

**PRINCETON COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 5, 2015**

The organization meeting of the Mayor and Council was held on this date at 5:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room in the municipal complex.

The audience participated in a salute to the Flag.

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Clerk read the following statement.

The following is an accurate statement concerning the providing of notice of this meeting and said statement shall be entered in the minutes of this meeting. Notice of this meeting as required by Sections 4a, 3d, 13 and 14 of the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided to the public in the form of a written notice. On December 17, 2014 at 4:00 p.m., said schedule was posted on the official bulletin board in the Municipal Building, transmitted to the Princeton Packet, the Trenton Times, the Trentonian, the Town Topics, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

**OATH OF OFFICE TO ELECTED MEMBERS OF PRINCETON COUNCIL**

The Mayor reported that at the General Election held last November, that Jo Butler was elected to office on Princeton Council, beginning today.

Walter Bliss, Esq. administered the oath of office to Ms. Butler.

The Mayor reported that at the General Election held last November, that Bernard P. Miller was elected to office on Princeton Council, beginning today.

Simon Miller, Esq. administered the oath of office to Mr. Miller.

**ROLL CALL**

The Municipal Clerk then called the roll.

Present: Mesdames Butler, Crumiller, Howard and Messers Liverman, Miller and Simon and Mayor Lempert.

Absent: None.

## ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mayor Lempert entertained nominations for the Council President of Princeton for 2014.

Mr. Liverman nominated Bernard P. Miller as Council President. Ms. Howard seconded Mr.

Liverman's motion. On a roll call vote, the motion to elect Mr. Miller as Council President of Princeton for 2015 was carried unanimously.

Simon Miller, Esq, administered the oath of office to Mr. Miller.

## 15-1 Appointment of Tax Collector

Trishka Cecil, Esq. administered the oath of office as Tax Collector to Tammie Tisdale.

## CONSENT AGENDA

- 15-2 Mayor and Council Departments, Boards and Commissions Assignments
- 15-3 Boards, Commissions and Committee Appointments
- 15-4 Staff Appointments
- 15-5 Resolution Professional Appointments 2015
  - Professional Services Agreement, Trishka W. Cecil, Esq. of Mason Griffin & Pierson, P.C., Municipal Attorney 2015, \$10,000. Per Month.
  - Professional Services Agreement, Hodulik & Morrison, PA, Auditor, Not to Exceed \$50,000.
  - Professional Services Agreement, McManimon, Scotland & Bauman, LLC, Bond Counsel, Fees on File.
  - Professional Services Agreement, Coded Systems LLC, 2015 Codification Services, Not to Exceed \$21,500.
  - Professional Services Agreement, Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy, PC, Labor Counsel, \$190. Per Hour.
  - Professional Services Agreement, Harry Haushalter, Esq. Tax Attorney, Not to Exceed \$60,000.
  - Professional Services Agreement Michael Barrett, Esq., & Firm of Bergman & Barrett, Municipal Public Defender, Not to Exceed \$57,500.
  - Professional Services Agreement, Reed Gusciora, Esq., Municipal Prosecutor, Not to Exceed \$70,000.
  - Professional Services Agreement, Ostergaard Acoustical Associates, Consultant, Not to Exceed \$5,000.
  - Professional Services Agreement, Land Concepts Group, Consultant, Paid Through Applicant Escrow Fees.
  - Professional Services Agreement, SWM Consulting, LLC, Consultant, \$160. Per Hour.
  - Professional Services Agreement, AECOM Technical Services, Inc., Consultant, Paid through Applicant Escrow Fees.
  - Professional Services Agreement Snyder Environmental Engineering Associates, Consultant, Paid through Applicant Escrow Fees.

