

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**  
**JANUARY 1, 2016                      COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**REORGANIZATION MEETING**

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session and reorganization meeting on Friday, January 1, 2016, at 1:00 p. m, in the Municipal Complex Courtroom located at 100 Commons Way, Bridgewater, New Jersey.

Council President Norgalis read the following announcement:

**Notice of Meeting**

“In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting was provided on November 25, 2015, by sending written and electronic notice to the Courier News and The Star Ledger; posting on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and filing with the Township Clerk.”

On call of the roll the following Council members were present:

Allen F. Kurdyla  
Matthew C. Moench  
Filipe Pedroso  
Christine Henderson Rose  
Howard V. Norgalis

Also Present:

Daniel J. Hayes Jr., Mayor  
James Naples, Township Administrator  
William B. Savo, Township Attorney  
Linda J. Doyle, Township Clerk  
Grace Karanja, Deputy Township Clerk  
Krista Gaffney, Confidential Secretary to the Clerk

Council President Norgalis led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Invocation**

The invocation was presented by: Howard Norgalis, Former Chaplain - North Branch Fire Department

**Recognition**

Council President Norgalis recognized the sudden passing of Alan Grant, Esq. a partner and long term friend in the law firm of Mauro, Savo, Camerino & Grant. Alan has been with the Council many times and has on many occasions defended litigation against the Township very successfully and will be dearly missed.

Council President Norgalis recognized the local dignitaries in the audience including:

- Michael Doherty, Senator

- John Dimaio, Assemblyman
- Edward Zimmerman, Governing Officials
- Tim Pino, Captain
- Patricia Walsh, Freehold Director
- Patrick Scaglione, Freehold Deputy Director
- Manuel Caravela, Chief of Bridgewater Police
- Al Gaburo, Somerset County Republican Chair
- Jamie Rick, Risk Manager
- Francesco Taddeo, Public Defender
- Michael Pappas, Former Congressman

**Certification  
of Election**

**CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION**

A statement of the determination of the Board of Canvassers of Somerset County, New Jersey, relative to an election held in the County of Somerset on November 3, 2015 for the election of the following mentioned offices in the Township of Bridgewater.

- One (1) Four-Year Mayoral Seat - The said Board does determine that Dan Hayes, Jr. was duly elected Mayor.
- Two (2) Four-Year Township Council Seats - The said Board does determine that Matthew Moench and Christine Henderson-Rose were duly elected to the Township Council.

**Oaths of  
Elected  
Office**

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Mayor - Daniel J. Hayes, Jr.

Performed by Michael Doherty

Councilman - Christine Henderson-Rose

Performed by Nancy Bowers-Newton

Councilman - Matthew C. Moench

Performed by Beth Powers

**NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBER STATEMENT**

Christine Henderson-Rose

*The message is attached to the official minutes. (Schedule A)*

Matthew C. Moench

*The message is attached to the official minutes. (Schedule B)*

**ROLL CALL**

Councilman Allen Kurdyla

Councilman Matthew Moench

Councilman Filipe Pedroso

Councilwoman Christine Henderson-Rose

Councilman Howard V. Norgalis

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT OUTGOING ADDRESS**

*The message is attached to the official minutes. (Schedule C)*

**Selection of Council President**

**SELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Council President Norgalis nominated Councilman Filipe Pedroso to serve as Council President for the year 2016. Councilman Moench seconded the motion. The vote on the foregoing motion was as follows:

Allen Kurdyla	Aye
Matthew Moench	Aye
Filipe Pedroso	Abstain
Christine Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye

**Selection of Council Vice-President**

**SELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT**

Council President Norgalis stated there was need to create this position in order that in the absence of the Council President, the Vice President assumes and exercises the powers and responsibilities of the Council President.

Council President Norgalis nominated Councilman Allen Kurdyla to serve as Council Vice-President for the year 2016. Councilman Pedroso seconded the motion. The vote on the foregoing motion was as follows:

Allen F. Kurdyla	Abstain
Howard V. Norgalis	Aye
Filipe Pedroso	Aye
Christine Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT MESSAGE**

*The message is attached to the official minutes. (Schedule D)*

**MAYOR DANIEL J. HAYES, JR. INAUGURAL STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP ADDRESS**

*The address is attached to the official minutes. (Schedule E)*

Council President Pedroso asked Township Clerk, Linda Doyle to read the following appointments.

**Mayor Appointments with Advice and Consent**

**MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS WITH ADVICE AND CONSENT (Staff)**

**APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION - JAMES T. NAPLES**

**APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - NATASHA TURCHAN**

**APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - CHRIS  
POULSEN**

**APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF POLICE - MANUEL CARAVELA**

**APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER - ROSE WITT**

**APPOINTMENT OF TOWNSHIP REGISTRAR - NADINE BELNAY-CARR**

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, second of Councilman Kurdyla, the foregoing resolutions were proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE APPROVED.**

Copies of resolutions #16-01-01-001 through #1-01-01-006 are appended to the official minutes.

**APPOINTMENT OF TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY - AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE  
CONTRACT TO WILLIAM B. SAVO, ESQ - MAURO, SAVO, CAMERINO & GRANT**

On motion of Councilman Kurdyla, second of Councilman Moench, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-007 is appended to the official minutes.

