

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON  
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 6, 2009  
5:30 P.M.**

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Roll Call**

Councilman Driscoll, Councilman Sorge, Councilwoman Galate Goodman, Councilwoman Cerasoli, Mayor Ondish. JoAnne Sendler, Borough Administrator and Matthew Giacobbe, Borough Attorney, were also present.

**3. Adequate notice** of this meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice was published in the Roxbury Register and the Daily Record on December 31, 2008; Notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on December 23, 2008 and has been available to the public; notice of this meeting is on file in the office of the Borough Clerk.

**4. Flag Salute**

The Mayor asked for moment of silence to remember our troops fighting to preserve our freedom.

**5. Certification of Election**

The Clerk read the Certification of Election into the record.

**6. Swearing in of New Council Members**

**Mayor:** Will Council Members Elect William T. Doran and Stephen W. Sadow please step forward to be sworn in to serve 3-year terms on the Borough Council ending December 31, 2011.

The Borough Attorney administered the Oath of Office and Council Members Doran and Sadow took their places on the dais.

**7. Roll Call of the 2009 Council Members**

Councilman Driscoll, Councilman Sorge, Councilman Sadow, Councilwoman Galate Goodman, Councilwoman Cerasoli, Councilman Doran, Mayor Ondish.

**8. Invocation**

Borough Pastor Roy Roderick delivered the Invocation.

**9. Guests in Audience**

The Mayor recognized guests in the audience, naming Wharton Mayor and Freeholder Bill Chegwiddden, Wharton Administrator Jon Rheinhardt and Roxbury Legal Counsel Anthony Bucco, Jr.,

## 10. Nomination of Council President for 2009

Councilman Driscoll: Mayor, I nominate Councilwoman Cerasoli to serve as Council President for 2009; she will do a great job, she has the experience we need and she will be a positive change for Council. The Mayor publicly thanked Councilman Driscoll for serving as Council President for the last three years.

Second: Councilman Sorge.

Roll Call: Driscoll, Sorge, Sadow, Galate Goodman, Cerasoli, Doran.

Nomination Approved.

Council President Cerasoli thanked the Council, expressing that it is an honor to serve.

## 11. Mayor's Address

The Mayor read his address into the record.

The Mayor recognized and thanked Freeholder John Murphy for attending.

## 12. Appointments:

### Borough Officials

**Mayor:** I recommend appointment of the following Borough Officials:

Pension Certifying Official	Carolyn Rinaldi for a <b>1-year term</b> Finance Administrative Assistant
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DPW Supervisor	Paul Nelson for a <b>1-year term</b>
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Councilman Driscoll: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Councilman Doran: Second.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sorge, Sadow, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli,  
Doran.

Appointments Approved.

### Professional Services

**Mayor:** I recommend the following appointments for a **1-year term**:

Borough Attorney	Matthew Giacobbe, Esq. Scarinci Hollenbeck, LLC
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Special Counsel	Fred Semrau, Esq.
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Borough Engineer	Daren Phil Suburban Consulting Engineers
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Borough Auditor	Nisivoccia & Company
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Bond Counsel	John G. Hudak, Esq.
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Special Bond Counsel	John M. Cantalupo, Esq. Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer
Tax Appeal Appraiser	Scott Holzhauer, CTA, SCGREA
Borough Planner	Donna Holmquist Burgis Associates
Stormwater Management Consultant	Suburban Consulting Engineers
Zoning Official, Technical Assistant, Land Use Board Secretary	Suburban Consulting Engineers
Land Use Board Attorney	Michael Selvaggi, Esq.

The Mayor publicly recognized and thanked Borough Engineer Daren Phil for attending.

Councilman Doran: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Councilman Sadow: Second

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sorge, Sadow, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli,  
Doran.

Appointments Approved.

### **Mayor's Appointments**

**Mayor:** I recommend the following appointments for a **1-year term**:

Tax Search Officer:	Patricia Simari
Assessment Search Officer:	Linda DeSantis
Clean Communities Coordinator:	Paul Nelson
Recycling Coordinator:	Paul Nelson
Sussex County Water Quality Mgmt. Plan Policy Advisory Committee (PAC):	Doug Zellman
Historian:	Virginia Rooney
Licensed Water& Sewer Operator:	Paul Nelson
Police Matron:	Valerie Kourtz

