan, Councilman Doran , Mayor Arthur Ondish.

8. Invocation

Pastor Roy Roderick delivered the invocation.

9. Guests in Audience

Mayor Arthur Ondish stated there were no elected officials in the audience.

10. Nomination of Council President for 2008

Mayor: I ask for a nomination for Council President for 2008.

Councilwoman Cerasoli: I nominate John Driscoll to serve as Council President for 2008.

Second: Councilman Doran.
 Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Driscoll, Mulligan, Doran.
 Motion Approved.

11. Appointment of Chief Financial Officer

Mayor: I recommend Joseph Kovalcik be appointed Chief Financial Officer to serve a four year term.

Councilman Doran: I'll make the nomination.
 Second: Councilwoman Cerasoli.
 Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Driscoll, Mulligan, Doran.
 Motion Approved.

The Mayor asked Joe to stand up to be recognized and asked him to come forth and be sworn in by the Assistant to the Clerk.

12. Mayor's Address

(The Mayor's address is attached.)

13. Appointments:

Borough Officials

The Mayor recommended appointment of the following Borough Officials:

Pension Certifying Official	Carolyn Rinaldi for a 1-year term
DPW Supervisor	Paul Nelson for a 1-year term

Council President Driscoll: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Second: Councilwoman Cerasoli.
 Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Council President Driscoll, Mulligan, Doran.
 Motion Approved.

Tina Mayer, Assistant to the Clerk, did not administer Oaths of Office, neither were present.

Professional Services

The Mayor recommended the following appointments for a one year term:

Borough Attorney	Matthew Giacobbe, Esq. Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC
Special Council	Fred Semrau, Esq.
Borough Engineer	Daren Phil Suburban Consulting Engineers

Borough Prosecutor	Douglas Cabana
Borough Auditor	Nisivoccia & Company
Public Defender	James Sloan
Bond Counsel	John G. Hudak, Esq.
Tax Appeal Appraiser	Scott Holzhauer, CTA, SCGREAA
Stormwater Management Consultant	Suburban Consulting Engineers
Land Use Board Attorney	Michael Selvaggi, Esq.

Councilwoman Cerasoli: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Second: Councilman Doran.

Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Council President Driscoll,
Mulligan (Abstain), Doran.

Motion Approved.

Tina Mayer, Assistant to the Clerk, administers Oaths of Office.

Mayor's Appointments

The Mayor recommended the following appointments for a one year term:

Tax Search Officer:	Patricia Simari
Assessment Search Officer:	Linda DeSantis
Clean Communities Coordinator:	Paul Nelson
Recycling Coordinator:	Paul Nelson
Zoning Officer	Al Thompson
Sussex County Water Quality Mgmt. Plan Policy Advisory Committee (PAC):	Doug Zellman
Historian:	Virginia Rooney
Licensed Water Operator:	Andrew DuJack
Police Matron:	Valerie Kourtz

League of Municipalities Rep.:	Mayor Arthur Ondish
Liaison to the Board of Education:	Councilwoman Nita Galate Goodman
Liaison to the Board of Health:	Council President John Driscoll
Borough Pastor:	Pastor Roy Roderick
NJJIF Commissioner: Alternate I:	JoAnne Sendler Brian Kincaid
Public Safety Coordinator:	Chief Richard Peterson
Public Safety Coordinator:	JoAnne Sendler
Public Safety Coordinator:	Paul Nelson
Public Safety Clerk:	Patricia Simari
Public Safety Clerk:	Terry Smith
Deputy OEM Coordinator:	JoAnne Sendler
Deputy OEM Coordinator:	Chief Richard Peterson
Deputy OEM Coordinator:	Keith Licata
Deputy OEM Coordinator:	Chief Marc Feinberg
Deputy OEM Coordinator:	Patricia Simari
Secretary to OEM:	Diane Perillo
CDRS Representative by Mayor:	Mary Johanna LoPonte
CDRS Alt. Rep. by Mayor:	James Garland

Council President Driscoll: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Second: Councilwoman Cerasoli.

Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Council President Driscoll, Mulligan, Doran.

Motion Approved.

Tina Mayer, Assistant to the Clerk, administers Oaths of Office.

14. Council's Appointment to CDRS

Mayor: The next item is Council's 1 year appointment to CDRS.

Council has discussion of this appointment.