**APPOINTMENT OF TOWNSHIP PLANNER - AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE  
CONTRACT TO SCARLETT DOYLE, PP IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000**

On motion of Councilwoman Henderson- Rose, second of Councilman Kurdyla, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
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Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-008 is appended to the official minutes

**APPOINTMENT OF ERIC M. BERNSTEIN & ASSOCIATES AS TOWNSHIP LABOR ATTORNEY AND AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000.00**

On motion of Councilwoman Henderson-Rose, second of Councilman Kurdyla, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Abstain
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-009 is appended to the official minutes

**APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC DEFENDER / MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR - FRANCESCO TADDEO**

On motion of Councilwoman Henderson-Rose, second of Councilman Moench, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-010 is appended to the official minutes

**APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM T. KELLEHER, JR. AS CHIEF MUNICIPAL JUDGE**

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, second of Councilman Moench, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-011 is appended to the official minutes

Council President Pedroso asked Township Clerk, Linda Doyle to read the following appointments.

**Mayor  
Appointments  
without Advice  
and Consent**

**APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS**

Class I - Mayor Daniel J. Hayes, Jr.  
Class II - Stephen Rodzinak  
Class III - Christine Henderson-Rose  
Class IV - Ron Charles

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

Pushpavati Amin  
Linda Sikora  
Aimee Alonzo  
Ron Charles (Planning Board Rep)

**APPOINTMENT OF RISK MANAGER**

James Rick

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE 2016 SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM**

James T. Naples  
Allen Kurdyla  
Howard Norgalis (alternate)

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Mayor Daniel J. Hayes, Jr.  
Scarlett Doyle, PP  
Henry J. Reynolds  
Filipe Pedroso  
Howard Norgalis (alternate)

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE BRIDGEWATER / RARITAN YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION/  
MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE FOR PREVENTION OF ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE**

Cara Hayes  
Russell Yarnell  
Kathleen Caola

Donna Langel  
Jodi Schneider

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

Robert Szkodny  
Mayor Daniel J. Hayes, Jr.  
James T. Naples  
Howard Turbowitz  
Stephen Rodzinak  
Robert Hanlon  
Phillip Langon (replaced Frank Ur)  
Chris Poulsen  
Manuel Caravela  
Thomas Forsythe  
Don Collins  
Ray Ruth  
Lawrence Livornese

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE SOMERSET COUNTY JOINT INSURANCE FUND**

James T. Naples - Commissioner  
Gary Howarth - Alternate Commissioner

**RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE SOMERSET COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION**

Herb Patullo

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, second of Councilman Kurdyla, the foregoing resolutions were proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE APPROVED.**

Copies of resolutions #16-01-01-012 through #1-01-01-015 are appended to the official minutes.

**Mayor  
Appointments  
with Advice  
and Consent**

**MAYORS APPOINTMENTS WITH ADVICE AND CONSENT (Boards and Committees)**

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

John B. Schmitt, Jr  
Stephen Koehler

Thomas Metcalf

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

Scott Baxter Green

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD**

Jacqueline Pino

Donald Truss

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD**

Shivani Marrero

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE PARK BOARD**

Christopher Casini

Allan R. Papp

Ali Ali

Robert Hellwig

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Taya Friedman

Fabiola Folino

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE SHADE TREE BOARD**

Michael Haskell

Judith H. Ambrus

William Sedlazek

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE RARITAN AND MILLSTONE FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION**

Matthew C. Moench

Christine Henderson-Rose (alternate)

On motion of Councilwoman Henderson-Rose, second of Councilman Moench, the foregoing resolutions were proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE APPROVED.**

Copies of resolutions #16-01-01-016 through #1-01-01-023 are appended to the official minutes.

**Council  
Appointments  
for Staff**

**COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS (STAFF)**

**APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

Robert B. Cagnassola -Suplee, Clooney & Co.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, second of Councilwoman Henderson-Rose, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-024 is appended to the official minutes

**APPOINTMENT OF ASSESSMENT SEARCH OFFICER**

Linda J. Doyle

On motion of Councilwoman Henderson-Rose, second of Councilman Moench, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-025 is appended to the official minutes

**APPOINTMENT OF TAX SEARCH OFFICER**

Darrow Murdock

On motion of Councilwoman Henderson-Rose, second of Councilman Kurdyla, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-026 is appended to the official minutes

**Council  
Appointments  
for Boards  
and  
Committees**

**COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS (Boards and Committees)**

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

Paul Riga - Regular member  
James Weideli - Alternate member #1  
Dawn Guttschall - Alternate member #2  
John Fallone - Alternate member #3

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, second of Councilman Moench, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-027 is appended to the official minutes

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE CREATIVE ARTS COMMITTEE**

Kristen Rath-Velasco  
Suman Virmani

On motion of Councilwoman Henderson-Rose, second of Councilman Moench, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-028 is appended to the official minutes

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION**

Matthew C. Moench  
Filipe Pedroso (alternate)

On motion of Councilwoman Henderson-Rose, second of Councilman Kurdyla, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-029 is appended to the official minutes

**APPOINTMENTS OF THE REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES**

Filipe Pedroso  
Howard Norgalis (alternate)

On motion of Councilwoman Henderson-Rose, second of Councilman Kurdyla, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Abstain
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-030 is appended to the official minutes

