

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 13, 2009**

1. Call to Order

- 2. 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 Wednesday, December 31, 2008; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on December 31, 2008 and has been available to the public; notice of this meeting is on file in the office of the Borough Clerk.

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et seq.). The Borough Council opens every public meeting for comments of the public. However, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 : “Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the discretion of a public body to permit, prohibit or regulate the active participation at any meeting,....”

Speakers at Borough meetings shall have five minutes to present their comments to the Borough Council so as not to consume time that would otherwise be allotted to other persons who wish to speak. Speakers shall be courteous to the Council and other persons attending the meeting. Offensive remarks or unruly behavior will not be allowed and anyone who violates this policy will be barred from participating in the meeting.

3. Flag Salute

The Mayor asked for a moment of silence to remember our troops overseas and welcomed home resident Greg Somjen who recently returned from duty.

4. Roll Call

Councilman Driscoll, Councilman Sadow, Councilwoman Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli, Councilman Doran, Mayor Ondish. JoAnne Sendler, Borough Administrator, and Matthew Giacobbe, Borough Attorney, were also present. Councilman Sorge was absent.

5. Presentations/Mayor's Appointments

1. Mayor's Appointment of David Karpman to the Mount Arlington Green Initiatives Committee.

The Mayor publicly appointed David Karpman to the Mount Arlington Green Initiatives Committee.

Motion to Approve: Council President Cerasoli.

Second: Councilman Doran.

All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

2. Proclamation Naming April as Donate Life Month.
The Mayor read the Proclamation into the record.

3. Proclamation Naming June as Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month in Mount Arlington.
The Mayor read the Proclamation into the record.

6. Old Business

1. Consent for Snow Shoveling Services.

The Borough Attorney stated that this would be discussed in Executive Session as an attorney/client privilege; there will be no action taken this evening.

2. Council Committee Reports.

- Councilman Sadow, Recreation: The Commission is experiencing successful growing pains.
- Councilman Doran, Fire Department: Additional repair work is being done at the Lake Rogerene Firehouse which should be completed this week. Councilman Doran stated they had a meeting to discuss the strategic plans of where to house the fire and EMS equipment while work is being done on Howard Boulevard; they have come up with a plan that should not cause any delay in service during the six-to-twelve week construction period, beginning April 20th. The Mayor stated that the electronic signs will announce the construction and letters to the affected residents have been sent by Suburban. The Mayor stated that this project has been planned for ten years and the money has been bonded and secured, grants have been secured, and will not be affecting the current budget.
- Council President Cerasoli, DPW: The DPW is very busy doing transitional work from winter to spring. Council President Cerasoli asked that the memo from Paul Nelson, dated April 2, 2009, be included in the record.
- Councilwoman Galate Goodman, Board of Education: The Board of Education has had extensive budget meetings and will be going to vote at less than \$30.00 for the year per average household. The budget will be voted on April 21, 2009 from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The schools are sponsoring a Food Drive and Phones for Soldiers campaign where people can donate their old cell phones to be recycled; the soldiers in Iraq will receive phone cards. The schools are holding a fundraiser, a Dare to Dream video.
- Councilwoman Galate Goodman, Green Team: The flyers regarding proper fertilizer use were distributed to the schools and all local businesses.
- Councilwoman Galate Goodman, Police: Still in contract negotiations.
- Council President Cerasoli: Principal Stuart Mason spoke with Jim Garland regarding producing a promotional video of a day in the life of a Mount Arlington student. Mark Miller and Jim Garland produced the video Dare to Dream, which was done with the support of the Library, at no cost to the taxpayers.
- Councilman Driscoll, Board of Health: There are times the Board of Health does not have a quorum for their meetings (only six per year) and questioned if the Council Liaison would be able to vote if no quorum of members were present. The Borough Attorney stated that the liaison would have to be appointed as an alternate member because he is not a voting member; this would have to be specified by ordinance. The Borough Attorney suggested adding alternate members so if there is an absence, they can be assured of a quorum. The Board of Health is an official designated body and have legal mandates so they have to have public meetings and a quorum; advisory committees do not take official action so they do not need a quorum to hold a meeting. The Borough Attorney will revise our ordinance to expand the membership.

7. New Business

1. Repair of Privately Owned Sidewalks.

- The Mayor stated that some of the older sidewalks in town are cracking and heaving; her received a letter questioning who will be doing these repairs. The Mayor has spoken with Mayors from other municipalities; some put money into a general fund and use taxpayer dollars to repair the sidewalks. The Borough Administrator stated that this came up years ago and our DPW Super at that time thought it was much too costly and that we were saddled with a safety issue; once we begin, what is our responsibility to all the sidewalks in town. The decision a few years ago was not to move forward because of the cost and liability. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

8. Utility Receipt Report for the Month of March, 2009.

The Clerk read the Utility Receipt Report for March, 2009 into the record.
Grand Total: \$42,087.94.

