

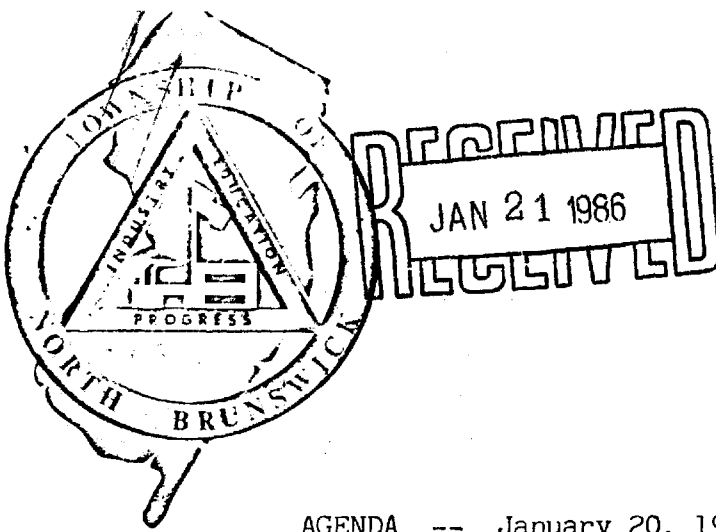
N. Brunswick Twp

(1986)

Twp Agenda - discussing final reading
+ public hearing on Affordable Housing
Ordinance

10 pgs

ML000230 ~~744~~ T



Township of North Brunswick

NEW JERSEY

711 HERMANN ROAD
POST OFFICE BOX 182
NORTH BRUNSWICK, N. J. 08902
TEL. (201) 247-0922

AGENDA -- January 20, 1986

- ~~1.~~ Call to Order and Roll Call
- ~~2.~~ Sunshine Notice
- ~~3.~~ Pledge of Allegiance
- ~~4.~~ Proclamation for Debbie Moringiello and Samantha Pellicane
- ~~5.~~ Resolutions: Consent Agenda
 - a. Authorize refund for overpayment of water bill for Michael D. Hagan and Scott Kudcey.....32-1.86
 - b. Professional Contract for Anthony J. Billings for appraisal of Block 90, Lot 33.....33-1.86
 - c. Authorize receipt of bids on February 4, 1986 for specification 86-9A and 85-35.....34-1.86
 - d. Award of specification 86-9 for Printed Forms to MGL Forms Systems and Mariano Press.....35-1.86
 - e. Resolution for matching funds in the 1986 budget for Supplemental Safe Neighborhoods Program.....36-1.86
 - f. Authorize developer's agreement with Homes for Today, Inc. for eleven single family dwellings on Church Lane.....37-1.86
 - g. Waive building permit fees for American Heart Association on Rt. 1...38-1.86
 - h. Grant permission for Military Order of the Purple Heart to seel flowers on 3/21 to 3/30 and 5/7 to 5/11 at How Lane Chevron Station.....39-1.86
 - i. Professional Contract with JLS Engineering Co. for consulting engineering firm for replacement of Library air-conditioning.....40-1.86
 - j. Authorize settlement with Municipal Maintenance Co. in amount of \$10,000.00.....41-1.86
 - k. 1986 Additional Temporary Municipal Budget Appropriations.....42-1.86
 - l. Transfers of budget appropriations.....43-1.86
 - m. List of bills.....44-1.86
 - n. Minutes from December 30, 1985 special meeting and January 6, 1986
6. Second and final reading and public hearing on the Affordable Housing ordinance
- ~~7.~~ Public hearing on the release of bond for Oliver Circle
8. Reports from Township Council, Administrator and Mayor
9. Public Hearing
10. Adjourn

January 6, 1986

Minutes of the re-organization meeting of the North Brunswick Township Council, Monday, January 6, 1986, 7:30 P.M., North Brunswick Township High School, Raider Road, North Brunswick, New Jersey, Middlesex County.

Council President Paul welcomed everyone and gave the following message.

Mr. Mayor, Township Clerk, Council Members, Father Crupi, Friends, and fellow citizens - Good Evening. I'd like to wish all of you and your families a very happy and healthy New York.

I would also like to thank everyone for their expressions of condolences to me and my family for the recent death of my grandmother.

1985 has been a very busy and productive year for your Council. We have addressed some routine topics and a whole lot of very tough, controversial ones.