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Class 2 (B) James Weideli  
N. Janine Dickey  
Robert Hellwig

On motion of Councilwoman Henderson-Rose, second of Councilman Kurdyla, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-031 is appended to the official minutes

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE SOMERSET REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Natalie Zaman  
Mary Breslin

Ken Corsini

On motion of Councilwoman Henderson-Rose, second of Councilman Kurdyla, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-032 is appended to the official minutes

**Oaths**

**OATHS OF OFFICE WERE ADMINISTERED BY WILLIAM B. SAVO, TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY FOR THOSE APPOINTED TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

**Resolutions**

**2016 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Designates the Official Newspaper as the Courier News, names certain depositories and sets provisions for the effective conduct of business.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, second of Councilwoman Henderson-Rose, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-033 is appended to the official minutes

**2016 TOWNSHIP COUNCIL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

The foregoing resolution sets the meeting calendar for Township Council for the year 2016.

On motion of Councilwoman Henderson-Rose, second of Councilman Norgalis, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye

Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-034 is appended to the official minutes

**2016 TEMPORARY BUDGET - CURRENT FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,521,676.35**

The temporary budget is set not to exceed at 26.25% of the 2015 year's budget to meet payments and obligations prior to adoption of the 2016 budget.

On motion of Councilwoman Henderson-Rose, second of Councilman Kurdyla, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-035 is appended to the official minutes

**2016 TEMPORARY BUDGET - SEWER FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,660,842.63**

The temporary budget is set not to exceed at 26.25% of the 2015 year's budget to meet payments and certain obligation to continue business prior to adoption of the 2016 budget.

On motion of Councilwoman Henderson-Rose, second of Councilman Moench, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-036 is appended to the official minutes

**ESTABLISHING CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN AND NAMING OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES**

The Cash Management Plan is prepared pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A 5-14, and sets forth the basis for deposits and investments and naming the depositories for township funds.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, second of Councilman Moench, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-037 is appended to the official minutes

**AUTHORIZING BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP ENGINEER ROBERT C BOGART, PE & PLS TO EXECUTE NJDEP, NJDOT, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND SOMERSET COUNTY PERMITS ON BEHALF OF THE TOWNSHIP**

The resolution authorizes and names Robert Bogart as Township Engineer to sign permits from NJDOT, NJDEP and Somerset County on behalf of the Township.

On motion of Councilman Moench, second of Councilman Norgalis, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Henderson-Rose	Aye
Councilman Moench	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Council Vice President Kurdyla	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

**THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.**

A copy of resolution #16-01-01-038 is appended to the official minutes

**Public  
Comment**

On motion of Councilwoman Henderson-Rose, seconded by Councilman Moench, the meeting was opened to the public.

Members of the public wishing to address the Council on any matter will be allowed two minutes to speak, unless there are unusual circumstances.

No one wished to be heard.

On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilwoman Henderson-Rose, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

**Adjournment**

On motion of Councilwoman Henderson-Rose, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla, the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Council President Pedroso invited all attendees for refreshments in the adjacent conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

## Schedule A

Gracious God,

We meet this day as the first one of a new year. It is also a new beginning for Bridgewater.

This afternoon we will invoke the names of individuals elected by the people, to represent the people of this wonderful town. As elected officials they are stewards of the people. Make them mindful of the challenges of elected office so that they can bravely, effectively and selflessly carry out the duties of their office to the very best of their ability. Be at their side as they reflect on the issues of state.

This day we will also name dozens of residents who have volunteered their time and energy in selfless support of the many boards, committees and organizations that effect the very quality of life of Bridgewater. May those individuals feel an inner contentment in knowing they are helping to make Bridgewater a wonderful place to live and work?

Be with our employees as they labor in their individual task. Whether they work in a building or venture forth in the outside where the weather can be fair or foul. Protect all of them and keep them safe so that at day's end they can return home. We ask these things in thy Holy name. AMEN

**Schedule B**

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. It is especially good to see so many honored guests.

Thank you all for attending this, the 2016 reorganization meeting for Bridgewater Township. In this, the declining minutes of my tenure as Council President I would like to reflect a little on the past.

This was my third time in 12 years as Council Present and I learned many new things and continue to realize just how important the our work is to the residents.

But before going into that I want to offer my personal thanks to the folks that make my job bearable. My first thanks is to my Significant Other Christine Phillips. Thank you for your patience and good cheer in taking phone messages and enduring an often crazy schedule.

Next are the three other ladies in my life Clerk Linda Doyle (please stand), Deputy Clerk Grace Karanja and Krista Gaffney. They are the real face of the Town and keep the Township Clerk's office functioning. Generally they are the first line of contact for some really unusual requests, none of which I will go into.

Next my thanks to my Council peers.

Christine Henderson Rose – Chris is dedicated social activist and comes from a family ardent volunteers. She loves animals and is a Bridgewater history buff in wishing to preserve every piece of Bridgewater that she can, be it house or barn. She recently retired as a department head with Somerset County. She works tirelessly on behalf of the animal shelter.

Allen Kurdyla – Allen is also a department head at Somerset County and is as close to an Information Technology (also known as IT) expert as we have. He can talk systems interfaces and records retention and disposal with the best of them. Allen and I share some common aspects both having been fire fighters and fire commissioners. Allen, if you turned the clock back 20 years I would go into any burning building with you.

