

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, 430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, N.J.  
November 7, 2012**

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Council Members Albanese, Barr, Kazanowski, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal,  
Whiting,

Also Present: Mayor Sal Bonaccorso, John Laezza, Business Administrator; Joseph Triarsi, Township Attorney; Edith Merkel, Township Clerk; Richard O'Connor, Township Engineer.

The Special Meeting of the Municipal Council of the Township of Clark was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Council President Whiting. She asked all present to participate in a moment of silence, following the salute to the Flag.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - MOMENT OF SILENCE**

This meeting is in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" as adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by sending written advanced notice of at least 48 hours to the Union County Local Source, NJTODAY.NET and Star Ledger, by posting such Meeting Agenda on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the filing of said Notice with the Township Clerk of Clark. Formal action may be taken at this meeting.

**ORDINANCES, APPROPRIATIONS AND CLAIMS:**  
**INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES:**

**AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO FIX MINIMUM  
AND MAXIMUM SALARIES**

**WHEREAS** said Ordinance reflects a change in salaries to be paid to certain employees of the Township for the year 2013 and forward.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark that the proper officer or officers of the Township of Clark be and they are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver checks on Township funds for the purpose of paying the following annual salaries to the employees of the Township of Clark within the range as set forth below opposite each job classification as in such cases made. The Schedule of salaries hereinafter set forth shall be effective as of January 1, 2013 and may be amended for those who may exceed the maximum.

	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Business Administrator	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
Township Clerk	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Township Attorney*		

Mayor’s Confidential Secretary	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 65,000.00
Confidential Assistant/H.R./Affirmative Action	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
Assessor P/T	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Tax Collector	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 75,000.00
Certified Finance Officer	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
Construction Code Official	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 140,000.00
Municipal Court Administrator	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
Health Officer/Purchasing Asst.	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Prosecutor P/T	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 25,000.00
Judge	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Public Defender P/T	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Superintendent of Public Works	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Public Works Supervisor	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Mayor	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Council President	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 10,000.00

MINIMUM MAXIMUM

Council Members	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Board of Adjustment Secretary	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 10,000.00
Planning Board Secretary	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 10,000.00
Fire Prevention Official	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 95,000.00
Captain/Fire Prevention Official	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 7,500.00
Fire Official Secretary	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,000.00
Director Public Safety	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 3,500.00
Director Senior Citizen	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 7,500.00
Director Public Works/Shade Tree	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 20,000.00
Fire Sub Code Official P/T	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
Elevator Inspector P/T	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 12,000.00
Plumbing Sub Code Official P/T	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
Electrical Inspector P/T	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
Emergency Management Coordinator	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 6,000.00
Deputy Emergency Management	\$ 300.00	\$ 3,000.00
Fire Chief	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 7,000.00
Assistant Fire Chief	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 6,000.00
Deputy Chief	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 4,000.00
Deputy Chief	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 4,000.00
Deputy Chief	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 4,000.00
Deputy Chief	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 4,000.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Fire Captain	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 4,000.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Fire Captain	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 4,000.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Public Information Officer	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,500.00
Director of Recreation/Facilities Mgr.	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Assistant Recreation Supervisor	\$ 9,200.00	\$ 15,000.00
Director Teen Center	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Assistant Teen Center	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Recreation/Senior Fitness P/T Personnel	\$ 500.00	\$ 25,000.00
Manager – TV 36	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Fire Training Officer	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Bus Driver – Part Time	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 25,000.00

HOURLY

Police Matron – on duty	\$ 40.00 event	\$ 40.00 event
Police Matron – on call	\$ 40.00 hour	\$ 40.00 hour
Seasonal Employees – Recreation/Sr. Citizen	\$ 6.00 hour	\$ 25.00 hour

POLICE – Base Pay

Chief (plus longevity and education)	\$ 115,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
Captains (plus longevity and education)	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 180,000.00

MINIMUM MAXIMUM

MUNICIPAL POOL

Pool Director/Manager	\$ 8,450.00	\$ 14,000.00
Pool Facilities Manager	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Assistant Manager(s)	\$ 4,100.00	\$ 10,000.00
Water Safety Instructor(s)	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 10,000.00
Lifeguard(s)	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 6,000.00
Maintenance Worker(s)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Gate Control Person(s)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Activities Director	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 3,750.00

\*Annual Professional Services Contract

Any ordinance inconsistent with the provisions contained herein is hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication according to law.