Some of the major areas addressed were: public safety, municipal services, municipal facilities, finances and property re-valuations, plus the area which will probably have the greatest long-range effect on our Township - our commitments to low and moderate income housing.

In the area of Public Safety, we have been able to increase the size of our Police force - (3) new Police Officers were added in 1985 and (3) more have been approved; with the help and input of the Township's Traffic Safety Committee, a review and update of all our street intersections requiring "Stop" signs was completed - An ordinance was presented and approved; Funds were obtained from the State for a Police Department-administered "Safe Streets Program"; and, We worked with our Mayor, the Middlesex County Freeholders, and South Brunswick officials to initiate a program for the widening of Finnegan's Lane in order to make it a safer thoroughfare.

Several years ago, North Brunswick initiated a program of newspaper recycling that was a leader in this state. In 1985, additional equipment was budgeted and procured that will allow the Mayor and his administration to expand and upgrade our recycling program.

Our commitment to the Senior Citizens of North Brunswick was re-emphasized last year when the administration and council formulated and financed a program for increasing the staff of our Human Services Department in order to provide additional services to our citizens in their golden years.

Other areas that we delved into included initiating a program for the consolidation and improvement of our facilities for the Public Works, Water, Sewer and Recreation Departments. A consolidated facility will not only increase the efficiency and effectiveness of these departments, but will also realize reduced equipment and maintenance costs.

The topic which occupied the largest and probably the most important segment of our effort was this Township's obligations towards the mandates of the N.J. Supreme Court regarding housing for low and moderate income families. Our legal and moral obligations have been and will continue to be met, but we will always keep the best interest of the Township of North Brunswick in the forefront.

During 1985, our legislative activities and actions were reviewed and constantly challenged by various members of the community. In the long run, this sort of review and accountability is good for our Township; it stimulates the thought process and fosters soul searching on our part. Therefore, I am encouraging, nay, challenging each and every one of you to bring forth your thoughts, suggestions, complaints, scrutiny, and goals for or about your Government.

The purpose of your government is to provide services and protect the interests of the citizens. In order to do that, we must know your wants and desires. Communicate with us, review our activities, and as Ed Koch, Mayor of New York City, says, "Tell us how we are doing".

Lastly, I would like to thank the other members of the council, all of the municipal employees, and especially our Township Clerk, Mrs. Swanson, and our Council Secretary, Mrs. Liebman, for the help and cooperation that was rendered to me during my tenure in 1985.

Thank you and, again, Happy New Year.

Father Crupi gave the invocation.

Township Clerk led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bruce Chandlee led with the Star Spangled Banner.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Matarera.

The oath of office was administered to Salvatore Liguori by the Township Clerk. Oath of office on file in the Township Clerk's office.

The oath of office was administered to Louis Cohen by the Township Clerk. Oath of office on file in the Township Clerk's office.

Roll Call: Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Dambach, Mr. Nita, Mr. Paladino, Dr. Liguori, Mr. Paul, Mayor Maticera

Also present: Mr. Lefkowitz, Township Attorney and Mr. Keller, Business Administrator.

Dr. Liguori thanked everyone for coming out tonight and said he appreciated everyone's presence tonight. He said he is proud he is taking the oath of office for the third time. He said he appreciates the support of everyone and it was a pleasurable campaign. The Democratic party is strong and a united organization that does the job. He thanked all the members of the Democratic party and especially Vito Puleio and Jeanne Endler. He said Government in North Brunswick is turning new pages. The change of government experiment is really working. He will give the job everything he can give and we will work together for what is best for the township, children and grandchildren for the next three years. He asked for the continued support and ask that everyone help him during the next three years for what is best for North Brunswick.

Mr. Cohen thanked each and everyone for giving their support and thanked everyone for coming out tonight. He will conduct himself with dignity. We must address ourselves to the traffic problems on Routes 1, 130 and 27 and east-west on Finnegan's Lane. We will work on the roads, water and sewer to continue the excellent services the Township gives. These services must be maintained. We will serve the community the best he can.

Mayor Maticera ask for a nomination for Council President.

Motion made by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Paladino, that Mr. Nita be Council President for the year 1986.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Dambach, Mr. Nita, Mr. Paladino, Dr. Liguori

The oath of office was administered to Joseph Nita by the Township Clerk as Council President for the year 1986.