League of Municipalities Rep.:	Mayor Arthur Ondish
Liaison to the Board of Education:	Councilwoman Galate Goodman
Liaison to the Board of Health:	Councilman Driscoll
Liaison to the Seniors Club:	Councilman Doran
Borough Pastor:	Pastor Roy Roderick
NJJIF Commissioner:	JoAnne Sendler
Alternate I:	Councilman Sorge
Public Safety Coordinator:	Chief Richard Peterson
Public Safety Coordinator:	JoAnne Sendler
Public Safety Coordinator:	Paul Nelson
Public Safety Clerk:	Patricia Simari
Public Safety Clerk:	Terry Smith
Deputy OEM Coordinator:	JoAnne Sendler
Deputy OEM Coordinator:	Chief Richard Peterson
Deputy OEM Coordinator:	Keith Licata
Deputy OEM Coordinator:	Chief Steve Norman
Deputy OEM Coordinator:	Patricia Simari
Secretary to OEM:	Diane Perillo
CDRS Representative by Mayor:	Mayor Arthur Ondish
CDRS Alt. Rep. by Mayor:	Councilman Sorge

Councilman Driscoll: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Council President Cerasoli: Second.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sorge, Sadow, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli, Doran.

Appointments Approved.

### **13. Council's Appointment to CDRS (1-year term)**

Councilman Driscoll: I nominate Councilman Sorge as Council's Representative to CDRS.

Councilman Doran: Second.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sorge, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli, Doran.

Abstain: Sadow.

Appointment Approved.

#### 14. Council Committee Appointments

**Mayor:** I ask for confirmation of the following appointments to Chair the Council Committees for the **Year 2009:**

**Finance:**

Chair: Councilman Driscoll (Galate Goodman, Sadow)

**Police:**

Chair: Councilwoman Galate Goodman (Driscoll, Cerasoli)

**Personnel & Public Relations:**

Chair: Councilman Sorge (Cerasoli, Galate Goodman)

**Fire, Rescue & OEM:**

Chair: Councilman Doran (Driscoll, Sorge)

**Parks & Recreation:**

Chair: Councilman Sadow (Doran, Sorge)

**DPW, Buildings, Grounds & Utilities:**

Chair: Councilwoman Cerasoli (Sadow, Doran)

Council President Cerasoli: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Councilman Sorge: Second.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sorge, Sadow, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli,  
Doran.

Appointments Approved.

#### 15. Fire Department Officers & Fire Official

**Mayor:** I recommend appointment of the following to the Fire Department as Officers for **2009 – 2010 (filling unexpired 2-year terms)**

Fire Chief: Steve Norman

Assistant Chief: Brian Heber

Captain: John Morsch

Lieutenant: Eric Fowler

Engineer: Jamie DeAngelis

Councilman Doran: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Council President Cerasoli: Second.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sorge, Sadow, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli,  
Doran.

Appointments Approved.

The Borough Attorney administered the Oath of Office.

**Mayor:** I recommend the appointment of the following:

**New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire and Safety,**  
as the **Fire Official** for the Year **2009 (1-year term)**

Councilman Driscoll: I move for confirmation of this appointment.

Councilman Sadow: Second.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sorge, Sadow, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli,  
Doran.

Appointment Approved.

#### **16. Council's Appointment to the Land Use Board**

Councilman Driscoll: I nominate Councilwoman Galate Goodman as a Class III  
Member of the Land Use Board for the Year 2009.

Council President Cerasoli: Second.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sorge, Sadow, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli,  
Doran.

Appointment Approved.

#### **17. Land Use Board Members**

**Mayor:** I recommend the following appointments to the Land Use Board:

Class I member - Mayor Arthur Ondish **(1-year term, expires 12/31/09)**

Class II member – JoAnne Sandler, Borough Administrator **(1-year term, expires 12/31/09)**

Michael Stanzilis, Class IV, Chairman, **(filling unexpired 4-year term, expires 12/31/10).**

Jan Robert VanDenHende, Class IV, **(2- year term, expires 12/31/10).**

Frank Hughes, Class IV, **(filling unexpired 2-year term, expires 12/31/09).**

Melissa Fostle, Class IV, **(filling unexpired 4-year term, expires 12/31/09).**

Margarette Wilson, Class IV, **(filling unexpired 4 year term, expires 12/31/10).**

Raymond Simard, Alternate 1, **(2-year term, expires 12/31/10).**

Leonard Loughridge, Alternate 2, **(2 year term, expires 12/31/10).**

Tom Foley, Alternate 3, **(2-year term, expires 12/31/10).**

John Windish, Alternate 4, **(2-year term, expires 12/31/10).**

Councilman Driscoll: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Councilman Doran: Second.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sorge, Sadow, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli,  
Doran.

Appointments Approved.

The Borough Attorney administered the Oath of Office.