Filipe Pedrorso – Filipe is an attorney with his own law practice in the Ironbound Section of Newark and a soon to be second office on Route 22 just off Mercer St. in Somerville. He gave up his weekly radio program, in which he counseled folks in his native Portuguese about the law, in order to have more time to devote to being a Council member. A former Rescue Squad member Filipe has lived in more sections of Bridgewater over the years than

possibly the rest of us put together. He truly understands the unique issues facing different sections of our town.

Matt Moench- Lifelong Bridgewater resident Matt Moench, like Filipe is an attorney practicing in Morristown. His family also has a long history of rescue squad membership. His wife Stephanie heads the township Creative Arts Committee. You can frequently see the towns artwork displayed under her leadership. I often seek Matt's insight on legal issues effecting the town.

Another notable hard working individual within the township is Administrator James Naples. Jim is at his desk generally before 6:30 in the morning. We frequently talk about township issues at that time. Jim, thanks for being there and answering even though you know it's me from the caller ID. Jim really runs the town on a day by day basis and one of his right hand folks is Robert Bogart, Director of Municipal Services. Bob, I'm sorry to say has plans to retire, actually yesterday, but will stay on for a couple of months at the request of Mayor Hayes. Bob the township will sorely miss your wise council and professional demeanor.

A final sad note related to people is the sudden passing of Allen Bart Grant, one of the managing partners in the Mauro, Savo, Camerino and Grant, the law firm which represents the township. Mr. Grant has been before this

Council many times, and has successfully represented the town in numerous court cases. Mr. Savo, we are saddened by the loss of your partner.

I am very proud of this town. I have seen it grow and prosper over the decades from one with no identity on a state map when I moved here, to one that is not only on the map but is even shown on the morning weather maps on channels 2 and 4. Now that is success. But we are still working on Channel 7.

But seriously your Council and Administration have worked very hard to hold taxes in check, to maintain our quality of life and keep Bridgewater an attractive community in which to raise a family. One of the ways we have dealt with tax pressures is through cooperative services. In 2015, I am proud to say, our township finally concluded an arrangement with Somerset County for 911 Call Answering consolidation, an issue that I have been pushing for about eight years. Truth be told there was considerable opposition from numerous entities. Allen Kurdyla and I served on a task force for over two years to address the issues. Towards the end of the study period Christine partnered with Allen and finalized the effort. It was truly a team effort and involved the Township Officials, Freeholders, Somerset County Director William Stahl, Bridgewater Police Chief Manny Caravela among

others. The township objective was always, equal to or better service and a financial benefit to the township. It worked!

Last year I had announced a new township email address entitled “tellthecouncil@bridgewaternj.gov”. It was an effort to improve communication with the residents. It didn’t get much use but it is still available and will continue to be available to residents in 2016.

In closing my remarks I would say that, all in all, I saw 2015 as a year of progress. Thank you and GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

### Schedule C

Good afternoon. Thank you all for being here today on this New Year's day. I wish you, and your families, the very best for 2016.

I would like to start by thanking my fellow council members up here for your votes of confidence in me to lead this organization this year. I am truly honored to have received your trust, I will work hard not to let you down. Council Norgalis was a very hard-working Council President, so he set the bar pretty high. But, I look forward to the challenge.

Over the past four years I have come to have great admiration for all of you sitting here with me. I know, from an inside perspective, that sitting in these seats brings with it a great responsibility, because we are the voice of each and every Bridgewater resident. And I have come to know, that each and every one of you also feels the same way.

This governing body does a tremendous amount of work for the residents of our town. In 2015, under the leadership of Council President Norgalis, we have accomplished much. And we should be proud of those accomplishments, and how all our time invested in serving, has truly contributed to a better Bridgewater.

I would like to speak a little bit about what the Council does because many people really don't understand the role of this governing body. So, let me give you a brief summary of 2015. Over the past year, this Council meeting room was the place where every resident who wanted to voice their concern about an issue in town could come and speak up. Granted, not many did, but if you're a resident and have something to say to the government, it is here where you will always be heard. Some say that a lack of public attendance is a reflection of what a great job we have been doing; I'll take that. But come one or come one hundred, everyone has a fair opportunity to be heard -- and we listen.

The Council is the legislative body of Bridgewater's government. So what does that mean? Basically, it passes many ordinances and resolutions that mandate how government should function.

For example, over the past year, this Council discussed and passed all sorts of ordinances. Ordinances were passed that limit parking on several streets to give residents the ability to drive safely and easily on their own streets. The Council also reviewed outdated administrative code, and executed ordinances that modernized and improved personnel policies.

The Council also passed a specific ordinance setting the compensation amount for the Mayor, department heads, certain other municipal employees, and for the Council itself. I am pleased to report that yet again, this Council has decided to keep its small wages fixed, with no pay increase again. This governing body understands that tough financial times are still here, and although the salary that this entire governing body makes is less than 0.1% of the yearly town budget, we do what we can to keep more money in the taxpayers pockets. You see, we don't just talk the talk, but we walk the walk. After all, how can the Council demand tight fiscal budgets from the administration if it itself is not willing to make the sacrifices.