Oath of office on file in the Township Clerk's office.

Mayor Maticera ask if any member of the Township Council wanted anything remove from the Consent Agenda? No comments. Mayor Maticera ask if there is any discussion on any item from 9 a through 9 cc? No discussion.

Motion made by Dr. Liguori, seconded by Mr. Paul, that the following items on the consent agenda be adopted.

- Item a. Authorize agreement with State of New Jersey for reimbursement for highway lighting #1-1.86
- b. Adoption of interim budget for 1986 #2-1.86
- c. Designating the official depositories for 1986 #3-1.86
- d. Sunshine notice for various municipal meetings #4-1.86
- e. Designating official newspapers for the year 1986 #5-1.86
- f. Authorize Mayor, Acting Mayor, Clerk & Treasurer to sign checks #6-1.86
- g. Appoint Mr. Nita, Dr. Liguori and Mr. Cohen to Insurance Fund Committee to administer self-insurance program #8-1.86
- h. Appoint Joseph Nita as Class III member of the Planning Board #9-1.86
- i. Authorize rate of interest for delinquent bills #10-1.86
- j. Appoint Lawrence Hart as Fire Chief, Mark Cafferty as 1st Asst. Chief, Donald Salzman as 2nd Asst. Chief and Daniel Kuchinski as Chief of the Fire Prevention Bureau #11-1.86
- k. George Lepre to investigate applications for bingo and raffle license and Edna L. Swanson to issue said licenses #12-1.86
- l. Council consents to mayor's appointment of Paul Keller as Business Administrator #13-1.86
- m. Paul J. Maticera appointed Executive Officer for receipt of federal funds for 1986 #14-1.86
- n. Authorize \$25.00 change fund for the Registrar's office #15-1.86
- o. Designating time and place for Township Council meetings #16-1.86
- p. Authorize refund for overpayment of taxes to Central Jersey Savings and Loan Association for Block 140.1, Lot 8.34 #17-1.86
- q. Authorize refund for overpayment of taxes to Bank of New Jersey for Block 4.10, Lot 14 #18-1.86
- r. Authorize refund for overpayment of taxes to Thomas Rukavina for Block 143, Lot 399 #19-1.86

- s. Amend resolution #292-12.85 for award of specification 85-43 for Purchase of two four wheel drive vehicles to Dayton Ford, Inc. #20-1.86
- t. Award specification 86-1 to Automatic Data Processing #21-1.86
- u. Award specification 86-2 to Vital Computer Resources, Inc. #22-1.86
- v. Award specification 86-3 to John's Inc. #23-1.86
- w. Professional Agreement with Leslie S. Lefkowitz, Esq. as Township Attorney for year 1986 #24-1.86
- x. Appoint Anthony Arico as Shade Tree Commissioner for year 1986 #25-1.86
- y. Appoint Richard Simon, q. as Attorney for Rent Leveling Board for year 1986 #26-1.86
- z. Appoint Edward Shamy, Esq. as attorney for the Board of Health for the year 1986 #27-1.86
- aa. Professional agreement with National Valuation Services, Inc. for appraisal services #28-1.86
- bb. Professional Agreement with Thomas Savage as negotiator with regard to labor matters for employment contracts #29-1.86
- cc. Appoint Thomas J. Shamy, Esq. as Municipal Prosecutor for year 1986 #30-1.86

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Dambach, Mr. Nita, Mr. Paladino,
Dr. Liguori, Mr. Paul
Nays: None

Resolutions are attached to the minutes and filed in the Township Clerk's office.

Clerk read for a first time, "AFFORDABLE HOUSING ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BRUNSWICK, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY."

Motion made by Dr. Liguori, seconded by Mr. Nita, ordinance be adopted on first reading. Second and final reading and public hearing to be held on Monday, January 20, 1986, 8:00 P.M., Municipal Building, 711 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, New Jersey, Middlesex County following legal publication in the Home News as according to law. Copies are available upon request.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mrs. Dambach, Mr. Nita, Mr. Paul, Dr. Liguori
Nays: Mr. Paladino
Abstain: Mr. Cohen

Motion made by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Paladino, following resolution appointing Al Previte until Dec. 31, 1989 to the Board of Adjustment, Ed Salvi until Dec. 31, 1989 and Marion Costanza as Alternate to the Board of Adjustment, be adopted.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Dambach, Mr. Nita, Mr. Paladino, Dr. Liguori,
Mr. Paul
Nays: None

Mayor Matacera ask Carl Bosenberg to present the awards for the Environmental Committee.

