

Mayor Hanics called the Meeting of the Common Council of the Borough of Alpha to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mayor Hanics announced that adequate notice of the meeting was given and posted on the bulletin board in the Clerk's office satisfying the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act:

#### NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been given. On January 1, 2015, the Municipal Clerk delivered to the Star Gazette/Express-Times and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Clerk's office a notice containing the date, time, and place of this meeting of the Borough Council. Also said notice has been mailed to persons requesting the same.

Mayor Hanics led prayer and the salute to the flag.

*Roll Call:* Present; Councilman Cartabona, Councilwoman Grossman, Councilman Pettinelli, Councilman Rooks, Councilman Schwar, and Councilman Seiss. Also present Attorney Christopher Troxell and Borough Clerk, Laurie Barton.

#### *Public Comment:*

Bill Morris, Alpha Street, stated the house across the street from him has been empty for three years and is concerned about the mold inside the house.

Mike Savary, 1210 Park Avenue, stated there are three streets caving in; Warren, Somerset at the end of Leona, and Schley, and asked if there are any plans to repair them.

Mr. Savary inquired about galvanized lines that have leaked in which they should have been replaced. Mr. Savary asked who is checking on the inspections since its paid 100%.

#### *Executive Session*

Councilman Rooks at this time motioned to go into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss personnel. Councilman Pettinelli seconded motion, all were in favor with the exception of Councilman Cartabona and Councilwoman Grossman.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion(s) of the hereinafter specified subject matter(s).
2. The general nature of the subject matter(s) to be discussed is: Personnel, Litigation and/or Contractual,
3. It is anticipated at this time, that the above stated subject matter(s) will be made public when it is no longer a matter of confidentiality.
4. Action may or may not be taken after executive session.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the governing body of the Borough of Alpha that the public shall be excluded from an executive session for approximately 15 minutes, allowing for a five (5) minute recess between the regular session and the executive session.

*Returned to Regular Session.*

Councilman Schwar made the motion to return to regular session and Councilman Rooks seconded the motion, all were in favor.

*Ordinance 1<sup>st</sup> reading:*

Motion made by Councilman Schwar to introduce Ordinance 2015-04 , motion seconded by Councilman Rooks. Roll call: Ayes: Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks, Schwar and Seiss. Nays: None. Abstain: Cartabona.

**ORDINANCE 2015-4**

**BOROUGH OF ALPHA**

**“CAP” ORDINANCE TO EXCEED INDEX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2015 (N.J.S.40A:4-45.14)**

**WHEREAS**, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S.40A:4-45.1 *et seq.*, provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.0% or the Cost of Living Increase (COLA), whichever is less, over the previous year’s final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and

**WHEREAS**, P.L. 1986, C.203 amended the Local Government Cap Law, to provide that a municipality may, in any year in which the index rate is less than 2.0%, increase its final appropriations by a percentage rate greater than the index rate but not to exceed the 3.5% rate as specified in the law, when authorized by ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the COLA rate for 2015 has been certified by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs as 1.5%; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpha in the County of Warren finds advisable and necessary to increase its budget by more than 2.0% over the previous year’s final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council hereby determines that a 3.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$50,950.10 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary.

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpha, in the County of Warren, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring that, in the 2015 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Alpha shall, in accordance with this ordinance and P.L. 1986, C.203, and be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$50,950.10

and that the 2015 municipal budget for the Borough of Alpha be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that** a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

### *Ordinances 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading*

Motion made by Councilman Rooks to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2015-03, motion seconded by Councilman Pettinelli, all were in favor.

### **ORDINANCE 2015-03**

#### **ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ALPHA AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CODE**

#### **SECTION CHAPTER 7, ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Borough of Alpha desires to amend a portion of Chapter 7, Administration of Government, specifically adding the following and amending its Code accordingly;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the Borough of Alpha in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey that “Chapter 7, Administration of Government, Article XI” be amended and supplemented as follows:

#### **7-36. Rules applicable to Borough Council Members.**

Members of the Borough Council shall observe order and decorum during Borough Council meetings. A member of the Borough Council shall neither, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings of the Council nor disturb any member while speaking nor refuse to obey the orders of the Mayor.

#### **7-37. Borough staff.**

Members of the Borough staff shall observe the same rules of order and decorum applicable to the Borough Council in 7-36 above.

#### **7-38. Defamatory and threatening language prohibited.**

Any person(s) making personal, defamatory or profane remarks or who willfully utters loud, threatening or abusive language or engages in any disorderly conduct which disturbs or disrupts the orderly conduct of any meeting shall be called to order by the Mayor. If such conduct continues, the Mayor of the Borough of Alpha, at his or her discretion, may order such person removed from that meeting.

