

The Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, January 2, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Joseph Bellina stated that Notice of the time, date and location of the meeting had been provided pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 (Open Public Meetings Act).

Joseph Bellina opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence.

Reverend William Frederickson of First Baptist Church gave the invocation.

The Oaths of Office were administered to Mayor J. Nolan Higgins, Councilman Michael DiBenedetto and Councilman George Schnurr.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT	MAYOR J. NOLAN HIGGINS
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DI BENEDETTO
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN KEVIN KANE
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN JOHN NEWMAN
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN GEORGE SCHNURR
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN SHARON SHUTZER
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN JAYE SIMS

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 6 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing 2012 Professional Services Contract with Cranmer Engineering for Borough Engineering Services.”

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Kane:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2012 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CRANMER ENGINEERING FOR BOROUGH ENGINEERING SERVICES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 7 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing 2012 Professional Services Contract with Kerry E. Higgins, Esq. for Borough Legal Services.”

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2012 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH KERRY E. HIGGINS, ESQ. FOR BOROUGH LEGAL SERVICES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 8 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing 2012 Professional Services Contract with Lomurro, Davison, Eastman & Munoz, P.A. for Borough Bond Counsel Services.”

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Schnurr:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2012 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH LOMURRO, DAVISON, EASTMAN & MUNOZ, P.A. FOR BOROUGH BOND COUNSEL SERVICES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 9 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing Municipal Judge for a Three Year Term: Scott J. Basen, Esq.”

Councilman Sims offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING MUNICIPAL JUDGE FOR A THREE YEAR TERM: SCOTT J. BASEN, ESQ.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 10 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing Municipal Prosecutor for the Year 2012: Kathleen A. Sheedy, Esq.”

Councilman Sims offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR FOR THE YEAR 2012: KATHLEEN A. SHEEDY, ESQ.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 11 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing Borough Substitute/Alternate Prosecutor for the Year 2012: Kerry E. Higgins, Esq.”

Councilman Sims offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING
BOROUGH SUBSTITUTE/ALTERNATE PROSECUTOR FOR THE YEAR 2012:
KERRY E. HIGGINS, ESQ.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 12 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing Public Defender for the Year 2012: Jonathan Lomurro.”

Councilman Sims offered the following Resolutions and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING
PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE YEAR 2012: JONATHAN LOMURRO.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 13 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Accepting the Mayor’s Nominations and Appointments for the Year 2012:

a.	Deputy Clerk	Joseph B. Bellina	1 year
b.	Treasurer and Collector Water & Sewer Rents	Richard J. Gartz	1 year
c.	Deputy Treasurer	Kathleen Caruso	1 year
d.	Borough Historian	Kevin Coyne	1 year
e.	Board of Health	Dr. William McGonigle	4 years
f.	Community Information Committee	Marc LeVine Lisa Schofield	1 year 1 year

		Allan Goldberg	1 year
		Kevin Asadi	1 year
		Anthony DiFlumeri	1 year
		Mark Judman	1 year
		Ayasha Roberson	1 year
g.	Emergency Management:		
	Henry Stryker	Coordinator	1 year
	Daniel Megill	Dep. Coordinator	1 year
	Chief Glenn Roberts	Public Safety	1 year
	Chief Ryan Bailey	Fire and Rescue	1 year
	Joseph B. Bellina	Damage Assessment	1 year
	Traci L. DiBenedetto	Shelter and Welfare	1 year
	Garry Jackson	Fire Prevention Rep.	1 year
	J. Nolan Higgins	(Ex-Officio)	1 year
	Alicia Gross, Captain or		
	Duly Authorized	First Aid Squad	1 year
h.	Fire Prevention Bureau:	(State License Required)	1 year
	Garry Jackson	Fire Official	
i.	Historical Preservation Committee	David Loring	3 years
		Anthony DiFlumeri	3 years
		Robert Sive	3 years
		Muriel Smith	3 years
		Lynda Keller	3 years
j.	Housing Authority	Sue Sweetman	5 years
k.	Lake Topanemus Commission	Robert Higley	3 years
l.	Library Commission	Bernice Hammer	5 years
		Barbara Jenette	1 year
m.	Memorial Day Parade Committee	Alice McCobb	1 year
		Amanda McCobb	1 year
		Ruth Wall	1 year
		Charles Sona	1 year
		Bernard Weinstein	1 year
		John Bosco	1 year
		John Mazekien	1 year
		Ken Pulchlopeck	1 year
		Sydney Blacknall	1 year
		Walter Kowalski	1 year
		Ronnie Steppat	1 year
n.	Neighborhood Pride Committee	Donna Koloski	1 year
		Sheryl Mott	1 year
		Anthony DiFlumeri	1 year