Carl Bosenberg presented the awards for the Environmental Committees Beautification, clean-up contest and said the categories were for shopping centers, apartment complexes, retail establishments, gas stations and garden apartments. The category for shopping center went to the Hidden Lake Towne Center and receiving the award was Mr. Al Smith. The apartment complex went to Hidden Lake Apartments and receiving the award was Mr. Al Smith. The award for retail establishments went to Malouf Buick and receiving the award was Richard Malouf. The award for gas stations went to Livingston Avenue Citgo and receiving the award was Mrs. Sandra Jennings. The award for Garden apartments went to Colony Oaks Apartments and receiving the award was Mr. Meyer Rutman. He thanked everyone for participating in the contest.

Mrs. Swanson administered the oath of office to Lawrence Hart as Fire Chief, Mark Cafferty as 1st Asst. Chief, Donald Salzman as 2nd Asst. Chief and Daniel Kuchinski as Chief of the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Oath of office filed in the Township Clerk's office.

Mrs. Swanson read the following appointments made by Mayor Matacera.

Township Auditor Charles S. Cuccia - Main Hurdman	1986	
Deputy Treasurer Concetta Adamo	1986	
Deputy Township Clerk Nancy Troichuk	1986	
Construction official Harry Agin	1986	
Middlesex County Housing & Community Development John Seckrettar		1986
Disaster Control Walter Endler	1986	
Tax Search Officer Pamela Roskey	1986	
Shade Tree Commissioner Anthony Arico	1986	
Planning Board J. Paul Keller	1986	

Appointments continued

Planning Board Alice Calman	1989
Mayor Paul J. Maticera	1986
Alternate to Planning Board Linda Massa	1987
Municipal Prosecutor Thomas Shamy	1986
Assessment Search Officer Edna L. Swanson	1986
Public Agency Compliance Officer Ann Murphy	1986
Library Board Ann Rosenzweig	1990
Mayor's Representative to Library William Dambach	1986
Board of Health John Kortbawi	1988
Secretary to Board of Health Mary Paccillo	1986
Attorney for Board of Health Edward Shamy	1986
Middlesex County Transportation Coordinating Committee Anthony Razzano	1986
Board of Assistance Ann Bocchieri	1986
Mary D. Pinkham	1987
Case Worker Josephine Parillo	1986
Cultural Arts Committee Donn Gordon	1986
Mary Louise Samson	1986
Meredith Young	1986
Helen Schuler	1986
Gary Hirsch	1986
Sue Plasari	1986
Geri Frank	1986
June Ewald	1986
Cheryl Kling	1986
Donna Scher	1986
Environmental Committee Pat Parsons	1986
Carl Bosenberg	1986
Angela Corio	1986
Christine De Muro	1986
Elaine De Risi	1986
Ellen Levy	1986
George Scher	1986
Melvin Moss	1986
Frank Kondratyk	1986
Alice Simon	1986
Sharon Sherman	1986
Secretary to Environmental Comm. Ruth Mihalenko	1986
Ethics Board Bruce Chandlee	1986
John Hero	1986
Charles Weyd	1986
Candice Sanchez	1986
Frank Comparato	1986
No. Bruns. Development Committee Peter Lampen	1987
Alfred Carnegie	1988
Irving Smith	1988
John Mooney	1988
Joseph De Torrice	1987
Anthony D. Rowe	1987
Kenneth McNamara	1988
Secretary to Development Committee Michael Hritz	1986
Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee:	
Peter Lampen	1986
Alfred Carnegie	1986
Irving Smith	1986
John Mooney	1986
Andre Mento	1986
George Till	1986
Richard Dreger	1986
Joseph De Torrice	1986
Anthony D. Rowe	1986
Kenneth McNamara	1986

