

CINNAMINSON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

September 25, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Minniti at 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 1621 Riverton Road, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077. Mayor Minniti announces that this meeting is being held in accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Act," P.L. 1975 c.231, having been noticed to the Burlington County Times and Courier Post on January 6, 2017.

In Attendance: Mr. Brauckmann, Mr. Evans, Mr. McCarthy, Mayor Minniti, Also present: Michael P. King, Administrator, George Morris, Solicitor, Michael Minton, Economic Development Director

Mayor Minniti opens the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reverend Doll gives blessing for new police officer.

Mr. McCarthy reads bio of new Officer Somers.

Mayor Minniti swears in new Police Officer Adam Somers.

Update from Special Counsel

Mr. Morris reviews background of special investigation of Mr. Brauckmann beginning in March 2017. Labor Counsel investigated and a report was issued in July. Report was referred to Special Counsel Attorney M. Lou Garty for summary report. Mr. Morris asks committee to waive attorney-client privilege for the limited purpose of allowing her to explain the report.

Atty. Garty will distribute report to committee and collect after presentation. Motion to waive attorney client privilege as described made by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. McCarthy. Roll call vote. Mr. Brauckmann recuses himself. Mr. Evans, aye; Mr. McCarthy, aye; Mr. Young, aye; Mayor Minniti, aye.

Special Counsel Garty distributes report to Mr. Evans, Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Young and Mayor Minniti. Gives committee an overview of the report. This report is confidential and not subject to OPRA. She will provide legal advice and advise what the implications are for the Township.

The first issue is did Committeeman Brauckmann offer to exercise his vote as a committeeman in favor of Mr. Young to a vacant position in exchange for an appointment for his spouse with either the Township or to the County college? The investigator concluded that on various occasions Mr. Brauckmann expressed his willingness to change his vote on Mr. Young as the next superintendent of public works in order to secure a position for his wife with the township or the county. Mr. Betley stated that he did not credit Mr. Brauckmann's denial on this issue.

Another issue that was brought before the investigator was whether there were communications or actions which give rise to the Whistleblower claim by four employees. This is a matter which might be subject to future litigation. Ms. Garty is concerned about exposure for the four employees. Investigator concluded that the employees do not currently have a viable Whistleblower claim because none of them have suffered adverse reaction. However, he did find that the actions noted do expose the Township to future liability, not only by the four people but also by a claim by another employee. There were communications by Mr. Brauckmann with employees related to their terms or conditions of employment. Her advice is that it is better to insulate council members from this type of interaction.

The investigator did find that there was no continuing conduct raised from a 2014 memo that some employees signed until January of the present year. He did not find a pattern of continuing conduct.

There was also a question of whether there was a potential age related discrimination claim because there was a comment uncovered during the course of the investigation. The investigator did not find that there were any discriminatory motives based on age.

The investigator also looked at the way that Mr. Brauckmann communicated with some employees who were lower level, not in his chain of command nor within his liaison. Some were done without the knowledge of the township administrator, were direct communications with employees and related to potential terms of employment and opportunity for promotion. The investigator found that this type of communication was inappropriate and could be the seed of employment related litigation. It can increase the township's risk of lawsuits by employees when promises are not kept or other employees perceive it as an opportunity lost to curry favor. He also found that Committeeman Brauckmann should not have meetings with Township employees without the knowledge of the administrator. There was documentation showing prior instances where the committeeman had been told not to do this. The solicitor urged him not to do so from a prior incident.

Atty. Garty advises committee that when an elected official engages in this type of communication, when there is no union representative present, you expose yourself and the township to a "he said/she said" type of situation; also to accusations of potential favoritism. This is why we remove township officials from this type of interaction; it gives the township a level of protection. Engaging with lower level employees about potential opportunities is problematic. The investigator also noted an incident where the committeeman was injecting himself into a law enforcement decision on ticketing. This was an issue because it exposes the township to claims of favoritism and lack of transparency. She feels that this is surprising for someone who is in law enforcement because you don't want your actions as a law enforcement officer questioned by someone who is an elected official. The other problem with this type of interaction; it is outside the scope of the committeeman's authority, which can expose the committee member to individual liability. If a committee member engages in direct communication without the knowledge of the department head that could be deemed to be outside your scope of authority if there is litigation.

