

**MINUTES BASS RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015**

Mayor Cope called the regular meeting of the Bass River Township Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. Present at meeting were: Mayor Deborah Buzby-Cope and Commissioner Louis Bourguignon. Also present Township Clerk Amanda Somes, CFO Al Stanley and Solicitor Joanne O'Connor. Members of the public were present at this meeting. Absent: Deputy Mayor Nicholas Capriglione

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Cope led the flag salute and read the sunshine statement.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

The motion was made by Mayor Cope to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$200,062.69. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bourguignon to approve bills for payment. Votes: Cope –Yes, Capriglione-Absent, Bourguignon-Yes. All present in favor and bills were ordered paid.

ACADEMY SECURITY	ALARM MONITORING	\$	87.00
ACUA	WATER TESTING	\$	499.50
ADVANTAGE CARD	MEETING TRAYS	\$	127.02
AL'S ON LINE AUTO PARTS, INC.	BELT	\$	17.87
ATLANTIC CO. FIRE ACADEMY	TRAINING	\$	90.00
ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC	ELECTRICITY JAN/FEB 2015	\$	3,610.40
A T & T	COURT & MUNI ALL IN ONE JAN 2015	\$	512.60
A T & T	ISDN LINE JAN 2015	\$	13.67
BASS RIVER BD OF ED	LOCAL SCHOOL TAX 3/3/15	\$	112,213.75
BEACONS	PUBLIC NOTICE	\$	36.31
BURL CO ESTC - BCIT	TRAINING COURSE 6066	\$	80.00
BURL CO TREAS, LANDFILL	TIPPING FEE FEB. 2015	\$	2,593.18
CASA PAYROLL SERVICES	FEB. 2015 PAYROLL	\$	224.20
CHRISTOPHER NORMAN, ESQ.	MTG 2/19/15 & RESEARCH	\$	372.50
COMCAST	SERVICE 2/19 - 3/18	\$	107.95
CONWAY AUTOMOTIVE	PART	\$	4.23
COPIERS PLUS.	UPS FREIGHT	\$	9.00
DAVE'S SEPTIC	PUMP OUT & SERVICE 115 JERICO RD	\$	475.00
DEER PARK DIRECT	SERVICE 1/15/15 - 2/14/15	\$	24.23
FIREFIGHTER ONE, LLC	FIRE FIGHTER GEAR	\$	1,214.00
GANN LAW BOOKS	40 & 40A SHIPPING	\$	8.00
GARDEN STATE INVESTMENTS	TTL REDEMPT. 12-00014	\$	613.49
GENERAC	GENERATOR ORD. 2014-04	\$	20,170.00
GRETNA GREEN LANDSCAPING	OSM SNOW PLOWING 2/17/15	\$	480.00