### 18. Library Board of Trustees

**Mayor:** I recommend Councilwoman Cerasoli as Mayor's appointment to the Library Board of Trustees **(5-year appointment, expires 12/31/13).**

**Mayor:** I recommend Councilman Driscoll as Mayor's Alternate to the Library Board of Trustees **for the Year 2009.**

Councilman Doran: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Councilman Sorge: Second.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sorge, Sadow, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli, Doran.

Appointments Approved.

### 19. Local Assistance Board

**Mayor:** I recommend appointment of the following to the Local Assistance Board:

Sally Cambiotti **(2-year term, expires 12/31/10).**

Pastor Roy Roderick **(2-year term, expires 12/31/10).**

Tina Mayer **(1-year term, expires 12/31/09).**

Councilman Driscoll: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Councilman Doran: Second.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sorge, Sadow, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli, Doran.

Appointments Approved.

### 20. Board of Health

**Mayor:** I recommend appointment of the following to the Board of Health:

Wendy Mahler, **(3-year term, expires 12/31/11).**

Patricia Simari, Board of Health Administrator **(1-year term, expires 12/31/09).**

Councilman Sorge: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Councilman Driscoll: Second.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sorge, Sadow, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli, Doran.

Appointments Approved.

## 21. Recreation Committee:

**Mayor:** I recommend the following appointments to the **Recreation Committee**; appointed members **do not have to take an oath**, but I ask that they please stand up to be recognized after confirmation of their appointments.

Kelly Turner, Co-Chairperson, **(1-year term, expires 12/31/09)**.

Pat Esposito, Member, **(1-year term, expires 12/31/09)**.

Jackie Esposito, Alternate Member, **(1-year term, expires 12/31/09)**.

\_\_\_\_\_, Alternate Member, **(1-year term, expires 12/31/09)**.

Councilman Doran: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Councilman Sorge: Second.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sorge, Sadow, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli, Doran.

Appointments Approved.

## 22. Lake Hopatcong Commission

**Mayor:** I recommend appointment of the following to the Lake Hopatcong Commission:

Borough Representative: Richard O'Connor, **(2-year term, expires 12/31/10)**.

Borough Alternate Representative: Tom Foley, **(2-year term, expires 12/31/10)**.

Councilman Driscoll: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Councilman Sadow: Second.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sadow, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli, Doran.

Abstain: Sorge.

Appointments Approved.

## 23. Advisory Council Appointments

**Mayor:** Advisory Council appointed members **do not have to take an oath**, but I ask that they please stand up to be recognized after confirmation of their appointments.  
Their appointments are for a **1-year term**.

**Mayor:** I recommend the following appointments:

**Building Committee**

Councilwoman Cerasoli  
Councilman Doran  
JoAnne Sendler  
Daren Phil  
Paul Nelson  
Sandor Nyari  
Councilman Sorge, Alternate

**Citizens Budget Review Committee**

Peter Laue  
Roy Morance  
Joanne Wiseberg  
Sheila Studint  
Dick Ashton  
Anticipated Member, to be named  
Anticipated Member, to be named

**Code Book Review Committee**

Councilwoman Cerasoli  
JoAnne Sendler  
Borough Attorney  
Linda DeSantis

**Dial-A-Ride Committee**

Councilman Sorge  
Councilwoman Galate Goodman  
Diane Perillo

**Green Team Committee**

George Cicero, Sr.  
George Cicero, Jr.  
Frank Hughes  
Rose Quinn  
Barbara Shorter  
Lou DiFiore  
Jane Jameson  
MAPS Student, to be named  
MAPS Student, to be named

**Raritan Highlands Compact**

Councilman Driscoll  
JoAnne Sendler

**Technology Committee**

Councilman Driscoll  
 Councilman Sorge  
 Police Chief Richard Peterson  
 Fire Chief Steve Norman  
 Jim Garland  
 John Goldin  
 Frank Hughes

**Water & Sewer Committee**

Councilman Driscoll  
 Councilman Doran  
 Daren Phil  
 Andrew Holt  
 JoAnne Sandler  
 Paul Nelson  
 Sandor Nyari  
 Layne Morris  
 Carolyn Rinaldi, Recording Secretary  
 Councilwoman Cerasoli, Alternate

**Zoning Committee**

Councilwoman Cerasoli  
 Councilman Doran  
 Councilwoman Galate Goodman  
 Sandy Nyari  
 Daren Phil  
 Mike Selvaggi, Esq.  
 JoAnne Sandler

Councilman Driscoll: I move for confirmation of these appointments.

