

The Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Sunday, January 6, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Mayor Higgins 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).

Councilman Kane opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag.

Reverend William Frederickson of First Baptist Church gave the invocation, followed by a moment of silence.

The Oaths of Office were administered to Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer and Councilman Ronald Griffiths.

#### ROLL CALL

PRESENT	MAYOR J. NOLAN HIGGINS
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DI BENEDETTO
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN RONALD GRIFFITHS
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN KEVIN KANE
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 2013 Professional Services Contract with Cranmer Engineering for Borough Engineering Services.”**

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2013 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CRANMER ENGINEERING FOR BOROUGH ENGINEERING SERVICES.**

Councilman Schnurr stated we have a lot of vendors on our vendor list that we disburse funds to and he doesn't look at Cranmer Engineering as a vendor, they are truly a partner in progress with Freehold Borough.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, 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 2013 Professional Services Contract with Kerry E. Higgins, Esq. for Borough Legal Services.”**

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2013 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH KERRY E. HIGGINS, ESQ. FOR BOROUGH LEGAL SERVICES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, 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 2013 Professional Services Contract with Dilworth Paxson LLP for Borough Bond Counsel Services.”**

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2013 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH DILWORTH PAXSON LLP FOR BOROUGH BOND COUNSEL SERVICES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, 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 Authorizing 2013 Professional Services Contract with Suplee, Clooney & Company for Borough Auditor Services.”**

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2013 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH SUPLEE, CLOONEY & COMPANY FOR BOROUGH AUDITOR SERVICES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, 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 2013: 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 2013: KATHLEEN A. SHEEDY, ESQ.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Newman, Schnurr 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 2013: Kerry E. Higgins, Esq.”**

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING BOROUGH SUBSTITUTE/ALTERNATE PROSECUTOR FOR THE YEAR 2013: KERRY E. HIGGINS, ESQ.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, 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 2013: Jonathan Lomurro.”**

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE YEAR 2013: JONATHAN LOMURRO.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, 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 2013:**

- |           |  |                          |               |
|-----------|--|--------------------------|---------------|
| <b>a.</b> | <b>Deputy Clerk</b>  | <b>Joseph B. Bellina</b> | <b>1 year</b> |
| <b>b.</b> | <b>Treasurer and Collector<br/>Water &amp; Sewer Rents</b> | <b>Richard J. Gartz</b>  | <b>1 year</b> |
| <b>c.</b> | <b>Deputy Treasurer</b>                                    | <b>Kathleen Caruso</b>   | <b>1 year</b> |
| <b>d.</b> | <b>Borough Historian</b>                                   | <b>Kevin Coyne</b>       | <b>1 year</b> |

