

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mazza called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

- 2. **"Sunshine Law" Announcement**-Adequate notice of this public meeting has been provided by the Annual Notice; posted on Union Township website, published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and Courier News; posted on the public bulletin board and on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

3. FLAG SALUTE

4. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Mr. Severino	X	
Mr. Hirt	X	
Ms. McBride	X	
Mr. Bischoff	X	
Mr. Mazza	X	

Others present: J.P. Jost, Attorney and Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk

5. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

- a. Minutes of Special Joint Meeting of the UT Committee and the UT Planning Board of January 28, 2016
- b. Minutes of Budget Workshop Meeting of February 3, 2016
- c. Regular Session Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2016

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino		X	X			
Mr. Hirt			X			
Ms. McBride			X			
Mr. Bischoff	X		X			
Mr. Mazza			X			

Motion Carried

6. VISITORS –

- Karen Sferra, 36 Cooks Cross Road – UT Community Wildlife Habitat – Ms. Sferra distributed copies to the Committee with information of the various elements of establishing a Wildlife Habitat, including rain barrels, composting, native plants, water features, birds, bee hives, etc. (Clerk did not receive a copy). The Habitat would certify individual back yards, schoolyards and public parks, places of worship, businesses and community gardens. The Registration Fee is \$99.00 and each individual Habitat would be \$20.00. Supporters of Habitats include the Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy and NJ Fish and Wildlife. Union Township could earn Points for the Silver Medal of Sustainable Jersey and achieve recognition as a Township that it is community focused toward education and action as environmental stewards. To establish the Community Wildlife Habitat Project, the Habitat would have a specific name and identify a Team Leader. Ms. Sferra offered to be the Leader. Between four and ten Team Members are required for the Project. The National Federation of Wildlife application would have be completed and submitted. Establishment of future goals and action plans would also be required. The Committee indicated a willingness to provide the \$99.00 Registration Fee; however, no action was taken at this time.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING February 17, 2016

The Committee was supportive of the Project. Ms. McBride suggested that Ms. Sferra come to the Environmental Commission meeting scheduled for March 14, 2016 and apprise them of the Project.

- Nathan Sferra, 36 Cooks Cross Road - Eagle Scout Service Project completed at Hoffman Park. Nathan gave an overview of the information distributed to the Committee regarding Project entitled “Hoffman Park Public Enjoyment Project”. Clerk was not provided with the copy. He had cleared brush at the Park and installed four benches at various locations. The total Project, including assistants, entailed 284 hours. Nathan expended 103 hours himself. The Committee expressed their appreciation for Nathan’s work.

7. REPORTS RECEIVED – acknowledged

- a. Road Dept.- Week Ending; 2/05/16;
- b. Animal Control Officer – January 2016
- c. Municipal Court – January 2016
- d. Zoning Officer – January 2016
- e. Engineer’s Report - Mr. Clerico was not present – Report will be given at the next meeting.

8. CORRESPONDENCE / WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Severino mentioned the following correspondence:

- NJDEP Letter dated February 11, 2016 – Asked if the Township complies with the Diesel Retrofit Law. Mayor Mazza said that Mr. Hermann will be given a copy.

Mr. Bischoff mentioned the following correspondence:

- NJLM Weekly Update re: Off-Shore Drilling
- Farina Concrete Products: Block 22, Lot 30 – Soil Conservation Stop Work Order
- Guidance on Administration of LOSAP’s
- Governor’s Major Disaster Declaration re: Winter storm Jonas

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None**10. PUBLIC HEARING - None****11. OLD BUSINESS - None****12. NEW ORDINANCE – None****13. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. The following resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION #2015-43
A PROCLAMATION DEDICATING
MARCH 2016
AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH**

In THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION, we have a long history of helping our neighbors in need. American Red Cross Month is a special time to recognize and thank our Everyday Heroes – those selfless Red Cross volunteers and donors who give of their time and resources to help community members.

These heroes help families find shelter after a home fire. They give blood to help trauma victims and cancer patients. They deliver comfort items to military members in the hospital. They use their lifesaving skills to save someone from a heart attack, drowning, or choking. They enable children around the globe to be vaccinated from measles and rubella.