Appointments of Mayor continued

Recreation Committee	Joan Campisano	1986
	Dr. Frank Wilson	1986
	Jane Marie Moore	1986
	Anthony Pellicane	1986
	Juan Sanchez	1986
	Barbara Fritsche	1986
	Joe Farfalla	1986
	Dr. William Hartko	1986
	Robert Kahrman	1986
	Richard Whorowski	1986
	Jim Hudson	1986
Rent Leveling Board	Marie Ovalle (Freeholder)	1988
	Michael Kaplan (Landlord)	1988
	Lorraine Gagliano (Tenant)	1988
	Charles Alderman (Landlord)	1987
Alternates to the Rent Leveling Board:		
	Robert Kruvant (Landlord)	1986
	Georgette Miksis (Freeholder)	1986
	Carl Reiss (Tenant) Alternate #1	1986
	Irving Wander (Landlord) Alternate #1	1986
	Dave Horowitz (Tenant) Alternate #2	1986
	Barbara Schramm (Freeholder) Alternate2	1986
Secretary, Rent Leveling Board	Mary Denaster	1986
Attorney, Rent Leveling Board	Richard Simon	1986
Traffic Safety Committee	Anthony Comparato	1986
	Anthony Razzano	1986
	Douglas Schoen	1986
	Patrick Hynes	1986
	Michael Weiss	1986
	Fran Mc Gee	1986
	Charles Wilkie	1986
	Sgt. James Denaster	1986
	Arthur J. Vitale	1986
Secretary, Traffic Safety Committee	Anne Penson	1986
Heritage Day Committee	Ann Marie Chandlee	1986
	Phyllis Kristjansen	1986
	George Meyer	1986
	Tom Paccillo	1986
	Peter Clark	1986
	Stanley Levey	1986
	Joseph Fritsche	1986
	John Chiappetta	1986
	Leo Ryan III	1986
	Hank Mooney	1986
	Sandy Gurtov	1986
Secretary to Heritage Day Comm.	Ruth Supp	1986
Investigate Bingo and Raffle Applications:		
	George Lepre	1986
	Edna L. Swanson	1986
Negotiator	Thomas Savage	1986
Municipal Attorney	Leslie S. Lefkowitz	1986
Accident/Incident Review Board:		
	Insurance Administrator's Representative	1986
	Captain of Rescue Squad or Designee	1986
	Fire Chief or Designee	1986
	Police Director	1986
	Thomas Seilheimer	1986
	Douglas Robertson	1986
	Myron Pollard	1986
	J. Paul Keller	1986
Board of Adjustment	Al Previte	1989
	Ed Salvi	1989
Alternates to Board of Adjustment	Marion Costanza	1987
Insurance Fund Commission	Joseph J. Nita	1986
	Salvatore Liguori	1986
	Louis Cohen	1986

Mayor Matacera gave his third annual State of the Township Message.

This is the third opportunity I have had, as Mayor under our new form of government, to speak to the State-of-the-Township - to take a brief look back at 1985 to highlight our accomplishments as well as our frustrations, and to look ahead to the new year - to outline our priorities as I see them and to set goals for ourselves in the public interest.

It is a pleasant chore. I enjoy it. I am now at mid-term as Mayor and, as I reviewed my two earlier Annual Messages in preparation for these remarks, I noted with pleasure that we have been able to keep virtually all the promises we have made. The only exceptions were those areas where we must depend upon other levels of government, as in the case of the re-alignment of the Route 1-130 traffic circle, where progress depends upon the prioritization and the bureaucracy of the state and federal governments.

I should point out that, though we would prefer that this essential project would have been completed "yesterday" with that terrible traffic safety and congestion problem finally solved, progress is being made. We have seen the DOT's tentative plans, impact studies are underway now and, although we have seen no definite construction timetable, we expect the construction work to get underway after the second quarter of 1987.

We have learned that one of the major responsibilities as well as one of the significant frustrations of local government is to open and maintain channels of communication with elected and appointed officials at the state and county levels. Indeed, in at least three major areas I will describe in a moment, we will be working closely with them. We will, in fact, become lobbyists. We will grind our ax and agitate for our point of view in the Court House and in the State House. All of us - your seven elected officials as well as the appointed leaders of our local government accept as a major part of our responsibilities the need to carry our message effectively outside the walls of our local municipal building.

Last year at this time, I spoke about the so-called Mt. Laurel "horror story" its potential impact upon us and the settlement we achieved ending the several lawsuits against us. I proudly commended that settlement as being in the best interests of the Township under the circumstances.