And so, in 2015, the Council adopted a zero percent tax increase yearly budget. Although the economy has taken some positive steps forward, the people of Bridgewater can be thankful for all of you on this Council and the Mayor who have done your part to control smart, responsible government spending. Zero percent tax increase budgets don't happen by accident. The Council spends a large amount of time reviewing, dissecting, questioning, and making recommendations to the budget every year. We have a Budget/Finance Committee that examines the budget with a fine tooth

comb, and, led by Councilman Moench, this important Committee provides valuable insight. Councilman Moench works hard at this task – I know, I was on the Budget/Finance Committee with him -- and his steady, unwavering fiscal oversight is an important reason why we can say today that Bridgewater has the second lowest tax rate in the County. And so, all the hard budget work that occurs by this Council, on behalf of all our taxpayers, shows up in true results: No tax increase and the second lowest tax rate in the County.

Ordinances were also discussed and passed that impacted all aspects of the community. For example, some ordinances changed zoning, another better addressed the removal of brush weeds, and we passed the township's long-needed, first cell tower ordinance.

2015 also marked a significant year for open space acquisitions. Led by Councilman Kurdyla, the Open Space committee reviewed and recommended specific properties for open space. This year the Council added over \$1-million in open space purchases, properties that are acquired for the public good, for the Bridgewater community, to have for years to come.

Another tool at the Council's disposal is the passage of resolutions.

It is this governing body that ultimately authorizes the hiring of professional services. Also, through the use of Resolutions, the Council reviews change orders and ultimately grants or denies the requests. For example, if a specific road improvement project exceeds or costs less than the granted bid cost, the Council is required to consider the change and vote on its ultimate disposition.

Resolutions are often used to authorize the administration to execute agreements. For example, the Council permitted the Recreation Department to enter into an agreement with the Soccer Center so that township soccer teams can use these fields, referees and trainers. Agreements such as this show how maintaining a tight fiscal budget, can still be balanced with providing essential services and meeting our community needs. Through the Soccer Center, hundreds if not thousands of young Bridgewater soccer athletes can continue to strive and achieve their extracurricular objectives.

Another important agreement executed this year was the Shared Services Agreement for police dispatch services. Through the hard-work of Councilmen Norgalis and Kurdyla, over several years, they were

able to put together a viable plan that simultaneously saved the tax payers millions of dollars AND assured that the safety of the police officers and residents remained a top priority. Over the past year, Bridgewater joined 18 other Somerset County municipalities with a county-run dispatch service that is projected to save millions and millions of dollars to Bridgewater tax payers while simultaneously being assured by the County that no back-end tax will be assessed. But this project only came through because of a lot of effort, discussion and compromise.

Countless amount of hours were spent on this by Councilmen Norgalis and Kurdyla. And this Council then took on the task of reviewing all the details of the proposed transition. We had many public hearings to iron out the details with a keen focus on safety. The Council heard from the police chief, police officers, dispatchers, volunteer fire fighters, volunteer first aid members, and the public at large. Only then did this Council consider this matter for a vote, and, as often happens, there was dissent, but the project moved forward and the Council authorized the administration to execute the Shared Services Agreement.

Sometimes, little things can provide a great convenience to the taxpayers. This year, the Council considered and passed a resolution authorizing an

award of contract to TD Bank to process credit card transactions to township residents for the payment of taxes and sewer fees through the use of internet payments. Now, residents can go online and pay their tax or sewer bill with a debit or credit card. In this electronic age, we will continue to find technological ways to provide convenient services, improve accessibility to government, and strive for enhanced openness.

Even such things as authorizing a circus permit for the Big Apple Circus or the firework displays at the TD Bank Stadium or 4H need Council consideration and approval.

2015 also resulted in the settlement of litigation matters. Litigation is often discussed by the Council in closed sessions, away from the adversaries' ears.

Through information, discussion, and hard-work, the settlement of Al Falah Center was authorized by the Council. Although different minds can differ on this matter, one thing is clear, the site on Route 206 is much better suited for the intended use. Also, with dissent, the township approved the settlement of the T-Mobile litigation matter, recommending moving a cell tower to an area by the library instead of a heavily residential area.

This past year, the Council also studied the issue of whether another train station may be justified and beneficial in the area near Milltown Road. After much consideration, the Council passed a resolution endorsing the request for a study to determine the feasibility of a train station at 360 Milltown Road. A train station at Milltown Road may come with many pluses and minuses, and if NJ Transit determines that such a project is feasible and possible, the public can be assured that this governing body will consider all aspects, after input from professionals and the public, to do what is best for the Milltown community and Bridgewater.

Through the use of Resolutions, the Council authorized the administration to apply for many grants. In 2015, the Council used this legislative authority to support our law enforcement and enhance the safety of the public. Thousands of dollars were applied for and received, for such things as distracted driving enforcement, drunk driving enforcement, life-saving bullet proof vests, Click It or Ticket, and other programs. Grants are also used for many other public good programs.

For example, Councilwoman Rose has been a zealous advocate for the historic Lane-Brokaw House.

Bridgewater is rich in history. In the spring of 1779, Gen. George Washington rode from The Wallace House in Somerville to pay his respects to the widow of John Brokaw, who had been killed in the Battle of Germantown. Through the application of grants, volunteers, and Councilwoman Rose's efforts, this 250 year old Lane-Brokaw House remains standing.