Council President Cerasoli: Second.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sorge, Sadow, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli,  
 Doran.

Appointments Approved.

**24. Borough Employees**

**Mayor:** I recommend the continued employment of all Borough Employees who were on the payroll on December 31, 2008, except for any employees whose services with the Borough may have been terminated at or on December 31, 2008.

Councilman Doran: Motion to Approve.

Councilman Driscoll: Second.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sorge, Sadow, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli,  
Doran.

Motion Approved.

## 25. Council Meeting Dates for 2009

**Mayor:** The Open Public Meetings Law, which is commonly referred to as the “Sunshine Law,” establishes the right of all citizens to have adequate advance notice of all public meetings and the right to attend meetings at which any business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon.

It also requires the official announcement during the first ten days of the New Year of all the official meeting dates. The Council Meetings will commence at 6:00 p.m. All Meetings will be held at the Municipal Building, 419 Howard Boulevard, Mount Arlington, New Jersey.

We have scheduled the Council Meetings as follows:

Tuesday, January 6 Reorganization Meeting – <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Monday, January 26	Monday, July 13
Monday, February 9 Monday, February 23	Monday, August 10
Monday, March 9 Monday, March 23	Monday, September 14 Monday, September 28
Monday, April 13 Monday, April 27	Monday, October 12 Monday, October 26
Monday, May 11 Tuesday, May 26 – <b>10:00 a.m.</b>	Monday, November 9 Monday, November 23
Monday, June 8 Monday, June 22	Monday, December 14

I think that it will be useful for me to mention at this time that the law specifies nine exceptions to the requirement for omitting the public to meetings. They are:

- (1) Matters ruled confidential by law.
- (2) Matters which would impair monies.
- (3) Matters constituting invasion of individual privacy.
- (4) Matters involving collective bargaining including negotiations.

- (5) Tactics and techniques involving protection, public safety and property and investigations of possible violations.
- (6) Matters involving acquisition of real property and investment of funds.
- (7) Litigation, contract negotiations, or matters involving attorney client relationship.
- (8) Personnel matters: hiring, firing, discipline, etc.
- (9) Deliberations after public hearing that may result in civil penalty or loss of license or permit.

## 26. Open to the Public

No one from the public requested to speak.

## 27. Resolutions

The following resolutions have been referred to Members of the Borough Council for reading and study and are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted by one motion of the Borough Council with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, the resolution may be removed and subject to a separate roll call.

### Resolutions

- 2009-01** Resolution Establishing the Rate of Interest on Delinquent Municipal Charges for the Year 2009.
- 2009-02** Resolution To Waive the Food & Drink Licensing Fees for the Recreation Committee Concession Stand for 2009.
- 2009-03** Resolution To Allow Cancellation of Tax and Utility Overpayments or Delinquent Amounts Less than \$10.00 for the Year 2009.
- 2009-04** Resolution Authorizing a Tax Sale to Be Held in the Year 2009.
- 2009-05** Resolution Designating Official Newspapers of the Borough.
- 2009-06** Resolution Authorizing the Official Depositories of the Borough.
- 2009-07** Resolution Providing For and Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Mount Arlington to Approve Disbursements Prior to Their Payment From the Borough's Petty Cash Fund.
- 2009-08** Resolution Authorizing Signatures on Payroll and Other Checks.
- 2009-09** Resolution Authorizing Municipal Attorney and Special Counsel to Undertake Certain Actions on Behalf of the Borough on Recommendation of the Tax Assessor.
- 2009-10** Resolution Appointing Rich Allocca, Wachovia Insurance Services, Inc., as the Borough's Risk Management Consultant.
- 2009-11** Resolution Appointing New Jersey Joint Insurance Fund Commissioner and Alternate I Member for the Borough of Mount Arlington.
- 2009-12** Resolution Appointing the Local Emergency Planning Council.
- 2009-13** Resolution Adopting a Form Required To Be Used for the Filing of Notices of Tort Claims Against the Borough of Mount Arlington.
- 2009-14** Resolution Supporting the Lake Hopatcong Commission.
- 2009-15** Resolution Supporting and Participating in the Volunteer Tuition Credit Program (P.L. 1998, C. 145).

- 2009-16** Resolution Appointing Steve Norman as Deputy OEM Coordinator.  
**2009-17** Resolution Authorizing Temporary Appropriations for Operating Purposes.  
**2009-18** Resolution Authorizing a Temporary Transfer of Funds.

**Resolutions Not Listed on Original Agenda:**

- 2009-19** Resolution Hiring Carolyn Rinaldi as Part-Time Clerical Help (Finance).  
**2009-20** Resolution Appointing Paul Nelson as Licensed Water & Sewer Operator.