Council President Driscoll: I nominate Brian Kincaid as Council's Representative to CDRS.

Second: Councilwoman Cerasoli.
 Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Council President Driscoll,
 Mulligan, Doran.
 Motion Approved.

The Mayor thanks Brian Kincaid.

15. Council Committee Appointments

The Mayor asks for confirmation of the following appointments to Chair the Council Committees for the Year 2008:

Finance: Chairman: Councilman Sorge (Council President Driscoll, Mulligan)

Police: Chairman: Council President Driscoll (Cerasoli, Galate Goodman)

Personnel & Public

Relations: Chairman: Councilwoman Cerasoli (Sorge, Galate Goodman)

Fire, Rescue

& OEM: Chairman: Councilwoman Mulligan (Cerasoli, Doran)

Parks &

Recreation: Chairman: Councilman Doran (Council President Driscoll, Mulligan)

DPW, Bldgs., Grounds &

Utilities: Chairman: Councilwoman Galate Goodman (Doran, Sorge)

Council President Driscoll: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Second: Councilwoman Mulligan.

Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Council President Driscoll, Mulligan, Doran.

Motion Approved.

16. Fire Department Officers & Fire Official

The Mayor recommends appointments of the following to the Fire Department as Officers for 2008 – 2009 (2-year terms).

Fire Chief: Marc Feinberg
 Assistant Chief: Steve Norman
 Captain: Brian Heber

Lieutenant: John Morsch
 Engineer: Eric Fowler

Councilwoman Mulligan: I move for confirmation of these appointments.
 Second: Councilman Doran.
 Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Council President Driscoll,
 Mulligan, Doran.
 Motion Approved.

Tina Mayer, Assistant to the Clerk, administers Oaths of Office.

The Mayor recommends the appointment of the following:

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire
 and Safety, as the Fire Official for the Year 2008 (1-year term).

Councilman Doran: I move for confirmation of this appointment.
 Second: Councilwoman Mulligan.
 Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Council President Driscoll,
 Mulligan, Doran.
 Motion Approved.

17. Council's Appointment to the Land Use Board

The Mayor recommended the following Council appointment to the Land Use Board for a one year term.

Councilman Doran: I would like to nominate Nita Galate Goodman as a
 Class III member of the Land Use Board.
 Second: Councilwoman Mulligan.
 Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Council President Driscoll,
 Mulligan, Doran.
 Motion Approved.

18. Land Use Board Members

The Mayor recommended the following appointments to the Land Use Board.

Class I member - Mayor Arthur Ondish (1 yr appt – expires 12/31/08)
 Class II member – JoAnne Sandler, Borough Administrator (1 yr appt –
 expires 12/31/08)
 Class IV member – Michael Stanzilis (2 yr. appt – expires 12/31/09)

Council President Driscoll: I move for confirmation of these
 appointments.
 Second: Councilman Doran.

Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Council President Driscoll,
Mulligan, Doran.
Motion Approved.

Tina Mayer, Assistant to the Clerk, administers Oaths of Office.

19. Library Board of Trustees

The Mayor recommends Council President John Driscoll as Mayor's Alternate to the Library Board of Trustees for the Year 2008.

Councilwoman Cerasoli: I move for confirmation of this appointment.
Second: Councilwoman Mulligan.
Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Council President Driscoll,
Mulligan, Doran.
Motion Approved.

The Mayor recommends to the Library Board of Trustees Ana Van Den Hende for a 5 yr. appt – expires 12/31/12.

Councilwoman Cerasoli: I move for confirmation of this appointment.
Second: Council President Driscoll.
Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Council President Driscoll,
Mulligan, Doran.

Tina Mayer, Assistant to the Clerk, administers Oaths of Office.

20. Local Assistance Board

The Mayor recommends the appointment of the following to the Local Assistance Board:

Tina Mayer (1 year term - expires 12/31/08)
The Mayor stated Tina will replace Harry Martin who resigned.

Council President Driscoll: I move for confirmation of this appointment.
Second: Councilman Doran.
Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Council President Driscoll,
Mulligan, Doran.
Motion Approved.

Matthew Giacobbe, Borough Attorney, administers Oath of Office

21. Board of Health

The Mayor recommends the appointment of the following to the Board of Health:

Frank Hughes, (3 yr. term - expires 12/31/10)
Valerie Gresham, (3 yr. term - expires 12/31/10)
Wendy Mahler, (filling unexpired 3 yr. term ending 12/31/08)

Patricia Simari, Board of Health Administrator (1 yr. term - expires 12/31/08)

Councilman Doran: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Second: Councilwoman Mulligan.

Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Council President Driscoll, Mulligan, Doran.

Motion Approved.

Tina Mayer, Assistant to the Clerk, administers Oath of Office.

22. Recreation Committee:

The Mayor recommends the following appointments to the Recreation Committee; appointed members do not have to take an oath, but I ask that they please stand up to be recognized after confirmation of their appointments.

Anthony Albanese, Member (3-year term, expires 12/31/10)

Lisa Abline, Member (2-year term, expires 12/31/09)

Joe Keltos, Member (2-year term, expires 12/31/09)

Kelly Turner, Member (1-year term, expires 12/31/08)

Deanna Minchello, Member (1-year term, expires 12/31/08)

Donna Blakely, Alternate (1-year term, expires 12/31/08)

Ed Gomez, Alternate (1-year term, expires 12/31/08)

Councilman Doran: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Second: Councilwoman Mulligan.

Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Council President Driscoll, Mulligan, Doran.

Motion Approved.

The Mayor thanks the members that are present, offers the support of their new liaison, Councilman Doran, and offers support and encouragement to them for the New Year.

23. Advisory Council Appointments

The Mayor stated that the Advisory Council appointed members do not have to take an oath, but asked that they please stand up to be recognized after confirmation of their appointments. Their appointments are for a 1-year term.

The Mayor recommends the following appointments:

Dial-A-Ride Committee

Councilman Robert Sorge

Councilwoman Nita Galate Goodman

Diane Perillo

Mount Arlington Veteran's Day Committee

Councilman Robert Sorge
 Councilman William Doran
 Council President John Driscoll

Technology Committee

Council President John Driscoll
 Councilman Robert Sorge
 Police Chief Richard Peterson
 Fire Chief Marc Feinberg
 Jim Garland
 John Goldin
 Frank Hughes

Water & Sewer Committee

Council President John Driscoll
 Councilman William Doran
 Daren Phil & Andrew Holt, Suburban Consulting Engineering
 JoAnne Sendler
 Paul Nelson
 Sandor Nyari
 Layne Morris
 Mary Johanna LoPonte
 Carolyn Rinaldi, Recording Secretary
 Councilwoman Nita Galate Goodman- Alternate

Neighborhood Watch Committee

Councilwoman Kerri Ann Mulligan, Chair
 Lieutenant Keith Licata, Chair
 Lorraine Dzidual, Co-Chair
 Beth Ward
 Frank Hughes

Traffic Safety Committee

Councilwoman Maureen Cerasoli
 Police Chief Richard Peterson
 Fire Chief Marc Feinberg
 Bryan Waagner, St Clares Ambulance
 JoAnne Sendler
 Paul Nelson
 Daren Phil

Raritan Highlands Compact

Council President John Driscoll
 JoAnne Sendler

Code Book Review Committee

Councilwoman Maureen Cerasoli
 JoAnne Sendler
 Fred Semrau, Special Council
 Linda DeSantis

Building Committee

Councilwoman Maureen Cerasoli
 Councilman William Doran
 JoAnne Sendler
 Daren Phil
 Paul Nelson
 Sandor Nyari
 Councilman Robert Sorge, Alternate

Council President Driscoll: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Second: Councilman Doran.

Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Council President Driscoll, Mulligan, Doran.

Motion Approved.

The Mayor recommends reinstating the four 2007 appointments to the Domestic Violence Response Team for the year 2008. These members are not named due to the confidential nature of this team.

Council President Driscoll: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Second: Councilwoman Mulligan.

Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Council President Driscoll, Mulligan, Doran.

Motion Approved.

24. Borough Employees

The Mayor recommends the continued employment of all Borough Employees who were on the payroll on December 31, 2007, except for any employees whose services with the Borough may have been terminated at or on December 31, 2007.

Council President Driscoll: I'll make the motion.

Second: Councilman Doran

Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Council President Driscoll, Mulligan, Doran.

Motion Approved.

25. Council Meeting Dates for 2008

The Mayor states that the Open Public Meetings law. Which is commonly referred to as the “Sunshine Law,” establishes the right of all citizens to have adequate advance notice of all public meetings and the right to attend meetings at which any business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon.