e.	<b>Board of Health</b>	<b>Dr. C. Gregory Jewell</b>	<b>4 years</b>
f.	<b>Emergency Management:</b>		
	<b>Daniel Megill</b>	<b>Dep. Coordinator</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Chief Glenn Roberts</b>	<b>Public Safety</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Chief Daniel Megill</b>	<b>Fire and Rescue</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Joseph B. Bellina</b>	<b>Damage Assessment</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Traci L. DiBenedetto</b>	<b>Shelter and Welfare</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Garry Jackson</b>	<b>Fire Prevention Rep.</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>J. Nolan Higgins</b>	<b>(Ex-Officio)</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Jillian Kiwit, Captain or</b>		
	<b>Duly Authorized</b>	<b>First Aid Squad</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Health Department</b>	<b>Margaret Jahn</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Streets &amp; Roads</b>	<b>Sal DeJesus</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Water Department</b>	<b>Norman Townsend</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Water Plant</b>	<b>Mike Baker</b>	<b>1 year</b>
g.	<b>Fire Prevention Bureau:</b>	<b>(State License Required)</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Garry Jackson</b>	<b>Fire Official</b>	
h.	<b>Human Relations Committee</b>	<b>Carol Lida</b>	<b>3 years</b>
		<b>Gianna Dell’Omo</b>	<b>3 years</b>
		<b>Christine Gregory</b>	<b>3 years</b>
i.	<b>Historic Preservation Committee</b>	<b>Barbara Wagner</b>	<b>3 years</b>
		<b>Kevin Coyne</b>	<b>3 years</b>
		<b>Gregory Clark</b>	<b>3 years</b>
		<b>Gil Burgess (Alt. 2)</b>	<b>2 years</b>
j.	<b>Housing Authority</b>	<b>George Kelder</b>	<b>5 years</b>
k.	<b>Lake Topanemus Commission</b>	<b>Roger Kane</b>	<b>3 years</b>
		<b>Dr. C. Gregory Jewell</b>	<b>1 year</b>
l.	<b>Library Commission</b>	<b>Jane Kaye</b>	<b>5 years</b>
		<b>Barbara Jenette</b>	<b>1 year</b>
m.	<b>Memorial Day Parade Committee</b>	<b>Alice McCobb</b>	<b>1 year</b>
		<b>Amanda McCobb</b>	<b>1 year</b>
		<b>Charles Sona</b>	<b>1 year</b>
		<b>Bernard Weinstein</b>	<b>1 year</b>
		<b>John Bosco</b>	<b>1 year</b>
		<b>John Mazekien</b>	<b>1 year</b>
		<b>Ken Pulchlopek</b>	<b>1 year</b>
		<b>Sidney Blacknall</b>	<b>1 year</b>
		<b>Walter Kowalski</b>	<b>1 year</b>
		<b>Nick Gardner</b>	<b>1 year</b>
		<b>Sgt. Ronnie Steppat</b>	<b>1 year</b>
n.	<b>Municipal Alliance</b>	<b>Sharon Shutzer</b>	<b>2 years</b>

		<b>John Reiff</b>	<b>2 years</b>
		<b>Annette Jordan</b>	<b>2 years</b>
		<b>Superintendent, Freehold Borough Schools</b>	<b>2 years</b>
<b>o.</b>	<b>Planning Board</b>	<b>Danielle Sims</b>	<b>4 years</b>
		<b>Kevin Asadi</b>	<b>4 years</b>
		<b>Garry Jackson</b>	<b>1 year</b>
		<b>Kevin Lewis, Alt. 1</b>	<b>2 years</b>
<b>p.</b>	<b>Recreation Commission</b>	<b>Sheryl Mott</b>	<b>5 years</b>
		<b>Bob Bennett</b>	<b>5 years</b>
<b>q.</b>	<b>Shade Tree Commission</b>	<b>Victoria Krauss</b>	<b>5 years”</b>

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

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2013.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr 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 2013: Joseph B. Bellina.”**

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

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 2013: JOSEPH B. BELLINA.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, 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 2013: Joseph B. Bellina and Richard J. Gartz.”**

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

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE FOR THE YEAR 2013: JOSEPH B. BELLINA AND RICHARD J. GARTZ.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, 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 2013: Councilman Kevin Kane.”**

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

**ELECTION BY COUNCIL OF PRESIDENT FOR YEAR 2013: COUNCILMAN KEVIN KANE.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, 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 2013:**

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

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

**“Appointment of Council Representatives for the Year 2013:**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Representative</b>
<b>Advisory Council on Aging</b>	<b>Sharon Shutzer</b>
<b>Board of Education</b>	<b>Sharon Shutzer</b>
<b>Freehold Center Partnership</b>	<b>Michael DiBenedetto</b>
<b>Historic Preservation</b>	<b>Michael DiBenedetto</b>
<b>Human Relations</b>	<b>Jaye Sims</b>

**Library**  
**Memorial Day Parade**  
**Planning Board**  
**Shade Tree Commission**  
**Alliance Against Drugs**  
**Emergency Management**  
**Youth Government**

**Jaye Sims**  
**George Schnurr**  
**George Schnurr**  
**Ronald Griffiths**  
**Sharon Shutzer**  
**Sharon Shutzer**  
**Jaye Sims”**

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

**“Resolution Providing Notice of 2013 Meetings of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold.”**

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

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING NOTICE OF 2013 MEETINGS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, 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 2013.”**

Councilman Schnurr 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 2013:**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, 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, Griffiths, Kane, 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 2013: Asbury Park Press, News Transcript, Star Ledger and Times of Trenton.”**