Moved by Councilman Mazzarella, seconded by Councilman O’Connor

Discussion:

John Laezza: Annually we amend the salary ordinance to make sure that there are sufficient maximum dollars to accommodate those people whose salaries will be increasing next year and their maximum were below those salaries. We made them a little higher so we might not have to do this every year. Probably this ordinance will probably take at least six years before anybody gets near that.

Council President Whiting directed roll call:

Aye: Albanese, Barr, Kazanowski, Mazzarella, O’Connor, Toal, Whiting

Public Hearing December 17, 2012

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT AND ANY ANCILLARY COSTS RELATED THERETO AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$20,000 AND PROVIDING THAT SUCH SUM SO APPROPRIATED SHALL BE RAISED FROM CAPITAL SURPLUS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Council of the Township of Clark, in the County of Union, New Jersey, as follows:

**Section 1.** The Township of Clark, in the County of Union, New Jersey, (The Township) is hereby authorized to acquire PPE (Bunker Gear) and Fire Hose and any ancillary costs related thereto.

**Section 2.** The sum of \$20,000 is hereby appropriated for the acquisition of said equipment and ancillary costs related thereto, as described in section 1 hereof (hereinafter referred to as “capital purpose”). Said appropriation shall be funded from the Capital Surplus of the Township of Clark for the payment of the cost of said “capital purpose”.

**Section 3.** Said purpose is a lawful capital purpose of the Township having a period of usefulness of at least five (5) years.

**Section 4.** The capital budget is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this capital ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolution promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and the capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services.

**Section 5.** This Ordinance shall take effect at the time and in the manner provided by law.

Moved by Councilman Barr, seconded by Councilman O’Connor

Discussion:

John Laezza: This is our annual bring the fire department up to speed. Each year we spend twenty thousand dollars on gear and hoses because they are constantly upgrading and we didn’t do it before.

Council President Whiting directed roll call:

Aye: Albanese, Barr, Kazanowski, Mazzarella, O’Connor, Toal, Whiting

Public Hearing December 17, 2012

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution 12-131**

**WHEREAS**, an emergency has arisen with respect to the effects of Hurricane Sandy to the operations of the Township of Clark and, no adequate provision was made in the 2012 municipal budget for the aforesaid purpose, and NJS 40A:4-46 provides for the creation of an emergency appropriation for the purposes mentioned above, and

**WHEREAS**, the total amount of the emergency appropriations created, including the appropriation to be created by this resolution is \$180,000 and three(3) percent of the total operating appropriation in the budget for 2011 is \$511,548.00, and

**WHEREAS**, the foregoing appropriation together with prior appropriations does not exceed three(3) percent of the total operating appropriations (including utility operation appropriations) in the budget for 2012,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, (by not less than 2/3 of all governing body members affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with NJS 40A:4-48:

1. An emergency appropriation is hereby made for Streets and Roads-Other Expenses in the amount of \$150,000; Traffic Light –Other Expense in the amount of \$10,000; Police – Other Expense in the amount of \$10,000.00; and Fire – Other Expense in the amount of \$10,000.00 for a total emergency of \$180,000.
2. That said emergency appropriations shall be provided for in full in the 2013 budget, and is requested to be excluded from CAPS, PURSUANT TO NJS 40A:4-53.3c(1).
3. That two (2) certified copies of this resolution be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Moved and seconded by the Entire Council

Discussion:

Mayor Bonaccorso: You guys understand what we need to do.

John Laezza: Basically this is an emergency appropriation so that we have sufficient funds to pay people to accommodate the storm and hopefully if the Department Heads are frugal in their regular budget, I might be able to cancel some of this before the end of the year so we don't have to raise it at all next year. However, Clark looks as good as it does because we've incurred some expenses in relationship to trees coming down. We hired two outside companies to assist our DPW, we had some traffic light work because of the storm, the police lost a police vehicle, and we have a number of expenses that were incurred with regard to the fire department, the traffic department and DPW. And this is my best estimate as to where we are and it may be more.

Councilwoman Albanese: Does this include the destroyed sidewalks? Did you do an estimate for that?

