

**MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PUBLIC MEETING
REORGANIZATION
JANUARY 4, 2016**

ANNUAL ORGANIZATION MEETING

1. Swearing in of Township Supervisors – Amy Strouse and Tom Tosti

Mr. Leonhauser introduced the Honorable Frank W. Peranteau who then performed the swearing in of Supervisor Amy Strouse and Supervisor Tom Tosti.

2. Swearing in of Township Auditor – Jena Champion

The Honorable Frank W. Peranteau performed the swearing in of newly elected Township Auditor Jena Champion.

3. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Leonhauser called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. Roll Call

Mr. Oettinger took roll. Supervisors Gallagher, Leonhauser, Oettinger, Strouse and Tosti were in attendance along with the Township Manager, department directors and many interested citizens.

5. Organization of the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Election of Temporary Chairperson

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER NOMINATED MR. OETTINGER AS TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON. MR. LEONHAUSER SECONDED.

VOTE CALLED FOR MR. OETTINGER AS TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

- b) Election of Chairperson

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER NOMINATED MR. LEONHAUSER AS CHAIRPERSON. MR. OETTINGER SECONDED. VOTE CALLED FOR MR. LEONHAUSER AS CHAIRPERSON AND MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 3-2 WITH MS. STROUSE AND MR. TOSTI OPPOSED.

- c) Election of Vice-Chairperson

ACTION: MR. OETTINGER MOVED TO APPOINT MR. GALLAGHER AS VICE-CHAIRPERSON. MR. LEONHAUSER SECONDED.

ACTION: MS. STROUSE MOVED TO APPOINT MR. TOSTI AS VICE-CHAIRPERSON. MR. TOSTI SECONDED.

MR. LEONHAUSER CALLED THE VOTE ON MR. OETTINGER'S MOTION TO APPOINT MR. GALLAGHER AS VICE CHAIRPERSON. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 3-2 WITH MS. STROUSE AND MR. TOSTI OPPOSED.

d) Election of Secretary

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO APPOINT MR. OETTINGER AS SECRETARY. MR. LEONHAUSER SECONDED.

ACTION: MR. TOSTI MOVED TO APPOINT MS. STROUSE AS SECRETARY. MS. STROUSE SECONDED.

MR. LEONHAUSER CALLED THE VOTE ON MR. GALLAGHER'S MOTION TO APPOINT MR. OETTINGER AS SECRETARY. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 3-2 WITH MS. STROUSE AND MR. TOSTI OPPOSED.

6. Consideration of appointing a Township Solicitor

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO APPOINT JOSEPH PIZZO, ESQ. AS TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR. MR. LEONHAUSER SECONDED.

Ms. Strouse asked about the \$2,000 monthly retainer charged by Mr. Pizzo. Mr. Pizzo explained that when he was appointed in 2010 he stepped into the billing arrangement that the prior Solicitor and Board had in place and that was a combination of a \$2,000/month retainer combined with hourly billing for non-retainer matters. The retainer covers Mr. Pizzo's attendance at all Township Meetings, communications with Board members, all communications with Ms. Teoli Kuhls or any staff members on matters that are not otherwise hourly billing matters.

Ms. Strouse inquired if Mr. Pizzo is the person that determines whether a matter or question is covered under the retainer or rises to the level of an hourly billing event. She asked if there is any oversight or recordkeeping to determine where the charge would fall. Mr. Pizzo said there absolutely is and his bills are reviewed by the Township Manager, Finance Department, individual department heads depending on what the matter is.

Ms. Strouse questioned Mr. Pizzo's proposed hourly rate increase for development work. Mr. Pizzo noted that he bills Middletown Township at roughly a third of what he bills private clients. The higher rate is for applicants who are engaged in land development, land use, zoning and subdivision work in the Township.

Ms. Strouse expressed concern that the increase in the rate would make it difficult for small businesses to come into the Township.

Mr. Pizzo said that is a legitimate concern, and to the extent that Ms. Strouse would like to keep that hourly rate at what it was he has no objection to that.

Mr. Tosti asked if the Township has looked outside for a solicitor. Mr. Leonhauser stated that Mr. Pizzo requested reappointment and, based on the job he has done for the Township, he believes he is the best candidate.

MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

7. Consideration of appointing a Township Labor Attorney

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO APPOINT TRACY P. HUNT, ESQ. AS TOWNSHIP LABOR ATTORNEY. MR. OETTINGER SECONDED.

Mr. Tosti asked if the Township has looked at other firms. Mr. Leonhauser said this is the only firm we have looked at for labor attorney and has been the Township labor attorney since 2010.

MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

8. Consideration of appointing a Township Engineer

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO APPOINT TRI-STATES ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS AS TOWNSHIP ENGINEER. MR. OETTINGER SECONDED.

Mr. Tosti asked if the Township has looked at other firms. Mr. Leonhauser provided the same answer as above.

MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

9. Consideration of appointing a Traffic Engineer

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO APPOINT CARROLL ENGINEERING AS TOWNSHIP TRAFFIC ENGINEER. MR. OETTINGER SECONDED.

Mr. Tosti asked if the Township has looked at other firms. Mr. Leonhauser provided the same answer as above.

MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

10. Consideration of appointing a Conflict and Special Projects Engineer

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO APPOINT HEATH DUMACK OF DUMACK ENGINEERING AS THE TOWNSHIP CONFLICT AND SPECIAL PROJECTS ENGINEER. MR. OETTINGER SECONDED.

Mr. Tosti asked if the Township has looked at other firms. Mr. Leonhauser provided the same answer as above.

Mr. Tosti also asked where Dumack Engineering is located. Ms. Teoli Kuhls advised that they are located in Wrightstown, Pa.

MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

11. Consideration of appointing the Township Manager to the positions of Treasurer and Assistant Secretary and Chief Administrative Officer to Pensions

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO APPOINT THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO THE POSITIONS OF TREASURER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TO PENSIONS. MR. OETTINGER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

12. Consideration of appointing the Finance Director as Assistant Treasurer

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO APPOINT THE FINANCE DIRECTOR AS ASSISTANT TREASURER. MR. OETTINGER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

13. Consideration of establishing and authorizing advertisement of 2016 public meetings of the Board of Supervisors

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO ESTABLISH AND AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT OF 2016 PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AS FOLLOWS:

Tuesday, January 19, 2016
Monday, February 1, 2016
Tuesday, February 16, 2016
Monday, March 14, 2016
Monday, April 4, 2016
Monday, April 18, 2016
Monday, May 2, 2016
Monday, May 16, 2016
Monday, June 6, 2016
Monday, July 11, 2016
Monday, August 15, 2016
Tuesday, September 6, 2016
Monday, September 19, 2016
Monday, October 3, 2016
Monday, October 17, 2016
Monday, November 14, 2016
Monday, November 21, 2016
Monday, December 5, 2016
Monday, December 19, 2016

MR. TOSTI SECONDED.

Mr. Tosti thanked the Board for working with his schedule when setting up the meeting dates. He stated that he will be out of town for the November 14th meeting and asked if the date could be changed. Ms. Teoli Kuhls advised that the board could easily select a new meeting date for the November 14th but suggested waiting until closer to the meeting since the budget is typically presented in November.

MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

14. Consideration of establishing bond limits in the amount of \$1.5 Million for Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Township Manager for the faithful performance of the duties of said offices

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO ESTABLISH BOND LIMITS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1.5 MILLION FOR TREASURER, ASSISTANT TREASURER, AND TOWNSHIP MANAGER FOR THE FAITHFUL PERFORMANCE OF THE DUTIES OF SAID OFFICES. MR. TOSTI SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

15. Consideration of appointing a Chairperson to the Vacancy Board for 2016

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO APPOINT PAT MALLON AS CHAIRPERSON TO THE VACANCY BOARD FOR 2016. MR. LEONHAUSER SECONDED.

ACTION: MR. TOSTI MOVED TO APPOINT HELENE RATNER AS CHAIRPERSON TO THE VACANCY BOARD FOR 2016. MS. STROUSE SECONDED.

Mr. Tosti said he has not seen a copy of an application for Mr. Mallon for the Vacancy Board and the only application he has seen is for Helene Ratner.

Mr. Leonhauser advised that the Township has never advertised for the Vacancy Board position, it has always been a position appointed by the Board.

Mr. Pizzo noted that the Vacancy Board Chairman is not a position for which the Township traditionally solicits applications. He explained that the Vacancy Board is made up of 4 of the 5 supervisors and the Vacancy Board Chair. Mr. Pizzo said traditionally and for the 6 years that he has been solicitor the majority of the Supervisors appoint an individual with whom they are comfortable in serving in that position.

Mr. Tosti said he understands that, but the Board should be looking at what the taxpayers and voters requested on Election Day on November 3rd. Ms. Strouse further added that it is difficult to impossible to consider the relative merits of Mr. Mallon versus Ms. Ratner when there is only application to consider.