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

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR YEAR 2013: ASBURY PARK PRESS, NEWS TRANSCRIPT, STAR LEDGER AND TIMES OF TRENTON.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, 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 2013.”**

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 FIXING THE RATE OF INTEREST TO BE CHARGED ON DELINQUENT TAXES, ASSESSMENTS AND WATER/SEWER ACCOUNTS FOR 2013.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, 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 Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

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

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, 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 2013.”**

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

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, FOR THE YEAR 2013.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, 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 Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Kane:

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

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, 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 2013 Temporary Budget Appropriations.”**

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

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR 2013 TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, 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: military and veteran members; Former Freehold Borough Mayors: Roger Kane and Michael Wilson; Former

Councilwoman Lynn Reich; Sue Sweetman, former Councilwoman and Chairperson of the Housing Authority; Former Councilman Patrick McMorrow; Freehold Township Mayor Barbara McMorrow; Former Borough Attorney Richard O'Connor; Freehold Township Committeeman Tom Cook; Bunny Hammer, former member of Freehold Regional Board of Education; Annette Jordan, Freehold Borough Board of Education; Susan Grietz, Recreation Commission; Ron Reich, former member Freehold Borough Board of Education; Bill Hakim; Adam Reich Freehold Borough Planning Board; Dr. Rocco Tomazic, in-coming Freehold Borough School Superintendent; Joseph Bellina, Administrator; Kerry Higgins, Borough Attorney; Traci DiBenedetto; Borough Clerk; Kathy Sheedy, Borough Prosecutor; Jonathan Lomurro, Public Defender; Frank Accisano, Planning Board Attorney; Bill Wentzien and Steve Kiselick, Borough Engineers from Cranmer Engineering; Bob Swisher, Borough Auditor from Supplee, Clooney and Company; Sgt. Chris Colaner, Freehold Borough Police Department, Fire Chief Dan Megill, Freehold Fire Department, Ex-Fire Chief Bob Taylor; Reverend Frederickson, Fire Department Chaplain; Reggie Sims; Freehold First Aid Squad Trustee Dave Cranmer and Trustee Diane D'Anna and current President and Trustee Jim McAllister; Alice McCobb, Memorial Day Committee; Billy Anderson, Freehold Fire Department Monmouth Hose Co. and McGackin Award winner; Sidney Blacknall, Memorial Day Committee and former Exalted Ruler, Walter J. Conley Lodge; Christine Gregory, Chairperson Shade Tree Commission; Allan Goldberg, photographer; Al Michenfelder, Racers Club; Jeff Friedman, Historic Preservation Committee member, Freehold Borough Arts Council and Co-Chairman Municipal Alliance; Warren Head, Exalted Ruler, Walter J. Conley Lodge; Sandy Taylor, Board member Freehold Open Door and Amanda McCobb, Memorial Day Parade Committee.

Mayor Higgins stated the following:

“Members of the Governing Body, residents of the Borough of Freehold, friends:

Good afternoon. As we open our new municipal year, I congratulate Councilwoman Shutzer at the start of her new term and welcome Councilman Griffiths to council. Councilwoman Shutzer and Councilman Griffiths both bring a long tradition of community service to this governing body. We all look forward to their successful terms of service.

Councilman John Newman served this municipality as a member of the governing body for the past three years. It was a pleasure to serve with John and he has our best wishes and thanks and my hope that he will remain active in our community affairs.

2012 was a challenge for local government. Our municipality was faced with storm clean up after several significant events. Our streets are still being cleared of brush, trees, branches and leaves after Super Storm Sandy and the snow storm. Much cleanup still lies ahead along with the disposal of this material.

A word of recognition must be given for the dedication and professionalism of our emergency responders.

Our Office of Emergency Management was faced with several challenges this year from the July super cell and Hurricane Sandy. The Office of Emergency Management, consisting of our OEM Director and Assistant Director, Borough Administrator, police department administrative officers, Chief of the fire department, director of our fire bureau, first aid squad captain, street department supervisor, water department supervisor, water plant operator, and health department officer were prepared and performed with professionalism and efficiency. This municipality is served by an OEM group which is second to none.