John Laezza: People are going to take care of their own sidewalks; no I didn't talk about sidewalks. I may need another emergency, that's an option.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We have stumps that are going to be pulled out; sidewalks are going to go back. Some of them were pulled out in one or two pieces, so we might be able to have public works reset them but some of them we may not. There are two rolled off dumpsters in there and I was trying to get two more in but they couldn't accommodate me. Now the other thing John with FEMA what are they talking about, a 100% reimbursement on everything before the (tape inaudible). (John Laezza: yes...they don't accept everything). Right so we are going to need some of it, there's no doubt about it but hopefully we will be able to get a lot of it back. If we get 75% back that would be great. I mean they have to be pretty liberal because everybody is crushed. So it's not like its Union County, you know everybody is crushed in the State or mostly everybody. The DPW guys work till 5:00 every night, they work Saturdays and Sundays and doing an unbelievable job. I'll talk later about it in my comments.

Councilman O'Connor: Would it be possible if the Council agrees to 3 and 4 EC (Entire Council) since its related to the storm.

Council President and Council Members agree that Resolutions 3 and 4 will be moved and seconded by Entire Council.

Council President Whiting directed roll call:  
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Kazanowski, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Whiting

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**Resolution 12-132**

**WHEREAS** an emergency has developed due to Hurricane Sandy causing damage throughout the Township of Clark; and

**WHEREAS** repairs to facilities, streets and sidewalks as well as tree felling and removal are required to be done with dispatch; and

**WHEREAS** the emergency affects the public health, safety and welfare and requires the immediate delivery of services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark in accord with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 that it does hereby authorize the Business Administrator to acquire the services necessary to remediate the emergency in accord with the requirements of the aforesaid statute; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the cost thereof shall not exceed the total sum of \$180,000.00 without further authorization.

Moved and seconded by Entire Council

Council President Whiting directed roll call:

Aye: Albanese, Barr, Kazanowski, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Whiting

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**Resolution 12-133**

**WHEREAS** N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 provides for appropriation transfers during the last two (2) months of the year, when it has been determined it is necessary to expend for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the sum appropriated therefore and where it has been further determined that there is an excess in any appropriation over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose of such appropriation, the Governing Body may, by Resolution setting forth the facts, adopted by not less than two-thirds vote of the full membership thereof, transfer the amount of such excess to those appropriations deemed to be insufficient.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark, in the County of Union and State of New Jersey, that the Chief Financial Officer be and the same is hereby authorized to make transfers among the 2012 budget appropriations in accordance with the following schedule of transfers.

<b>CLARK TOWNSHIP BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS 2012</b>		<u><b>From</b></u>	<u><b>To</b></u>
<b>Current</b>			
20-150- 250	<b>Assessments</b>	28,000.00	-
22-195- 237	<b>Code Enforcement</b>	2,000.00	-
25-267- 223	<b>Fire Hydrants</b>	21,000.00	-
26-290- 101	<b>Roads</b>	30,000.00	-
30-420- 223	<b>Celebration of Public Events</b>	20,000.00	-
20-130- 200	<b>Finance</b>	-	20,000.00
20-100- 201	<b>Administration</b>	-	5,000.00
25-240- 101	<b>Police</b>	-	25,000.00
25-266- 203	<b>Fire</b>	-	30,000.00

26-310-218	<b>Buildings and Grounds</b>	-	20,000.00
27-330-211	<b>Health</b>	-	1,000.00
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>\$101,000.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$101,000.00</u></b>

Moved by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Discussion: None

Council President Whiting directed roll call:

Aye: Albanese, Barr, Kazanowski, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Whiting

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**Resolution 12-134**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark that it does hereby authorize the Tax Collector to settle a Tax Appeal authorized by the Union County Board of Taxation for the following:

<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Original Assessment</u>	<u>New Assessment</u>	<u>Reduction</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Refund</u>
154/4 (2010)	60 Walnut Ave.	\$1,833,000	\$1,723,275	\$109,725	X	5%	\$ 8,629.63
154/4 (2011)	60 Walnut Ave.	\$1,833,000	\$1,659,450	\$173,550	X	5%	\$13,442.92

**Total Amount to be Refunded** **\$22,072.55**

Moved by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Mazzarella

Discussion:

Councilman Toal: The property at 60 Walnut is what?

John Laezza: 60 Walnut Ave. is a professional building.

Councilman Toal: What is the use of the building?

John Laezza: It's a professional building.

Councilman Toal: Office building?

John Laezza: Yes it's an office building.

Councilman Toal: Okay thank you.