It also requires the official announcement during the first ten days of the New Year of all the official meeting dates. The Council Meetings will commence at 7:00 pm. All meetings will be held at the Municipal Building, 419, Howard Boulevard, Mount Arlington, New Jersey.

We have scheduled the Council Meetings as follows:

Monday, January 7-Reorganization Meeting

Monday, January 21

Monday, February 11

Monday, February 25 – Work session

Monday, March 10

Monday, March 24 – Work session

Monday, April 14

Monday, April 28 – Work session

Monday, May 12 – 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, May 27 – Work session

Monday, June 9

Monday June 23 – Work session

Monday, July 14

Monday, August 11

Monday, September 8

Monday, September 22 – Work session

Monday, October 13

Monday, October 27 - Work session

Monday, November 10

Monday, November 24 - Work session

Monday, December 8

I think that it will be useful for me to mention at this time that the law specifies nine exceptions to the requirement for admitting the public to meetings. They are:

- (1) Matters rules confidential by law.
- (2) Matters which would impair monies.
- (3) Matters constituting invasion of individual privacy.
- (4) Matters involving collective bargaining including negotiations.
- (5) Tactics and techniques involving protection, public safety and property and investigations of possible violations.
- (6) Matters involving acquisition of real property and investment of funds.
- (7) Litigation, contract negotiations, or matters involving attorney client relationship.
- (8) Personnel matters: hiring, firing, discipline, etc.
- (9) Deliberations after public hearing that may result in civil penalty or loss of license or permit.

26. Open to the Public

The Mayor opened the floor to the Public.

- Veronica Silkes, Succasunna Road –

- Ms. Silkes asked why the Borough needs a Risk Manager, in this case, Rich Allocca. Borough Attorney, Matthew Giacobbe explained that the Risk Manager is the individual or licensed insurance broker who negotiates on behalf of the Borough for placement of insurance services.

- Ms. Silkes questioned Resolution 2008-11, New Jersey Joint Insurance Fund, the insurance company that the Borough has hired. Borough Attorney, Matthew Giacobbe explained there are a number of different insurance vehicles by which the Borough is insured. Resolution 2008-11 is the NJJIF, which is the property and casualty insurance, like your homeowner's insurance. He further explains to Ms. Silkes what the Risk Manager does for the Borough, and this is an appointment in every municipality.

- Ms. Silkes had questions about Resolutions 2008-08 and 2008-22. Mayor Ondish explained that Resolution 2008-08 was for special litigations that the Borough was involved in. Borough Administrator, JoAnne Sandler explained that Resolution 2008-08 is for a Tax Appeal Specialist.

- Ms. Silkes talked about the budget, the Mayor's letter, Governor Corzine's address and less spending. She asked about the Borough's debt. The Mayor turned the floor over to Joe Kovalcik, Chief Financial Officer, to answer Ms. Silkes questions about bond ordinances. The CFO explained that it is common practice for a municipality to issue debt. The official statement, located in the bond ordinance, lists what the ordinance is bonding. Joe Kovalcik explained to Ms. Silkes the bonding process with several examples.

- Ms. Silkes asked questions regarding the Lake Hopatcong Commission and the meeting schedule. Where are the meetings held? Is there a fee that the Commission pays Mount Arlington for hosting the meetings? The Mayor stated no, that each town contributes to hosting the meetings.

- Ms. Silkes asked if the recreation budget has been cut? The Mayor stated that we don't know what the 2008 budget will be but the 2007 budget was not cut. Joe Kovalcik stated that with new legislation we don't anticipate introducing the budget until February 2008 and adopting until March 2008. The Mayor stated to Ms. Silkes that if people call with questions, please give them his cell phone number. They are welcome to call him with questions.

- Gayle Ann Livecchia, 29 Brookside Lane –

- Ms. Livecchia asked to have the Borough's OPRA submission policy that was articulated from the last meeting clarified. Matthew Giacobbe, Borough Attorney, not present at the last meeting spoke explaining how to submit an OPRA form. Ms. Livecchia stated her concern with how the form is submitted. She states that it was discussed at the last meeting that it can only be done in person which is in direct conflict to the GRC (Government Records Council) website information. She states the GRC website says an OPRA can be mailed, sent electronically, sent by fax or sent in person. Borough Attorney, Matthew Giacobbe stated that OPRA requests are accepted by the Borough through fax, mail and in person.