Our entire Pubic Works staff has worked tirelessly since these events to restore our streets to pre-storm condition.

The economic impact of these storms will certainly be felt. The tremendous costs associated with these events will affect our budget as we move ahead. An economy which has not improved will force governments at all levels to continue to make hard choices.

During the past year the Borough was named as recipient of two grants, one a Community Block Grant in the amount of \$184,000, the largest block grant awarded this past year, which will help fund improvements to Throckmorton Street and a County Open Space grant which will be used to begin improvements to Veteran's Park.

Improvements were made to the lobby of Borough Hall. This year improvements will be made to the Council Chamber which will provide audio and visual support for those attending meetings in this room.

We continue to be served by a police department, fire department, and first aid squad who have demonstrated their commitment to our town throughout the past year.

At our December meeting, five members of our police department were formally recognized for their heroism at a fire scene they discovered in Piscataway while returning from a training session.

We had hoped to begin several road improvement projects last fall. After our professionals developed plans and consulted with the residents immediately affected by these projects we were ready to move forward to mitigate some of the more troublesome road issues in town. These improvements, which were delayed after Sandy, will begin in the spring.

Our Youth Government Program and Junior Firefighter Program have flourished this past year. We can be encouraged by the interest and involvement shown by our Borough youth.

Your governing body is available to you. The open office hour program, which I started last year and will continue this year, has provided a time and place for our residents to voice their concerns directly to me.

We thank you for your time and support! We hope everyone will enjoy a peaceful and healthy 2013.

On behalf of the governing body, our administration and staff you have our best wishes for a Happy and Safe New Year!"

Councilman George Schnurr stated the following:

"First of all I would like to congratulate newly selected Freehold Borough Council President Kevin Kane, who has the respect and admiration of the entire council. Congratulations Kevin and I look forward to working with you and the rest of the governing body this year.

Next, I would like to congratulate newly elected Councilman Ron Griffiths and Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer and their families on their election victories. In regards to our newest member of council, one of the ideas that came up in the campaign was an idea by Councilman Griffiths on the use of interns to help with government projects. This is a great idea that has already worked well in Freehold Borough. The example I would like to give is the Freehold Center Partnership website was created by a Rutgers intern. So this is a proven idea with much merit. Ron, I look forward to the implementation of this valued proposition for Freehold, this is a great idea.

In regards to our most senior member on council, Councilwoman Shutzer has the heart the size of Freehold Borough itself. People know that and that's why she has been re-elected to council each and every time. Her caring for people in need was no more self evident then during our super cell storm in July and Hurricane Sandy in late October. Sharon seemed to be everywhere. Sharon thank you for giving our residents that personal touch.

Next, I would like to congratulate Mayor Higgins on the completion of his first year in public office. Between dwindling resources, unanticipated expenses and Mother Nature, I could not have imagined a more trying year for anyone on the Freehold Borough governing body.

Through it all, Nolan turned out to be what everyone expected, a leader by definition and a role model by the fine example he sets. Thank you Nolan for being both of these at a time Freehold Borough needed it the most.

I would also like to thank the volunteers who serve on the many boards, committees, volunteer organizations and service groups in Freehold Borough. Many members of these boards, committee and volunteer organizations and service groups are here today. They know what I know that serving your community is not only the best gift you can give to Freehold Borough but the best gift you can give yourself. We all know the good feeling you get inside when you help your community, help others and know that you are making a difference. To the people who serve on all these boards and committees, thank you for doing all the things that you do.

Since the swearing in of the fire chief for the Freehold Fire Department was only a few days ago I wanted to thank out-going Fire Chief Ryan Bailey, incoming Fire Chief Dan Megill, First Assistant Chief John Gierlowski and Second Assistant Chief Steve Pullen for their service to our community. Thank you.

