

MINUTES FOR
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
July 10, 2008

1. Montgomery Township Committee met at the Municipal Building, 2261 Van Horne Road, Belle Mead, NJ at 4:00 p.m. on the above date. Those present were:

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE: Deputy Mayor Fay, Committeemembers Wilson and Caliguire
Mayor Birge arrived at 6:30 p.m.
Committeeman Joye was absent

Also present were:

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY - Kristina P. Hadinger, Esq.

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR - Donato Nieman

TOWNSHIP CLERK - Donna Kukla

TOWNSHIP LABOR COUNSEL - Steve Goodell

2. Deputy Mayor Fay stated the following: "Under the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of the time and place of this meeting has been posted and sent to the officially designated newspapers."

3. **RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery in Somerset County, New Jersey as follows:

1. The Township Committee will now convene in a closed session that will be limited only to consideration of items with respect to which the public may be excluded pursuant to Section 7B of the Open Public Meetings Act.
2. The general nature of the subjects to be discussed in this session is as follows:
 - Interview of police candidates for the position of Lieutenant in the Montgomery Township Police Department;
 - Personnel Issue - Police Director Beltranena's Separation Agreement;
 - Potential condemnation litigation with respect to Spring Hill Road and matters relating thereto falling within the attorney-client privilege.
3. It is unknown precisely when, if ever, the matters discussed in this session may be disclosed to the public. Any appointments shall only be authorized by the Township Committee in a public session. Matters concerning litigation may be announced upon the conclusion of any trial or settlement of that litigation.

- 3-1. Committeewoman Wilson moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeeman Caliguire and carried unanimously.

4. The meeting reconvened in Open Session and Mayor Birge led the salute to the flag.

5. **POLICE REPORT**

Police Director Beltranena reported on the following activities of the Police Department for the month of May, 2008:

-- 1742 calls for service;
-- 60 motor vehicle accidents;
-- 23 arrests;
-- 313 summonses were issued;
-- 1 robbery;
-- 24 thefts;
-- 5 assaults;
-- 5 domestic violence;
-- 4 burglaries.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There being no comment, Mayor Birge closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA** - All matters listed hereunder are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. Any person may request that an item be removed for separate consideration.

A. **RESOLUTION #08-7-200 - REFUND OVERPAID 2007 AND 2008 TAXES**

BE IT RESOLVED That refunds be given to the following for the overpayment of 2007 and 2008 taxes:

<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year</u>
19001	8.02	Drift, Dwayne Thomas & Lisa A.	\$ 89.61	2008
22027	4	Stewart, Anthony & Amanda	\$ 194.56	2008
22032	1	Crusader Lien Services	\$14,060.09	2007
34017	14	Tunoori, Ashok Rao & Chinthapally	\$ 1,888.07	2007

B. **RESOLUTION #08-7-201 - REFUND OVERPAID 2007 SEWER TAXES**

BE IT RESOLVED That a refund in the amount of \$611.30 be given to Sequoia Investments, P.O. Box 5600, Woodbridge, NJ 07095 for the overpayment of 2007 sewer taxes on Block 37003, Lot 1.112. Overpayment is a result of homeowner paying sewer charges within 10 days of tax sale.

(CONSENT AGENDA Cont.)

C. **RESOLUTION #08-7-202 - ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION - Vending Machines for Employees' Lunch Room from William DeBlasio**

BE IT RESOLVED That the Montgomery Township Committee hereby accepts a donation by William DeBlasio of vending machines for the Employee's Lunch Room at the Municipal Building.

D. **RESOLUTION #08-7-203 - RAFFLE LICENSE #652 - Special Olympics New Jersey**

BE IT RESOLVED By the Montgomery Township Committee that approval is hereby given for Special Olympics New Jersey to conduct a Raffle under License #652 on September 8, 2008 at Cherry Valley Country Club, 123 Country Club Drive, Skillman, NJ. The time for this Raffle will be from approximately 9:00 am to 8:00 p.m.

E. **RESOLUTION #08-7-204 - AWARD OF BID - Chip Sealing Various Montgomery Township Roads**

WHEREAS, The following bid for Chip Sealing Various Montgomery Township Roads was received and publicly opened on June 24, 2008:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Asphalt Paving Systems, Inc.	\$53,288.22

WHEREAS, It is the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and the Superintendent of Public Works Asphalt Paving Systems, Inc. be awarded the bid; it being the lowest responsible bidder; and

WHEREAS, A certificate as to the availability of funds has been signed by the Temporary Chief Financial Officer and is on file in the office of the Township Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Montgomery Township Committee that the contract for the Chip Sealing Various Montgomery Township Roads is hereby awarded to Asphalt Paving Systems, Inc., P.O. Box 530, Hammonton, NJ 08037 in the amount of \$53,288.22.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign said Contracts.