Tax Collector's Report for the Month of March, 2009.

The Clerk read the Tax Collectors Report for March, 2009 into the record.

Total Receipts: \$124,299.43.

Councilman Sadow requested a year to year comparison of these reports at each meeting. The Clerk will request comparison reports from Patricia Simari and copy CFO Monica Goscicki. Councilman Sadow stated that in this difficult economic time, it is his fear that in addition to the status of what we have, we may be looking forward to delinquencies and/or reassessments that would affect the income and he would like to be able to compare that on an ongoing basis as we go forward. Council agreed to these reports being submitted with comparisons on a monthly basis as well as a year to year quarterly total.

9. Finance Report for the Month of March, 2009.

The Clerk read the Finance Report for March, 2009 into the record.

Ending Balance: \$5,836,253.74.

10. Open to Public

Pat Esposito, 4 Hopatcong Avenue:

- Mr. Esposito had questions regarding soccer; his soccer season starts this week and he is also a town rep for the Rockaway Valley Soccer League. The Borough Administrator stated that Terry Smith simply needs the name and home addresses of referees and some form of a back-up, which she asked Deanna to provide; we need to specify the reason behind the PO for \$750. Mr. Esposito listed the various referee fees for the different levels of soccer. The Borough Administrator asked if Mr. Esposito could write up a list now, at the meeting, sign it, and she would have the PO released for him tomorrow. Mr. Esposito stated that the referees get paid at the game so he has to have the cash for them. The Borough Administrator requested Mr. Esposito write the date that the soccer season ends because we need everything returned within one week after that. Mr. Esposito agreed that a procedure has to be developed but his season starts in 3 days and must get the PO's cleared. The Mayor thanked Mr. Esposito for his efforts.

11. Approval of Minutes

None.

Motion to Move the Executive Session to the End of the Meeting:

Councilman Sadow.

Second: Councilman Driscoll.

All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

13. Resolutions

2009-70 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Approving the Check Register Dated April 13, 2009.

Motion to Approve: Council President Cerasoli.

Second: Councilman Driscoll.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Driscoll, Sadow, Galate Goodman, Council President Cerasoli, Doran – with the exception of check #7405 – 09-00419.

Nay: None.

Motion Approved.

- 2009-71** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Temporary Parking Restrictions and Road Closures During the Memorial Day Parade.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Driscoll.

Second: Councilman Doran.

Roll Call:

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

Nay: None.

Motion Approved.

- 2009-72** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Honoring Our Troops and "Support Our Troops Day".

Motion to Approve: Councilman Doran.

Second: Council President Cerasoli.

Roll Call:

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

Nay: None.

Motion Approved.

- 2009-73** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Establishment of a Change Fund for the Board of Recreation Commission.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Driscoll.

Second: Councilman Sadow.

Roll Call:

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

Nay: None.

Motion Approved.

- 2009-74** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Opposing Governor Corzine's FY 2010 State Budget.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Driscoll.

Second: Councilman Sadow.

Councilman Doran agreed with the resolution but does not agree with the term "middle class" as it is discriminatory in this context; Council directed the Clerk to remove that term from the body of the resolution.

Roll Call:

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

Nay: None.

Motion Approved.

- 2009-75** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Establishment of a Petty Cash Fund for the Borough.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Doran.

Second: Councilman Driscoll.

Roll Call:

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

Nay: None.

Motion Approved.

- 2009-76** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the 2009 Temporary Budget 4/13/09 Version.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Driscoll.

Second: Councilwoman Galate Goodman.

Councilman Doran stated that one of our budgeting considerations were to cut back on the lifeguards and therefore reduce some of this expense, \$20,000 per year, but this issue has not yet been resolved. Councilman Driscoll stated that just because the money is allotted for the lifeguards, it does not have to all be spent; this will also be discussed in Executive Session under Personnel.

Roll Call:

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

Nay: None.

Motion Approved.

- 2009-77** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Transferring the Borough's Public Assistance Program to the County of Morris.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Sadow.

Second: Councilman Driscoll.

Council President Cerasoli stated that the local assistance only handled cases without children; if a person had children, they had to go to the County anyway. The Mayor stated that next year he will not appoint the Local Assistance Board as their function was to oversee the social services/welfare issues. The Borough Administrator stated that this transfer will result in a savings of a little over \$8,000 per year and lends to people's privacy; the Mayor and Council never know the names of recipients but recipients coming in and out of the building to utilize the services sacrifices their privacy.