#### **7-39. Length of presentation; governmental issues.**

During any public comment portion of the public meeting, persons addressing the Borough Council shall each be allowed a maximum of five (5) minutes for their comments or presentations and may comment on

any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the community.

**7-40. Disorderly conduct.**

No person in the audience shall engage in disorderly conduct such as handclapping, stomping of feet, whistling, using profane language, shouting or other similar demonstrations which may disturb the peace and order of the Borough Council meeting.

**7-41. Repeated disturbance; removal from meeting.**

All persons shall, at the request of the Mayor, be silent. If, after receiving a warning from the Mayor, a person persists in disturbing the meeting, the Mayor may order that person to leave the meeting. If he does not remove himself, the Mayor may order his removal by the Sergeant at Arms.

**7-42. Sergeant at Arms.**

The Chief of Police of the department covering the Borough of Alpha, or such member of said department of police as the Mayor may designate, shall be Sergeant at Arms at the Borough Council meetings. The Sergeant at Arms shall carry out all orders given by the Mayor for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum at the Borough Council meeting. On the instruction of the Mayor, the Sergeant at Arms shall remove from the meeting any person who disturbs the proceedings of the Council.

**7-43. Resisting Removal.**

Any person who resists removal by the Sergeant at Arms shall be charged with violating *N.J.S.A.2C:33-8*, Disrupting meetings and processions, or other relevant statute.

**7-44. Rules of Conduct.**

Borough Council meetings shall be conducted pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order. This Ordinance shall take effect after adoption and publication thereof as provided by law.

Mr. Small questioned the Mayor on addressing the public directly.

Jodie Smith, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., stated the five minutes limit is a good idea and added that she is in favor of bringing back a second public comment to the agenda.

Motion made by Councilman Cartabona to close the public hearing, motion seconded by Councilman Rooks, all were in favor.

Motion made by Councilman Seiss to adopt Ordinance 2015-03, motion seconded by Councilman Rooks. Roll call: Ayes: Pettinelli, Rooks and Seiss. Nays: Cartabona, Grossman and Schwar. Mayor Hanics breaks the tie and votes yes, motion passes.

*Resolutions*

Motion to approve Resolution 2015-67 made by Councilman Cartabona and seconded by Councilman Schwar. Roll call: Ayes: Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks, Schwar and Seiss. Nays: none.

**RESOLUTION 2015-67**

**PREMIUM REFUND**

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector of the Borough of Alpha has advised the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Alpha, that the following properties have been redeemed within (5) years of the tax sale and a premium was paid at the time of sale,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Borough of Alpha Council this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2015 that refunds been made to the certificate holder as noted:

FWDSL & Assoc., LP  
5 Cold Hill Road South, Ste #11  
Mendham, NJ 07945  
Block 52, Lot 2  
Certificate #201410  
Premium \$1,300

Motion to approve Resolution 2015-68 made by Councilman Seiss and seconded by Councilman Rooks. Roll call: Ayes: Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks, Schwar and Seiss. Nays: none.

**RESOLUTION 2015-68  
REDEMPTION OF TAX  
SALE CERTIFICATE # 201410**

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector of the Borough of Alpha advised the Mayor and Council that the following properties have been redeemed and the money due thereon paid to the Borough of Alpha Tax Collector;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpha this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2015 that the refunds are

FWDSL & Assoc., LP  
5 Cold Hill Road South, Ste #11  
Mendham, NJ 07945  
Block 52, Lot 2  
Amount \$1,258.57  
Property Location – 403 Alpha Street

Motion made by Councilman Cartabona to introduce Resolution 2015-69 (Budget), motion seconded by Councilman Schwar. Roll call: Ayes: Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks, and Seiss. Nays: Cartabona and Schwar.