Councilman Sorge: Motion to Approve Resolution #2009-01 through  
 #2009-20.

Council President Cerasoli: Second.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sorge, Sadow, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli,  
 Doran.

Motion Approved.

**28. Adjourn**

Councilman Sorge: Motion to Adjourn

Councilman Doran: Second.

All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

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Linda DeSantis, R.M.C.  
 Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved at Council Meeting of January 26, 2009.

# STATEMENT OF DETERMINATION

A STATEMENT of Determination of the **BOARD OF CANVASSERS**, relative to an Election held in the **BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON** County of Morris and State of New Jersey, for the election of certain Municipal Officers for the Municipality on the **4th day of November, 2008**.

The said Board does determine that at the said election:

NAME	OFFICE	TERM
William T. Doran	Borough Council	3 Years
Stephen W. Sadow	Borough Council	3 Years

was or were duly elected to the office and for the term above set forth.

**I DO HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing is a true, full and correct statement of the determination of the Board of Canvassers therein mentioned.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this **17th day of November, 2008**.

Attest:

  
Joan Bramhall  
Morris County Clerk

  
Chairman of the Board of County Canvassers  
John R. Sette

**STATE of NEW JERSEY,**  
**COUNTY of MORRIS**

I, **Joan Bramhall**, Clerk of the County of Morris, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, full and correct copy of the statement of the determination of the Board of County Canvassers relative to an election held in the Municipality or Political Subdivision thereof on the date therein noted, for certain Officers and the Certificate thereto appended as fully and entirely as the same remains on file in my office.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**,  
I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said County, at Morristown, on the **17th day of November, 2008**.



  
Joan Bramhall  
Morris County Clerk



Good evening and welcome everyone to the 2009 Mount Arlington Reorganization meeting. This meeting is very important since it puts the people in place that will be making the decisions that will continue to move Mount Arlington forward.

First I would like to congratulate Councilman Doran for his successful re-election. I would like to congratulate and welcome Steve Sadow to our team. I look forward to working with you Steve and continuing to work with you Bill as well as with our sitting veteran Councilmember's. Mount Arlington is fortunate to have these people who sit before you to make important decisions that affect our Borough.

I want to take a moment to recognize and thank our staff headed by our Administrator JoAnne Sendler. These are the people who deal with the day to day workings of the Borough. They are to be commended for the good work they do. The staff along with our professionals, the Borough employees, and the many volunteers keep Mount Arlington move forward. Without this great team we would not be able to move forward and accomplish the many goals we set. Making this Borough successful is a team effort and I am very proud to lead as Mayor.

On a personal note I attended some 113 meetings over this last year, on behalf of the Borough, and officially married 18 couples. I do really enjoy, respect and appreciate the opportunity given to me by all of you to serve in this capacity and to represent Mount Arlington as your Mayor.

Let me take a moment to focus on our volunteers. I so appreciate all the efforts that are made by volunteers. Our fire department is to be commended. I appreciate them taking the time to ride around our town on Halloween night passing candy out to the children. I also really appreciate seeing Santa riding atop the fire truck at Christmas time. I also want to thank our fire department for

participating in the parades they attend. It always makes me proud to see our equipment during these joyful events. I receive a text whenever there is an emergency call. I get a much different feeling when I see that text message and call in to see what the call is about. I am always concerned about their safety. I am pleased that we do provide the equipment necessary for them to perform their duties. When I hear notification of a call, during the wee hours of the evening, I think of those who are going to be rushing out of their lives to go to the assistance of others. Weather it be for strangers or friends, they respond in haste to help. Many of these calls, during the wee hours of the night, are the result of a low batter in a detector. Please do your part to save them some precious time and energy. Please remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors regularly. Thank you Mount Arlington Fire Department for being there and doing what you do. ( FRONT PAGE OF DAILY RECORD)- Article about rescuing a swan out of the frozen lake. This was the first official call for our new Chief.

Next I want to focus on the volunteers who fill our boards and committees. These are the people who sit through hours of meetings and keep the process working. I so enjoy working with these people who want nothing more than to give back to their community. It is a pleasure to get to meet and share time with these people. Thank you all for the time you give. Our recreation committee has been very active in organizing community events. I want to thank them for their good work. These events have been very successful and enjoyable.