Another issue was whether the committeeman breached the duty to maintain the confidentiality of discussions in executive sessions. The investigator found that there was no solid proof that there was any breach but that Mr. Brauckmann admitted to calling a prior council member, Mrs. Fitzpatrick, immediately after an executive session. The investigator felt this raised a strong suspicion that confidentiality was breached although there was no solid proof. He also found that there was more to the communication between Mr. Brauckmann and the former committee member than Mr. Brauckmann revealed and that it was “foolish of Mr. Brauckmann to even call Mrs. Fitzpatrick after an executive session and ask her any questions about a particular employee who later made a Whistleblower claim”.

Regarding legal implications and whether there is potential exposure to a violation of official misconduct, which is a New Jersey statute, which is potentially criminal conduct. The allegation is that Mr. Brauckmann offered to exercise his vote in favor of Mr. Young getting the superintendent’s position in return for his wife getting a job with the township or county college with at least \$50,000 salary. There were communications, there was a text message. There was also a request that advertising for a clerk’s position be held up until he could submit his wife’s resume. This request was denied.

The investigator also had additional information about Mr. Brauckmann’s attempt to send his wife’s resume to various professionals with whom the township does business. This was something that when asked, his attorney instructed him not to answer. The investigator noted that there was no fifth amendment right asserted.

Mr. Betley declined to make any ultimate determination as to whether Mr. Brauckmann violated the township code or criminal statutes, although he made another telling comment that there appears to be grave questions as to the motivation of Committeeman Brauckmann and the appearance of impropriety in doggedly advancing the interest of a family member with vendors who do business with the township and more importantly in exchange for a vote on the Young appointment. That is distasteful to say the least.

Special Counsel references NJ Official Misconduct statute: When a public official with the purpose to obtain a benefit for himself or another, commits an act relating to his office which is an unauthorized exercise of his official functions. These are allegations.

The investigator found Mr. Brauckmann’s explanations as not credible. There was a communication with a township police officer. The investigator found that when Committeeman Brauckmann spoke to this police officer he was not within his silo. The employee felt Don Brauckmann was digging for information and therefore reported to a high level official. This employee was approached by a former officer with a veiled assertion about a plan for succession if the Cinnaminson Police Department is restructured. If that person is elected and some other officer does not get a higher appointment, this could open the township up to litigation. The investigator stated that he couldn’t find that there was an established plan to change the police department but that these comments made by Mr. Brauckmann were laying the foundation to recruit this employee as the next Chief of Police. This employee felt threatened by having to raising concerns about an elected official.

There was another instance where Mr. Brauckmann made statements that were a threat to another employee's job, saying that this person had too much power and had to go. Don Brauckmann denied making these statements. The investigator stated that in both cases he credited the employees' version of the events.

Also there was a communication by Committeeman Brauckmann with a public works employee relating to Mr. Young's possible superintendent position. The investigator stated that the employee is concerned about reprisals. There was already a subcommittee in place in search of a public works director. His actions were inappropriate. They were contrary to organizational structure. None of these meetings should have taken place without the knowledge of administrator.

The investigator noted that some questions Don Brauckmann refused to answer. No fifth amendment right was cited. A person should be as forth right and apparent as possible instead of stonewalling investigator.

If referring to law enforcement, committee also must consider township code – Section 41-5 Not to solicit or promise future employment. Troubling evidence of several occasions where there were statements or texts textbook quid pro quo. Attempt also to secure advantage for his spouse. Because of the seriousness of the findings committee can consider referring to Burlington County Prosecutors office for them to investigate. Committee can direct labor counsel to make all of the information available to the prosecutor's office. The County Prosecutor's office can review and investigate or decline to prosecute. Committee can also refer to NJ Division of Community Affairs Local Finance Board. Cinnaminson Township has no Township Ethics Board. To protect Township and the committeeman from exposure, if there is a restructure of the police department, she suggests Mr. Brauckmann should not vote or participate to shield the Township and him from liability. Same thing for public works hiring and promotions. To shield committeeman and township, he should recuse himself from participating and voting in these matters.