MR. LEONHAUSER CALLED THE VOTE TO APPOINT PAT MALLON AS CHAIRPERSON TO THE VACANCY BOARD FOR 2016. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 3-2 WITH MS. STROUSE AND MR. TOSTI OPPOSED.

16. Consideration of making appointments to Township Boards and Commissions

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO RE-APPOINT ANTON DODEL TO THE COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE FOR A THREE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018. MR. OETTINGER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO RE-APPOINT ALEX JACOSKI TO THE COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE FOR A THREE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018. MR. OETTINGER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

Mr. Gallagher advised that there are 4 vacancies on the Community Beautification Board and anyone that may be interested may go to the Township website to fill out an application for Boards and Commissions and forward to the Township Manager.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO RE-APPOINT LEONA GUTHERMAN TO THE DISABLED PERSONS ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TWO YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2017. MR. TOSTI SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

Mr. Gallagher pointed out that there are also 3 openings on the Disabled Persons Advisory Board if anyone is interested.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO RE-APPOINT STEVEN DONOHUE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR A THREE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018. MR. TOSTI SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO RE-APPOINT TERRY HARRIS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR A THREE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018. MR. OETTINGER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO RE-APPOINT ANDREW MCALOON TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR A THREE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018. MR. TOSTI SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO APPOINT PETER J. TANTALA TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR A THREE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018. MR. OETTINGER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

Mr. Gallagher advised that there is one opening on the Environmental Advisory Council at this time if anyone is interested.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO RE-APPOINT JAMES WATERS TO THE FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A FOUR YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2019. MR. LEONHAUSER SECONDED.

ACTION: MR. TOSTI MOVED TO APPOINT WILLIAM APPLETON TO THE FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A FOUR YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2019. MS. STROUSE SECONDED.

VOTE WAS CALLED ON THE MOTION TO RE-APPOINT JAMES WATERS TO THE FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 3-2 WITH MS. STROUSE AND MR. TOSTI OPPOSED.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO APPOINT GEORGE DRANGINIS TO THE FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A FOUR YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2019. MR. LEONHAUSER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED ON A 5-0 VOTE.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO RE-APPOINT WILLIAM FULLER TO THE PARKS & RECREATION BOARD FOR A THREE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018. MR. LEONHAUSER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED ON A 5-0 VOTE.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO RE-APPOINT CHRIS SAUERBRY TO THE PARKS & RECREATION BOARD FOR A THREE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018. MR. LEONHAUSER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED ON A 5-0 VOTE.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO APPOINT DREW KREILING TO THE PARKS & RECREATION BOARD FOR A THREE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018. MR. LEONHAUSER SECONDED.

ACTION: MR. TOSTI MOVED TO RE-APPOINT HELENE RATNER TO THE PARKS & RECREATION BOARD FOR A THREE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018. MS. STROUSE SECONDED.

Mr. Tosti stated that Ms. Ratner has served on the Parks & Recreation Board for over 14 years and has only missed 2 meetings in the 14 years. Ms. Ratner has been the secretary of that board for the 14 years and has been a public servant of this Township and the County for many years and the thought of putting someone other than Ms. Ratner on this board and again Drew Kreiling who has not even submitted an application for this board is unconscionable to him. Mr. Tosti urged the Board to re-appoint Helene Ratner to this position.

Mr. Leonhauser advised that there is an application for Mr. Kreiling at their place this evening.

Ms. Strouse said she would also like the Board to think about the huge number of hours Ms. Ratner puts into the Parks & Recreation Board, her long tenure of service and what the Township would be losing in terms of experience and loyalty if Ms. Ratner is not re-appointed to the Parks & Recreation Board.

Mr. Tosti asked why this issue is not open to public comment. Mr. Pizzo responded that there is no requirement to accept public comment regarding board and commission appointments during a Reorganization Meeting. He further added that it is his understanding that this has not been a practice in Middletown Township in the past.

Ms. Strouse noted that it would be beneficial for the Board to hear from the community on this matter.

The vote was called on the appointment of Drew Kreiling.

MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 3-2 WITH MS. STROUSE AND MR. TOSTI OPPOSED.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO RE-APPOINT CHARLES PARKERSON TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A FOUR YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2019. MR. LEONHAUSER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 4-1 WITH MR. TOSTI OPPOSED.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO APPOINT NANCY MCCANN TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A FOUR YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2019. MR. LEONHAUSER SECONDED.

ACTION: MR. TOSTI MOVED TO APPOINT RICHARD NUTTALL TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A FOUR YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2019. MS. STROUSE SECONDED.