John Laezza: We had to do it immediately because the judgment said it had to be paid within a time frame otherwise we would have had to pay interest and penalties.

Council President Whiting directed roll call:

Aye: Albanese, Barr, Kazanowski, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Whiting

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Each person addressing the Council shall first give his/her name and address to the Clerk. All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a body and shall not exceed 10 minutes in duration.

Council President Whiting opened the public portion of the meeting

Seeing no one coming forward Councilman Kazanowski made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Council President Whiting directed roll call:

Aye: Albanese, Barr, Kazanowski, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Whiting

**MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Bonaccorso: First off I would like to appoint myself to the Hyatt Hills Golf Commission for a five year appointment; the time is up so I need to do that tonight.

Edie I would like to honor all the people in this storm at the November meeting. I want police, the Chief of Police, the Chief of the Fire Department, who is in charge of the First Aid Squad I guess it's the Captain, Joe Bonaccorso and Scott McCabe, Jerry and Mike Nenortas, and John Kristof. I would like to order a plaque and have it say, "In deep appreciation for their service to Clark Township during Hurricane Sandy", proudly presented by Mayor Sal Bonaccorso and the Township Council.

You know all kidding aside, we have some fun once in a while, we will always hear somebody talk about their department that they are the liaison to...and how good they are Al, the fire, you First Aid, you DPW, but I am going to tell you guys something, these guys are just incredible, never short. And I want to tell you something else; there are two guys especially in this town that were literally my right arm during the entire storm, that guy right there, I am so proud of him, Alan...and Scott McCabe...unbelievable. I am on the phone with him 11:37 at night driving through Valley Road checking lights and he is saying I'll come out and meet me and I told him to say home and get some rest because I'm already out here. And I'm going to tell you something Alan, I know you a lot of years buddy, you are doing an incredible job and I could not be prouder of you and I will say

that on public TV. He has helped me with PSE&G when my temper is ready to boil over and I was ready to start killing someone and he said I'll take the call for you, I will make it for you. He took good care of that for us; we work together very well on that. He was out driving the street at 6:30 in the morning on the weekends, and Scott McCabe, that guy is an animal. We were out of diesel and not because of poor planning, we had a lot, but when we started running those fire trucks and DPW started sucking it down. So we had to find diesel. On Friday, the Chief of Police from Westfield was here and a Captain and I started crying to them about it. And he said to me that he might know a place in Westfield that can help us. So he made a call and we made a deal with the Exxon Station on Central Avenue, so then we had about two thousand gallons of diesel available to us. How would we get it here? We did not have enough five gallon jugs, so I thought of a friend that I know in Elizabeth that has a fuel oil truck and diesel is heating oil...# two it's the same thing you can run equipment on it or heat your home. So I called him up and I said George do you have an empty truck and he said yes I do, he is a small guy not a big guy. So I said I would like you to come down here, the Chief is going to have a police escort to get to Central Avenue, because it was blocked so he had to take the back streets. A Westfield car was going to pick us up and take us over to Exxon. So they get there and they have got to pump it through the nozzle, George did not have a syphon because he only pumps it in he doesn't take out. So they started at four o'clock in the afternoon and if we didn't get this diesel I would have had to shut down the operation on Sunday or maybe Saturday, this was Friday night. Go there four o'clock in the afternoon, they get done pumping it at one o'clock in the morning. We got diesel. I am out till midnight, I couldn't take it anymore, what am I going to do stand in the yard and watch them empty the truck? I am going home because I have to get up early tomorrow. They went to the truck, they unloaded the truck, and it came out faster than it went in. Scott left the yard at three o'clock in the morning and was at work at seven o'clock the next morning. I mean incredible. He worked all day Saturday and all day Sunday. He has been all over everything for us. So I mean those were my two guys that were directly on the street. Then we had John, my dad, Jerry, and Mike and the Fire Department, the First Aid Squad, they all did a great job. Whatever they had to do they did, but Alan and Scott were just incredible, incredible. And to this day, Alan has worked with me on Hehnlly and trying to get that lit and everything we're doing. The schools are in split session, Hehnlly is going to Valley Road from 1 to 5pm and the Valley Road kids are going in the morning, half days count as full days. Tonight I called TJ, the Fire Chief to say Valley Road has a bad parking lot, and it is very dimly lit. I told the Superintendent up there that night that they have to get better lighting like we have here at Brewer, he is going to do it and so they brought the engine truck with the big tower and lit up the whole parking lot for everyone. It was chaotic but the police were there helping the crossing guards and we got everybody out of there and in the meantime it snowed. But I'll tell you guys it was an incredible job. The night of the storm Al and I were out for all the storms he brought here since he became Chief. We were out during that rain in the middle of the night together, we were out in the October snow together, and we were out the other night. I am going to tell you guys something about ten thirty we pulled the police, fire and DPW off the streets because it was that scary, it was that scary. The girls in his dispatch were literally doing 911, what's your emergency...tree down...wires down, thank you...911, what's your emergency?" They would put the phone down and pick it right back up again, they