Debbie Keelan	1 year
Casey Surgent	1 year
William Anderson	1 year
Dan Xavier	1 year
Maureen Haley	1 year
Marc LeVine	1 year

o. Planning Board	Marjorie Goetz	4 years
	Garry Jackson	1 year
	Kevin Asadi, Cl. IV	1 year
	William Barricelli, Alt. 1	1 year
	Kevin Lewis, Alt. 2	2 years
	p. Recreation Commission	Susan Greitz
	Lynn Reich	5 years

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2012.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 14 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing the Affirmative Action Officer for the Year 2012: Joseph B. Bellina.”

Councilman Newman offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 2012: JOSEPH B. BELLINA.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 15 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing the Community Development Representative and Alternate for the Year 2012: Joseph B. Bellina and Richard J. Gartz.”

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE FOR THE YEAR 2012: JOSEPH B. BELLINA AND RICHARD J. GARTZ.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 16 on the Agenda as follows:

“Election by Council of President for Year 2012: Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer.”

Councilman Sims offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

ELECTION BY COUNCIL OF PRESIDENT FOR YEAR 2012: COUNCILWOMAN SHARON SHUTZER.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 17 on the Agenda as follows:

“Mayor’s Appointments of Council Committees for 2012:

COMMITTEE	CHAIR		
Finance	Kane	Newman	Schnurr
Personnel	Shutzer	Sims	DiBenedetto
Public Works	DiBenedetto		
Health and Welfare	Kane		
Recreation	DiBenedetto		
Code Enforcement	Sims		
Municipal Court	Sims		
Public Safety	Shutzer	Kane	DiBenedetto
Community Events	Kane	Schnurr	Sims
Land Use	Schnurr	Sims	Newman”

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 18 on the Agenda as follows:

“Appointment of Council Representatives for the Year 2012:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Advisory Council on Aging	Sharon Shutzer
Board of Education	Sharon Shutzer
Community Information Committee	Jaye Sims
Freehold Center Partnership	Michael DiBenedetto
Historic Preservation	John Newman
Human Relations	Jaye Sims
Library	John Newman
Memorial Day Parade	George Schnurr
Neighborhood Pride Committee	Kevin Kane
Planning Board	George Schnurr
Shade Tree Commission	Michael DiBenedetto
Alliance Against Drugs	Sharon Shutzer
Emergency Management	Jaye Sims”

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 19 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Providing Notice of 2012 Meetings of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold.”

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Sims:

RESOLUTION PROVIDING NOTICE OF 2012 MEETINGS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 20 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing the Renewal and Continuance of Bonds for Officials Required to Have Bonds for the Year 2012.”

Councilman Newman offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL AND CONTINUANCE OF BONDS FOR OFFICIALS REQUIRED TO HAVE BONDS FOR THE YEAR 2012:

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 21 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Designating the Depositories Wherein all Public Monies and Other Funds of the Municipality Shall Be Kept.”