Roll Call:

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

Nay: None.

Motion Approved.

2009-78 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Making Application to the Division of Local Government Services for Extraordinary Municipal Aid Application Program.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Driscoll.

Second: Councilman Sadow.

The Mayor stated that if we don't received this aid, we will be looking for a cap waiver and if we don't receive the waiver, we are going to be forced to make some serious cuts in the existing bare bones budget; we should have a decision on this application in June. Councilman Sadow stated that only two municipalities in Morris County received this aid last year. Councilman Doran referred to Section V of the application and suggested we strengthen our position by including the part time employees we have let go; we are selling a condition and the verbiage needs to be more convincing, more hard-hitting. The Borough Administrator stated that Joe Kovalcik will be joining the meeting, at which time we can go through this verbiage with him.

Roll Call:

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

Nay: None.

Motion Approved.

14. Ordinances – Introduction

None.

15. Ordinances – Second Reading

None.

16. Motions

1. Acknowledgement By Council: Transfer Resolution #2008-159, adopted November 10, 2008, had listing of Recycling O/E which should have read Landfill Disposal, same dollar amount of \$1,000.

Motion to Acknowledge: Councilman Driscoll.

Second: Councilman Sadow.

All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

17. Mayor's Report

The Mayor read his report into the record.

The Mayor also mentioned the article in the NJLM Magazine regarding our shared court services with the other four municipalities; we are the largest group of towns to do this so far and we are all being commended on this effort.

The Mayor discussed some items in the Communications Packets:

April 3, 2009:

#26: Free Seminar on NJ Energy Conservation Initiatives.

April 8, 2009:

- #1: The Mayor urged everyone to contact the Governor's office if possible because the Bill regarding limiting age-restricted housing is still on his desk and has not yet been signed; Assembly Bill 3772 and Senate Bill 2577. This Bill, if enacted, could have a negative effect on Mount Arlington.

18. Borough Administrator's Report

The Borough Administrator will be discussing issues in Executive Session.

12. Executive Session

2009-69 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, Authorizing An Executive Session of the Mayor and Borough Council and Excluding the Public from That Portion of the Meeting.

Executive Session Topics: Negotiations of the Police Contract, Sale of Municipal Property, Shared Services – Construction Department, Firehouse Improvement Bids and Personnel. There will be no action taken after Executive Session.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Sadow.
Second: Councilman Driscoll.
All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.
Motion Approved.

Motion to Return to Open Session: Councilman Doran.
Second: Councilman Driscoll.
All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.
Motion Approved.

Council President Cerasoli asked the Clerk to reserve the Council Chambers on May 4, 2009 for the annual meeting of the Historical Society.

The Mayor reminded Council of the Morris County League Dinner on April 15th at Bretton Woods in Morris Plains, where a covenant will be signed with Picatinny for military families.

19. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Councilman Doran.
Second: Councilman Driscoll.
All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.
Motion Approved.

Linda DeSantis, RMC
Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved at Council Meeting on April 27, 2009.

BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON

MOUNT ARLINGTON, NEW JERSEY

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, every human life has matchless value, and during National Donate Life Month, we reaffirm our commitment to raising awareness about organ donation and the importance of making the decision to donate and express our appreciation to those who have donated organs, tissue and marrow; and,

WHEREAS, over 100,000 Americans, over 4,500 in New Jersey, are currently on the waiting list for an organ transplant and thousands more need life enhancing tissue transplants; and

WHEREAS, we urge all New Jersey residents to register with the state's donor registry, to say yes to organ and tissue donation on their driver's license and share their decision with family and friends; and,

WHEREAS, during National Donate Life Month, we celebrate the life-saving work of medical professionals and researchers and the many others whose actions reflect our commitment to a brighter tomorrow.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey proclaim April 2009 as Donate Life Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge health care professionals, volunteers, educators, government agencies, faith based and community groups and private organizations to help raise awareness of the urgent need for organ and tissue donors throughout our state.