had four people on the phones. And one of the police officers came in and said that he was sitting in Barnes and Noble early when he first went on the shift and a gust of wind hit the back of the new car that we bought and the car went up and down. So you know we brought DPW in half hour to forty-five minutes after and we are in and then there was a house fire on Ivy Street, so everybody had to run down there. So it was quite the night to say the least, I don't have to tell you, you all lived through it like I did. But these guys just did an incredible job and they need to be honored publicly because this was well over, and above, and beyond. You know let's not forget about the DPW guys for a minute. We had them working Saturday and Sunday to prepare for the storm, now we are thinking that we are going to get eight or nine inches of water right? We had very little water, two inches maybe over three days or whatever it was. They worked Sunday until four o'clock, three-thirty, four o'clock, they went home and they were back in the yard by six. They worked to four o'clock in the morning Sunday night, went home and came back to the yard for a seven thirty start, and then worked the entire day on Monday. So I mean those guys are giving a hundred and ten percent out there, I am so impressed by what they are doing that it is just incredible. Right now I think he said that we got about half the town cleaned up, they were up in the Third Ward today he was telling me. And you know he was just going...the two roll-offs helped because they are taking thirty cubic yards at a time, probably less because everything is so big, but it is helping us be able to do that and we had that working every day since last I think it was Tuesday John or was it Wednesday (John Laezza: Wednesday) Again we are trying to get some more in but everybody is so busy with everything, you know everything is out but we will keep trying if we have to but I think it's going great the way it is. Scott told me tonight that he is working Saturday with the guys and what do you want to do after that? And I said we'll see, and he said because Monday they have a holiday, it's Veterans Day on Monday, so then he says we won't work Sunday and we won't work Monday and I said well give me a report late Thursday on how good we are and where we are at. Because right now I think most of the roads are completely open and safe.

The other thing that I had to make a decision on was Halloween. And we put a curfew on it to 4:30, just when it gets dark. And I did say to the people look if you are with your child in your neighborhood and you know it's safe and you are with them I don't care if you stay out a little bit later than that, we are not going to arrest anybody. But I did not want teenagers wondering around from the high school all hours of the night. It was funny; I got one lady who complained saying that she made her choice for Mayor that way. I emailed her back and said if that is what you judge a Mayor on "Halloween" then please vote for my opponent, and I said that he is nice guy and thank you very much. Then she emailed me back and said that she would like to talk to me at the polls about it. I mean you know they had a "Trunk or Treat" at Esposito's Park and it was great. And you know it's like only one person so I am not going to get mad at that but it is just like oh my God. I have five hundred mothers saying to please, please. Then the Governor didn't pull it back so I said hey if it's okay with him then it's okay with me, and you know just be cautious and get everybody in before dark. And it's a week after the fact so it kind of doesn't have the excitement that it does on Halloween if you ask me. So we had some of the Special Ed kids from the school trick or treat here this morning in our hallways, so Fran got candy for them and helped them out. So like I said, it was quite an