F. **RESOLUTION #08-7-205 - AWARD OF BID - Reclamation/Rehabilitation of Various Roads**

WHEREAS, The following bid for Reclamation/Rehabilitation of Various Roads was received and publicly opened on June 17, 2008:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Reclamation of Kingston, LLC	\$36,932.00

WHEREAS, It is the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent that Reclamation of Kingston, LLC be awarded the bid; it being the lowest responsible bidder; and

WHEREAS, A certificate as to the availability of funds has been signed by the Temporary Chief Financial Officer and is on file in the office of the Township Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Montgomery Township Committee that the contract for the Reclamation/Rehabilitation of Various Roads is hereby awarded to Reclamation of Kingston, LLC, PO Box 292, West Hurley, NY in the amount of \$36,932.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign said Contracts.

G. **RESOLUTION #08-7-206 - REJECTION OF BIDS - Police Uniforms**

WHEREAS, The following bids for Police Uniforms were received and publicly opened on June 17, 2008:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Atlantic Tactical, Inc.	\$18,543.50
Samzie's Uniforms	\$32,083.75
Lawman Supply	\$ 723.75

WHEREAS, It is the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and the Temporary Chief Financial Officer to reject these bids because the total bid amount exceeds the budgeted amount.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery that aforesaid bid is hereby rejected.

(CONSENT AGENDA Cont.)

H. **RESOLUTION #08-7-207 - AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE COPS TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT FOR RADIO INTEROPERABILITY**

BE IT RESOLVED By the Montgomery Township Committee that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a grant application and agreement for a COPS Technology Program Grant for Radio Interoperability.

I. **RESOLUTION #08-7-208 - PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948) - Clean Communities Grant**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special items of revenue in the budget of any County or Municipality when such item shall have been made by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, Said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for an equal amount

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of items of revenue in the budget of the year 2008, in the amounts listed below, which item is now available as a revenue from the State of New Jersey;

Clean Community Grant	\$31,798.68
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a like sum, be, and the same, hereby is appropriated under the above appropriation titles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That two copies of this document with handwritten ink signature of the Clerk on certification be forwarded to the Division of Local Government Services.

J. **RESOLUTION #08-7-209 - AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE YEAR 2009 MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT UPDATE**

WHEREAS, The Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and

WHEREAS, The Township Committee further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and

WHEREAS, The Township Committee has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Somerset.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Committee does hereby authorize submission of an application for the Montgomery Township Municipal Alliance grant for calendar year 2009 in the amount of \$20,418.00.
2. The Township Committee acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

K. **RESOLUTION #08-7-210 - AWARDING AN EXTRAORDINARY UNSPECIFIABLE SERVICES AGREEMENT TO CGP&H, LLC**

WHEREAS, The Township of Montgomery ("Township") requires the specialized services of an experienced and reputable firm to provide administrative services in connection with the implementation of its affordable housing program; and

WHEREAS, CGP&H, LLC ("CGP&H"), is familiar with the Township's requirements and is willing to provide said services; and

WHEREAS, The Purchasing Agent has determined and certified in writing that the value of the required services required will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, CGP&H, LLC has completed and filed with the Township the required Campaign Contributions Affidavit pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.8 and the required Affidavit Prerequisite to Execution of Agreement Exempt from Public Bidding and in Excess of \$5,000.00 pursuant to Section 2-22.2 of the Code of the Township of Montgomery (1984); and

WHEREAS, The contract shall be for an amount not to exceed seventy-six thousand dollars (\$76,000); and

(CONSENT AGENDA Item K Cont.)

WHEREAS, The Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds are available to pay for said services; and

WHEREAS, The Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq., permits the Township to award this contract as an extraordinary unspecifiable service contract, without competitive bidding;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with CGP&H consistent with this Resolution. The terms of said agreement are subject to the approval of the Township Attorney.
2. The Contract is awarded without competitive bidding as an "Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service" in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i).
3. A copy of this resolution as well as the Contract shall be placed on file with the Clerk of the Township.
4. A notice of this action shall be published in the official newspaper as required by law.
5. A copy of this resolution and the contract executed pursuant to Paragraph 1 above shall be submitted to the Division of Housing within the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approval.