I encourage all of our residents to be mindful of what goes on in our Borough. We make every effort to make information available in a timely manner. All we can do it make it available, we can't force anyone to take notice. We use avenues like our newsletters, the electronic signs, and our web page that includes minutes of meetings and announcements and of course the newspapers that

publish information. Please be mindful that the news media does not always report the whole story. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or concerns. The new buzz word of late seems to be transparency. I can assure you we have been following that way of business and will continue to do so.

I have made it a habit of looking back at the previous years “state of Mount Arlington” address to measure how we did at reaching the goals we set. Some of the goals we set and reached were:

- We were able to complete the reconstruction of Orben Drive phase I.
- We repaved all of Rogerene Way
- We made improvements at the Rogerene firehouse.
- We installed another piece of the sidewalk puzzle. The piece between the Library and Kadel Drive was important because it made an important connection.
- We completed the Edgemere Avenue reconstruction project
- We began the streetscape project with the remodeling of the outside of this building. The streetscape project will now move forward. There will be some electrical work done now. The lion’s share of the work will begin when the weather breaks. We had discussed putting in a traffic light for the firehouse but with the change in Howard Blvd that will not be necessary.
- We opened our new train station. I had discussed putting together some kind of jitney service to the station but after looking into it, it is very expensive. I hope our newly appointed Green Team may revisit this in the future.
- We finally broke ground on the installation of sewers on Parker Circle and Southard roads. This was a very long process of meeting requirements of the DEP and the Highlands Legislation. Once installation is complete we will

have newly paved roads for the residents to enjoy. With this project came the creation of a turn around cul de sac at the end of Southard Rd. This created a place for a turn around to avoid unsafe backing up practices and turn arounds in private driveways.

- We are in the process of purchasing a new fire truck. The truck has been ordered and is being custom built by the vendor.
- We are still negotiating with the DEP about the approvals of water allocation permits to enable the construction of the two office buildings and the Shadow Woods development. This has been a long and tedious process that continues. These are needed rateables and are appropriate for construction. There are more meetings planned for the beginning of this year.
- We were able to repair our municipal dock. There is more work to be done in the spring but the project came in at much less a cost than we had anticipated.

Looking back at 2008 it was a challenging time. This was the first time during my tenure in Mount Arlingtons leadership; the voters rejected the school budget. This is not something that anyone on this Council is elated to have happen. This is a very challenging situation to deal with. We have to take into consideration that the public feels the budget is unacceptable yet the school board felt it appropriate. I feel this council handled the budget in the most professional and appropriate way possible. This is something that causes hardship between the Mayor and Council and the Board of Education in most cases. I want to thank most of the school board members who understood the situation and were able to accept the resolution and move on. I also want to thank the Council for seeing to the will of the people to make some cuts but at the same time not preventing the Board from moving forward in a crippled fashion.

I want to thank the Board of Education for their hard work and dedication to our children and our schools. They are in a very difficult spot. Having to provide the amenities that are mandated from the state is not easy for large school districts. To have to deal with them in a small district is even more of a challenge without having to raise taxes. I will offer again, as I have since getting on Council and especially since being elected Mayor, my hand in a spirit of friendship and willingness to work together. The school budget consumes the lion's share of the tax dollar and I want to work together with the Board to help save money wherever we can. We do share some services and we are always open to looking at any new opportunities to expand that partnership.

(FRONT PAGE OF DAILY RECORD)- Corzine about slashing aide to municipalities and schools.

One can not pick up a newspaper or watch the news and not hear in what bad fiscal shape the state is in. It is very frustrating, as a local elected official, to see the state pushing costs down to the local property tax payer. When the personal income tax and sales tax were created, they were supposed to take care of all the needs of the state. The lottery was supposed to take care of the cost of higher education. Unfortunately, due to many circumstances and many people, this now is not enough. Due to the lack of the states ability to live within its means, we as property taxpayers have to help pay a good portion of the bills. Just today Governor Corzine announced what he feels will have to be cut out of the state budget in order to meet the anticipated shortfall. Many of these cuts are going to affect local property taxes. This is not unique to Mount Arlington as every municipality is facing the same ugly scenario. What services can we afford to keep and what do we have to look at outsourcing or eliminating? Mount Arlington faced a larger tax increase last year due to many factors that came together at the same time. Much like your own budget at home, with the energy

costs rising as they did, our budget was increased. Add that with the increased costs for insurance coverage, increased obligation to the state to help pay for public pension costs, and a decrease in our municipal aid from the state. At the same time the economy dropped and gave us lower revenues from our investments. The Highlands Protection Act was passed and that prevented new revenue from approved development. The last piece of the perfect storm was the fact we rolled our short term notes into long term bonds when the market yielded a great rate. This was a good move but we should have raised the 07 tax rate a little more to cover the interest cost that came due on the notes. All of this lead to a larger increase in the tax levy than we have had to make in a long time. I believe that was an anomaly that we should not have to face again this year. We are going to see an increase this year but modest. I am not sure everyone appreciates the fact that even with last years increase, we were in the top ten lowest tax rated municipalities in Morris County. If you read the latest statistics, Morris County is rated as the 6<sup>th</sup> best County to live in across the entire country. For Mount Arlington to be in the lowest 10 of the 39 municipalities in Morris County I am satisfied we are doing a good job. Is there more that can be done, of course, and we will continue to do our best.