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Schnurr:

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD DESIGNATING THE DEPOSITORIES WHEREIN ALL PUBLIC MONIES AND OTHER FUNDS OF THE MUNICIPALITY SHALL BE KEPT.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 22 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Designating Official Newspapers for Year 2012: Asbury Park Press, News Transcript, Star Ledger and Times of Trenton.”

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Sims:

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR YEAR 2012: ASBURY PARK PRESS, NEWS TRANSCRIPT, STAR LEDGER AND TIMES OF TRENTON.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 23 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Fixing the Rate of Interest to be Charged on Delinquent Taxes, Assessments and Water/Sewer Accounts for 2012.”

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Kane:

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD FIXING THE RATE OF INTEREST TO BE CHARGED ON DELINQUENT TAXES, ASSESSMENTS AND WATER/SEWER ACCOUNTS FOR 2012.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 24 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Distribution of Meeting Agendas and Minutes.”

Councilman Sims offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DISTRIBUTION OF MEETING AGENDAS AND MINUTES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 25 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Designating Official Holidays for the Employees of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, for the Year 2012.”

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, FOR THE YEAR 2012.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 26 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Adopting a Cash Management Plan for the Borough of Freehold.”

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Schnurr:

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 27 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Providing for 2012 Temporary Budget Appropriations.”

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Schnurr:

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR 2012 TEMPORARY BUDGET
APPROPRIATIONS.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins introduced the following members of the audience: Former Freehold Borough Mayors: John Dawes, J. William Boyle, Roger Kane, Michael Wilson; Former Councilwoman Lynn Reich; Sue Sweetman, former Councilwoman and Chairperson of the Housing Authority; Kevin Coyne, former Councilman and Borough Historian; Patrick McMorrow, former Councilman; Bill Maushardt, former Councilman and former Fire Chief; Bob Crawford, former Councilman; Anthony Ammiano, Mayor of Freehold Township, Barbara McMorrow, Committeewoman of Freehold Township; Police Chief Glenn Roberts; Police Lt. Mark Wodell; Police Lt. Craig Dispenza; PBA President Ptl. Sean Healey; Police Det. John Reiff; Reverend and Mrs. Steele; Fire Chief Ryan Bailey; First Assistant Fire Chief Dan Megill; Second Assistant Chief John Gierlowski; Department President, Code Official and Monmouth County Fire Marshall and Ex-Chief Hank Stryker; Reverend Frederickson, Fire Department Chaplain and Human Relations Committee member; Ex-Chief Robert Taylor; Ex-Chief Lawrence Jackson; Joseph Bellina, Borough Administrator; Kerry Higgins, Borough Attorney; Richard Gartz, Chief Financial Officer; Jonathan Lomurro, Public Defender; Kathy Sheedy, Borough Prosecutor; Patrick Accisano, Planning Board Attorney; Judge Scott Basen; Bill Wentzien, Vince Creevey and Steve Kislick, Borough Engineers from Cranmer Engineering; Supplee, Clooney and Company Borough Auditors; Allan Goldberg, member of CIC Committee; Adam Reich former member of Freehold Borough Board of Education and Freehold Borough Planning Board; Debbie Keelan, Neighborhood Pride Committee member and member of Freehold Borough Board of Education; Muriel Smith, Historic Preservation Committee; John Herman, former Zoning Officer; Christine Gregory, Shade Tree Commission; Jean Holtz, member of the FCP and President of Freehold Borough Education Foundation; Jim Keelan, Freehold Borough Board of Education; Annette Jordan, Freehold Borough Board of Education; Susan Grietz, Recreation Commission; Bunny Hammer, former member of Freehold Regional Board of Education; Betty DeMarco, member of Library Commission; Ron DeMarco, member of Citizen's Budget Committee; Jeff Friedman, member of Historic Preservation Committee, FCP and Municipal Alliance Committee; Sidney Blacknall, former Exalted Ruler, Walter J. Conley Lodge and Memorial Day Parade Committee member; Warren Head, Exalted Ruler, Walter J. Conley Lodge; Lillie Hendry, member of Freehold Borough Planning Board; Shari Scaramuzzo, FCP and Branch Manager of Investors Savings, Rich Gatto, CEO Freehold Center Partnership; Ron Griffiths, Chairman of Hudson Manor and Maureen MacCutcheon, Freehold Borough Board of Education and Carl Steinberg.