Freehold Borough is not only run by the mayor and council and the various committees I talked about, we have excellent professionals and personnel that perform day to day business here in town. I would like to take the time to publicly thank Freehold Borough Administrator Joe Bellina and all of his employees who work for him for all of their service to Freehold Borough. Especially Traci DiBenedetto our Borough Clerk who is the friendly face that the public sees when they come into Borough Hall. Her professional demeanor sets the tone in the office. Thank you. In regards to Administrator Joe Bellina, towards the end of 2011 we on council recognized some issues that we were having with planning board administration and the information flow between Historic Preservation, Planning Board and the Code office. Because Administrator Joe Bellina was willing to work and attend the Historic Preservation Commission meetings at night and the Planning Board meetings at night, after putting in a full day of work, most of these issues have been resolved. Thank you Joe, as the council liaison to the Planning Board, I appreciate all those extra hours you put in to foster the business friendly environment we have here in Freehold Borough. Thank you.

Last year was really a tough year as far as our economy goes and Freehold Borough Administrator Joe Bellina and Chief Financial Officer Ricky Gartz did a tremendous job in finding ways to stretch our tax dollars. If you look at our budget, the budget appropriations compared to the actual, Freehold Borough is on budget in all areas. Public sector or private sector, that is a very difficult thing to do. I would like to thank both of you for your hard work in keeping our finances in order.

I would also like to thank our attorney, Kerry Higgins, for all of her hard work during the year. She reviews all of her ideas on council and codifies them via ordinance or resolution. Thank you, Kerry.

Our police department and fire department worked for hours on end during the storms this last year and our streets department has been working six days a week since the storms to clean up the Borough. I would like to thank them for all of their hard work when Freehold needed them to step up the most.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my family for their support and sacrifice. It's not yours truly who serves Freehold, but them as well. The truth is if it wasn't for them I would not be up here. My wife, Diane, is very understanding and has unconditional veto power over my role as a member of the governing body. I say this each and every year to remind her of the power she wields in our household. So if you like the job I'm doing, please thank her don't thank me.

Public service in Freehold is a great way to help other people contribute your knowledge, experience and skill sets for the betterment of your community. It is a great way to carry out

your vision for Freehold. All of us here on council believe in Freehold and pledge to devote our time and energy in keeping Freehold a great place to live, work and visit. Happy New Year to all of you.”

Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer stated the following:

“I want to share with you the opening words of my Reorganization speech from last year. 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.

I had no idea how prophetic I was being when I spoke those words. 2012 proved to be the single most challenging year that I have seen in the 20 years I have served in this capacity. I ended that first paragraph last year with the words, “...rest assured, we are up to the task.” And we were.

My dear late mother used to say that out of everything bad comes something good. I am taking a page from her book now as I look at the good which came from all of the destruction we saw.

We saw a town come together to help each other. Neighbor helped neighbor. There were no strangers as we all realized that what happens to one of us happens to all of us. We shared our fears, our tears, our laughter, our support. We reached out to people in need and we are better people because of it.

We had no serious injuries and we had no deaths which is a miracle considering all that was damaged.

We saw the police department, the fire department and the first aid squad respond time after time to folks in need and we once and for all realized that these volunteers and employees are dedicated, compassionate and absolutely second to none.”

We saw all of our employees swing into action as they did everything they could to help our residents. Whether they cleared roadways, protected our water supply, answered phones, walked the town assessing needs, helped residents with the all-consuming paper work, or just listened and advised, our employees proved themselves to be invaluable.

We saw our mayor and our business administrator take the reigns of leadership with their proactive planning. Apparently Dan Megill tracked Sandy and notified Nolan and Joe that it was going to be a bad one. Their first contact with the council members was one week before the storm hit and they had everything in place by the time that it wreaked havoc on us.

Another good thing that came from this year is that we now have a plan in place for the removal of some of our 100+ year old trees so that our residents do not have to be terrified of further destruction. These trees will be replaced with more appropriate trees.