L. **RESOLUTION #08-7-211 - EXECUTION OF CROSS EASEMENT AGREEMENT - Privacy Fences - Pike Run Phase 7 - Block 5014, Lot 8 (Sottile)**

BE IT RESOLVED That the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a Cross Easement Agreement between the Township of Montgomery and Karen Sottile with regard to some privacy fencing in Phase 7 of Pike Run, that traverses drainage easements.

M. **RESOLUTION #08-7-212 - AUTHORIZING SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN TOWNSHIPS OF CLINTON AND MONTGOMERY FOR LITIGATION SERVICES WITH REGARD TO NEW COAH REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS, The Township of Montgomery wishes to enter into a Shared Services agreement with the Township of Clinton for litigation services in connection with a legal challenge to the validity of the regulations adopted by the Council on Affordable Housing; and

WHEREAS, Said Agreement is authorized by N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Said Shared Service Agreement has been reviewed and approved by the Township Attorney.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Montgomery Township Committee does hereby authorize the Mayor and Township Clerk to execute any and all documents relative to said Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Clinton.

N. **RESOLUTION #08-7-213 - RELEASE OF MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE - Montgomery Hills 2C**

WHEREAS, Gail Smith, Township Engineer, has certified on June 26, 2008 that all public improvements in a project known as Montgomery Hills 2C have been in satisfactory continuous use for a period greater than two years and therefore recommends the release of the posted maintenance guarantee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Montgomery Township Committee that Maintenance Bond #8827401 in the amount of \$247,986.00 be release to Town Homes at Montgomery, LLC., 100 Village Court, Hazlet, NJ 07730.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the release of the Maintenance Bonds shall be conditioned upon the posting of adequate escrow funds.

7-1. Committeewoman Wilson moved the adoption of the **CONSENT AGENDA** . The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Fay and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Caliguire, Fay, Wilson, Birge
Nays - None
Absent - Joye

8. **RESOLUTION #08-7-214 - AUTHORIZATION TO RATIFY AGREEMENT - PBA, Local 355**

BE IT RESOLVED By the Montgomery Township Committee that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a collective bargaining agreement with the PBA, Local 355 for a four year period effective January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2011.

- 8-1. Committeeman Caliguire moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Fay and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Caliguire, Fay, Wilson, Birge
Nays - None
Absent - Joye

9. **ORDINANCE #08-1291 - Miscellaneous Fees for Police Special Duty - Introduction**

- A. Mayor Birge read the title of the ordinance as follows:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 2-12, MISCELLANEOUS FEES, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY IN SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY (1984)

- B. BE IT RESOLVED By the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery that the foregoing ordinance be hereby passed on first reading and that the same be published in an official newspaper as required by law together with a Notice of Pending Ordinance fixing July 24, 2008 at approximately 7:00 p.m. as the date and time when said ordinance will be further considered for final adoption.

- 9-1. Committeewoman Wilson moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeeman Caliguire and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Caliguire, Fay, Wilson, Birge
Nays - None
Absent - Joye

10. **ORDINANCE #08-1292 - Sewer Capital Improvement Fund - Acquisition of Equipment and Study of Certain Sewage Treatment Plants - Introduction**

- A. Mayor Birge read the title of the ordinance as follows:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AS A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT AND THE STUDY OF CERTAIN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY SEWER UTILITY AND APPROPRIATING \$356,000.00 THEREFOR FROM THE "SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND" OF SAID TOWNSHIP.

- B. BE IT RESOLVED By the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery that the foregoing ordinance be hereby passed on first reading and that the same be published in an official newspaper as required by law together with a Notice of Pending Ordinance fixing July 24, 2008 at approximately 7:00 p.m. as the date and time when said ordinance will be further considered for final adoption.

- 10-1. Committeewoman Wilson moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Fay and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Caliguire, Fay, Wilson, Birge
Nays - None
Absent - Joye

11. **ORDINANCE #08-1293** - Capital Improvement Fund - Acquisition of Certain Equipment and Facility Improvements - Introduction

A. Mayor Birge read the title of the ordinance as follows:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AS A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT AND FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY AND APPROPRIATING \$214,000.00 THEREFOR FROM THE "CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND" OF SAID TOWNSHIP.

B. BE IT RESOLVED By the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery that the foregoing ordinance be hereby passed on first reading and that the same be published in an official newspaper as required by law together with a Notice of Pending Ordinance fixing July 24, 2008 at approximately 7:00 p.m. as the date and time when said ordinance will be further considered for final adoption.