Arthur R. Ondish, Mayor

April 13, 2009

BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON

MOUNT ARLINGTON, NEW JERSEY

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, Myasthenia Gravis is a neuro-muscular disease striking children and adults, affecting control of voluntary muscles and afflicting several hundred of our fellow New Jerseyans; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of this disorder include, but are not limited to, difficulty moving, breathing, swallowing, speaking and seeing; and

WHEREAS, the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Inc. is a non-profit organization founded, "to facilitate the timely diagnosis and optimal care of individuals affected by myasthenia gravis and closely related disorders, and to improve their lives through programs of patient services, public information, medical research, professional education, advocacy and patient care;" and

WHEREAS, Myasthenia Gravis is the most common neuromuscular disorder affecting the residents of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting to recognize the many physicians who demonstrate an untiring effort to treat this disease and search for a cure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey proclaim June 2009 as Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month in the Borough of Mount Arlington.



Arthur R. Ondish, Mayor

April 13, 2009

BOROUGH OF MT. ARLINGTON

419 HOWARD BOULEVARD
MT. ARLINGTON, NEW JERSEY 07856
TAX & UTILITY OFFICE
(973) 398-6832 EXT. 13 & 14
FAX (973) 398-2309

UTILITY RECEIPT REPORT FOR

MONTH OF March 2009

<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NO.</u>
\$ 8,884.51	SOLID WASTE RECEIPTS	190-0353-097
\$ 26,673.30	SEWER RECEIPTS	190-0356-097
\$ 6,530.13	WATER RECEIPTS	190-0354-097
\$ 42,087.94	GRAND TOTAL	
\$ 0.00	(TRUST ACCT) SEWER CONNECTION FEE INSTALLMENT PLAN RECEIPTS	
	WATER REPAIR RECEIPTS (INCLUDED IN WATER RECEIPT TOTAL)	
\$ 20.00	RETURN CHECK FEE (WATER)	

Completed By Patricia E. Simari, CTC *PS*

BOROUGH OF MT. ARLINGTON

419 HOWARD BOULEVARD
MT. ARLINGTON, NEW JERSEY 07856
TAX & UTILITY OFFICE
(973) 398-6832 EXT. 13 & 14
FAX (973) 398-2309

To the Mayor & Council of the Borough of Mt. Arlington:
I hereby submit my report of receipts & disbursements for

The Month of March 2009

Dated April 1, 2009

Completed By Patricia E. Simari, CTC

Collections:

Current Taxes (8-01-17-001-001)	\$ <u>108,804.42</u>
<u>2008</u> Taxes (8-01-17-001-002)	\$ <u>13,124.01</u>
_____ Taxes (Collected at Tax Sale)	
Future Taxes (8-01-17-001-004)	
Municipal Redemption (8-01-17-004-001)	
Interest & Costs (8-01-08-112-000)	\$ <u>2,356.00</u>
Interest & Costs (Collected at Tax Sale)	
Return Ck. Fee (8-01-16-500-021)	
Tax Searches (8-01-08-105-010)	
Duplicate Bills (8-01-16-500-021)	
3 rd Party Red./Subs (8-01-17-004-002)	
3 rd Party Red. Int./Fees (8-01-17-004-003)	
Misc. Copies (8-01-16-500-021)	
Tax Sale Costs (8-01-17-001-005)	
Tax Sale Costs (Collected at Tax Sale)	
Tax Sale Premiums	
6% Delinquent Penalty (8-01-16-500-021)	
Tax Paid Certification	\$ <u>15.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$ <u>124,299.43</u>

BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON
FINANCE OFFICE

Finance Report for March 2009

Beginning Balance	6,857,509.02
Receipts	206,020.68
Disbursements	1,227,275.96
Ending Balance	5,836,253.74

Borough of Mt. Arlington
Department of Public Works
1 Altenbrand Ave.
Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856
Tel: 973-398-4200
Fax: 973-398-3344

Memorandum

Date: 4-2-09

To: Maureen Cerasoli

From: Paul Nelson

Cc: Mayor and Council

Subject: DPW Weekly Report for 4-3 to 4-09-2009

Repaired multiple water pipes inside concession stand that had split during the winter. Cut out bad section of pipe and install repair coupling inline. Replace water valve that was not functioning.

During heavy rains found that a catch basin on Rooney road was clogged. Removed grate and found a log and debris wedged in pipe. Used jet truck with root cutter attachment, cutter uses high pressure water to move through the pipe while at the same time operates a carbide bit saw at the end spinning at high RPM to cut through anything in the pipe.

Cleaned out drainage culvert on Windemere where it passes under the road at Barnes Bros. We had installed a grate at the opening of the pipe to catch all big debris from washing through and causing a clog in pipe under road.

Police car 105 was experiencing a drivability problem after running a full diagnostic check of the electrical and computer controls it was determined that under certain driving conditions that the fuel pump would drop in pressure to 20psi, it should stay at 36psi. Removed fuel tank and install new fuel pump assembly and check for leaks and road test for proper operation and fuel pressure.