As I said last year, we will continue to look at sharing services with our schools, our neighboring communities and with Morris County. I am very proud to report that we signed an agreement to participate in a shared court. After over two years of negotiating, we were able to reach the goal. As of February 1, or there about, our municipal court will be located in Dover. Thanks to Mayor Dodd of Dover, Mayor Chegwidden of Wharton, Mayor Leary of Mine Hill and Mayor Snyder of Rockaway Borough and their respective teams, the deal has been struck. I also have to thank Linda Murphy who is the Shared Service coordinator for Morris County. She was the one who coordinated much of the work. She did a great job of taking all of our concerns and helped us work

through them to come to consensus. We had a small ceremony upon our signing this agreement and there will be a much larger celebration sometime later this month. Governor Corzine and DCA Commissioner Doria have expressed an interest in coming to congratulate our work. Governor Corzine has been promoting sharing services and this is a first for Morris County. Having 5 towns get together is a milestone and I foresee this as the beginning of many moving in the same direction. It is a matter of survival. I would much rather see shared services than consolidation of municipalities. This merger will result in a shared savings of over 2.5 million dollars over a ten year period. Mount Arlington will be saving 70k right from the beginning and we hope that number will rise when all things are totaled.

We are looking into sharing our construction department as well. These actions are paramount in order to continue to offer the many services to our residents that we do without significantly raising taxes. We are going to continue to explore every avenue we can to maximize efficiency. If you have any ideas, please feel free to reach out to us. I am continually on the hunt for new ideas and ways to be more efficient. Through my position on the Executive Board of the League of Municipalities, my sitting on the board of directors for the New Jersey Conference of Mayors, my being a trustee with Morris Tomorrow, and the many other organizations I interact with I am always exploring. At the same time I share our successes and others have used this information to help their communities. I have appointed a Citizens Budget Review Committee. I look for this committee to review and share their observations and concerns with the Council and myself in order to make sure we have covered all of our bases. I thank those newly appointed members, in advance, for their help and wisdom in crafting a sound budget.

We have some goals for 2009 but this list is very limited as far as capital work. Due to the sluggish economy, to say it nicely, we are

limiting our capital work but are moving forward with projects that have been in the pipeline where grant money was involved. Those projects include:

- The realignment of Howard Boulevard and Altenbrandt Avenue. This is a dangerous intersection and Morris County has agreed to work with us in sharing the cost of the improvement. On top of that we received a substantial grant from the Department of Transportation.
- The Hopatcong Avenue road reconstruction project that includes curbing and storm drain work. This project ties in with the Edgemere Avenue project that was completed last year.
- The Village Center Flood Control project. This project will include working in conjunction with the Lake Hopatcong Commission and the EPA where a sand filter will be installed near the Mount Arlington Beach. This filter will help reduce phosphorous from draining into Lake Hopatcong. This will help improve water quality and reduce the ingredient for weed growth. This project will keep us in line with the Federal Storm Water Runoff regulations.
- The streetscape project will begin in early spring and as I said earlier, this project will include taking care of a safety issue in front of the main firehouse.
- We look forward to the completion of the Circle, Parker and Southard sanitary sewer installation.
- We will complete the reconstruction of our municipal dock, which a very important asset of the Boroughs, that needed to be improved. We had put off this work 5 years ago but this year it was in a condition that warranted major repair. As I stated earlier, these repairs did come in at a much lower cost than we had originally anticipated. This will lead to some capital money being reallocated to reducing our overall tax base.

- We are working with the Department of Transportation and New Jersey Transit to help with a very significant safety issue that has arisen since the opening of our Mount Arlington Train Station. There is a need to install pedestrian side walks in order to connect the train station with our existing sidewalk network. This is a very challenging project due to the location. I look forward to a solution being designed and implemented as soon as possible.