11-1. Deputy Mayor Fay moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Wilson and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Caliguire, Fay, Wilson, Birge
Nays - None
Absent - Joye

12. **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

WHEREAS, The Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery has received bills to be paid as listed; and

WHEREAS, The Temporary Chief Financial Officer and the Township Administrator have reviewed these bills and have certified that these bills represent goods and/or services received by the Township, that these are authorized and budgeted expenditures and that sufficient funds are available to pay these bills;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery as follows:

1. That these bills are hereby authorized for payment; and
2. That checks in the proper amounts are prepared and that necessary bookkeeping entries are made; and
3. That the proper Township Officials are authorized to sign the checks.

12-1. Committeeman Caliguire moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Wilson and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Caliguire, Fay, Wilson, Birge
Nays - None
Absent - Joye
Abstain - Fay (check #048216)

13. **LETTER CONGRATULATING THE HUGHES/POWELL/LONG FAMILY**

Administrator Nieman stated that there was a letter drafted to congratulate the family on their first family reunion.

13-1. **Motion #08-7-1** - Committeewoman Wilson moved that the letter be sent to the family. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Fay and carried unanimously.

14. **EMPLOYEE INCENTIVE PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION - Rocky Hill Newsletter**

Administrator Nieman explained that for years, the Township Newsletter had been sent to the residents of Rocky Hill at no charge to Rocky Hill and they had been informed that if they wish to continue to receive the newsletter there would be a charge associated with same. He stated that he had not heard back from the Rocky Hill Borough Council.

15. **RESOLUTION #08-7-215 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SEPARATION AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, Michael A. Beltranena, Jr. has served as Director of Police for Montgomery Township for the past seven years; and

WHEREAS, Director Beltranena has served Montgomery Township with distinction during his tenure in office and has met the highest ideals of public service; and

WHEREAS, Director Beltranena has engaged in open and honest communication with the governing body and has provided strong leadership to the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Director Beltranena's contract has expired and it is necessary to memorialize the terms and conditions of Director Beltranena's separation from service to the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery that the Township Administrator be authorized to enter into a separation agreement with Director Beltranena in a form similar to that attached hereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery recognizes Director Beltranena's exemplary service; thanks him for that service; and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

15-1. Committeeman Caliguire moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Fay and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Caliguire, Fay, Wilson, Birge
Nays - None
Absent - Joye

16. **RESOLUTION HONORING MICHAEL BELTRANENA**

WHEREAS, Civic dedication is a force by which achievement is attained and, when exercised, becomes a strength for every community; and

WHEREAS, After more than seven years of dedicated service to the Township of Montgomery, Police Director Michael Beltranena has accomplished his mission of preparing the Police Department for leadership from within, as was the goal of the Township Committee at the time the position of Director was created and filled; and

WHEREAS, Michael Beltranena has served the residents of Montgomery Township by giving his personal attention to the needs of the Community and participating in numerous civic and professional organizations in Somerset County and the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, During his years of faithful service he has earned the admiration and respect of co-workers, professionals and residents for his courteous and patient response to their inquiries and concerns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery recognizes the contribution made by this most valued employee and bestows its heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to Director Michael Beltranena for his years of untiring service and extends its sincere wishes on this 10th day of July, 2008.

- 16-1. Committeewoman Wilson moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Fay and carried unanimously.
- 16-2. Director Beltranena thanked the Township Committee for their support through the years. He praised Lieutenant Palmer and stated that he felt the Township made the correct decision in promoting him.

17. **RESOLUTION #08-7-216 - APPOINTMENT OF POLICE CAPTAIN**

BE IT RESOLVED That the Montgomery Township Committee hereby appoints Robert Palmer to the position of Police Captain for Montgomery Township.

- 17-1. Committeewoman Wilson moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeeman Caliguire and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Caliguire, Fay, Wilson, Birge
Nays - None
Absent - Joye

18. **SWEARING IN OF POLICE CAPTAIN - Robert Palmer**

Attorney Hadinger administered the Oath of Office to Police Captain Robert Palmer

19. **RESOLUTION #08-7-217 - APPOINTMENT OF POLICE DIRECTOR**

BE IT RESOLVED That the Montgomery Township Committee hereby appoints Captain Robert Palmer to the position of Police Director for Montgomery Township.