Some things were the subject of an FBI investigation. We don't know where that investigation is. Ms. Garty recommends that it go to the prosecutor if committee decides to continue matter. If they decide to send to the DCA, they could have limited waiver of attorney-client privilege.

To shield township from future liability, committee should review whether township policies provide that direct communications to lower employees does not occur.

Direct communication with lower level employees not in his chain of command is direct violation of township organizational structure. Mr. Betley found that Mr. Brauckmann's version of the events and stated reasons of contact with the employees was not found to be credible. He asked Mr. Brauckmann if this happened. Mr. Brauckmann used the phrase cloak and dagger. Why is this necessary if it is not a problem? The township administrator was not present for any of these communications.

Ms. Garty advises that the township should put their liability carrier and JIF carrier on notice that there may be a potential claim. She advises that Whistleblower litigation can be very expensive for the township.

There was discussion in the report about potential violations of the public contracts law. There are serious questions about a need to prevent future exposure to that. We need to shield individual members from having individual communications with vendors.

Mr. Minniti asks about privilege being waived, would it extend to the prosecutor but not to the public. Mr. Morris confirms that there can be a limited waiver. Ms. Garty advises that findings should not be made public if forwarded to prosecutor and/or DCA, they may want it kept confidential. Report can be sent to the prosecutor and DCA simultaneously.

7:50 pm

Motion to go into closed session made by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. McCarthy. Voice vote. All aye, no opposed. Motion is approved.

8:22 pm

New Business

Introduction of Ordinance 2017-12 Vacating Arch Street, a paper street.

Motion to introduce with public hearing on October 16, 2017, made by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Evans. Voice vote. All aye, no opposed. Motion is approved.

Introduction of Ordinance 2017-13 To Amend Land Use Ordinances to Require Attachment Permits and Attachment Applications for Installation of Microcell Antenna Equipment. Motion to introduce made by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Evans. Voice vote. All aye, no opposed. Motion is approved.

Public Comments on Consent Agenda Items only – None

Consent Agenda

Resolution 2017 – 113 Liens for DPW work

Resolution 2017 – 114 Refund of duplicate tax payment – 607 Willow Drive

Resolution 2017 – 115 Refund of pre-paid taxes – 1935 Broad St.

Resolution 2017 – 116 Release of Performance Bond – F.S. Gurk under certain conditions

Resolution 2017 – 117 Release of Performance Bond – SAIA LTD Freight

Resolution 2017 – 118 Approving Change Order and Final Payment for Jefferson Street Drainage Project

Resolution 2017 – 119 Resolution expressing Opposition to Legislative Proposals Regarding S-1045 OPMA and S-1046 OPRA

End of Consent Agenda

Mr. Young comments that the wording in Resolution 2017-118 must be amended to reflect Jefferson Street Drainage.

Motion to approve consent agenda made by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. McCarthy. Voice vote. All aye, no opposed. Consent agenda is approved.

Minutes – Motion to approve minutes of Sept. 11, 2017 and Sept. 11, 2017 Closed made by Mr. Brauckmann, seconded by Mr. Evans. Voice vote. All aye, no opposed. Minutes are approved.

Bill List – Motion to approve the bill list made by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Evans. Voice vote. All aye, no opposed. Bill list is approved.

Mayor Minniti addresses Mr. Morris regarding two motions to be made. Mr. Morris states that committee needs to waive their confidentiality in order for entire committee to review Mr. Betley's report. Motion to waive made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. McCarthy. Voice vote.

Authorize administrator to contact JIF motion Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. McCarthy. Voice vote. All aye, no opposed. Motion is approved.