*Resolution 2015-69*

**2015 Municipal Budget**

**BOROUGH OF ALPHA, COUNTY OF WARREN  
FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015**

Revenue and Appropriation Summaries

Summary of Revenues - Current Fund	Anticipated	
	2015	2014
1. Surplus	438,000.00	334,886.00
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	287,961.39	352,747.00
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	150,000.00	150,000.00
4. Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	1,825,240.93	1,823,204.00
<b>Total General Revenues</b>	<b>2,701,202.32</b>	<b>2,660,837.00</b>

Summary of Appropriations - Current Fund	2015 Budget	Final 2014 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	465,180.60	485,987.00
Other Expenses	1,408,414.39	1,354,850.00
2. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	141,345.33	95,400.00
3. Capital Improvements	212,762.00	339,000.00
4. Debt Service	138,500.00	65,600.00
5. Judgments	10,000.00	10,000.00
6. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	325,000.00	310,000.00
<b>Total General Appropriations</b>	<b>2,701,202.32</b>	<b>2,660,837.00</b>
Total Number of Employees - Full & Part Time	34.0	33.0

2015 Dedicated Water/Sewer Utility Budget		
Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	2015	2014
1. Surplus	148,000.00	231,890.00
2. Miscellaneous Revenues	824,000.00	840,000.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>972,000.00</b>	<b>1,071,890.00</b>
Summary of Appropriations	2015 Budget	Final 2014 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	114,048.00	75,290.00
Other Expenses	594,152.00	696,200.00
2. Capital Improvements	12,500.00	185,000.00
3. Debt Service	243,100.00	107,400.00
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	8,200.00	8,000.00
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>972,000.00</b>	<b>1,071,890.00</b>
Total Number of Employees - Full & Part Time	1	1

*Department Reports:*

*Administration, Councilman Peter Pettinelli:* Councilman Pettinelli asked everyone to continue to have patience because there is one employee holding a few hats. Refunds and late fees regarding mercantile licenses will get out. In closing, Councilman Pettinelli approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

*Finance, Councilman Schwar:* Councilman Schwar stated that there will be an insurance meeting next week on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Schwar received 16 applications for finance clerk. Councilman Schwar reported that the CFO was in today along with the Auditors wife to help with getting things done. Councilman Schwar stated his reasons for voting no to the budget resolution. In closing, Councilman Schwar approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

*Health & Welfare, Councilman Cartabona:* No report. Councilman Cartabona approved bills salaries and wages for his department.

*Public Property, Councilwoman Grossman:* Councilwoman Grossman gave the following report: The water tower damage has been fixed. Went to Quarry Road this morning to see how things were going, a lot of trees at water's edge, understanding of having access to water, getting trees up and removed. The field house and two sheds need to be painted. Need cleaning lady for Borough building. Carla will clean the library for the portion we were paying the former cleaning person. Councilwoman Grossman reported that she has started ordering items for the basketball courts. In closing, Councilwoman Grossman approved bills, salaries, and wages for her department.

*Public Safety, Councilman Rooks:* Councilman Rooks reminded Council of the Memorial Service 2pm this Sunday at Memorial Park on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. The fire department will have coin toss June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at the corner of High Street and 519. Phillipsburg EMS open house is June 13<sup>th</sup> for dedication of new building on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue 11am-4pm. In closing, Councilman Rooks approved bills, salaries, and wages for his department.

*Public Works, Councilman Seiss:* Councilman Seiss reported that the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue milling was started today. Councilman Seiss is working on list of major areas of streets to be paved in which he will solicit for bids and try and go through the co-op. Pumps for Alpha St. finally ordered, citing that one of the problems was with first vendor not regulated with NJ. The DPW has repaired 25 meters. Councilman Seiss reported on the

new meters that were installed originally were installed backwards or not running. Next reading will be first week of June. Councilman Seiss requested 10 minutes executive session for contractual with services on 519. In closing, Councilman Seiss approved bills, salaries, and wages for his department.

*Professionals & Official Reports:*

*Police Department, Chief James Faulborn:* Chief Faulborn stated it was a quiet month with only 17 miscellaneous calls.

*Fire Department, Chief Sean McDyer:* Chief McDyer gave the report for the month of April. Chief McDyer reported on the Memorial Service and an end of the month spaghetti dinner.

*EMS:* There were 12 calls in April, one stand by, and 2 fire calls.

*Attorney, Christopher Troxell:* Mr. Troxell requested 5 minutes in executive session for litigation regarding water service on 519.

*Engineer, Frank J. Seney:* Mr. Seney summarized the report that was distributed to Mayor and Council. Mr. Seney stated that the bid opening for redundancy will be at next meeting.

*Sewer Engineer, Jim Hill:* Mr. Hill summed up his report that had been previously distributed to Council adding that they are still in the test cycle for the new odor control chemicals.

Councilman Cartabona requested 5 minutes in executive session for contractual.

*Recycling Coordinator, Thomas Fey:* Mr. Fey stated he received the recycling reports from businesses and will be finalizing his report that is to be submitted to the State.

*Code Enforcement, Thomas Fey:* Mr. Fey stated that two letters are going out, one is a foreclosure, will need to meet people at property. Mr. Fey expressed that he is not happy about his salary.