Mayor Higgins stated the following:

“Members of the Governing Body, former members of our governing body, Reverend Frederickson, fellow residents of our wonderful Borough and friends:

It is with a great sense of humility that I assume the chair of our long time Mayor, Michael Wilson. Mayor Wilson has served our community for 26 years with an unwavering concern for our public safety and for the needs of us all – from our youngest residents to our vibrant senior community. It is never an easy task to follow a popular and successful figure but,

Mayor Wilson, this Mayor and Council will work to carry on your tradition of public service excellence.

Government is challenged to provide services and care for its citizens in a difficult economic environment. All levels of government from our borough, to our county and state governments, to the federal government face difficult decisions which will affect the delivery of services for our citizens.

We will need to do more with lower overhead and develop partnerships with our neighbors.

Facing this challenge, we will work to provide those necessary services to protect and serve and to advocate for the interests of our residents and business and professional community. Decisions will not be easy and all may not agree with those decisions but as Councilman Kane said at December's Workshop Meeting, we will all need to work for what is best for Freehold Borough.

My congratulations go out to Councilman DiBenedetto and Councilman Schnurr on their re-election and to Councilwoman Shutzer on her election as Council President. I look forward with great excitement to work with these members along with Councilman Kane, Councilman Sims and Councilman Newman.

Our borough is served by an extraordinary group of volunteers from our first aid squad, to citizens who dedicate much of their time on our commissions and committees, to a group that is special to me, our fire department. We appreciated all you do for our citizens!

Our borough needs each and every one of you. Volunteer for a committee, a service club, or a community organization. Stay active or become active in one of our many places of worship, promote our borough, be proud of you we are, encourage your neighbors to participate in our community life and ask your friends to join us.

Freehold Borough is a special place and we should celebrate our community's history and our future. One cannot help but feel that extraordinary sense of pride on Memorial Day when our historic parade travels Main Street, or when the words of the Declaration of Independence are read from the steps of the building. We all enjoy the thrill and excitement of our Halloween activities and our Downtown restaurants, events and concerts.

This year five areas of government will be re-organized into two existing committees and three new committees to bring together related activities of our government. Public Safety, Personnel, Finance, Land Use and a Community Events committee are organized with duties in those specific areas.

I am pleased to announce a new program. Each Thursday, from 4:00 to 5:00 PM, I will be in the Borough Hall Conference Room to meet with you. If you have a complaint, just wish to speak with me, cannot attend a Council meeting but wish to raise an issue, or hopefully have a compliment about our services you are welcome to visit.

I thank each and every one of you for your support, encouragement and best wishes and look forward to beginning this term of service.

My personal thanks go to my family and our staff who have made it possible for me to serve in this office.

I wish each and everyone a very Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year."

Councilman Michael DiBenedetto stated the following:

"I would like to thank everyone for coming today. It is a pleasure to look out and see this many people here. I hope this will continue. I would to thank, my wife, my sons, my mother and father and my extended family for their patience and the time they allow me to give back to the Borough. To my mayor, congratulations on your retirement and to all the mayors (I will say

this saying one more time) ‘Climb on my shoulders and I will show you the horizon.’ It is a big undertaking being the mayor of Freehold Borough and Nolan; we are always here to help you.

I would like to thank our volunteers, our fire department, our first aid, our many volunteers that serve on our committees for the countless hours and time that they leave their families to come out and help the Borough of Freehold.

I would also like to thank our professionals, our water department, our road department, the staff of the municipal building and our police department. These men and women who go out and keep us safe.