Public Comment

Marie Birbeck, 2513 Chestnut Hill Drive – Asks about Mr. Young's role at Public Works and contacting police officers. Mr. Young responds that he gave no direct orders but made suggestions and told employees to verify with Director King. Asks for Mayor Minniti to resign.

Ken Miller, 2418 Yellowstone Rd. – Questions Mr. Brauckmann regarding his wife's employment and his stand on Mr. Young's position for public works. Speaks in support of Mr. Brauckmann. Questions the mayor about his contact with special counsel.

Bill O'Connor, 1003 Edgewood Lane – Asks when we became a Faulkner Act form of government whereby committee members cannot communicate with employees. Mayor Minniti responds that it was pursuant to a corrective action plan due to inappropriate contact between a former committee member and an employee.

Jeff Gural, 816 Windsor Drive – Comments that he feels this is in retaliation for Mayor Minniti losing the election.

Marie Birbeck, 2513 Chestnut Hill Drive – Asks if investigation was opened on March 6th for specific allegations. Mayor Minniti responds that special counsel was advised that he should pursue the facts where they lead.

Johanna Rooney, 718 Westfield Drive – Her and her immediate family own 7 properties in Cinnaminson. They have a strong financial interest in this town and this committee. Thanks committee for what they do for the township. Thanks on behalf of the Woman's Bocce League. Requests a new league to be formed for Pickle Ball which will require tennis courts. They will make the request to Parks and Recreation.

Dave Cullen, 2410 Yellowstone Rd. – Comments about comments made by Mayor Minniti regarding ceremony held for his nephew Trooper Sean Cullen.

Paul Conda, 2414 St. Charles Place – Feels that the investigation is a witch hunt. Also comments about approvals that were not given for John Feghali/Riggins.

John Jordan, 1011 Edgewood Lane – Comments in support of Mr. Brauckmann.

Roger Hare, 2603 Yellowstone Rd/214 Helen Drive – Asks about public works employee mentioned in investigation. Is there a process for employees to file a complaint outside of reporting to Director King? Mayor Minniti states that the process is for the employee to go to municipal clerk, who would then contact the solicitor. This is in the employee handbook.

Bill O'Connor, 1003 Edgewood Lane – Asks if the township has done anything for hurricane victims. Mr. McCarthy offers to have Mr. O'Connor contact him. Mr. McCarthy will speak to Mr. Brennan on his behalf. Mr. Young suggests that monetary contributions are also helpful.

Brian Hartley, 2402 St. Charles Place – Comments to committee that they are all to blame for current situation.

Dave Cullen, 2410 Yellowstone Rd. – Comments about ceremony for his nephew Trooper Sean Cullen and how the mayor's comments affected him.

Eamonn Cullen, 114 Warwick Ave. – Questions Mr. Evans and Mr. McCarthy about whether they heard Mr. Brauckmann ask for a job for his wife.

Ray Buddon, 1813 Jefferson St. – Asks what Pickle Ball is. Thanks committee members for the paving that has been done.

Kathy Fitzpatrick, 3 Frost Rd. – States that she sat on committee for 9 years. She was treated disrespectfully. She was never questioned for investigation. Speaks in support of Mr. Brauckmann.

Christine Turner, 1909 Washington St. – Will we find out what committee's decision is regarding the investigation? Mayor Minniti explains that privilege has been waived for committee members to review investigative report. Mr. McCarthy explains that committee members will be reviewing the report before next Monday's meeting.

Dave Wood, 4 Devon Ct. – Comments that we spend so much time doing negative. Asks committee to look at the legacy they are leaving.

George Scafidi, 711 Cornell Ave. – Comments about trash removal and that Republic is destroying his trash cans. What can be done about it? Mr. Young responds that Republic will replace trash cans if they are damaged. Questions the use of dumpsters in Sweetwater which is difficult for the seniors living there to use.

Christine Turner, 1909 Washington St. – Comments about the negativity in Cinnaminson. It is embarrassing for our residents. We need positivity out of our leadership.