HOLMAN FRENIA ALLISON, P.C.	PROGRESS BILL AUDIT 2014	\$	8,000.00
HOME DEPOT	SUPPLIES	\$	386.46
IPM INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT	QUARTERLY SERVICE	\$	85.00
NEOPOST	SPIT KIT POSTAGE METER	\$	65.95
JEREMY S. PRICE	PUBLIC DEFENDER 2/23/15	\$	500.00
JERRY'S DIESEL & TRUCK REPAIR	1998 CHEVY REPAIRS	\$	487.10
JERSEY SHORE RESTROOMS, LLC	PORT-A-POT 2/20 - 3/19	\$	85.00
KEVIN S. QUINLAN	PROSECUTIONS FEB. 2015	\$	1,400.00
KLUK CONSULTANTS	ENGINEERING FEB. 2015	\$	2,817.43
LANGUAGE SERVICES ASSOCIATES	TELEPHONIC CHARGES JAN. 2015	\$	18.90
MAILFINANCE	LEASE 12/12/14 - 3/11/15	\$	570.00
MUNICIPAL CODE CORPORATION	CODE UPDATE	\$	635.17
NEW JERSEY CONF MAYORS	NJCM CONF. 4/22 - 4/24	\$	390.00
NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS	1/13/15 - 2/11/15	\$	153.96
OFFICE BASICS, INC	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$	140.28
PEGGY BECK	BANK TRIPS & MILEAGE	\$	79.52
POMONA OIL CO	HEATING OIL FIRE HOUSE	\$	2,567.65
Q C LABS	WATER TESTING	\$	160.00
REGISTRAR'S ASSOC. OF N.J.	2015 DUES & SPRING MEETING	\$	60.00
SHIFFLER EQUIPMENT SALES, INC	CHAIR CLAMPS	\$	65.15
SOUTH JERSEY WATER TEST	WATER TESTS	\$	1,155.00
SUBURBAN PROPANE - 2115	PROPANE DELIVERY 1/19/15	\$	1,032.35
TRACTOR SUPPLY CREDIT PLAN	GOODS & SERVICES	\$	182.32
TRANSFORMATION ENTERPRISES	JAN. 2015 ROLL-OFF	\$	3,355.00
TREASURER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY	MARRIAGE LICENSE FEE	\$	25.00
UNIVERSAL COMPUTING SERVICES	JOURNAL PAPER	\$	160.28
VERIZON	COURT & MUNI PHONES JAN/FEB 2015	\$	928.13
WEX BANK	FUEL CHARGES JAN 2015	\$	749.27
WIRELESS ELECTRONICS INC	MINITOR REPAIR	\$	198.00
BASS RIVER PAYROLL ACCT.	PAYROLL 2/5/15	\$	15,088.57
BASS RIVER PAYROLL ACCT.	PAYROLL 2/19/15	\$	14,390.91
HASLER, INC.	POSTAGE FEB. 2015	\$	546.39
	TOTAL	\$	200,062.69

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCE 2015-02

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER AMENDING
CHAPTER 5.12.030 OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF BASS RIVER
TOWNSHIP**

Mayor Cope read Ordinance 2015-02 upon first reading by title only. The motion was made by Commissioner Bourguignon to approve Ordinance 2015-02 upon first reading by title only, seconded by Mayor Cope. Votes: Cope-Yes, Capriglione-Absent, Bourguignon-Yes. All present in favor and Ordinance 2015-02 was hereby approved upon first reading by title only with second reading and public hearing scheduled for the April regular meeting.

TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER
Ordinance 2015-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER AMENDING
CHAPTER 5.12.030 OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF BASS RIVER TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the Bass River Township Board of Commissioners finds that there is a need to update the Bass River Township Code provisions as they currently exist under Chapter 5.12.030 of the revised Township Ordinances which are applicable to Liquor Licenses and fees based upon current standards; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 33:1-12 permits the Bass River Township Board of Commissioners to increase the annual licensing fees by not more than 20% from that charged in the preceding license year.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Bass River Township Board of Commissioners that Bass River Township Code Section 5.12.030 "Liquor Licenses and fees" be and is hereby amended as follows:*

5.12.030 Liquor licenses and fees.

C. License Fees.

The annual fees for alcoholic beverage licenses, both plenary retail consumption licenses and plenary retail distribution licenses, hereafter issued or renewed in this Township shall be as follows:

	<i>Plenary Retail Consumption License:</i>	<i>Plenary Retail Distribution License:</i>
<i>After May 1, 2015:</i>	\$ 2176	\$ 1520
<i>After May 1, 2016</i>	\$ 2500	\$ 1824
<i>After May 1, 2017</i>	\$ 2500	\$ 2188
<i>After May 1, 2018</i>	\$ 2500	\$ 2500

D. For each class of license authorized and issued within the Township, the annual license fee charged shall be in effect thereafter unless the Township amends the chapter further to change the license fees.

***BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that all other provisions of the Township Code currently in effect, are hereby saved from repeal, and shall remain in full force and effect;*

***BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that if any provision of any section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision or clause of this ordinance shall be judged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such order of judgment shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of any section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision, or clause of this ordinance.*

***BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that this ordinance shall take effect upon proper passage and in accordance with the law.*

***ALL OF WHICH IS ADOPTED** this 6th day of April, 2015, by the Bass River Township Board of Commissioners.*

RESOLUTION 2015-34
RESOLUTION 2015-35
RESOLUTION 2015-36

TAX OFFICE RESOLUTIONS

The motion was made by Mayor Cope, seconded by Commissioner Bourguignon to approve Resolutions 2015-34, 2015-25 and 2015-36. Votes: Cope–Yes, Capriglione-Absent, Bourguignon-Yes. All present in favor and Resolutions 2015-34, 2015-35 and 2015-36 were hereby approved.