experience; we did pretty good on the PSE&G grids. The thing that I found very frustrating, and I don't want you to think that I ever knock the working man because I don't, the guys on the ground were awesome, they were unbelievable, from Missouri and Illinois, what a bunch of nice people. The thing was...what really frustrates me, and Al can attest to this, if they are working on a pole right here and we say look, right over there we have another problem...and they say it's not on our map, okay I get it because these grids were a certain way and I'll say well who is in charge of that. They don't say well John Laezza is and I will give him a call and tell him... they go, well I don't know and these are guys from PSE&G...well we'll go back to the office with it. There is no improvising. We started Tuesday morning, by ten o'clock, eleven o'clock Wednesday morning every road in this town was opened with a tree across it except if it had wires, because you can't touch that. So I said to them to give me two men and a bucket and we will take you to the trees that are in the street, go up on the pole and make sure that it's dead, and we will take it out for you. They said no we don't do that. Now, interesting enough on Wednesday him and I had hijacked a PSE&G truck, we saw an old Clark guy driving through town, Rocco Tropeano, and we flagged him into the police station, we were running on a generator and we had him fix the police station. So Al then brought him over to Hehly because we wanted to show him the damage up there. And he went up on the pole, he cut the lines, and he was working and he calls me and I met him up there. And you know some work, some phone calls, all of a sudden a big portion of the West side lit up. This was easy. And he back fed it into a New Dover Station. I am like why can't you do that, you know easy jobs to get people back up, so he said that he was going to come back and see us the next day. So I get a call from him and everything most of Clark...I think we have a little bit of a fish story, you know I caught a fish and it was this big. And that the Sewaren thing, the Third Ward I think a lot of it comes up Rahway and Sewaren, but a lot of Clark is run right here off of Terminal Avenue by the train tracks there's a power station. So Rocco said tomorrow he's going to follow the line out and see what's on it. So that comes down Westfield Avenue, makes a right at Featherbed, it goes down past Victoria, up Tudor, Meadow to Lake Avenue. So Rocco calls me and I call Al to go down to meet him and he says guys I (tape inaudible) there's something wrong here, what do you have to do, he opens the box, he starts playing in the box, makes a phone call, and says I'll be back in twenty minutes see you guys later and he takes off. He lit up my street, Victoria except for like those houses where my dad and Angel live, it's like eight houses, he lit up Tudor, Meadow, Kent, and it was just unbelievable. Al lives right on the boarder in Colonia, behind Jupiter, it lit up his block. But anyway you know what I mean he helped out a lot of people, so it was just unbelievable on what happened and I just wanted to give you guys some of the gist of what when on out there because it was just incredible, so any questions from anybody?

Councilman Barr: You were saying that with Veterans Day the 11<sup>th</sup> is a Sunday, are they doing it Monday?

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't know.

Township Clerk: The workers here are off Monday. Did Terri call you? Terri was going to call to confirm because Fran said it was as usual.

Councilman Barr: She called me but I told her to get in touch with Butch.

Township Clerk: Because Fran said that it was 11/11/11 as usual. But we don't know if she confirmed it with anyone. I couldn't get a hold of Bill Duffy because the phone was out of service.

Councilman Barr: Usually their hard fast rule usually is 11 at 11 o'clock.

Township Clerk: Yes.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I have to tell you that it is always how I always remember it, any other questions?

Councilman O'Connor: I have a comment. You are talking about rewarding deserving people like the Chief, and Scott McCabe and all the other departments. I would like to make two comments. One, is I think that you should get something. I mean you are phenomenal. But the second thing that I would like to mention is the fact that one of the things that we are not doing right now is sitting here saying, "How are we going to pay for all this?" And I think that is a great testament to John Laezza and his great ability to keep the town financially sound year after year so when issues like this do come up we don't have to scramble and look for money under every rock, it is already taken care of. So I would like John to be recognized for his stewardship in this township when we do have events like this. He should be recognized.

Councilwoman Albanese: We could do something as a Council for them. We can have our own award to the Mayor.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't need that, please. Thank you so much. You know what, these people give me the energy to work and it's a pleasure to work with them. They are nice guys and they really make it pleasurable in the middle of a catastrophe, if that could be pleasurable, the camaraderie is just terrific and that's what we need. And I want to tell you something, the citizens were terrific too. Personally, I did not have one person come up to me screaming at me. They would come up and say, "Mayor I know that the town is doing everything that it can, you guys have been great." Not one Councilman called me about anybody complaining, screaming to them. And if you did get that I'm glad that you did put out the fire yourself.

Councilman O'Connor: Just to give you guys a little bit of some inside information on something too and I'm sure you all do but I want other people to hear it as well. I was standing next to Sal at the polls and a citizen came up to Sal and she said, "thank you so much for everything but you know what I still have some leaves that need to be picked up." This is at the eleventh hour after everything is getting done and that's just the type of stuff that's out there.