John Feghali, 1015 Rt 130 S. – Asks what the status of his planned renovations is. He has had meetings with the Economic Development Committee where he was assured that this was something that would be allowed. Mayor Minniti responds that used car lots are not a permitted use but that this is an issue for the Zoning Board. He reviews what the process is. Mayor Minniti to reach out to Mr. Gillespie for his legal advice regarding spot zoning. Mr. Young states that if he met with Economic Development Committee and they indicated it was doable, they can advocate on his behalf.

John Jordan, 1011 Edgewood Lane – States that there is a property with seven cars on Edgewood Lane. He is advised to talk to the Zoning Officer, John Marshall.

Barbara Jordan, 1011 Edgewood Lane – Asks if Lidl and the Marriott are still coming to Cinnaminson. She heard that they were not coming. Director King advises that she is incorrect.

Marie Birbeck, 2513 Chestnut Hill Dr. – Says that Mr. Valkenburg from the Planning Board said that the Marriott was a dead deal. Director King replies that the developer has been out of the country but that they are meeting with them next week.

Ernie McGill, 501 Lexington Dr. – His name was mentioned in the investigative report. Will he be getting a copy of the report? Speaks in support of Mr. Brauckmann and the years that they worked together.

Mayor Minniti closes public comment.

Comments from Committee

Mr. Young wishes to clarify comments about comments made in regard to 9/11 made at the last meeting. The last ceremony for 9/11 was held in 2013, not 2012. Through the efforts of Mr. Frank Locantore, Township Administrator we received an artifact from the World Trade Center. Township Committee authorized an official ceremony. There was discussion as to what was the best ultimate location of the artifact might be. Memorial Park was discussed as a possible location. Because of the possibility of it ending up as part of the town's park system, Committeeman Brauckmann was asked to represent committee in the planning of the receiving ceremony in conjunction with Administrator Locantore, Director Mickey King and the Cinnaminson Fire Department headed by Chief Kramer. For the short term Administrator arranged to borrow the platform that it sits on today from another community. The ceremony could not have been presented with more reverence for what it stands for in America. From the trip by fire engine from Station 201 to the presentation in town hall to the community, it was a very moving and memorable event. After the ceremony, there was discussion on the formation of a joint working committee with representation by the Fire Company, Township Committee and the police department. CJ Ricciuti's father had left some money for the fire company to be used for the creation of a 9/11 memorial. Since Memorial Park was one of the locations considered, Committeeman Brauckmann was asked to represent committee and work with the fire company

on such a memorial program, fundraising and whatever else would be involved. To the best of my knowledge that is where the project went into limbo. But the fact is this all occurred in 2013, not 2012. Please have the record corrected to reflect these facts. Thank you.

Mr. Evans - This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or exercise their revolutionary right to overthrow it.
~Abraham Lincoln

My loyalties are deeply entrenched with this community My opinions are based on what I read. Then I vote based on the information provided to me. In this case, information flow was greatly limited. I voted for this investigation on the possibility there may have been some violation regarding tampering with employees. In reviewing the minutes from that day “Motion to authorize solicitor to reach out to labor counsel regarding the email read by Mr. McCarthy and the interaction with public works employee. If labor counsel deems it appropriate, to seek further information that they be allowed to do so.”

I am disheartened to say the least. I am trying to wrap my head around this and could not make a decision without all of the facts. When those facts are brought to light I promise to make the best decision in the interest of Cinnaminson Township.

Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government only when it deserves.
~Mark Twain

Mr. Brauckmann – First of all I want to thank everyone for enduring this evening and for witnessing what I feel is a trial by public lynching. This is a public execution orchestrated and carried out. I know that and you know that. Everything that has been done up until this point has been done in closed or done a certain way and what you witnessed was intentionally done to disparage my name. It was done on TV. There were at least four or five media outlets contacted. Anyone want to guess who contacted them because it wasn't me. But this was intentionally done and orchestrated. In June we saw five of our residents come in and pour their hearts out over retaliation they received from politics, not including the postmaster, who I did receive an email from. She said that she did reach out to the mayor and deputy mayor by using our link. She then provided me that email. She invited me to come and I went. It was a wonderful ceremony. That brand new postmaster to our town was also verbally assaulted and abused because she was being accused of doing something for political reasons. Another lash of retaliation. We heard about all of these things in June. No one on this committee, our attorney, did anything about it. We sat there quiet because it was a shock to us. It was the first a lot of us were hearing about it. It wasn't coordinated. We didn't have a quick response about should we get special counsel to investigate this. Should we look into one of our own like we saw back in March? I'm here to tell you that this was a hit. I apologize for the length of this but I do have a prepared statement but please endure me because there were a lot of things said about me tonight. I'd like to say some things for the record. First of all, as you know, my name is Donald Brauckmann. I'm an elected official in Cinnaminson Township and I have been for ten years now, seven on township committee and three on the school board. During my elected time of public service, I have never been the subject of an investigation or allegation like the ones you've heard of tonight. I've been a police officer for twenty-four years now. I've currently a criminal investigation detective. I'm one of our community policing officers, a field training officer tasked with training and mentoring newly hired officers. I'm also a certified police academy instructor. While here in Cinnaminson I

was a school resource officer, the first one, for five years, until I left. During my twenty-four years as a police officer I've never once had charges filed against me or any disparaging remark made against me. So this is all new. Prior to working in law enforcement I served as a congressional staff assistant for a US Congressman where I was the district liaison for military and veteran affairs. I'm also a proud United States marine. When I signed on I knew volunteer service would take some of my time and I would lose some of my privacy. What I didn't know was that the powers that be of Cinnaminson are run by a small group of people who have a history of getting their way at any cost. During the last several years I took several positions against the powers that be and I firmly believe that my speaking out against these people has caused me to be targeted by all of the things you've seen tonight. This pattern of harassment, intimidation and reprisal is a direct result of my speaking out and attempting to make known something which I believe is improper regarding several issues. I am not the only one who has suffered this fate as there have been previous employees, contractors, businesses and even elected officials have received the same treatment with threats if legal action, lawsuits and other means of intimidation. This is not the way government is supposed to work. The primary issues that have caused me to receive the treatment I've been receiving in my opinion are disagreements with the current committee regarding our role as committee members in a township committee form of government. That's what we are. The setup of our senior leadership staff here in Cinnaminson; Cinnaminson used to have an administrator, a chief of police, and/or a public safety director and a superintendent of public works at the top of our organization. Disagreement over our administrator's recommendation that Committeeman Young become our public works superintendent and receive a considerable pension bump. My desire to return our police department to one that is led by a chief of police and not a public safety director as was originally planned by this committee and stated to our police officers. It was also promised by our public safety director when he took this post back in 2011 that this would be a two-year transition. And finally, obviously, I was not supportive of Mr. Minniti's reelection bid. As a result, I believe that a majority of these complaints stem from my positions contrary to the powers that be, that threatened our status quo here. Make no mistake about it, this primary election was a control election even though we are all of the same political party. After the election loss, this town witnessed the retaliatory reaction of Mr. Minniti as he went after at least five of our residents by trying to get them fired from their jobs. Actions like what we witnessed after the primary election is not out of character for this person and in fact, it's the person I've seen many times behind the scenes when anyone gets in his crosshairs. Unfortunately, this is also the history and reputation of several others who are involved in this witch hunt against me. So it's no surprise to me we are where we are right now. This character assassination and coordinated attack has been exhausting for me and my family. Suffice to say, once I have the opportunity to review this report with my attorney, I will defend myself against these accusations and I will seek legal action myself. Our town's eyes are wide open and saw exactly what was going on this year and they took decisive action on June 7th by voting for change, by saying enough is enough. I'm ready to personally get to work, to heal this town and move us forward to return us to the great town I know we can be. I believe our residents are with me so I thank you all for your continued support. Good evening.