- Ms. Livecchia had a question in regard to the Chief Financial Officer. Matthew Giacobbe, Borough Attorney stated that we do not discuss personnel publicly.

- Ms. Livecchia had a question about the train station. She asked the Mayor about his thoughts on the train and Mid-town direct. The Mayor stated that her question is a NJ Transit question.

27. Resolutions

The Mayor stated the following resolutions have been referred to Members of the Borough Council for reading and study and are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted by one motion of the Borough Council with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, the resolution may be removed and be subject to a separate roll call. The Mayor asks if anyone wants anything removed?

- 2008-01** Resolution Establishing the Rate of Interest on Delinquent Municipal Charges.
- 2008-02** Resolution Authorizing Professional Services for the Borough of Mount Arlington for the Calendar Year 2008.
- 2008-03** Resolution Awarding a Professional Services Contract for Special Borough Council.
- 2008-04** Resolution Designating Official Newspapers of the Borough.
- 2008-05** Resolution Authorizing the Official Depositories of the Borough.
- 2008-06** Resolution Authorizing the Assistant Administrator Maintain a Petty Cash Fund.
- 2008-07** Resolution Authorizing Signatures on Payroll and Other Checks.
- 2008-08** Resolution Authorizing Municipal Attorney and Special Council to Undertake Certain Actions on Behalf of the Borough on Recommendation of the Tax Assessor.

- 2008-09** Resolution Appointing Rich Allocca, Wachovia Insurance Services, Inc., as the Borough's Risk Management Consultant.
- 2008-10** Resolution Allowing Cancellation of Tax and Utility Overpayments or Delinquent Amounts Less than \$10.00.
- 2008-11** Resolution Appointing New Jersey Joint Insurance Fund Commissioner and Alternate I Member for the Borough of Mount Arlington.
- 2008-12** Resolution To Review, Revise and Supplement the Rules and Regulations Providing for Police Department Promotion Opportunities.
- 2008-13** Resolution Appointing the Local Emergency Planning Council.
- 2008-14** Resolution Authorizing a Tax Sale to Be Held in the Year 2008.
- 2008-15** Resolution Waiving the Food & Drink Licensing Fees for the Recreation Committee Concession Stand for 2008.
- 2008-16** Resolution Adopting a Form Required To Be Used for the Filing of Notices of Tort Claims Against the Borough of Mount Arlington.
- 2008-17** Resolution Authorizing Creation of Community Emergency Response Team.
- 2008-18** Resolution Supporting the Lake Hopatcong Commission.
- 2008-19** Resolution Supporting and Participating in the Volunteer Tuition Credit Program (P.L. 1998, C. 145).
- 2008-20** Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Animal Control Contract.
- 2008-21** Resolution Authorizing Temporary Appropriations for Operating Purposes.
- 2008-22** Resolution Authorizing Execution of Contract for Bond Council Services.
- 2008-23** Resolution Appointing Marc Feinberg as Deputy OEM Coordinator.

Council President Driscoll: I make the motion to pass these resolutions by consent.

Second: Councilwoman Cerasoli.

Roll Call: Cerasoli, Galate Goodman, Council President Driscoll, Mulligan, Doran.

Motion Approved.

28. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Councilman Doran.

All in Favor: Council President Driscoll.

Opposed: None.

Mayor Ondish thanks everyone for coming.

Tina Mayer
Assistant to the Borough Clerk

Good evening and welcome everyone to the 2008 Mount Arlington Reorganization meeting. It is a pleasure to see everyone here to bear witness to our government and the people who will continue to be involved and for those who are new. This is a very important meeting because this meeting puts the team in place who will serve the Borough through the year 2008.

First I would like to congratulate Council President Driscoll and Councilwoman Galate for their successful election bids to serve our Borough through the next 3 years. Council President Driscoll has been in service for 6 years and this is Councilwoman Galates first term. I look forward to working with you both as well as well as our sitting veteran Councilmember's. I am very fortunate to have a fine and seasoned group of individuals to share the responsibility of managing the Borough. I also would like to acknowledge and thank former Councilman Stone for his 3 years of service to the Borough.