And let’s think about the bike rides, paddling at the pond, the Youth Police Academy, the Youth Government and their stupendous plan to redo Veteran’s Park, Memorial Day, the July 4<sup>th</sup> reading of the Declaration of Independence and the fireworks, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Open Door and all of its volunteers, the Graeme Preston Foundation which donated \$5,000.00 to the Youth Police Academy and \$5,000.00 to the Freehold Alliance Against Substance Abuse, the holiday party for our seniors, our school district which continues to do wonderful things with and for our children, the Community Prayer Service, the First Aid Squad’s raising of \$17,000.00 to support one of their own who is stricken with cancer, all of the Spooktacular events even if they were interrupted by the storm, the creation of and destroying of the beautiful mural and the rallying behind the Arts Council and yes, a primary election which proves that the very democracy that protects our freedom lives in Freehold. There are so many, many other things that proved that Freehold’s spirit is alive and well.

Besides our volunteers, our employees, our administrators and our professionals, many others deserve my thanks as well.

I thank all of my fellow council persons. Thank you for your knowledge, your energy, and your commitment. Thank you for supporting me even when you don't agree with me. Thank you for your dedication to our residents and for always being here for our beloved town. A huge thank you also to all of your families who share this commitment of ours.

I thank John Newman for the three years he served. He served with distinction and honor and he deserves our gratitude.

On the morning of the general election, my daughter came to our home with my two precious grandsons. They brought with them a note on which all of them had written messages to me and my daughter gave me her lucky penny to hold for the day. The penny had been given to her earlier by her older son. I was afraid that I would lose the penny, so I kept the card to which it was taped with me during the day as a constant reminder of the love and support of my family. Most of you know that this has been a very difficult year for our family and it promises to get even worse. So, I want to thank with all of my heart, Richard, Carey, Brian and Brady for never losing faith in me and for always being there with support and encouragement and love. They are my strength.

The lucky penny worked and I have all of you to thank for allowing me to continue to serve and to do the job that I love. You made a very good choice when you chose my running mate Ron Griffiths to serve. A lifelong resident of Freehold, he is a good, honest, hard working and fair man who will serve you well. Congratulations, Ron.

Also, congratulations to Kevin Kane for his election as Council President. We are, indeed, in good hands.

Sandy Taylor would probably call me to task if I did not close with this Apache Blessing which I offer from my heart, "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 through the world and know its beauty all of the days of your life."

Councilman Jaye Sims stated the following:

"Good afternoon and Happy New Year to you all. I would like to thank everyone for coming out today. I would like to begin by congratulating both Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer and Councilman Ronald Griffiths. Sharon continues year after year to work tirelessly for the citizens of this town. She never skips a beat, whether there is a weather event, a fire, a concert or another special event, Sharon is always there. There aren't enough words that I could use to describe Sharon's passion and dedication to Freehold Borough. There is one thing that the residents of this Borough should know, Sharon Shutzer has always and will continue to do whatever is best for the residents of Freehold Borough. You are a wonderful mother, wife, grandmother and mentor to me and many others and most importantly a dear friend. Congratulations, Sharon.

Ron Griffiths you are another one of Freehold Borough's great people. Ronnie has dedicated many, many years to this town. When I first heard that Ronnie would be running, I was very excited. Ronnie's knowledge and background of the Borough will be very vital to the operation of this council. You are a welcome addition to the council and I very much look forward to working with you this year. Congratulations to both you and your family.

As mentioned 2012 marked a historic year for the Borough. We started the new year off with a new mayor and then we had an influx of weather related events. All in all we made it through. We had excellent leadership and a well laid out plan.

Mayor Higgins I would like to thank you for that. It has been a pleasure serving under your leadership this past year. To Kevin, Mike and George I also look forward to serving with you for another year.

A new addition was added to the Borough last year, which is our Youth Government. Sixteen energetic teenagers signed up and made the decision to serve this town. They wanted to make this town a better place for the youth in it. Since we first met in March, they have been working on a project to rehab one of the Borough's parks, Veterans Park. They along with Administrator Joe Bellina and our Borough Engineer Steve Kiselick, who I might add worked tirelessly with the kids at no charge to the town, to devise a plan to rehab the park. Again I am proud to announce that at the end of 2012 we were awarded the Monmouth County Open Space Grant. A grant that totaled \$135,000.00. At this time I would like to recognize some of our Youth Government members who are in the audience today. We have our Youth Mayor, Brayden Donnelly, Council Members, TJ and Nicole Ray and Cydney and Cierra Sims. Thank you all.