RESOLUTION 2015-34

WHEREAS, the amount of \$613.49 has been received by the Tax Collector for redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #12-00014 on Block 31 Lot 49 assessed to Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp; and

WHEREAS \$613.49 is the correct amount to redeem;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CFO is authorized to return 613.49 to Garden State Investment, 6601 Ventnor Ave, suite 103, Ventnor, NJ 08224.

RESOLUTION 2015-35

WHEREAS, the property known as Block 63 Lot 9 at Leektown Road is now owned by the State of New Jersey DEP, making the property tax exempt; and

WHEREAS, property taxes were assessed to the property for the first two quarters of 2015 in the amount of \$317.62, the Tax Collector requests cancellation of taxes assessed.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tax Collector of Bass River Township is authorized to cancel taxes in the amount of \$317.62.

RESOLUTION 2015-36

WHEREAS, the property known as Block 48 Lot 2 at 118 East Greenbush Road is now owned by the State of New Jersey DEP, making the property tax exempt; and

WHEREAS, property taxes were assessed to the property for the first two quarters of 2015 in the amount of \$3,157.03 , the Tax Collector requests cancellation of taxes assessed.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tax Collector of Bass River Township is authorized to cancel taxes in the amount of \$3,157.03.

RESOLUTION 2015-37

**TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW
JERSEY
A RESOLUTION SEEKING ASSISTANCE FOR MUNICIPALITIES WITH
SIGNIFICANT TAX-EXEMPT PROPERTIES**

The motion was made by Mayor Cope, seconded by Commissioner Bourguignon to approve Resolution 2015-37. Votes: Cope–Yes, Capriglione–Absent, Bourguignon–Yes. All present in favor and Resolution 2015-26 was hereby approved.

RESOLUTION 2015-37

TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

A RESOLUTION SEEKING ASSISTANCE FOR MUNICIPALITIES WITH SIGNIFICANT TAX-EXEMPT PROPERTIES

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.6 provides for property tax exemptions for nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, 22.85 % of Bass River Township municipal tax base is exempt from paying taxes; and

WHEREAS, Bass River Township recognizes that many benefits provided by non-profit organization, typically at no cost or at a reduced cost, to Bass River Township residents; and

WHEREAS, Bass River Township also recognizes that many of the service providers located in Bass River Township provide services not only to Bass River residents, but to the larger community, including the residents of other municipalities in Burlington County and those outside of Burlington County; and

WHEREAS, tax exempt properties utilize many basic municipal services, includes roads, police, fire and EMT services, without contributing any funds towards the cost of such services through property tax payments; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Bass River has identified 79 municipalities in New Jersey who have more than 20% of their municipal tax base occupied by commercial Class 15 tax exempt land, not inclusive of farmland assessed properties; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board of Commissioners of the Township of Bass River wishes to work with other municipalities with more than 20% of their tax base taken up by Class 15 tax exempt properties, the New Jersey League of Municipalities (the "league"), and elected officials to craft legislation to provide tax-exempt property relief to municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board of Commissioners supports A1635, sponsored by Assemblywoman Caroline Casagrande, which permits municipalities in which 12% or more land is exempt from property taxes to issue up to two additional plenary retail consumption licenses; and

WHEREAS, the Township supports any legislation seeking to increase state aid to municipalities which have significant tax exempt land, including an offset or a credit for municipalities that serve as the County seat.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Board of Commissioners of the Township of Bass river, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, that we do hereby seek the League's assistance in advancing legislation regarding the issue of significant property tax exempt land; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, the 79 municipalities identified as having more than 20% of their municipal tax base occupied by tax exempt land, and the Legislators for the Township of Bass River.