I want to thank JoAnne Sendler our diligent Administrator for what seems like endless hours contributed to working with all of us to keep things moving forward in a positive way. She along with our professionals, the Borough employees, and the many volunteers are why Mount Arlington is in such great standing. Without this great team of elected officials, professionals, employees and volunteers we would not be able to move forward and accomplish the many goals we set for 2007. Making this Borough successful is a team effort and I am very proud to be the leader as Mayor.

2007 has certainly been an exciting year. I looked back at my reorganization speech from last year and focused in on the goals set. I did say that I had to be careful on what we predicted due to unforeseen circumstances. We certainly had a couple of those this year. I had no idea that in March the Fraternal Order of Police were going to approach us with what they saw as problems that needed to be addressed. We were quite surprised since in February the Chief was at our meeting telling us things were great. Well this certainly created quite a ruckus

over the next 8 months. As it turns out, these issues were all issues that should have been handled within the department and never should have reached the Council Chambers or any of our ears and ears. Upon doing our due diligence, the FOP conceded and made apologies to the Mayor and Council and told us they will work out their problems and that the police department was once again, in great shape. We trust that they are working out their problems and that we are all safe and secure with our police force. The time that I personally expended during the whole fiasco was great but I did learn much about many things so I am not going to say it was a waste of time because it was not. It was a learning experience that if I had a choice, I would not have chosen to be schooled in but it is what it is and I think we are all better for the experience. We learned much about our police department, the surrounding towns police departments and about the value of contract services. The safety and security of our residents is paramount and we will always do our due diligence to make sure that these crucial services are never compromised. I will expect the police liaison to be diligent in keeping the lines of communication open so we do not go through something this way again. The FOP president agreed to attend our meetings and learn more about aspects of the Borough, other than the police. The FOP president said that understanding what we do would be very helpful for him to perform his duties as FOP president. I look forward to him having a better understanding of the way the Borough operates and for him to pass that information on to his peers.

The next thing that we really could not have counted on was the whole bankruptcy process that we went through with Kara Homes. I spent much time on the phone and meeting with the representatives from Kara and the new developers that have taken over the remaining two Kara projects in Mount Arlington. I am pleased that things have moved forward and we have had success in getting back on track with these two projects. Horizons at Ridgeview has successfully been purchased and the remaining punch list items have begun to be dealt with. One of the major issues was the final paving of Ridgeview Lane and the parking areas including the Mount Arlington Library. Thanks to George Brandt,

a former Kara attorney, and a few others we were successful in working within the bankruptcy process to move forward and get the top coat installed without having to pursue performance bonds. This was a great victory due to the fact there are many other Kara projects that have not moved forward and are still waiting on the creditor lists for completion of work. I want to thank the residents of Horizons at Ridgeview for being patient and understanding that we were working for them and not against them with the actions we took. The newspapers had a field day with the controversy and much miss information was written but in the end, I hope we are all stronger in faith that the right actions were taken.

Horizons at Pennington was also successfully acquired by a new developer and that project has begun to move forward. It is a slow process but at least it has begun. I attended a meeting of the Pennington Association where the developer was present and it sounds like things are moving along, not without bumps, but at least moving in a forward direction. The new developer is in the process of construction the clubhouse and pool which is what the association wanted to see done so I am glad to see this happening. Weather permitting we will see these assets developed over the coming months. I look forward to the completion of Pennington and the ease of all the frustration for those in limbo.

Even with all that going on we were able to be successful in accomplishing the goals we set. In 2007 we were able to:

- Repave Rogerne Way with new drainage that should prevent the problems that the residents were experiencing in that area.
- We have engineered the phase one reconstruction of Orben Dr that should commence in the spring.
- Made some significant improvements to our Firehouse in Lake Rogerene
- The next link in the sidewalk puzzle is in the process of being installed
- We completed the reconstruction of Edgemere Ave.

- We have continued improvements on McGregor Ave
- We have worked through the DEP issues with Parker Circle and Southard roads and those residents now are enjoying a newly paved road along with public water. We have only paved with a sub coat and if all goes well we will be installing sewer lines in the spring followed by a final top coat of paving.
- Purchased new needed equipment for our Department of Public Works