To all of our workers here in Freehold Borough, starting with Borough Hall you are all hard workers. Our Administrator Joe Bellina, your hard work and persistence always pays off and it sets the tone for the rest of our workforce. Our CFO, Ricky Gartz, his hard work and persistence also pays off. To our Clerk, Traci DiBenedetto, sometimes I think Traci sleeps here. The many jobs and tasks that you do, I cannot say thank you enough. To our volunteers, to our fire and first aid, especially our fire department, a huge thank you for all the work that you do to our town. A special thank you to our out going Chief Ryan Bailey. Ryan played a major role in a historic transitional period in our fire department. His dedication and service to the fire department in this town was very admirable and again we thank him for all of his time and service. I would like to also wish our new chief, Danny Megill and his assistant John Gierlowski and Steve Pullen good luck. Danny comes from a long line with deep legacies in the fire department and I know he will lead the department with the utmost dignity and honor. So Danny good luck and thank you.

Finally a new year is here and I am sure this council will face a new line of challenges from keeping the budget balanced and improving our road infrastructure, to trimming our trees and of course our ongoing battles with JCP&L to improve our electrical infrastructure. All of these decisions will be tough but make no mistake about it this council will as always continue to do what's best for the residents of this town. Again, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and thank you for coming out today."

Councilman Michael DiBenedetto stated the following:

'I would like to agree with the people who spoke before me. It will be a challenging year this year due to the unforeseen obstacle of 2012, Mother Nature. As Sharon said, we do have a plan in place for 130 trees. Being a member of the Shade Tree Commission, we will work hard to replace the trees with the proper trees that shall be planted. We do have a plan in place, either removing or doing maintenance on 130 trees, so we are aware of the situation and we will try to make it a better and safer place to live in.

I won't go over all the individuals but I would like to thank all of our professionals. The people that you see before us and the ones that aren't here, all the volunteers that stepped up to the plate during the two horrific storms that we had. I would like to thank you all from the bottom of my heart. We were out there, the council, the mayor, we were outside those nights with you, we saw what you did and we would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I would like to congratulate and thank John Newman for the past three years of his service to this town, it was a pleasure working with John on different projects and hopefully some of the projects that he started will continue and be finished. He had some great ideas and I

hate to see John go, but he will be around. He assured us that he would stay on and help with some of our committees and I do thank him for that.

Ron Griffiths, I've known you for a long time, you have some great ideas, it's going to be a pleasure working with you because you are the kind of guy that doesn't look back and say what I did but why I did it.

Sharon, as my boys say when I got my new cell phone, welcome to the 1980's. We will bring you to the 1990's next month. So I am right there with you. Like George says, you have the heart the size of the Borough, the best interests of the people and you are everywhere. During the storm she needed to make sure that everyone was cared for. She never stops and I applaud you for that. Congratulations on your victory and it will be a pleasure serving you and I am glad you're around because I'm not the oldest one on the council, as long as you are here.

In closing I would like to say thank you to our mayor who stepped up to the plate and all the former mayors and council people who are sitting in the room today for making us and this town a better place to live in. We are here today, we are strong and we will make this a better place for you to live in.

I thank my wife for allowing me to come out at night and serve the town. May all of your desires in your heart be fulfilled in 2013. Thank you."

Councilman Ron Griffiths stated the following:

"Well, I am both humble and happy to be a councilman in Freehold Borough. As a third generation resident, educated in the Borough school system, K-12, I have been honored to represent you in our home town. I thank the voters who put their confidence in Sharon and I in the primary and the general elections. It is now up to us to reward your confidence by governing in a way that is fiscally prudent and maintains the level of services that you deserve.

The Re-organization shows that I will be serving in four specific areas; finance, personnel, municipal courts and liaison to the Shade Tree Commission. I think you deserve to know my goals for each of these concerns.

Finance, in 2012 we survived the storms you've heard about and endured. These natural disasters have been extremely costly. The governing body will be challenged to maintain the local tax rate in our next budget, but that will be the goal.