*Municipal Clerk, Laurie Barton:* Mrs. Barton stated to Councilman Cartabona that she had emailed a copy of the clean up flyer, and will need permission to advertise. Mrs. Barton reiterated what Councilman Pettinelli reported on helping the finance department as well as with all other departments that aren't here full time, that she assists with.



*Public Comment:*

John Deangelo of AYAA stated that there would be no reason the AYAA would fund painting for the field house.

Mike Savary, Park Ave., asked if there were any plans for Benke Field.

Discussions ensued regarding having the next council meeting at the municipal building or at the school.

Motion made by Councilman Cartabona to re-advertise for the May 26<sup>th</sup> regular council meeting to be changed to the Alpha Public School and to include the annual public hearing on the funds collected for open space and recreation, motion seconded by Councilwoman Grossman. Roll Call: Ayes: Cartabona, Grossman, Schwar and Seiss. Nays: Pettinelli and Rooks. Motion passes.

Jim Pfeiffer, East Central Avenue brought up the speed limit on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Mr. Small, questioned the Council discussing executive session on the residents time.

*Payment of Bills & Claims:*

Councilman Seiss made a motion to make the director's report a part of the minutes. Councilman Pettinelli seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Councilman Cartabona made a motion that the CFO be authorized to pay all bills authorized by the director. Councilman Schwar seconded the motion. Roll call; Ayes; Grossman, , Rooks, Pettinelli, Schwar, and Seiss. Nays: none. Abstain: Cartabona.

Councilman Seiss made a motion that the CFO be authorized to pay all salaries and wages approved by the directors, Councilman Schwar seconded. Roll call; Ayes; Grossman, , Rooks, Pettinelli, Schwar, and Seiss. Nays: none. Abstain: Cartabona.

P.O. Type: All			Open: N	Paid: N	Void: N					
Range: First to Last			Rcvd: Y	Held: Y	Aprv: N					
Format: Condensed			Bid: Y	State: Y	Other: Y	Exempt: Y				
PO #	PO Date	Vendor	PO Description	Status	Amount	Void Amount	PO Type			
15-00142	03/09/15	JCPL	JCP&L	2/5-3/5 east blvd flood 982078	Open	329.14	0.00			
15-00143	03/09/15	QC	QC, INC.	2/26 nitrate well 2 & 3	Open	56.00	0.00			
15-00168	04/23/15	QC	QC, INC.	SAMPLE DRINKING WATER	Open	35.00	0.00			
15-00169	04/23/15	VERI DSL	VERIZON ONLINE	APRIL 2015 BILLING	Open	91.99	0.00			
15-00170	04/23/15	VERIZ	VERIZON WIRELESS	MAR 5-APR 5	Open	50.57	0.00			
15-00171	04/23/15	ONECA	ONE CALL CONCEPTS	MARCH SERVICE	Open	13.70	0.00			
15-00173	04/23/15	QC	QC, INC.	WATER TESTING	Open	44.00	0.00			
15-00175	04/30/15	HANICS	CINDY HANICS	EASTER SUPPLIES	Open	866.94	0.00			
15-00176	04/30/15	NJN	NJN PUBLISHING	LEGAL ADS	Open	207.76	0.00			
15-00177	04/30/15	NJN	NJN PUBLISHING	BID AD	Open	101.04	0.00			
15-00178	04/30/15	TRITE	DE LAGE LANDEN FINANCIAL SERV	COPIER LEASE	Open	167.65	0.00			
15-00179	04/30/15	ELIZGA	ELIZABETHTOWN GAS	GAS	Open	1,013.79	0.00			
15-00180	04/30/15	ELIZGA	ELIZABETHTOWN GAS	GAS	Open	2,356.85	0.00			
15-00181	04/30/15	ACTION	ACTION DATA SERVICES	PAYROLL SERVICE FEES	Open	487.77	0.00			
15-00182	04/30/15	ALWAYS	ALWAYS ON TIME DOORS	FIX DOOR AT SALT SHED	Open	205.00	0.00			
15-00184	04/30/15	ADVANCE	ADVANCED BUSINESS EQUIPMENT	QUARTERLY COST/COPY	Open	144.00	0.00			
15-00185	04/30/15	GENER	GENERAL CODE LLC	ANNUAL MANITENANCE FEE	Open	1,195.00	0.00			
15-00186	04/30/15	GRAMC	GRAMCO	RECORDER SUPPORT-ANNUAL	Open	975.00	0.00			
15-00187	04/30/15	FASTENAL	FASTENAL	EQUIPMENT SUPPLIES	Open	17.83	0.00			
15-00188	04/30/15	BAER	BAER AGGREGATES, INC.	MATERIAL	Open	1,092.88	0.00			
15-00189	04/30/15	ATLSA	ATLANTIC SALT	SALT	Open	6,197.50	0.00			
15-00190	04/30/15	EXCLUSIV	Exclusive Accounting Services	PENSION SERVICE	Open	98.14	0.00			
15-00191	04/30/15	EHRLI	EHRlich, INC.	PEST CONTROL SERVICE	Open	197.71	0.00			
15-00192	04/30/15	TRITE	DE LAGE LANDEN FINANCIAL SERV	COPIER LEASE	Open	167.83	0.00			
15-00193	04/30/15	AMGAS	AMERIGAS - CLINTON 7510	PROPANE	Open	220.16	0.00			
15-00194	04/30/15	AMGAS	AMERIGAS - CLINTON 7510	PROPANE	Open	124.83	0.00			
15-00195	04/30/15	AMGAS	AMERIGAS - CLINTON 7510	PROPANE	Open	244.24	0.00			
15-00196	04/30/15	JCPL	JCP&L	ELECTRIC	Open	12,182.17	0.00			
15-00197	04/30/15	NAPA	CARVER'S AUTO PARTS OF WC	AUTO SUPPLIES	Open	314.34	0.00			
15-00199	05/05/15	RUTGERS	RUTGERS UNIVERSITY	Compost Certification	Open	280.00	0.00			
Total Purchase Orders:				30	Total P.O. Line Items:	0	Total List Amount:	29,478.83	Total Void Amount:	0.00