And speaking of Councilwoman Rose, we cannot forget the many hours of work she has placed over the past couple of years in her efforts to keep the Animal Shelter running at minimal financial burden. In 2015, the Council held an open public meeting to again discuss the status of the Animal Shelter, and to be assured that proper management oversight continued. Operating the Animal Shelter has had its challenges, especially with the loss of a neighboring town from its group, but Councilwoman Rose has been vigilant in her efforts to do everything possible so that Bridgewater can keep serving the needs of proper and humane animal care.

2015 also marked the year that the Council considered many infrastructure improvements in Bridgewater township. First, the Council authorized the award of

contracts for the purchases of several new township vehicles. This will assure that Bridgewater's fleet remains sound into the future. Second, our sewer department was allocated nearly \$1.6-million for additional improvements by this Council's resolution. And, third, let's not forget the roads. In 2015, the Council passed a resolution specifically allocating nearly \$4-million in appropriations for road improvements. And that was additional funding beyond the \$1.6-million already allocated in the regular budget. Proudly, the Council funded all these projects while maintaining a zero percent tax increase budget.

2016 will come with its own challenges and accomplishments. Through the decrease in expenditures obtained through the Shared Services agreement with the county, Bridgewater is in a strong position to have yet another no tax increase year. And, continue its goal of improving our infrastructure.

2016 will also bring with it projects that are on the horizon that may impact the very fabric of our town and the decision whether those changes are for a better or worse Bridgewater will rest in this Council's very hands.

Some will say that it is our obligation, today's generation, to protect our history for generations to come. But let us not forget that it is also *our* generation's obligation to protect this township's *present* quality of life for future generations. As we head into 2016, let us not lose focus of that obligation.

2016 will also be our first, full calendar year using the County 911 for dispatch, and although we moved forward with this implementation in 2015, we need continued vigilance and continued assurance that the safety of our community and its police officers is always the center point of this program.

And in 2016, we need to challenge ourselves to do the best for our local residents of Bridgewater. To find ways to spend less on their behalf, generate more; let's strive for the goal of being bottom on the municipal tax rate table for Somerset County. We also need to continue to be creative in the use of technology to provide better and newer services, maintain an open government, and be accessible; and we must focus to always do what will improve our wonderful township into the future and the quality of life that is so precious and the center-point of the reason why we all chose to live here.

I believe that we are a government of the people, for the people. To that end, I have a facebook page that I update regularly with Bridgewater news and Council matters. I will update this page regularly with our agenda and other information. Anyone can access this information at

[www.facebook.com/PedrosoBridgewater](http://www.facebook.com/PedrosoBridgewater).

I look forward to 2016. I am proud of serving the residents of Bridgewater, a town that I love dearly and have called home since I was 7 years old. This is a great honor that has been bestowed upon me. And, I am also very proud to serve the residents of Bridgewater with Council-members Kurdyla, Moench, Norgalis, and Rose. I look forward to working with my Council colleagues and Mayor Hayes, to do what is best for Bridgewater, and keep Bridgewater the very best place to live for generations to come.

## **2016 State of the Township Address**

Council members, residents, honored guests, staff, friends and family; let me begin by wishing you all a healthy and prosperous New Year. Thank you for joining us today at our Township's annual reorganization meeting, an event, one of many happening throughout the country, reaffirming that we are truly a government of the people for the people. I am both humbled and honored by trust and confidence demonstrated by my fellow residents in granting me the privilege of continued service. Having completed my first term as Mayor I can honestly say this is one of the most rewarding and exciting jobs I have ever held. Over the last four years I have had the privilege of working with dedicated staff and volunteers that have embraced the vision we set at the start; a quality of life in Bridgewater that is the exemplar of other communities. We have developed a strong team that works for our residents, while working closely with our partners in surrounding communities, at the County, State and Federal levels, and with the private sector. This afternoon I want to take a few moments to share with you some of the successes we've had in the past year and speak briefly about some of the challenges which lie ahead.

### **Economy**

Let me begin by saying the State of the Township continues to be strong as we position ourselves for further growth despite continued economic challenges throughout the State. The great recession, which began in 2008 with the collapse of the housing market, has taken its toll on our economy. After seven years our ratable base has still have not recovered to its previous height. Yet we have fared better than most as we continue to see an increased investment by the commercial sector in our township. Both our commercial and residential sectors face pressures to change. As elected officials we must recognize the inevitability of change. We must accept our responsibility to manage change by effectuating the best possible outcome for our residents and our future. Having done so in the past is the very reason we are today a viable choice for business location and housing investment. As I travel around the State and discuss shared concerns and initiatives with my counterparts in other municipalities, often cited are the difficulties towns have in attracting jobs, commercial growth and housing development. Virtually every time I come away from the conversation feeling fortunate and blessed that Bridgewater remains a destination choice for both.