Since that time, many of our sister communities have suffered the fate of no-win litigation, of the builders remedy and the absence of negotiations. Also since that time, the legislature and governor have created the Fair Housing Council and the Supreme Court has agreed to hear the appeals of several communities desiring to get out of court and in front of the Council.

These developments have prompted some to believe we should re-open our case, cast aside our settlement and take our chances, once again, in the courts. It simply is not possible for me to disagree more strenuously with this point of view.

It is essential that we recall several basic facts:

1. North Brunswick was not alone with its Mt. Laurel dilemma. More than 200 communities shared our fate.
2. Our original mandate was for 1,508 low and moderate income housing units which translates into nearly 7550 new homes when the "Builders Remedy" is applied.
3. We settled for about 60% of that total and successfully negotiated for 2/3 moderate, 1/3 low income rather than the 50-50 impact imposed upon most communities.
4. Unlike any other community, we negotiated for a 20-year phase-in, rather than 6-year, and obtained commitments for 4,000,000 sq. ft. in non-residential development to add to our ratable base to help pay the bill.
5. We also negotiated for up to \$500,000 in off-site improvements to Finnegans Lane and have the ability for further negotiations when other developers approach us for approvals. We will get all the law will allow us to get.
- 6, and perhaps most important, if we were to abrogate our agreement, we would face a disgruntled court, an indifferent Housing Council and antagonized plaintiffs. The Court and Council have only one mandate - low and moderate income housing. They don't care a whit for non-residential development, ratables or offsite improvements. Our work - as a Township - would mean little more than lip service and we would surely lose all that we successfully negotiated for. We would deserve no fair consideration from the Court or the Council. We would again confront our original "fair share allocation" as a starting point and would not even have our word as a bargaining chip.

The fact is we have realized one of the best settlements in the state. The Fair Housing Council does not exist for us and would do us no good. I call upon those who advocate a re-opening to think it through again. Most assuredly, such an effort will not have my support or, I believe, the support of the majority of the Township Council.

Mayor's message continued.

I should point out parenthetically that persons seeking to qualify for low-income housing in our Township would require incomes in the range of \$20-25,000 for the same purpose. We are talking about young couples starting out, our own teachers and firefighters and police officers and others we would welcome as neighbors.

There is another subject in the area of housing that cries out for our attention this year. Approximately 20% of our Township's dwelling units are Townhouses or condominiums, and the numbers will continue to grow. We currently have 8 active Community Associations with the potential for 4 to 6 more representing these home-owners.

When these types of dwellings began to emerge, developers assured earlier governing bodies around the state, there would be no real impact from them. That, however, is no longer the case today.

People living in those units pay the same tax rate you and I pay, but do not receive many of the local government services the rest of us enjoy. They do not receive street lighting, street maintenance, garbage collection, snow plowing, water and sewer line maintenance, and the like.

We have met with leaders of these Associations often and will continue to do so. Indeed, during this year, we must create a strong administrative policy regarding infrastructure and services in this area. I view it as a strong moral as well as an economic issue.

I have already discussed the need for corrective legislation with members of the legislature. If some or all of these missing services could be provided outside the CAP law, or if tax rates could be adjusted on a phased basis, or if the State Constitution could be amended to address the special circumstances confronting people living in Condos and Townhouses who pay dues to their associations, we will have begun to address an issue in North Brunswick that is impacting all across the state. I believe we can find a way to address these problems without adverse effect upon the remainder of the Township.

These people do not want or expect a free ride, but the fact is they are, today, paying what amounts to double taxation. I recognize the severity of the problem and pledge my best effort - and that of the council - to address it as effectively and as fairly as we legally can do. We also plan to study the similar but different problem experienced by people living in Deerbrook Village.

The Townhouse problem is one of the three issues mentioned earlier where we will work with higher levels of government for a solution.

A second is in the area of property taxation. For the past five years, we have been able to create and maintain relative property tax stability, particularly in terms of the local share of the property tax rate. We're proud of that, just as we are proud of our continuing good standing in terms of our Effective Tax Rate vis-a-vis other Middlesex County communities. I am not prepared now to forecast, with certainty, our property tax situation for 1986. That will follow in our Budget message.