THE MOTION TO APPOINT NANCY MCCANN TO THE PLANNIN COMMISSION WAS CALLED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 3-2 WITH MS. STROUSE AND MR. TOSTI OPPOSED.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO RE-APPOINT ROBERT CULP TO THE TECHNICAL CODE BOARD OF APPEALS FOR A FIVE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2020. MR. OETTINGER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO RE-APPOINT JAMES MCFADDEN TO THE TECHNICAL CODE BOARD OF APPEALS FOR A FIVE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2020. MR. OETTINGER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO RE-APPOINT JOHN MCHALE, JR. TO THE TECHNICAL CODE BOARD OF APPEALS FOR A FIVE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2020. MR. OETTINGER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

Mr. Gallagher advised that there are specific requirements involved in being on this Board and it very rarely gets used, but these gentlemen all meet the requirements of the Technical Code Board of Appeals.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO APPOINT MICHAEL CERMIGNANO TO THE YOUTH AID PANEL. MR. LEONHAUSER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO RE-APPOINT MICHAEL LENTINE TO THE ZONING HEARING BOARD FOR A FIVE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2020. MR. OETTINGER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 4-1 WITH MR. TOSTI OPPOSED.

17. Consideration of authorizing Township Manager's Employment Agreement

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FROM JANUARY 4, 2016 THROUGH JANUARY 8, 2018. MR. LEONHAUSER SECONDED.

Mr. Tosti said that during the election there were a lot of issues brought up and through discussions with Ms. Teoli Kuhls he has learned a lot. Ms. Teoli Kuhls has taught him a lot and it has only been several weeks that he has been in conversation with her. Before he can vote on this Mr. Tosti asked Ms. Teoli Kuhls to list some of her accomplishments since starting three years ago.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls explained that first and foremost, there is now stability in the leadership of the organization. She also highlighted the following accomplishments: implementation of a multi-year road improvement program that has included the paving of more than 30 miles of township roadways; and the completion of the Big Oak Road and South Flowers Mill Road Improvement Projects. In the area of finance, accomplishments have included: addressing the significant structural imbalance in the General Fund; improvement of the budget process; and completion of a Five-Year Capital Improvement Program. The Township has received the GFOA Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for the past three years. More than \$3.5 million in grants revenue has been received during the past three years. Ms. Teoli Kuhls concluded by highlighting accomplishments in the areas of communication and citizen engagement, including the receipt of two awards from PSATS for citizen communication.

Ms. Strouse echoed Mr. Tosti's sentiments on really appreciating Ms. Teoli Kuhls educating them and bringing them up to speed. Ms. Strouse said she has learned a lot about what Ms. Teoli Kuhls brings to the Township over the past several weeks. As Ms. Strouse spoke to voters while campaigning in the summer and fall Ms. Teoli Kuhls' employment agreement came up. One area in question is the car allowance of \$600 monthly. Ms. Strouse asked if that is a standard practice across townships and have we looked into what would be the most cost effective way to handle that expense.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls said it is a standard practice for municipal managers to either have a township-issued vehicle or to have some type of auto allowance. Managers who receive a township vehicle often are permitted personal use of the vehicle. In addition, the township pays for all expenses related to the vehicle, including fuel, maintenance, and insurance. It is not unusual to provide a car allowance as an alternative to that arrangement.

MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

18. Consideration of authorizing payment of January 4, 2016 Bill List in the amount of \$2,219,722.68.

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF JANUARY 4, 2016 BILL LIST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,219,722.68. MR. OETTINGER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 3-0-2 WITH MS. STROUSE AND MR. TOSTI ABSTAINING AS THEY WERE NOT BOARD MEMBERS AT THE TIME.

19. Consideration of authorizing purchase of 2016 International Dump Truck and Body in the amount of \$152,007

Ms. Teoli Kuhls explained that this purchase was included in the Capital Improvement plan and the 2016 Budget. She further added that this truck would be replacing a 1994 dump truck that would be rotated out of the fleet.

ACTION: MR. OETTINGER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF A 2016 INTERNATIONAL DUMP TRUCK AND BODY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$152,007. MR. TOSTI SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

20. Other Business and Announcements

Mr. Pizzo wished all a Happy New Year and thanked the Board for his reappointment as solicitor.

Ms. Strouse thanked everyone who came in person this evening and invited them to keep coming back. She welcomed participation and questions from citizens and hopes to see everyone at the January 19th meeting and going forward.