We do need to continue to improve our Borough, maintaining the Boroughs assets and stay on course with our plans as best we can. To let things go, without improvement, has proven to be costly in the past. Many of the improvements we have made over the last 6 years are what have made our Borough a desirable place to live and prosper. The new development in Mount Arlington has been occupied quickly due to our attractiveness and sound budgeting practices in maintaining our assets and infrastructure. I am glad we invested when we did, when times were good, so that now that there is a downturn we are in good standing and will make it through this economically challenging time. We will avoid having to be in a crisis mode. Our infrastructure is secure, are equipment is modern and our Borough is on solid ground!

I am excited about the newly appointed “Green Team Committee”. I anticipate this committee will work on finding new ways to save the Borough money and to help the environment. As you may see on television and read in the newspapers, there is a significant movement in the sustainable direction. I think this makes sense. I look at it as being responsible and reasonable. There are many things that can be done to reduce our waste and help our environment. This kind of effort is grass root based. I am involved with many different groups and it is exciting to see the energy that is being generated to “go green” and be sustainable. One way we started to do this was by accepting a generous donation of a hydrogen generator to be installed in one of our

Borough vehicles to help increase fuel mileage. This will help reduce costs and help the environment by burning less fuel. I would like to recognize Denise and George Cisero for their generous donation of this unit to Mount Arlington. We have installed it in our meals on wheels van and are looking forward to the results. Upon it being successful, we can obtain grant money and purchase more units for the rest of our vehicles. Thank you for getting us started in the direction of “being green”.

I have to take this moment to recognize Denise and George’s children, George Jr and Tyler. These two young Mount Arlington residents began a free local paper, this past year, called the Lake Hopatcong Times. They came to the Lake Hopatcong Commission and offered to help. They have donated money to the Commission and have helped spread information about how to help our Lake. They have done such a good job at providing information in this publication that when it came time for the state Department of Environmental Protection to give our awards for those who made significant contributions to the protection of our natural resources, the Lake Hopatcong Commission submitted their names. They did not win the top award but they did win an honorable mention award and were invited to Drumthwacket, the Governors Mansion in Princeton, to meet DEP Commissioner Mark Mauriello to receive their award. I am very proud of these two young men especially because they are our very own, born and raised in Mount Arlington! Thank you guys and keep up the good work! I look forward to working with you on the Green Team Committee. (PICTURES OF BOYS AT DRUMTHWACKET)

As Chair of the Lake Hopatcong Commission I will report that the Commission is working on completing our Business Plan to determine the actual operating costs of the Commission. Due to a lack of a sustainable funding source, the Commission has never reached the potential that was envisioned upon its inception in 2000. Every year it has been a game of how much money the State

has chosen to provide. It has never been what has been requested through the budget process, therefore, it has operated on a basis of how much money do we have and can we make it through another season. This year that has come to an end. The state has cut off funding for the operating budget in the area of weed harvesting. This has been the main focus of operations due to the extensive weed growth around the lake. The state, under the Corzine administration, does not feel obligated to pay for weed harvesting since it is not a necessity for the best interest of the lake and the water quality. The state will continue funding projects to improve the water quality by the installation of natural and artificial filtration systems. They feel that the money for the operating budget, much of which is spent on weed harvesting, should be raised through user fees. Due to the fact there are no user fees in place, it has caused the field staff to be dismissed due to a lack of funds to pay them. The equipment is in storage and has not been maintained from the wear and tear of the 2008 season. I am fearful of the inability to have staff and equipment to get the weeds harvested in the spring therefore leaving much of the lake unusable. The only saving grace is that this was the large drawdown. I am hopeful that while the water level is down we will have a cold freezing winter that will hopefully kill more weeds than usual. I hope this will slow down the growth for this coming year. Senator Bucco and Senator Orahio continue to work on securing funding for the Lake Hopatcong Commission and we all support their efforts. The big concern is if they are unsuccessful in securing funds, what will happen to the lake.

I am working with members of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Community Affairs and the Department of the Treasury to come to some sort of understanding of how we can raise funds for the LHC. This may result in some sort of user fees but we want to be sure that if any fees are implemented, the money will stay here at the lake and not go to Trenton. Work continues and I will provide updates of our

ongoing progress. In the meantime, I am concerned about how this will impact our local businesses and everyone who enjoys the use of the lake.

There is much more that I could go on about but I think this covers the major issues. In summary, I will report that the State of Mount Arlington is good. The future is always uncertain. No one knows how the economy is going to go but we are keeping a firm hand on the wheel and will steer the Borough on the best course possible to get through this storm. I welcome feedback and offer any help I can give.

I will take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. God Bless all of you and God Bless our armed forces. Remember them in your prayers for they sacrifice everything to protect our freedom.

Thank you all very much!