I can tell you, however, that simply to maintain our present levels of insurance coverage, premiums we paid in 1985 at \$70,000 would escalate to \$770,000 this year. Clearly, our state is in the throes of an insurance crisis. Clearly, local governments cannot tolerate 1000% cost increases in a single year. Clearly, the first priority of the new Kean Administration must be to address the insurance mess in all its phases if local government is to remain economically viable. We will lobby hard in Trenton for meaningful, early relief.

We will also testify at hearings to be held by the so-called Feldman Commission as it convenes this year to study the property tax and ways to relieve it. Mrs. Dambach, an expert in several areas related to property taxes, as well as other members of the Council will join me in appearances before this Commission.

The Commission offers the state the best opportunity in two decades to address the question of tax reform in New Jersey. We are committed to assist that Commission to successfully meet its goal of tax equity and property tax relief.

Here at home we have made strong progress - and will continue to do so - in the various services and functions that improve the quality of life in the Township. We have centralized many of the functions of our Department of Human Services and have improved its efficiency. New management policies and expanded use of computerization have led to greater use of our public parks, a broader range of programs and considerable less hassle in registration.

We have improved transportation services for our Senior and Handicapped citizens by obtaining 40-passenger and 12-passenger buses. During 1986, we have to further expand that capability.

Indeed, this new year will witness even more dramatic improvements for these citizens. A 5,000 square foot addition to the Linwood Place Senior Citizen Center will allow program expansion and we plan to create an RSVP program as suggested by Councilman Liguori and a Postal Alert program as suggested by Councilman Cohen. A Retired Senior Volunteer Program takes useful advantage of the energy and creative skill of our older citizens and the Postal Alert program, created in cooperation with postal authorities, helps provide for their safety and well-being.

It is no secret to anyone that we have less than adequate facilities for our Police Department. The problem has been discussed at length for some years.

Mayor's message continued.

Indeed, it is no secret that the entirety of our municipal facilities must be upgraded. We are presently discussing the needs of our Police Department with architects with a view toward design of a modular phase in of improvements with final design planned for 1986 and construction planned for 1987. It is essential that these improvements move forward. It simply is not fair to the police or to the Township at large not to do so.

Last year, for example, our police handled more than 13,000 calls, an increase of 9% over 1984, made 15% more arrests and issued more than 5100 summonses. They increased their presence not only in our neighborhoods and on our streets and roads, but also in our schools. Several new programs were innovated, including the K-9 patrol, overlapping shifts to enhance coverage and the Walk and Ride program, and more are planned.

. During 1985, we hired four new police officers and will hire at least three more this year. Depending upon budget constraints, we hope to add another three by the fourth quarter of the year. A \$50,000 grant from the state will help fund their salaries.

The bottom line is this. The public wants police services to receive high priority by local government. We are responding. The only problem is the present inadequacy of their facilities and we are committed to improve them.

We also are committed to have in place a solution to our Public Works facilities problem this year. We have been working with the county regarding sites along Route 130, have several details to work out, and confidently expect measurable progress this year.

We have often said how proud we are of our municipal garbage collection service and are happy to report it will soon get even better. Within days, we expect delivery of our new garbage truck. This will allow us to improve collection services and free up every Wednesday for recycling and maintenance.

I regret that the state continues to drag its feet in several areas related to waste management. We still don't have a mandatory recycling law and we still don't have a Solid Wastes Siting Commission statute. We need both. We need to solve our disappearing landfill problem. We need to get our own trucks out of the 4 to 5 hour long lines and we need every county, or groups of contiguous counties, to solve their own garbage disposal problems. We need to explore resource recovery, source separation, mandatory recycling, cogeneration and other alternatives to the sanitary landfill. These things will take courage on the part of the governor and the legislature, but that is what they are elected for.

We, too, are elected to assure progress and competent services while living within our means. What else is in store for 1986?

-We will begin enforcement of the new, State Uniform Fire Code adopted by statute last year.

-We will continue our financial contributions to our volunteer services and do so with the realization every citizen of the Township owes our volunteers an unpayable debt.

-Heritage Day, which saw 8,000 participants last year, has become an annual event--an opportunity for everyone to display their pride in our Township.

-We will continue to improve the capital facilities in our parks and playgrounds and always seek new ways to expand participation.