- 19-1. Deputy Mayor Fay moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Wilson and carried on the following:

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Caliguire, Fay, Wilson, Birge
Nays - None
Absent - Joye

20. **SWEARING IN OF POLICE DIRECTOR - Robert Palmer**

Attorney Hadinger administered the Oath of Office to Police Director Robert Palmer

21. **TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

Mayor Birge congratulated Captain/Director Palmer and stated that the Governing Body has always asked for the best and they expect the best, so it was no surprise during the selection process they were extraordinarily impressed by all the applicants for the Captain position. Much was learned than can ever be imagined about the Police Department and the Township Committee is truly proud of each and every one. Captain/Director Palmer is familiar and is an expert in every single detail of this department and he is and will be a tremendous leader to take the department into the future.

Committeeman Caliguire stated that he looked at this as a night to not only celebrate our new Captain Palmer, but to celebrate all the people in blue around the room. Because of how visible they are, because of who they are and what they do and the level of service they provide. He thanked the entire department for all they do.

Committeewoman Wilson stated what a privilege it has been to have participated in the promotion process and she felt at every point along the way a real sense of how important this process was especially to the Police Department. She explained the Township was almost as happy as the members of the department were to see this very successful transition begin to take place and for there to be real mobility within the department.

Deputy Mayor Fay stated that he felt very fortunate to be serving on this Township Committee at this really big moment for this department. He congratulated Captain/Director Palmer and the entire Police Department.

22. **COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR DANIEL LEVAC'S LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS**

Administrator Nieman read the following into the record:

"Dear Bob and Friends: I am absolutely delighted to extend warm greetings and congratulations to you today as you are sworn in as Captain of the Montgomery Township Police Department. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend your swearing in ceremony but wanted to express my best wishes on an outstanding accomplishment. You are an outstanding public servant and a compassionate human being who embodies the true spirit of law enforcement and partnership with the community. Whenever I think of the Montgomery Township Police Department, I think of Bob Palmer. We can all take great pride in the dedication and hard work of Bob, who has contributed significantly to an improved quality of life in Montgomery Township. Bob has left an indelible, positive mark on Montgomery Township and we in Somerset County are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated and caring individual who is so deeply committed to his community and to the safety of its residents. As a former Franklin Township Chief of Police and friend, I join you, your family and friends, fellow Police Officers and Township Officials in celebrating your achievement today. I am proud to know you, to have worked with you, and for that I am extremely grateful. All the best in luck and health in the future. Please feel free to call upon me if I can be of any assistance. With best wishes, I am fraternally yours, Chief Daniel J. Levac, Retired Franklin Township PD, Administrator Somerset County Prosecutor's Office."

23. **SOMERSET COUNTY PROSECUTOR WAYNE FORREST'S COMMENTS**

Wayne Forrest congratulated Bob Palmer and stated that the Montgomery Township Police Department was an outstanding department for whom the Township should be very proud.

24. **POLICE DIRECTOR ROBERT PALMER'S COMMENTS**

Police Director Palmer stated the following:

"Mayor, members of the Township Committee, public officials, my family, peers, colleagues and neighbors; I am both honored and humbled to stand before you this evening. Let there be no doubt that each and every person present in this room tonight has in some way contributed to this ceremony, and to each of you I am eternally grateful. Having been in the employ of the Township of Montgomery in one capacity or another for 29 years, I think I have experienced the full range of emotions one would come to expect in a law enforcement career; happiness, sadness, elation, disappointment, and even fear, just to name a few. Tonight, I can add another emotion to the list, that being exuberance and I believe that exuberance is not just mine but shared by the colleagues in my agency as well; the intelligent and capable men and women who comprise the Montgomery Township Police Department. It is truly a privilege to stand shoulder-to-shoulder here this evening with the professional personnel of your Police Department who daily deliver the full spectrum of Police services expected by our community fairly, equitably, compassionately and without bias. That's not an easy task. Tonight is an affirmation that all members of the Police Department have earned the respect of the Governing Body. To the extent that I been trusted to advance to the point where I can have some influence over the direction of the agency is unquestionably the highlight of my career. There isn't enough that I can say about the employees of the Montgomery Township Police Department to adequately express my thanks to them and their devotion to this community. I implore my colleagues, that with this opportunity, comes a collective responsibility; to be responsive to our Governing Body, and to all of those who come into the need of our services."

ADJOURNMENT was at 8:25 p.m. on a motion by Committeewoman Wilson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Fay and carried unanimously.

Date of Approval:

Donna Kukla, Township Clerk