### **Nestle**

One of our biggest success stories for 2015, and also one of our greatest opportunities for 2016, is embodied in the choice by Nestle to locate its Health Science research and development division in our township at the Advance Center of Excellence. Anders Kaspersson, Senior Vice President and program manager for Nestle Health Science was tasked with finding a new home for the growing division which pairs nutritional innovation with healthy lifestyle

choices. In determining the final location for up to 300 plus employees, Anders could go anywhere in the world to achieve his objective of growth for the division. Think about that for a second. Anywhere in the world, and ultimately his choice, and the choice of the corporation, was Bridgewater! When I first met Anders he was full of questions about the area, the business climate, and just how Nestle might succeed in our area. With our state's reputation as the medicine chest of the world and the Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno's business attraction program providing incentives through the EDA, New Jersey had become a logical option. Our discussion focused on Bridgewater and our vision for continued leadership in the life science industry - a statement supported by the investment decisions Valeant and others. I highlighted our township's roll call of existing industry leaders, a talent pool that is highly educated and known for innovation, an ideal location close to New York City and four major airports, the opportunities to utilize public transportation or travel on interstate highways, and the lifestyle their employees will enjoy including a broad selection housing and retail, and a community that values education, recreation and sustainability. Anders was particularly interested in and ultimately chose the Center of Excellence on route 202/206.

The former site of Sanofi's research and development division was vacated in 2010 after an acquisition of Genzyme and relocation of those activities. Recognizing the declining demand for single owner campus-like office space, the Council took two critical actions. First they lifted the single occupier restriction which allowed for the lease of lab space to Ashland Chemical and Kashiv Pharmaceutical. These Fortune 500 companies utilized the facility's newer space to open new operations in Bridgewater and return some activity to the site. Sanofi then sold the site to Advance Realty in 2011 for a fraction of its former value. The second major action taken by the Council was the designation of the older less functional 66 acres of the site for redevelopment in 2014. Over the past year the Planning Board has studied the site, through a subcommittee of Planning Board members, residents, a Council representative, and Administrative staff. They have blended the Township and developer's vision and studied impacts on local economy, traffic, housing and office/retail uses. A presentation by the Township's Planning and traffic professionals was given to the Planning Board over two consecutive meetings detailing the data supporting the site recommendations. The collaborative result was a recommended plan unanimously supported by the Planning Board. In the coming months the Council will consider this plan and determine the future redevelopment of this site, the importance of which cannot be overstated.

### **Land Use**

When I was sworn into office four years ago, I established four primary goals supporting our vision for Bridgewater. Chief among those goals was to be vigilant in land use matters. In 2015 we settled litigation which affirmed our ability to zone land and allowed for a mosque to be located on route 202/206. The redevelopment of the former Weyerhauser site was adopted by the Council

with traffic requirements that will protect local neighborhoods. The land in front of Stavola Quarry has received approval for retail development and will be the future home to Whole Foods and other shopping and dining options. I have asked a committee of interested residents to create a bike and pedestrian plan that will complement this and other developments by furthering access to passive recreation and heart healthy transportation. I look forward to working with them in the coming year and implementing recommendations for additional bikepaths and walking trails in this area and others.

Balancing development with open space preservation continued with the acquisition of the remaining 10 acre Hancock property parcel on North Bridge Street. The Township has now preserved 20 acres at this location. Additional property was also acquired adjacent to Harry Ally Park in Finderne further protecting this neighborhood asset.

Our sustainability efforts were again recognized by Sustainable Jersey with our third bronze level sustainable community award in 2015. Our May Eco Blast, sponsored by our Environmental Commission continues to be one of the most popular attractions with annually increasing vendor and attendee participation. In addition to this event, 2015 saw the first ever Electric Ride night. This event gave residents an introduction to the electric car and was complemented by area food trucks and a local band providing free entertainment. I want to recognize Chris Poulsen and the sustainability committee for their work to create this innovative and highly successful event. I look forward to holding the event again this year and to see what new ideas the group will come up with to educate and entertain our residents.

## **Fiscal**

Our fiscal goal to remain in the lowest quartile among all County municipalities remains a critical tenet of our success and was achieved once again in 2015 through sound financial management and the implementation of cost-saving initiatives. 2015 saw no increase in the tax levy despite growing pressures on the municipal budget. The successful switchover to County dispatch will pay fiscal dividends for our residents for the next ten years. I appreciate change can be challenging and I would like to thank our County partners for their cooperation particularly, Freeholder Director Mark Caliguire for his leadership during the migration process. I would also like to thank Chief Caravela and the entire police, fire and rescue personnel for their professionalism and dedication to service during the transition. 2016 will continue to see fiscal challenges to the municipal budget. In the next month my Administration will finalize the spending plan we have been working on since the early fall. The plan will then be presented to Council for their review and adoption. In 2015 we rolled out a new program titled Shop Bridgewater. This innovative plan supports local merchants and provides property owners with tax credits for a percentage of expenditures at participating businesses. For a complete description of the plan, its benefits, and participating merchants, visit our website at [shop Bridgewater](#) or our [Shop Bridgewater facebook page](#). You can sign up for the

program online and pick up your card at the Township building. Check often for new merchants and please encourage your favorite store to join.

### **Infrastructure Improvements**

The goal of improving our infrastructure has never been more pressing than after the devastating winter of 2015. Week after week of single digit temperatures, snow, and ice took their toll upon local roads as April and May seem to sprout potholes faster than flowers. The Public Works crew did an admirable job of patching and filling potholes. A record amount was spent on asphalt and patch materials. In terms of road improvement budget, 2015 marked an all-time high for my Administration in terms of spending on road reconstruction and overlay. Over \$5 million was approved and expended in fixing major thoroughfares and local residential streets. In 2015, I tasked a citizen committee to look comprehensively at the entire road maintenance system and provide the Administration with recommendations for future improvements.