At a request for Suburban Engineers the public works installed 3/4inch QP stone at the fire lane on W. Bertrand Rd to help relieve a water run off issue that was accruing during a heavy rain storm

Borough of Mt. Arlington
Department of Public Works
1 Altenbrand Ave.
Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856
Tel: 973-398-4200
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At a request for Suburban Engineers the public works installed 3/4 inch QP stone at the fire lane on W. Bertrand Rd to help relieve a water run off issue that was accruing during a heavy rain storm

Performed utility mark outs for the street scape project on Howard Blvd as well as the various other site around the boro for other contractors working on residential homes.

Serviced the Dial-a-ride van, oil change, tire rotation, check front end steering components for wear and all safety devices and lights.

Mayor report for 4/13/09

Since our 3/23/09 meeting:

3/24/09- We had a meeting with NJ Transit to further discuss the sidewalk issue and maintenance of the sidewalks. There are some options we need to explore.

3/24/09- Spoke about Sustainable Jersey at an Oakland, NJ Environmental Committee meeting. It was televised and should have run on Channel 77 on Cablevision for a week or so.

3/25/09- Attended a Legislative Review Committee Meeting in Princeton

3/27/09- Attended the Morris Tomorrow Gala at the Westin in Morristown. It was a very successful event.

3/31/09- I attended LOM Housing Summit in New Brunswick.

3/31/09- Spoke to Environmental Committee in Teaneck about Sustainable Jersey

4/2/09- Met with Mayor Felter and Administrator Leach about Construction shared services.

4/3/09- Attended ELC meeting where Assemblyman Wisinewski was the guest speaker. Assemblyman Wisinewski is the head of the Assembly Transportation Committee.

4/3/09- Attended PSE&G Green Fest at the Garden State Exhibit Center in the Sustainable Jersey Booth.

4/3/09- Attended fundraiser at Freeholder Chegwiddens home.

4/6/09- Attended Mayor Cory Bookers Birthday celebration and fundraiser at the Prudential Center in Newark. Mayor Booker is a member of the Executive Board of the LOM.

4/7/09- Attended my first meeting as a member of the US Green Building Committee Advisory Board in Morristown.

4/8/09- Attended a preconstruction meeting about Streetscape with emergency services and Daren.

4/8/09- Attended a Green Building Event at Stevens Institute to talk about Sustainable Jersey.

4/10/09- Attended an Executive Board meeting of the Mayors Committee for a Green Future in New Brunswick.

4/11/09- Officiated a wedding ceremony at the Arlington

4/11/09- I stopped by the Easter Egg Hunt at the Civic Center. I want to commend Kelly Turner and her daughter, as well as the other volunteers, who made it a really great time for the young children that attended. I counted at least 40 children in attendance as well as their mothers and fathers. Even in the rain, it was a very bright time.

In between all of these activities I handle a mired of calls from Borough residents. I help them with their needs and direct them to the appropriate people who they need to be in touch with to help them. I don't list all of those incidents but there are many. Thanks you my great staff we are usually able to resolve the problems immediately.

For the last 3 weeks I have been fielding calls and emails concerning the water level of Lake Hopatcong. The bottom line is

we need rain. The problem with the Lake is not outflow it is inflow. It was a very dry winter which led to very little winter thaw. It was the driest February in recorded history and the 14th driest March since 1887. Many have been concerned about the water release at the dam. The rules say we have to release 7.5mgpd into the Musconetcong River in order to maintain the ecosystem downstream. We asked the DEP to reduce the flow to the very minimum allowed when we have lake level issues and that is 5.3 mgpd. They agreed and that is what is being released currently and since the middle of March. The next and lowest level that can be released, if the Governor declares a state of drought conditions is 3mgpd. The state is not in that condition at this time so we have it reduced to the lowest level possible. There have been many pushing to stop all release but that is not possible from an ecological perspective. The answer here is rain and lots of it. The lake is still usable it is just not fully usable. There are those concerned about the loss of business with the lake down but we really have no control over that at this time. We have gained 6inches over the last 10 days so it is rising but just very slowly due to the lack of moisture. I ask everyone to be patient and let nature take its course as it always has in the past.

I want to remind everyone about the Morris County League of Municipalities quarterly meeting at the Bretton Wood on Wed April 15th. I will be signing the covenant to commit the Borough to helping military personnel and their families in any way they can. The families are left behind when personnel are deployed and they have needs that we can all assist them with.

During the day on April 15 I will be attending a State League of Municipalities energy summit in New Brunswick. It is a free event and I encourage anyone who can go to please do so.