Ms. Strouse provided a little background and how she will be making decisions as part of the Board. First, she is going to be thinking of her role as a mom of two, and very soon three, and what she wants those kids to take away from their childhood in Middletown. She will also be bringing her perspective as a businesswoman with over 10 years of experience advising multi-billion dollar corporations on strategy and financial management. She heard loud and clear from folks while knocking on doors that they want questions to be asked about how our money is being spent and so she intends to ask those kinds of questions and ideally help make better decisions for our finances going forward.

On a different topic Ms. Strouse expressed her disappointment on the partisanship that was shown this evening. She said that the November election showed that residents of Middletown were looking for something different and Mr. Tosti and Ms. Strouse do represent a different perspective. Ms. Strouse said this was an opportunity to show the people of Middletown that a 3-2 board can be split but not divided. She hopes that going forward they can change that tone and can communicate and make decisions together that are not partisan. Ms. Strouse believes when you look at the removal of a 14 year public servant like Helene Ratner from the Parks & Recreation Board which is something that should be focused on making our community better not a political entity, that is a real tragedy. Ms.

Strouse hopes sincerely that Mr. Kreiling will participate as fully as Ms. Ratner has because otherwise we are going to see a degradation of our services for kids and residents of Middletown and will be the worst possible outcome of the decision this evening.

Ms. Strouse said hopefully we can move forward on a brighter note following this meeting.

Mr. Tosti thanked everyone for coming out and everyone that showed up on November 3rd. Mr. Tosti noted that he is looking forward to working with this Board. As Ms. Strouse said this is a 3-2 Board, it doesn't mean that every vote has to be 3-2; we can have some bi-partisanship and can work together. About two weeks ago Mr. Tosti had the opportunity to go through the Township and meet the employees at the Township and is excited about working with them and making this township a better Middletown.

Mr. Tosti is very disappointed in the decision regarding the Parks & Recreation Committee. He understands how votes go, but he believes that as a Parks & Recreation Committee that committee was not a political committee but it was turned into a political committee. Moving forward he hopes that we can look at things like that and not decide it on politics, but decide it on merit because Mr. Tosti truly believes that Ms. Ratner has the merit to be on that board and should still be on that board. Despite his feelings about the decision, Mr. Tosti acknowledged the need to move forward, stating that one thing about government is you have to move forward and that is Mr. Tosti's plan.

Mr. Gallagher wished everyone a Happy New Year as we go forward in 2016. He also thanked the Township employees, professionals and residents of the Township who contacted him on the passing of his mother and to thank them immensely for the kind words, thoughts and prayers that were given to him and his family. They were truly appreciated.

Mr. Leonhauser believes that going forward this Board will be working together. He has had discussions with Ms. Strouse and Mr. Tosti prior to this meeting. There was disagreement on some of the appointments to the Boards and Commissions, but going forward Mr. Leonhauser is looking forward to working with Ms. Strouse and Mr. Tosti.

21. Next Board of Supervisors Meeting – Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

22. Public Comment on non-agenda items

Tom Kearns, 1895 Garden Court – suggested that a public hearing with the owners of Oxford Valley Mall be held in an effort to improve the mall. He suggested finding out what their long term plan is and push them to make improvements to our mall like they do to the King of Prussia Mall which they also own.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls said that in the three years since she has been Manager, Simon Properties has been in the Township three separate times with three separate proposals for improvements. The staff have wholeheartedly endorsed and encouraged the very things that Mr. Kearns is speaking of. The local management at the mall has been very good to work with and the Simon Properties have rolled out plans and given the Township ideas, but we have not seen a plan as a follow-up to the proposals.

Adam Flager, Redberry Road, portion of Oxford Valley Road between Woodbourne and Trenton Roads being used as a dumping ground. He suggested "No dumping signs" to be installed.

Mr. Pizzo gave a plug for the Towns Against Graffiti stating those are the white bags that Mr. Flager sees along the roadways where litter has been picked up.

Mr. Gallagher also pointed out that the Township has a Community Beautification Committee that has clean up days in the Spring and the Fall and suggested that anyone that would be interested in helping with this to keep an eye on the Township website where the events would be listed.

Helene Ratner, Stratton Court, commented on appointments to Boards and Commissions. She was on the Parks & Recreation Board for 14 years. She stated her disapproval of the decision regarding her reappointment. She believes that the Parks & Recreation Board was apolitical and that the decision was not best for the community.

Mr. Tosti thanked Ms. Ratner for her service on the Parks & Recreation Board and said what she has done for the past 14 years is outstanding.

23. Adjournment

ACTION: MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AT 8:35 P.M. MR. OETTINGER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.