I am glad that over the past 5 years we have been making improvements all around our Borough. I am careful to predict what we will be doing over the next couple of years due to the crisis that is going on in Trenton. According to the Governor, the state is broke and in a financial crisis. What this means for Mount Arlington, and the rest of the Municipalities in the state, is pretty clear. The unpaid bills in Trenton are going to be mandated down to the local tax payers. We have already been told that Municipal aide will be cut in the next state budget, we have been told COAH (The Coalition on Affordable Housing) will come out with new rules and costs that will affect local budgets, and we have been told that the public pension system is broke and money will need to be raised to pay for it. Where is this money going to come from? I can tell you it is going to be pushed down until it affects the end of the line, the local tax payer. I have great concern for how much our budget will be affected by these state problems. We have many in our Borough that are on fixed incomes and can barely afford to stay here now. We have many others who survive paycheck to paycheck. I am afraid for those who are going to be hurt by tax increases. We will do what we can to keep the tax rate down but we will be faced with many hard decisions on what services we can afford to keep and what we will need to consider expendable.

I am looking into ways to offset costs. You may have seen the article in the paper about thoughts of installing solar panels on the site of our closed landfill. I am working with the BPU and meeting with solar companies to learn how we can make this happen. Current laws prevent

this from being done but these laws are changing because many other towns are looking to do the same thing in order to offset costs. I will stay on top of this and make it a reality as soon as we can. I am also looking into wind energy but the same laws need to be changed in order to pursue that as another source to offset costs. I am pleased that this Council realizes how important it is that we look into ways to save energy and reduce waste. We are looking at the current wave of “going green” and determining where we can implement savings and help the environment. We have already begun by remodeling our buildings with installation of new energy efficient windows and doors. We will continue to look to install energy efficient lighting and equipment. These are small steps but when put together it does save tax dollars. Just by changing the doors in the firehouse, the fuel bills have dropped. It all adds up to savings and is better for the environment.

We will continue to look at sharing services with our schools, our neighboring communities and with Morris County. JoAnne and I have attended several meetings called by Morris County that are focused on how the County can share services to reduce our local costs. I believe there will be much more of this in the future since we are not going to get help from Trenton. I can see that we will all need to work together to consolidate in order to save. Contract services are the way of the future if we are going to survive. I look forward to working shoulder to shoulder with the County and our neighboring communities to find ways to save tax dollars in order to offset the coming wave of bills from Trenton. This may not be popular but it is going to be reality.

I also would like to make mention of another thing that happened to me, personally, this year that is a benefit to Mount Arlington. I was asked to fill a seat on the Executive Board of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities. This was truly an honor for me to be asked by my fellow Mayors, from across the state. First to consider nominating me and then to appoint me from a pool of great candidates was truly an honor. There are 566 municipalities in NJ and all are members of the League with only 25 seats on the Executive board. This is the first time

in the Leagues 92 year history that anyone from Mount Arlington has held a seat on the executive board. This is a great opportunity for me to work with Mayors from all 21 counties to share information and ideas on how to improve our community and resolve issues. I am also a member on three separate committees of the League. I have established relationships with many leading people to expand my knowledge so I can be a better leader. I feel this is a great opportunity for me to represent Mount Arlington, to all these people, in a big way.

I am excited to announce the Grand Opening of our very own Mount Arlington Train Station. The gala event will be held January 20, 2008 at 11am. This is a once in a lifetime event and one of the biggest events to happen in Mount Arlington in a long time. We will have a ceremony that will involve many and open this station in grand style. I hope you will all come and celebrate with the many federal, state and local leaders. We will have a ceremony, ribbon cutting and refreshments. I am thankful to Congressman Frelinghuysen who was able to secure the federal funding that enabled New Jersey Transit to select the Mount Arlington site and build such a beautiful facility. If you have not been by and seen it close up, please check it out it is truly magnificent. Come join us on January 20th and be part of this historic day in our Borough.

With the opening of the station we are moving forward with some important projects that will help deal with the anticipated increase in traffic.

- We are planning on re aligning Altenbrand Ave at Howard Boulevard. This has been a dangerous intersection for years and you will be seeing changes in the spring. The County has offered to pay for most of the project and we will do the engineering. That is a pretty good deal. We were originally going to focus on the sharp bend by Oneida Ave but decided to focus on the Altenbrand intersection first. We will address the realignment by Oneida Ave in the future.