The American Red Cross depends on local heroes to deliver help and hope during a disaster. We applaud our heroes here in THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION who give of themselves to assist their neighbors when they need a helping hand.

Across the country and around the world, the American Red Cross responds to disasters big and small. In fact, every eight minutes the organization responds to a community disaster, providing shelter, food, emotional support and other necessities to those affected. It collects 40 percent of the nation’s blood supply; provides 24-hour support to military members, veterans and their families; teaches millions lifesaving skills, such as lifeguarding and CPR; and through its Restoring Family Links program, connects family members separated by crisis, conflict, or migration.

We dedicate the month of March to all those who support the American Red Cross mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies. Our community depends on the American Red Cross, which relies on donations of time, money and blood to fulfill its humanitarian mission.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANK MAZZA, MAYOR OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION, Mayor of THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, do hereby proclaim March 2016 as American Red Cross Month. I encourage all Americans to support this organization and its noble humanitarian mission.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the TOWNSHIP OF UNION, HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino	X		X			
Mr. Hirt			X			
Ms. McBride		X	X			
Mr. Bischoff			X			
Mr. Mazza			X			

Motion carried

- b. **Motion to Approve:** – Request by Thomas R. Baldwin for the Mayor to sign a letter to DOT; no objection for flying hot air balloons. Mayor Mazza asked for a motion to approve.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino			X			
Mr. Hirt		X	X			
Ms. McBride			X			
Mr. Bischoff	X		X			
Mr. Mazza			X			

Motion carried

14. REPORTS

a. Attorney’s Report

- Atty. Jost mentioned the Report prepared by Marc Strauss, Public Safety Coordinator, pertaining to Fire Companies serving Union Township. Mr. Strauss distributed copies of the Report to Committee Members and apprised them of the contents.
- Abandoned/Foreclosed Properties – Continuing to work on an Ordinance. Waiting for clarification from NJ League of Municipalities regarding State Statutes prior to introduction of the Ordinance.

b. Committee Reports

Mr. Hirt reported the following:

- Obtaining estimates for electrical upgrades and window replacements. Mayor Mazza voiced concern with postage and fax machines in the meeting room. A discussion followed regarding moving them to other offices.
- Heating system inefficiency being checked.

Ms. McBride reported the following:

- Annual Stream Cleanup scheduled for April 16, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at a site to be determined.
- Website Update – asked member from Pattenburg Volunteer Fire Company present at the meeting about setting up website page for them. She designed one page site and said it would be linked to the Township’s website. If the PVFC like that idea she will post it to the website.

Mr. Bischoff reported the following:

- Quote: “The lessons of history, confirmed by the evidence immediately before me, show conclusively that continued dependence upon relief induces a spiritual and moral disintegration fundamentally destructive to the national fiber. To dole out relief in this way is to administer a narcotic, a subtle destroyer of the human spirit.” Franklin Delano Roosevelt.
- COAH – Atty. Jost said a \$5,000 Escrow Account must be established for the Special Master. Contract will probably be needed for E-Consults, our COAH expert.

Mayor Mazza asked that the following motion be approved:

To authorize the Buildings and Grounds liaison to the Committee to procure additional quotes for time clocks such as punch in card, fingerprint or face recognition so that the matter could be handled.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino		X	X			
Mr. Hirt				X		
Ms. McBride			X			
Mr. Bischoff	X		X			
Mr. Mazza			X			

Motion carried

c. Mayor’s Report

- Salt Shed – Nearing completion.
- New Loader - Mentioned the efficiency during the snowstorm and routine public works activities.

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Bob Wisnosky, Treasurer, Pattenburg Volunteer Fire Company – Regarding time clocks, Mr. Wisnosky mentioned a potential difficulty with the finger-printing method.

16. PAYMENTS OF BILLS

The approved list of bills and all claims against the Township of Union as appearing in the Claims Register of this date paid and that all checks listed hereinafter issued in payment thereof.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino	X		X			
Mr. Hirt			X			
Ms. McBride		X	X			
Mr. Bischoff			X			
Mr. Mazza			X			

Motion Carried

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION –

18. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Township Committee at this time Mr. Severino made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Mr. Hirt seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote.

Transcribed by: Grace Kocher, Deputy Clerk

Frank Mazza, Mayor