Congratulations to Nolan and George and I would like to say I am proud this year of running for Councilman of Freehold Borough. In this little town of Freehold there were four people who wanted to be mayor. There were four people that wanted to be on council. I don’t think you can find a town in this State that had that, especially at this time when people are struggling and having financial difficulties.

Sharing will be going on in communities as far as professionals and services. It is not a good position to have right now. People ask me why I do it but in this town there were four people who were running for mayor and four people who were running for councilperson and I am very proud to be elected by the residents of Freehold Borough.

As I said earlier I am going to make this brief, I just want to say, ‘In times when financial situations get hard and financial difficulties occur the saying is we have to sharpen our pencils. When you don’t have pencils it gets worse. Hopefully we won’t get to that part of the financial burden that the town, the state and the country is in. Hopefully our men and women who are serving our country come home safe and sound. I get to meet many of the heroes in my shop. I cut their hair when they come home. They are the true heroes, our veterans of wars of past and our veterans that are coming home today.

I also like to wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday. I hope everything is more prosperous in 2012 and we have a lot of work to do. This town has also been in the forefront of sharing with other towns in regards to shared services. We started that years ago, so I think we were left in good hands and we are in good hands.

My congratulations go out to Nolan and George. I have served with Nolan in the fire department as a firefighter, shoulder to shoulder and he has also been my chief. You’re in good hands, believe me. Councilman Schnurr, as I call him the warrior. He has walked this town inside and out. He has done his homework and when things get tough he sharpens pencils three times. He’s a good man and I am glad to see him come back.

Thank you all for coming out.”

Councilman Schnurr stated the following:

“First of all I would like to congratulate, newly selected Freehold Borough Council President Sharon Shutzer, who has the respect and admiration of the entire council. Next I would like to congratulate Councilman Mike DiBenedetto on his re-election to the council and Mayor Nolan Higgins on his election as mayor. During the last several months I have worked very closely with both men. They are leaders by definition and role models by the example they set. On a personal level I am humbled by the voter’s confidence in Mayor Higgins, Councilman DiBenedetto and myself. Public service is a great way to help others to contribute your knowledge and experience and skills for the betterment of your community. It is a great way to carry out your vision for Freehold and it is a privilege and honor for me to serve in this capacity for the next three years. I believe in Freehold and pledge to devote my time and energy to keeping Freehold a great place to live.

I want to thank the good people of Freehold for their support and I would like to extend our profound gratitude to the large family of volunteers and supporters who enriched us along the way. In the New Year I look forward to getting down to work and collaborating with all people of good will to help deliver solutions on the issues of critical importance to Freehold Borough.

Outgoing Mayor Mike Wilson has set a high standard of public service for members of the Freehold Borough council like myself to follow. I would like to recognize and thank him for three decades of dedication and service to the Borough of Freehold. Mike, I promise to keep my end of the bargain by working hard to maintain the tradition of innovation, responsiveness and quality that you have established.

I would also like to thank the volunteers who serve on the many boards and committees and volunteer organizations in Freehold Borough, such as the Freehold Fire Department and the Freehold First Aid and Emergency Squad. Many members of these boards, committees and volunteer organizations are here today. They know what I know, that serving your community is not only the best gift you can give to Freehold, but it's the best gift you can give to yourself. We all know the good feeling you get inside when you help your community and help others to make a difference. The people who serve on these various boards, committees and volunteer organizations in Freehold Borough make a difference everyday. Thank you for what you do. Freehold Borough does not only run by the mayor and council. We have excellent professionals and personnel that do our day to day business here in town and I would like to take the time to publicly thank Joseph Bellina, Borough Administrator and all the employees who work for him for their service to our community.