*New Business:*

Councilwoman Grossman invited the public to the block party that she is holding at the pavilion that was approved tonight. Councilwoman Grossman stated that there will be a local band, food and a burn barrel.

*Executive Session:*

Councilman Seiss made a motion to approve the following resolution to go into executive session for , motion seconded by Councilman Schwar, all were in favor.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion(s) of the hereinafter specified subject matter(s).
2. The general nature of the subject matter(s) to be discussed is: Personnel, Litigation and/or Contractual,
3. It is anticipated at this time, that the above stated subject matter(s) will be made public when it is no longer a matter of confidentiality.
4. Action may or may not be taken after executive session.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the governing body of the Borough of Alpha that the public shall be excluded from an executive session for approximately 20 minutes, allowing for a five (5) minute recess between the regular session and the executive session.

*Return to Regular Session*

Motion made by Councilman Seiss to return to the regular session, motion seconded by Councilman Cartabona, all were in favor.

Motion made by Councilman Seiss to approve Resolution 2015-70, motion seconded by Councilman Rooks. Roll Call; Ayes: Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks, Schwar and Seiss. Nays: none.

**RESOLUTION 2015-70**  
**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF ALPHA, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY SUPPORTING THE TRANSPARENT TAX ACT OF 2015**

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill No. A-4325 supplementing Chapter 4 of Title 54, R.S. 54:4-65 and designated the “Transparent Tax Act of 2015” is being considered for adoption by the New Jersey State Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, the amendment would permit the local jurisdiction to print separate tax bills to each taxpayer, one showing the amount of property taxes due and payable for municipal tax purposes, the other shall state the amount of property taxes due and payable for county purposes, school purposes, fire district purposes, and for the purpose of any other special district on behalf of which the municipality collect property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, both bills shall include a brief tabulation showing the distribution of the total amount to be raised by taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, A-4325 would require the municipal tax collector to send notice of pro rata share, if any, of the property tax appeal refunds paid by the municipality during the tax year to the county, school districts and fire districts for inclusion in their annual budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, in the following tax year in which the refunds were paid, the municipal tax collector is then required to deduct the applicable pro rata share of the property tax refund from the amounts to be paid to the county and each school and fire districts; and

**WHEREAS**, these amendments if adopted will assist the general public to understand the tax bill, the structure of the taxes and the level of support for each agency and will further provide a more equitable structure to share the obligation of paying approved tax appeals as the title states, creates transparency in the tax supporting local assessments.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey hereby supports the Assembly Bill A-4235 amending Title 54:4-65 and urges the Legislature to approve and pass the bill for the reasons expressed herein.

*Adjournment:*

Seeing no further business to come before Council, motion made by Councilman Seiss to adjourn at 10:11 p.m., motion seconded by Councilman Rooks, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Laurie A. Barton*

Borough Clerk