Council President: You can't please all the people.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Let me tell you something, I learned something from my late great friend Pete Nevargic. The other night I come home and I am just wiped, literally. I get a call from a friend of mine at PSE&G he referees down here at my basketball tournament. He said, "Don't kill me, don't kill the messenger." I said, "Eddie, what's up?" He said, "I am going to send this website to you, a state website, Governor Christie has red checked certain towns that he feels have enough power, and he is going to tell Public Service to take the trucks out of those towns and put them in other towns." So of course I went completely nuts. So I go out to Bistro to get a quick bite because I am going out with the family and going back out with the town. And I leave when Public Service calls me and she says, "Please Mayor don't kill me, because I killed her a couple of times." And she told me the same thing and I just went completely crazy. Thank God people started complaining about it to different people I guess throughout the State. And the next morning I called Eddie to see if the trucks were still here or what and he said they are here, he backed off the order, thank God. Now you say that 94% of Clark was lit up on Saturday night. How do you go to someone without power and say that they are in the six percent and the Governor feels that Westfield needs more help. My brother was down in Scotch Plains because they ran out of diesel fuel, they weren't prepared, and they weren't ready. I am going to tell you guys something; Democrats took that election over there last night and one of them being Colleen from our school. She is a wonderful person and I am proud of her win but it is because they weren't ready for anything. They had trees in the street without wires until like Saturday or Sunday and the people went nuts over there. So I mean you know we owe a lot of gratitude, but I mean how do you say this to citizens if you are the Governor. He got off of it, thank God, and we were able to get everybody lit up last night. I got the call about 9:30/10:00 that Georgia, Carolina and Boynton were finally lit. No there is one more street Rich....

Councilman Kazanowski: Union County.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes. There is a transformer on order they do not have that in stock. So the minute that gets up they are going to have that in. We got Hehnly; it burnt the panel on the inside. So we thought that we were going to be down there like the generator we had here for a month or so, but no the electrician went over to the school district and he ripped it all out and he got it in. Our guy Charlie inspected it today at eleven; I think PS got down there to inspect it.

Chief Scherb: They didn't get down there as of four o'clock.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Okay, they didn't then. We are hoping to get that done and the wires hooked up. Verizon is going to be there tomorrow morning at eight o'clock to hook up their phone lines. And hopefully we will get Hehnly up and running by the end of the day.

Councilwoman Albanese: So the only homes are the ones by the river?

Mayor Bonaccorso: They are right on the side of the ball field.

Councilwoman Albanese: I met those people last night.

Mayor Bonaccorso: That is the only problem that we have left and considering your still neighboring towns. The Captain in Westfield told me a story that his one brother is the Chief of Police in Rahway and his other brother lives here in Clark and finally they only had I think two percent electricity in Westfield.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Did you have it Joe? When did you get it back?

Mr. Triarsi: Thursday night. There are still streets without.

Mayor Bonaccorso: He said to me Friday morning he slept in Clark Thursday night, he came over the tracks and saw lights he thought he saw a mirage because Westfield is completely black. Scotch Plains has a big area that is completely black. So you know we were fortunate, we put a lot of hard work in, and a lot of good people put a lot of hard work in. And the citizens were pretty good overall about all of it.

Councilman O'Connor: My brother-in-law in Roselle Park still has a telephone pole with a transformer lying on his truck in his driveway.

Mr. Triarsi: There are parts of Roselle Park that are still out of power.

Councilwoman Whiting: Berkley Heights is still out of power.

Mr. Laezza: Roselle is.

Councilwoman Albanese: Basking Ridge, Warren and Bedminster.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Summit got wacked. You know John the way this thing sounded to me and I am no meteorologist, I am only guessing as a person. It seems like it came through Rahway and Clark...I mean the big hits, through Scotch Plains, Westfield, Mountainside, right up to....I don't know about the rest of Union County nor do I care.

Mr. Laezza: It was like a cyclone kind of thing.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yeah and we definitely had a twister because tops of telephone pole twisted off, tops of trees twisted off, it was just incredible. Now the other recommendation I'd like to make to you and we'll talk about this...is that I would like to see the police department have some kind of hard helmet in their lockers for this kind of night only. I believe buddy that over the years we as the town... as a PD.... after that night missed the boat because these guys have to go out and tape stuff off, or try to at least, but they couldn't even do that. If they are out there and they get hit in the head with a branch, they could die, if they get hit in the arm, they break their arm; I mean what are you going to do? You could get better from that. I would like to see if we could look into getting something and issuing every man one, in their locker, and on that kind of night

you take them out. So I would like to see that, because you know God forbid something like this, it was just incredible. John Pingor pulled up with a fire truck, Jimmy Rapp is trying to tie stuff off, and Pingor looks and the trees are going back and forth and he was like “I am getting out of here this is dangerous!!!” Rapp is saying, “Why am I out here standing out here yellow taping something?”