Last, but not least, I would like thank my family for their support and sacrifice, it is not just yours truly who serves Freehold, but the rest of my family as well. The truth is, if it wasn't for them I could not be up here. My wife, Diane, has been very understanding and she knows she has unconditional veto power over my role up here on council. I have two understanding children, Michael is a senior at Kean University and Nicole a freshman at Rider University, they don't have veto power! I would also thank my mother and two brothers and their families for their support today. Again, I would like to thank the voters of Freehold Borough for this opportunity and I look forward to working with the governing body, the professionals and the rest of Freehold Borough, thank you."

Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer stated the following:

"2011 was a very challenging year. We battled blizzards, a hurricane and strong winds of change. With each new piece of legislation coming out of Trenton, we were faced with hard decisions and tighter belts. 2012 promises to be just as challenging, but rest assured, we are up to the task.

Those winds of change have profoundly affected our beloved Freehold. With the swearing in of a new mayor, we go forward with true reorganization. I would be remiss if I did not say that I will miss Mike Wilson more than even I know. His wisdom, his wit, his ability to put things into perspective and his vision are burned into my heart and I go forth having been well taught by him. Most of all, I will miss his guidance and his ability to focus on the really important things and let the other things go. Thank you, Mike Wilson, for being who you are. Additionally, I thank his wife Rita and his daughter Ashley for allowing us to share him and his time and talent all of these many years.

With an open heart, I welcome Nolan as our new mayor. He has already proven to be open-minded and fair. His enthusiasm is contagious and we all share a love of Freehold that is almost overwhelming. I look forward to working with him and with his family as they share his commitment to this town and to this job.

Congratulations to George and to Mike. As I said in an earlier letter to the editor, these are honest, hardworking and dedicated men. Trust me, I would not have supported any of them if I had not felt in the depth of my being that they are the best for Freehold.

I thank all of my fellow council persons. Thank you for your confidence as you elected me Council President, thank you for your knowledge, your energy and your commitment. Thank you for accepting me even when you don't agree with me. Thank you for your dedication to our residents and for always being here for our town.

A special thanks to our professionals and our employees who advise us and represent us every single day. Without our volunteers, we could not function as a town. Our first aid members, our firefighters and our committee members give of their time and their talents to keep us safe and to keep us moving forward. And to my family, thank you. I, nor any of us, could do this job without the love and support of our families.

And, finally, thank you to all of you for allowing us to serve. Yesterday, Sandy Taylor reminded me of the Apache blessing that I read at the swearing in of George and Mike three years ago. I would again like to share it with all of you today. It is my sincere hope that each of you will experience a healthy, happy New Year.

May the sun bring you new energy by day. May the Moon softly restore you by night. May the rain wash away your worries. May the breeze blow new strength into your being. May you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life."

Councilman Kane stated the following:

"I would like to thank everyone for coming today, this is one of the largest crowds we've ever had for a Reorganization Meeting. When the mayor was reading the names of who was in the audience you could see that this room is made up of all the people that make this town function. I would like to offer my congratulation to George and Mike, you both work hard and you deserve to win and congratulations on your re-election. I would also like to congratulate Nolan on your election as mayor. You will do a great job and I look forward to working with you. Congratulations to Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer on Council President.

It's extraordinary to see all of the former mayors sitting in the front row. I would also like to thank Mike Wilson for his 26 years of service as mayor. At Mike's last meeting in December I explained that Mike was mayor for 26 years, he spent 4 years on council and at least 10 years behind the scenes. As for the former mayors sitting in the front row, thank you so much for your service and dedication to this town.

I would like everyone in the military stand up, including any veterans, and if everyone would join me in giving them a round of applause. We really underestimate the sacrifice these men and woman and their families go through as being part of the military. My daughter recently got engaged and her fiancé is stationed on the USS Nemesis aircraft carrier in Seattle, Washington. I have been able to see first hand what the military does for our country and from the bottom of my heart, thank you very much.