Mayor Minniti – I suppose I will close by saying this, this has been a rather unfortunate and embarrassing time for this town, specifically since January 1st. When people talk about the embarrassment out town has become and how we are viewed so negatively by the public, it's interesting because it can't be that many people that watch Cinnaminson notebook on Channel 28. What they do look at is social media and the public hate site run by Barb Wright called Cinnaminson Friends and Neighbors and its co-piece Cinnaminson bitchfest. For the last nine

months now have been nothing but a vessel of hate, vitriol and lies. I wasn't on social media from January until June-ish but yet the people that are on social media, Mr. Evans and Mr. Brauckmann are featured speakers in these forums; these forums of hate. Are they there explaining the positive things that are happening in Cinnaminson? They aren't. For all of those that are so judgmental about what we're showing our children, what are you showing your children with your online behavior and your online comments that your children do see, that my ten year olds hear about the way their 10-year-old friends' parents are carrying on social media. Don Brauckmann likes to talk on and on about my actions taken against a select two or three individuals who said incendiary, hateful things. And these individuals, some of which come in direct contact with my children. Now we talk about trying to get them fired. I understand that Bill O'Connor doesn't understand abuse of power and that a mayor can't get anybody fired. I would think Don Brauckmann would know a little bit better that I can't get anybody fired. But the bottom line is I did nothing more than show agencies the words of the people that are associated with them and said do you understand what this person is saying. Or do you endorse these sorts of comments and these behaviors? If those comments violated social media policy of the school district and I would think that they have, the school district will stand in judgement of those comments, not I. If the companies that those individuals work for find that those comments are not reflective of their corporate personality or their profile, they will make that determination. So the idea that I went around getting people fired is more of the lies that have been put forth on the hate sites of Facebook for the last six months. That is what the difference is. Let's look at what's happened this year. The township's bond rating was upgraded for the second time to the highest in Burlington County. This town had a zero tax increase. We landed Lidl, one of three towns to do so. And we got rid of the Garden State Inn. And we got a Marriott. And we got a Starbucks. These are all great things, but how much do you hear about it. You don't. You hear about Tony Minniti's a liar. You hear about the committee is dysfunctional. You hear about witch hunts and everything else. This committee didn't assemble the report on Don Brauckmann. Two level of very competent legal firms went to great lengths and have stacks of evidence. I can't wait until you get to read your words the way I got to read your words, and listen to them because that's where this all comes from. I expect that all of those in this audience who are so critical of us for ensuring the government in this town is honest, is ethical, is not abusing their employees and their not abusing their role. I hope you all are back here to apologize for the things you've said once you see. If we want to start changing the perception of the town, that perception doesn't start with the five people up here, who take a lot of time away from their friends and family to serve this town. That's what we do. We don't make any money doing this. There's no great power. Being a township committee person in a township of 15,000 people. For all of the accusations about how crooked I am and how crooked Ben is, in the 15 years I've been doing this never once has any of these crazy allegations been proven to be true. People make accusations, they cause damage to my reputation because that's what they are trying to do and then it's all forgotten about. It's never addressed again and the weaponization of social media has made that a frighteningly effective form of smear. We were all arm in arm. When a committee member's behavior becomes unethical, abusive and possibly criminal, at some point you have to unlink your arms so you are not complicit in the actions that he's taken against what the balance of committee has tried to stop him from doing. We're here to ensure good government; that's what we do. If anybody thinks this is a waste of time, a waste of money, a witch hunt, well that's the opinion of some. The 60 people that are in this room, the same 60 people that are bashing Cinnaminson and it's governing body baselessly on social media are 60 people out of 15,000 residents. They are insignificant to all of Cinnaminson. They are a small group and their behavior is not representative of what this town is.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Young. Voice vote. All aye, no opposed. Meeting is adjourned.

10:04 pm

Duly passed and adopted:

Respectfully submitted

Lisa A. Passione, RMC
Municipal Clerk