- Creation of a jitney service to provide access to our new train station with as little use of automobiles as possible.
- We will be moving forward with the caution lights to help our Fire Department enter and exit the main firehouse in a safer manner.
- The streetscape project is nearing the end of the many hurdles that were put before us before its' installation. This will create a beautiful down town look and improve the appearance of the center of town.
- We missed the deadline of winter to begin the remodeling of the exterior of the Borough Hall. This will increase efficiency with new insulation as well as a new roof. This should begin in the spring.
- We will purchase a new fire truck this year in line with our master plan on the purchase of equipment for the fire department.
- We will continue to make improvements in our main firehouse in order to incorporate our Saint Clare's Emergency Squad within that building. We currently lease space and will focus on the reduction of that expense that was on a temporary basis from the onset.
- In the fall of 2008 Lake Hopatcong will have the five year drawdown. This will give us an opportunity to do some major repair and reconstruction of our cement pier at the municipal beach. We have been budgeting money over the last few years preparing for this major project.
- There will be ongoing negotiations with the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority about our water allocation contract and the issues being faced with the Department of Environmental Protection. We are being denied the new buildings that were approved to be constructed on Valley Road due to water allocation problems. These are tax revenue generating buildings that we are looking to see constructed to help offset our tax base.

This is a short list because as I said earlier we will continue to be cautious on how much we can do annually based on how many tax

dollars we have to work with. We do need to continue to improve our Borough and stay on course with our plans as best we can. To let things go, without improvement, has proven to be costly in the past.

As Chair of the Lake Hopatcong Commission I have the opportunity to meet with Commissioner Jackson to look into micro hydro electric generation at the Lake Hopatcong Dam at the State Park. I asked Commissioner Jackson if we could look into this at the League of Municipalities Convention in Atlantic City in November and she has scheduled a meeting to discuss this with me on January 9 in Trenton. With 7 million gallons of water going through the spillway each and every day, there must be some way we can generate some revenue. This may generate some funds for the Lake Hopatcong Commission so we can continue to maintain the Lake since it is our biggest asset in this area. The Lake affects revenue in Mount Arlington and has a direct impact on taxes for lakefront home owners. We all need to think “out of the box” on new ways to support the Commission's budget in order for the maintenance of our precious lake. The Governor has told me that there will be little or no funding available from the state budget. The Commission's funding committee has submitted ideas to the state on ways to generate a revenue stream and we are waiting for the state's plan. I have accepted another 3 year appointment as Chairman of the Lake Hopatcong Commission with hope that I will be able to work with the state and local interests to put a plan in place that will keep our lake on track to becoming the pristine body of water that it was some years ago. I ask everyone to remember to deposit trash in the appropriate place so it doesn't wind up in the lake. Please pick up your pet waste so it doesn't get washed into the storm drains and wind up in the lake. I also ask everyone to use non phosphorous fertilizers or no fertilizers at all to decrease the negative impact into the lake. Remember you don't have to live on the lake for your storm water to run to the lake.

With that said, I will say that Mount Arlington is in great shape with a very bright future. Together with this Council, our professionals and volunteers we will continue to strive to make Mount Arlington the best

place to live in Morris County, the State of New Jersey and heck even the United States of America!

God Bless you all and God Bless our armed forces without whom we would not be able to have what we have. Remember them in your prayers for they sacrifice everything for us.

I will read the

STATEMENT OF DETERMINATION

as signed + sealed by Morris County Clerk Joan Bramhall.

A STATEMENT of Determination of the BOARD OF CANVASSERS, relative to an Election held in the BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON County of Morris and State of New Jersey, for the election of certain Municipal Officers for the Municipality on the 6th day of November, 2007.

The said Board does determine that at the said election:

NAME	OFFICE	TERM
John Driscoll III	Borough Council	3 Years
J. Nita Galate	Borough Council	3 Years

of Borough Council
of 3 years.

~~were~~ were duly elected to the office ~~and~~ for the term ~~above set forth.~~

~~I DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true, full and correct statement of the determination of the Board of Canvassers therein mentioned~~

~~IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of November, 2007.~~

Attest:


Joan Bramhall
Morris County Clerk


Chairman of the Board of County Canvassers

~~STATE of NEW JERSEY,
COUNTY of MORRIS~~

the does

Joan Bramhall, Clerk of the County of Morris, ~~do~~ hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, full and correct copy of the statement of the determination of the Board of County Canvassers relative to an election held in the Municipality or Political Subdivision thereof on the date therein noted, for certain Officers and the Certificate thereto appended as fully and entirely as the same remains on file in my office.

Signed + sealed November 15, 2007