-Our very popular Summer Music Series sponsored by our Cultural Arts Committee will be expanded and, at the other end of the calendar, we will again explore the possibility of winter ice-skating in the park.

-A \$4 million dollar improvement to our aging water treatment plant to help bring the plant up to standard will get underway this year, and a balancing main will be installed in the Berdines Corner area to help improve water pressure. The hiring of competent engineers to manage the plant has proved its value and we expect even further efficiencies this year.

-Hermann Road will be reconstructed, using a \$165,000 grant from the State's Transportation Trust Fund, and we will continue our program, established some years ago, to dedicate some \$500,000 each year to general improvements to our streets and roads.

-We will explore with the UAW and others, the prospects for new Senior Citizen housing in our Township so that these citizens, who paid their dues through taxation over the years, can remain in the Township with affordable housing.

-Our work to create dialogue with other communities along Route 27 and Route 130 to help solve common problems and to present an unified voice to the DOT, will continue. Indeed, we will actively participate in planning forums regarding the burgeoning growth along the Route 1 corridor, recently identified by outsiders as the number one growth and traffic problem area in the entire state.

-In an attempt to maintain relative property tax stability, and to avoid the inevitable spikes that occur with court or county-ordered revaluations, we will study the practice of annual reassessment - rather than revaluation. Frankly, we are happy that our recently completed revaluation that originally showed a 35% shift from non-residential to residential tax burden, was negotiated to only 10%. Proof of the viability of our work to control that shift is our record of less than 100

Mayor's message continued.

tax appeals vs 2000 or more that occurred in Edison and East Brunswick under similar circumstances.

-We will continue to protect our AA bond rating, through planning, and preserve this "highest ever" rating in Township history.

-We will demand open space in any and all new developments as our Township undergoes its inevitable growth. Indeed, it is this growth and the problems associated with it that I envision as the greatest test for our local government through the remainder of the decade.

-We will continue our work to improve our official relationship with our Board of Education just we we enthusiastically welcomed Dr. Edward J. Leppert as our new Superintendent of School.

-We will establish, as our first priority, our efforts to maintain relative property tax stability and will expand our efforts at grantsmanship to help us do so

-We will continue to expand the use of the computer in our official Township business.

-We will work hard to maintain a balance in ratable growth as we did in our Mt. Laurel settlement.

-Finally, and I am certain, I speak for every Councilman, we will continue to serve here without regard to partisanship - recognizing as we do that politics ends on election night and that we are charged to represent every citizen equally.

In that vein, I congratulate Councilmen Sal Liguori and Lou Cohen for their election victories in November and for again assuming the mantle of leadership for another three years. I also congratulate Councilman Joe Nita for his election as Council President this year just as I thank Councilman Frank Paul for his service as Council President in 1985. I am confident the Council and the Township will prosper under Mr. Nita's leadership.

Finally, in an effort to keep the citizens of our Township informed regarding the various and sundry services and program available, and to provide updates regarding major issues confronting us, we plan to publish, on a quarterly basis, a Newsletter to be mailed to every head of household. Each issue will include a calendar of events in and about the Township.

Several members of the Council have suggested the Newsletter idea, several of our sister communities have published them for some years and I look forward to the advent of this form of communication. We plan the first issue in March of this year.

Once again, as I delight in doing publicly from time to time, I thank my wife, Mary Lynn, for her abiding support of me and for tolerating the late hours, the endless meetings and the disruption to our family life that these responsibilities assure.

For my part as Mayor, I renew my pledge that my activities in the public behalf will always have my best effort. While I might err from time to time, I will never be properly accused of ignoring or belittling my responsibilities in the public interest. We are experiencing the most dynamic decade in our Township's history. We are moving forward on the fast track. It is exiting to be a part of it. I invite everyone to participate in our deliberations, to criticize us when we deserve it, to support us when we need it and to join with us as North Brunswick continues to prosper.

Thank you all very much.

Father Crupi gave the benediction.

Motion made by Mr. Nita, seconded by Mr. Paul, meeting adjourn to meet Monday evening, January 20, 1986, 8:00 P.M., Municipal Building, 711 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, New Jersey, Middlesex County.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Dambach, Mr. Nita, Mr. Paladino,
Dr. Liguori, Mr. Paul
Nays: None

EDNA L. SWANSON
Township Clerk