Councilman Mazzarella: You know Sal. I don’t know if any of the other communities are doing this and I really quite frankly I’m concerned about Clark. I feel for the other communities but I don’t know if any of the other communities Mayors and Chief put in such an effort as you did.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Thanks Frank.

Councilman Mazzarella: No, it has to be said. It has to be said because Sal, I know that you were out there, I heard those radios, and I heard you on the radio.

Mayor Bonaccorso: The first call that I got, I was literally...I am good but when I don’t want to deal with something I can convince myself. I came home on Monday night; my wife called me and asked what we were doing for supper? I told her to cook the leftovers and they were great. She asked when I wanted to eat and I told her five because it is going to hit the fan. And I’m looking and looking and I was saying you know it’s not going to be so bad. And I am lying on my bed watching the NFL Station, getting a little break before it started then I get a call that Victoria and Featherbed went out. I went down there and I had my hard helmet on the seat of the car and that thing was whipping. I was so glad that I was in a car because I couldn’t believe it. And then Special Officer Janus came out....

Mr. Laezza: I walked my dog with a hard hat.

Mayor Bonaccorso: And I said to him, “Bob, move the hell out of the way.” don’t worry about it, who is coming out?” And it was that bad and then the guys were coming off the road, so it was crazy but thank God we didn’t have any major injury because of the storm and that was great.

Councilman O’Connor: You talk about recommendations. One of the things that I want to talk about and maybe Joe can help us, is there a way that we could mandate that all gas stations in town have back-up generators?

Mayor Bonaccorso: That we talked about that night and I did tell that to Al. I don’t know if we can or if the Governor has to. I think...and you know that they only make Exxon Mobile billions of dollars a year so I am not going to cry on their shoulder, but I think every gas station should have a generator for their pumps and/or an island. You know maybe some of the smaller gas stations can’t afford it like Exxon Mobile can, so maybe we say if they hold over so many gallons or you know if they have over so many islands or you know the smaller gas stations can get one island verses two or three. But I think that this is going to be something that....

Mr. Triarsi: I will take a look at that.

Councilman Mazzarella: There is an outcry throughout New Jersey specifically talking about that.

Mr. Triarsi: We don't license gas stations in town do we?

Mayor Bonaccorso: No.

Mr. Triarsi: It may be a problem but I will take a look at it.

Councilwoman Albanese: Our Governor did say that he was surprised to find out that some gas stations, I don't know if it was for safety or the age, whether they were the newer or the older couldn't get a generator hooked up. Because when they were putting out the National Guard they couldn't hook them up.

Council President Whiting: The gas station in Colonia told me that he had no electric but there was a special battery but they had to order and it is expensive. So I don't know if maybe it was just because some of these gas station owners didn't want to spend the money.

Mr. Triarsi: I think a real problem with that Sheila is if you notice you go into your stations and in some stations they make you turn off your radios and turn off your car they don't want any kind of a spark that could cause a vapor to go, and that is probably why that don't have them. I will take a look at that Mayor.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I am going to tell you something...it's just that Raritan and Central Exxon across from Rite Aid had fifteen thousand gallons of gas in their tanks and they couldn't get it out. Even our guys did a great job at the gas stations, it was just crazy. People were going nuts and cutting each other off.

Councilwoman Albanese: That was when the rage started.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It was unbelievable...I think that it is loosening up now. Are there any other questions...then thank you for your time and your nice work it is really appreciated.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilwoman Albanese: No comments.

Councilman Barr: No comments now.

Councilman Kazanowski: I would like to wish my congratulations to Sal, Al, Angel, and Bill Smith for their victory in yesterday's election.

Councilman Mazarella: No comments.

Councilman O'Connor: No comments.

Councilman Toal: No comments.

Township Clerk: Nothing thank you.

Council President Whiting directed a motion for adjournment

A motion to adjourn made by Councilman Kazanowski, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Council President Whiting directed roll call:

Aye: Albanese, Barr, Kazanowski, Mazarella, O'Connor, Toal, Whiting

**ADJOURNMENT**

APPROVED

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SHEILA WHITING  
Council President

ATTEST:

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EDITH L. MERKEL, RMC  
Township Clerk