Thank you to all of our volunteers. Everyone in this audience is a volunteer for something, again this is what makes this town so great. But I would like to thank all our volunteers, our professionals, all of our employees. It is the make-up of a great team. Things don't happen by individuals it takes a team and we have a phenomenal team in this town of volunteers, professionals and employees.

Now is the time of the year that everyone has a New Year's resolution. I have heard some things recently that these economic times that we are in are very troubling and there is no road map for it. No one knows what's going to happen from day to day. I would like everyone to grab the present and really appreciate everything that you have right now. We spend most of

our day building anxiety and anticipating things that could happen in the future. Ninety percent of the time they never happen. Embrace what you have and try not to work about the future.

Councilwoman Shutzer had the annual Senior Holiday Party in the beginning of December and it was so nice to see the look on the senior's faces when they left the party. For many of the seniors this was the only holiday celebration they would have. I would like to thank Councilwoman Shutzer for all that she does.

One more quick story, talking about the expression paying it forward, which is when you go out and change someone's life. This past year we brought Olde Freehold Day back and it was a tremendous success and it's back on the board again for the end of July. This was just a group of people who got together and we brain-stormed and we wanted to bring it back in a big way and everyone was throwing out ideas and we were trying to pack everything into six hours and it was getting really tough. One of the things we wanted to do was bring back the fishing derby and anybody who has been around knows the Recreation Commission used to run a fishing derby. So we said we can't do the fishing derby without Gary Lout. We talked to Gary and he got on board with the committee. Olde Freehold Day was on a Saturday and on the Monday prior we were supposed to go out to Lake Topanemus and mark off an area that we were going to rope off for the fishing derby. My uncle goes to pick up Gary and he was told that he passed away the night before. Nobody knew he was as sick as he was. One of his sons found out about what his father was doing. We found out after the fact the reason he was so involved with the fishing derby in town was because when he was a kid he was growing up in West Virginia and he used to go fishing, no lie, with a stick, a string and a hook. One day this older gentlemen came up to him and said do you like fishing and he said, I love fishing. A couple weeks later the gentleman came back and handed him a brand new fishing pole with a rod and reel and he never forgot that. He was always trying to make things better in this town. One of his sons came in and found out about the derby and he made a phone call and he got \$3,000 -\$4,000 of fishing equipment donated for our fishing derby within two days. The way the fishing derby worked was if you caught a fish your name was entered in a drawing. This little kid came to Olde Freehold Day with his grandfather and he caught a fish and he hears his name called in the drawing. This is something that kid will remember for the rest of his life and hopefully he will do the same thing when he gets older.

Go out and have a happy, healthy, prosperous and safe New Year."

Councilman Jaye Sims stated the following:

"He thanked everyone for coming out today. Before I begin, everyone has indicated that today has obviously ended the era of a Freehold Borough icon, Mike Wilson and I would personally like to wish him well in his retirement and in his future endeavors. Nolan, I would like to take this time out to congratulate you and your family. As I have found myself, sitting up here, this is a tough job that you cannot do without the support of your family and I would like to thank you for lending Nolan to us for the next four years. I currently serve with Nolan on the fire department and some people are just born natural leaders and Nolan has proven that time and time again in all the positions he's held both in the fire department and the various town committees.

I want to recite a quote from the retired Army General, Colin Powell, 'Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers who can cut through an argument, debate and doubt. To offer a solution everybody can understand.' Again, Nolan I wish you luck and lots of success and I'm ready to support you and work with you.

Councilman DiBenedetto and Councilman Schnurr I would like to congratulate you both. I have served on council with you for the past several years. Both of you have proven time and time again that you work tirelessly for the residents of Freehold Borough. You both continue to

contribute new ideas to the council and at times this is a thankless job and you both never show it by how hard you work. Thank you both and congratulations on your re-election.