RESOLUTION 2015-38

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER AUTHORIZING
THE SALE OF MUNICIPAL LIENS**

The motion was made by Mayor Cope, seconded by Commissioner Bourguignon to approve Resolution 2015-38. Votes: Cope–Yes, Capriglione-Absent, Bourguignon-Yes. All present in favor and Resolution 2015-38 was hereby approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-38

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF
MUNICIPAL LIENS**

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of Bass River, County of Burlington and State of New Jersey, desires to collect all taxes, assessments and other municipal charges that are now delinquent; and

WHEREAS, the Township Clerk is directed to accept sealed bids to sell all municipal delinquencies through December 31, 2014, in a manner prescribed by N.J.S.A. 54:5-113 and 54:5-113.5;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Bass River Board of Commissioners authorizes and directs the Township Clerk to accept sealed bids for the sale of all municipal liens in accordance with New Jersey Law, and as stated above. The sealed bids will be received by the Township Clerk, for the Township of Bass River, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey on April 22, 2015 at 10 am prevailing time at the Bass River Township Building located at 3 North Maple Avenue, New Gretna New Jersey, at which time and place bids will be opened and read in public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector

NEW BUSINESS:

2015 Municipal Budget: Introduction by title upon a motion by Mayor Cope, seconded by Commissioner Bourguignon. Votes: Cope-Yes, Capriglione-Absent, Bourguignon-Yes. All present in favor and budget was hereby approved upon introduction by title.

2015 Municipal Budget

of the Township of Bass River, County of Burlington
for the fiscal year 2015.

Revenue and Appropriation Summaries

Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	2015	2014
1. Surplus	345,000	345,000
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	504,645	472,690
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	125,000	125,000
4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	248,659	210,656
b) Minimum Library Tax	0	0

Tot Amt to be Raised by Taxes for Sup of Muni Bud	248,659	210,656
Total General Revenues	1,223,304	1,153,346

Summary of Appropriations	2015 Budget	Final 2014 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	377,820	370,247
Other Expenses	515,850	520,950
2. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	81,181	76,032
3. Capital Improvements	0	0
4. Debt Service (Include for School Purposes)	42,000	9,400
5. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	206,453	176,717
Total General Appropriations	1,223,304	1,153,346
Total Number of Employees		

Balance of Outstanding Debt		
	General	
Interest	0	
Principal	42,000	
Outstanding Balance	165,925	

Notice is hereby given that the budget and tax resolution was approved by the Township Council of the Township of Bass River, County of Burlington on March 2, 2015.

A hearing on the budget and tax resolution will be held at the Municipal Building on April 6, 2015 at 7:00 o'clock PM at which time and place objections to the Budget and tax Resolution for the year 2015 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

Copies of the budget are available in the office of the Township Clerk, Amanda Somes at the Municipal Building, 3 North Maple Avenue, New Gretna, NJ 08224 609-296-3337 during the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

REPORTS:

The following reports were noted.

- Report of Solicitor
- Report of Municipal Court
- Safety Coordinators Report
- Other Reports

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The meeting was open for public comment at 7:18 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Bourguignon, seconded by Mayor Cope. All in favor.

B. Curtain asked about the budget and the proposed 2 cent increase. Further clarification was provided by Mayor and CFO.

C. Bitzberger asked for further clarification by the CFO on money cut out of the budget.

W. Aaronson asked about the debt that is currently in the budget that is associated with the revaluation. CFO explained further.

C. Bitzberger asked about the fire company applying for grants for a new fire truck. Mayor said a new truck is around \$500,000 and the fire company does keep applying for grants. However, they have not been successful.

B. Curtain asked if the gas company has run the line under the river. Commissioner Bourguignon said that yes it was completed.

L. Assur commented on the Pinelands Commissioner interfering with natural gas installation at the Beasley Point Power Plant and feels it is important that the Township not allow the Pinelands Commission to interfere with installation in this Township.

Be no further comments, the motion to close the public portion was made by Commissioner Bourguignon, seconded by Mayor Cope. All in favor and public portion was closed at 7:44 p.m.

Being no further business to come before the Board the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Bourguignon, seconded by Mayor Cope. All in favor and meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Amanda S. Somes, RMC
Township Clerk