Personnel, I would like to see some of my campaign ideas come to fruition. As George, mentioned the intern program. Where I think we could review our business practices, survey our customers and find out exactly how well we are doing our job. I would also like to empower and reward our employees. I envision a program that would allow them to give their input on how we can be more efficient. The current successful Montgomery Township program is a model we could adopt. I believe we have a dedicated and productive staff in all of our departments. Certainly the work of the police department and the public works after the storms speak volumes.

On the Municipal Court, I have to admit it's going to be a learning curve for me. Fortunately I haven't been to court too frequently!

As far as the Shade Tree Commission, the three storms of 2012 emphasize the important work of this group of volunteers and Christine, I acknowledge your good work as a volunteer on the Shade Tree Commission. Our town has been recognized as a tree city by the Arbor Day Foundation for the past 15 years. We love our stately trees, as Sharon mentioned, until they start falling on homes, cars and roads. We are challenged to maintain the beauty of our community while eliminating the hazards of unhealthy tree stock. One thing is clear, we need to make an investment in this area and that has begun. But that investment must ensure we restock our downed, diseased trees with ones that will not interfere with power lines, uproot our sidewalks or become hazards to us in our homes during the storms. I look forward to that challenge.

I will conclude my remarks with a few people I would like to thank. I will start with the volunteers who give their time, energy and ideas to make Freehold a better place for all of us. I want to specifically thank our outgoing Fire Chief Ryan Bailey, for a great job running our volunteer fire department. I thank our first aid volunteers for being there when we need them and I ask you to support their fundraising campaigns so that they can continue their great work. I thank all of those who supported my campaign for this office, specifically I need to thank three ladies; first my running mate, Sharon Shutzer, who took this novice in politics by the hand and led me every step of the way. I want to thank my tireless campaign manager, Annette Jordan. Her advice, her boundless energy were a great asset and was deeply appreciated. Last but not least, I want to thank my wife, Nancy, she has always supported me in all of my endeavors. I would never have made this run for office, if I didn't have her wholehearted support and yes her permission."

Council President Kevin Kane stated the following:

"I want to thank my colleagues on the election of Council President this year. I also want to congratulate Sharon and Ron on your election and I also want to thank John Newman for his three years of service. It was a true pleasure to work with John. Sharon glosses over this subject but if it wasn't for Sharon Shutzer the Senior Holiday Party would not take place and I am here to tell you that some of our residents wouldn't celebrate any kind of holiday if there was no party. Sharon likes to thank everybody else for doing things but she is one of the best examples for what is going on up here. She leads by example, constantly. Sharon, thank you for everything that you do. As for Ron Griffiths, every year at this time we see so many friendly faces in the crowd and these people in the room help make this town. Every year I look up at the different faces and it triggers so many great memories. This really comes full circle because I remember working with Ron Griffiths and Mike Wilson on my dad's campaign back in the 1970's. Ronnie brings a tremendous wealth of knowledge. He talks about being a novice, I am here to tell you he knows more about Freehold than most. He will be a tremendous asset up here on council.

Everyone talked about the storms and what we endured, from a super cell that just happened to drop in Freehold Borough and then left. No other towns had any damage, except the minor damage in Freehold Township. Then there was the tremors from an earthquake, snowstorms and then a hurricane. But I am here to tell you that Nolan was out there in the front of everything, every single time and his leadership during the entire year was terrific. When Hurricane Sandy was first announced we heard from Danny Megill that there was a European weather model showing the storm turning in and hitting land. All of the American weather models had the hurricane blowing out to sea. Sure enough the next day all of the American weather people got on board and said that the European model was correct. When you have good people working together it creates a great community and that's exactly what we had. We had neighbors helping neighbors. The Office of Emergency Management held meetings everyday leading up to the storm and then everyday after.

I want to thank all of the volunteers. There has been a lot of senseless tragedy lately. We all need to keep an eye on things. We need to go out of our way to help make things a little bit better. Keep an eye on the kids, keep an eye on your neighbors and the elderly. We also need to make sure we support our troops and our military.

Thanks everyone and have a very Happy, Healthy and safe New Year."

Mayor Higgins thanked everyone for coming out and wished everyone a Happy New Year. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC  
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:aj