

**Borough of Watchung  
Planning Board Meeting  
March 17th, 2009  
Minutes**

Salute to the Flag.

Chairman Speeney called the meeting to order at 7:34p.m. and stated that notice of this meeting had been posted at Borough Hall, filed with the Borough Clerk and given in the way of notice to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel, the Reporter and Star Ledger in conformance with the N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.

The Chair announced that Dianna Beck-Clemens would be moving up to alternate number one, and that Paul Panzarella would be assuming the position of Alternate number 2. Mayor Ellis swore in both members.

Present at the call of the roll were:

Speeney [X] Boyd [X] Havas [X] Haveson [X] Addario [X] Pennett [X]  
Schaefer [X] Beck-Clemens [X] Panzarella [X] Ellis [X] Pote [X]

Also present was Board Attorney Frank Linnus and Borough Engineer Tom Herits.

Chairman Speeney said that there was a quorum present to conduct business, and asked for a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the meetings from November 25<sup>th</sup> 2008, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Mr. Havas made that motion, seconded by Mr. Haveson. Hearing no discussion, the Chair called for a voice vote. The vote was unanimous other than Mr. Panzarella who was not eligible to vote, and Mrs. Beck-Clemens could only vote for the meeting of January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

The Chair asked Mr. Linnus for an update on litigation, who said that he did not feel an executive session was needed for what he had to relay. Mr. Linnus explained that all the trial briefs have been circulated in the Map Investment case, and we are presently scheduled for trial in early April. Mr. Linnus stated that Judge Ashrafi would not be handling the case due to the fact that he has been promoted to the Appellate Division. Mr. Linnus said that most likely it would be Judge Ciccone hearing the case. Mr. Linnus gave the Board an overview of potential outcomes. Mr. Linnus explained the Boards

decision could be upheld, reversed, or remanded back to the Planning Board.

The Chair asked Councilman Pote to give an update to the Board on the status of the LDO. Councilman Pote thanked Chairman Speeney for coming to speak to the public regarding the particulars of the LDO. The LDO is finally approved. The Board mentioned some zone changes.

The Chair asked if there was any further discussion on any other issues. Mayor Ellis said that he attended a meeting with N.J.T.A.P. in February regarding Route 78 and Diamond Hill Road. The Commissioner attended the meeting, which mostly involved train transportation, but had a public session at the end. The Mayor asked if the Commissioner would hear a presentation of things we have discovered over the last few months which might expedite that particular project, moving it up the ladder in the sense that perhaps the Borough could capture some stimulus money for a new study. The Commissioner argued that the project was done, but did agree to a meeting. The projected date for this meeting is March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009. He discussed Route 78 Regional Network Interconnect Study Municipal and County Public Officials Briefing meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> in Somerville. The Mayor said he is invited to attend, where they will be looking at mobility throughout the region. The study includes I-78 from Hillcrest Road to Baltusrol Road overpass CR-463 and the roadway network from Springfield Avenue Route 512 to Route 28 South Avenue/North Avenue. The Mayor said he believes this meeting is a result of some of the pressure that the Borough has tried to put on.

The Chair asked if there were any members of the public that wished to be heard, and hearing none, adjourned the meeting at 8:11PM until the next meeting of April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Taylor  
Planning Board Clerk