I would also like to thank our professionals starting with Joseph Bellina, Business Administrator. As you know, Joe runs the day to day operations of Freehold Borough. It definitely is not an easy job but yet time and time again, year after year, Joe makes it look easy. I've had the opportunity in my occupation to work and see other towns, Freehold Borough is very lucky to have Joe as our Administrator. I would like to say the same goes for Kerry Higgins, Borough Attorney. At times this is a difficult job, however she seems to make the job look very easy. To our Borough Clerk, Traci DiBenedetto, one of her primary functions is being the answering point for the governing body. She deals with the public and handles various different requests from the governing body from time to time. At times I am sure things get very hectic but I've never seen her fail under pressure. Thank you again for all the work and time that you put in. To our fire department, I would like to personally thank Chief Bailey for another successful year. He is an honorable leader and has taken our fire department to new heights. I am proud as a member and as a councilperson to serve under his leadership. To our Police Chief, Glenn Roberts, who was recently promoted to the rank as Chief a few months ago. Since then Glenn, has continued to work hard to bring our police department up to date with the latest crime fighting technology and training. He is an honorable leader and I hope that the men and woman in our department emulate his work. Thank you and I also look forward to working with you again. To the employees of this town, I would like to thank you for working and serving in all capacities of this town.

Finally, this past year I had proposed to start a Youth Government Program. With the councils blessing a resolution was passed in the Fall. The sign-ups were held two different nights and we have close to 20 Borough youths that have signed up to participate in the program. I look forward to working with these young men and woman and will look forward to getting started later on this month.

I would like to end with thanking my family for their support and allowing me to continue to support the residents of Freehold Borough. This past year I was blessed with the birth of twin girls and they have definitely been a joy and a gift in my life and my family's life. Again, Nolan, Mike and George congratulations, God bless you all and God bless you all here today."

Councilman John Newman stated the following:

"First, I would like to congratulate our outgoing mayor, Mayor Michael Wilson. Best of luck in the future and in your retirement. Congratulations to our new mayor, Nolan Higgins and I look forward to working with you and I appreciate some of the ideas that you bring forward. You come to your new position with a lot of enthusiasm. Congratulations, also to Councilman DiBenedetto and Councilman Schnurr on their re-election this year.

A lot of the theme tonight was on volunteerism and it certainly makes the town work a lot. I am liaison to a couple committees and one of the committees that I am proud to be liaison to (they do all the work, I kind of just sit there and watch them) is the Historic Preservation Committee. People have seen the downtown change a little bit mainly in part because of the Historic Preservation Committee. They are in charge of awnings, signs and the exteriors of buildings. They work with advocates to gently give them some guidance on how to keep the town in the council's vision that they passed a few years ago for the revitalization plan.

One of Mayor Higgins's ideas is a Land-use Super Committee, which I will be working on with Councilman Sims and Councilman Schnurr. Councilman Schnurr and I sometimes clash, but I think this will be a good opportunity for the three of us to work together. We often have the same mind-set on things, more often then not so I think this is going to be very good for

us to work together on the land-use of this town. As Councilman Schnurr said, there are issues of critical importance to Freehold Borough that are coming this year and I think land-use and the downtown are some of those issues. Unfortunately, Ballew's Jewelers is closing this year for various reasons. We've seen some controversy regarding the 7-11, the Racetrack is something that is always in play and we don't know what the future holds for it, as well as, the Stavola property and the other under utilized places in town. I think this committee will give us a good chance for council and the public to work on future visions for this town. A lot of the groundwork has already been laid out by our past council, past mayors and to go forward the Lt. Governor's office has an office that basically works on bringing business to New Jersey. There are county incentives and certainly we have our own incentives here in Freehold Borough. So I look forward to that this year.

I just want to end by telling everyone our Freehold Memorial Day Parade Fundraiser is January 17, 2012 from 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM at The Cabin. Go there, and have a Happy New Year.

Reverend Frederickson closed the meeting with a prayer.

Mayor Higgins thanked everyone for coming out and wished everyone a Happy New Year. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

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