The committee has been meeting with the Engineering Department and I look forward to seeing their results in early 2016. I would like to thank the Chair Rob Hellwig for his efforts and the committee members for their countless volunteer hours in seeing this important project through to completion. In addition to the road improvements, 2016 will see the completion of the NJ Transit study of a 2<sup>nd</sup> train station for Bridgewater. The Administration continues to support the expansion of one-seat train service to New York City by NJ Transit and having a 2<sup>nd</sup> station will better position our residents to take advantage of this service.

### **Essential Services in a Resident First Manner**

The fourth of our goals is the provision of essential services in a resident first manner. We know we serve you, our residents, and we are here to help in any way possible. Each of our Departments is staffed with dedicated professionals who continue to educate themselves and innovate in their workplace to provide the most comprehensive and inclusive service to our residents. 2015 saw us maintain our leadership position in recyclable materials and clean communities funding. The Construction Code Department continues to provide all sub-code inspectors in-house for faster and more accountable service. Last year the Police Department celebrated its 50th anniversary as an organized department culminating in a community day event at the municipal complex which recognized the professionalism, dedication to community and years of service of all who have worn the Bridgewater Police uniform. In 2016 the police will continue their leadership by being one of the first in the County to implement body cameras for protection of our officers while on duty. Chief Caravela recently received a \$31,000 grant from the Acting Attorney General which will pay for the purchase of all body cams for our officers. The Clerk's Office, with the support and Cooperation of the County, sponsored two local shred days at the Municipal Complex collecting record amounts of materials for secure disposal.

I look forward to working with Councilman Kurdyla, who is also the County Director of Records Management, in providing this service in 2016.

I am pleased to announce that the bulky trash days at BRI will continue in 2016 as our partner BRI has agreed to provide this service once again at no cost to our residents. We are extremely grateful to the management of BRI for this partnership.

In order to streamline the compliance process, and make it simpler and less onerous especially for small residential improvements, I have created a citizens ad hoc committee to review the processes involved and make recommendations for change. This group, led by Debra Albanese, has been meeting over the last several months, reviewing the many facets of the compliance process and with the professionals involved, determining what can be simplified. I am grateful for their efforts and look forward to their completed work in the months ahead.

### **Volunteer Service**

Beyond doubt it is our many volunteers that help make Bridgewater an exemplar community. Today we will appoint new and reappoint existing volunteers to boards and committees essential to our community providing necessary input on issues that touch every neighborhood and street in the Township. I am proud of the extent of our community volunteerism. It goes well beyond today's appointments and includes the mother who coaches her son's soccer team or the father, who is a Boy Scout troop leader, volunteers at the library, senior center, animal shelter, schools, to name just a few. It extends also to those who answer the call of duty as a volunteer fireman or rescue squad member. During the last four years I have had the privilege to meet with many of these selfless individuals. I am grateful for their service and inspired by their dedication. To all of our volunteers on behalf of all our residents, I say thank you. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the service of two particular volunteers, Walt Rusak and Roger Pearley. Both served the Township for over 10 years. Walt, a 31 year resident served on the Park Board, Open Space Committee and as our Planning Board Chairman.

Roger also served on the Park Board and the Open Space Committee. Unfortunately for Bridgewater, both are moving and must resign their positions. They have been dedicated volunteers, always providing thoughtful input and using their knowledge and experiences to improve Bridgewater's Parks, open space and community. I can safely say their fellow board members will miss their presence and that Bridgewater is a better place for their service. Walt and Roger, I thank you both for your selfless service and wish you and families well.

### **Closing**

Before I conclude this afternoon's comments I would like to recognize the service of someone we lost recently. Alan Grant, an attorney who has served the Township for the last twelve years passed away suddenly just before the

holiday. Alan was a consummate professional, always prepared in defending the Township or providing legal counsel. Many times he has sat on the dais during Council meetings providing valuable guidance. Already we sense his loss, but are strengthened by the remembrance of his quiet, professional manner, his confidence, and his positive attitude. He will be missed by all but not forgotten.

The year ahead is full of challenges and opportunities. I believe we are well positioned to take advantages of the opportunities as they arise, to govern from a position of leadership, and to continue to provide the framework for a Quality of life that is second to none. My Administration will stay true to our principles of transparency, inclusiveness, forward thinking, accessibility and resourcefulness that guided us during my first term. Monthly Evenings with Dan will continue to provide a relaxed forum for discussion with residents. We will keep our doors and minds open so we may benefit from the knowledge and input on local matters from all who care to share. We will seize upon new ideas that provide greater or more efficient service to our residents. And our presence on social media platforms will continue to expand to provide timely information on a variety of topics.

I look forward to working with the Council to maintain Bridgewater's position as a leader in the County and the State. And, lastly, I ask all to please remember our servicemen and women who dedicate their lives to the freedoms we enjoy. They sacrifice time away from family and loved ones and travel to keep us safe.

In the year ahead, may your fortunes be many and your misfortunes few. May God continue to bless our community, and may God bless America.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

**Daniel J. Hayes, Jr.**

Mayor, Bridgewater Township