- Professional Services Agreement, Gregory Sandusky, P.E., L.S., Consultant, \$100 Per Hour.
- Professional Services Agreement, Princeton Hydro, LLC, Consultant, Not to Exceed \$15,000.
- Professional Services Agreement, Daniel Dobromilsky & Associates, Consultant 2015, \$100 Per Hour/\$50 Per Hour.
- Professional Services Agreement, Weidlinger Associates, Inc., Consultant, Paid through Applicant Escrow Fees.
- Professional Services Agreement, Bruce A. Eisenstein Ph.D. P.E., Consultant Not to Exceed \$7,500.
- Professional Services Agreement, Dhvani B. Shah, M.D., Consulting Psychiatrist Corner House, Not to Exceed \$28,000.
- Professional Services Agreement, City Connections, LLC, Web Site Consultant, Total Base Fee \$11,053.

15-6 Professional Services Agreement, Shirley Bishop, P.P., Affordable Housing Consultant, \$165.00 Per Hour.

15-7 Professional Services Agreement Community Grants and Planning, 2015 COAH Trust Fund Monitoring Report, Not to Exceed \$6,000.

15-8 Resolution Authorizing the Assessor to File Tax Appeals and Rollback Assessments

15-9 Resolution Adopting 2015 Meeting Schedule

15-10 Resolution Providing Adequate Notice of Meeting

15-11 Resolution Designating Official Newspapers

15-12 Resolution for Tax Sale

15-13 Authorizing Chief Financial Officer to Execute Promissory Notes

15-14 Officers Designated to Execute Checks

15-15 Resolution for Delinquent Interest and Year End Penalty

15-16 Cancellation of Tax Balances Under \$10.00

15-17 Resolution Designating the Public Agency Compliance Officer

15-18 Annual Cash Management Plan

15-19 Resolution to Appoint 2015 JIF Fund Commissioner

15-20 Elected Officials Annual Education or Training

Mr. Miller moved approval of the consent agenda as presented by Mayor Lempert. The motion was seconded by Ms. Butler and carried unanimously.

(Resolutions appended to this set of minutes)

**MAYORS REMARKS**

Mayor Lempert welcomed dignitaries in the audience then delivered her reorganization day remarks for 2015.

**COUNCIL REMARKS**

Council President Miller then delivered his reorganization day remarks for 2015.

Mesdames Butler, Crumiller, Howard and Messrs. Liverman and Simon added their reorganization day remarks for 2015.

(Remarks appended to the original set of minutes)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Saul Mazariegos, taxi driver in Princeton expressed concern over the issue of Uber in Princeton. Mayor Lempert said that the issue would be addressed on an upcoming Council agenda. Ms. Butler said that they are working on the Taxi Ordinance and plan to meet with the taxi owners and police in early February to discuss issues that they are facing.

Mr. Liverman offered a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Linda S. McDermott  
Municipal Clerk

## LEMPERT – REORG SPEECH 1.5.15

Last year at this time, we marked the one year anniversary of consolidation. Snow was falling, and we were headed into one of the worst winters in memory – the Polar Vortex! We had more than 40 inches of snow, mass power outages, school cancelations, and road salt shortages up and down the East Coast. The relentlessness of the storms tested our collective mettle and the endurance of our staff. Police, public works, fire and EMS, engineering, recreation, and administration worked around the clock to clear the streets, reopen roads, and keep everyone safe. We made good use of our emergency notification system to keep residents informed. And as with superstorm Sandy, we partnered with the library, clergy association, schools and University to ensure everyone had a place to recharge and get warm. Together, we weathered the storm.

In the fall, our emergency management director, Bob Gregory, hosted officials from FEMA, who led staff and elected officials through a series of training exercises. Today, we stand even more resilient and prepared than before, and we are unquestionably better positioned to deal with severe snowstorms as a consolidated community working as one.

The bringing together of the former Borough and Township has helped put Princeton on the map as a model municipality. This past November, the New Jersey League of Municipalities awarded

Princeton with the prestigious Innovation in Governance Award for our successful implementation of consolidation. Our reconstitution as a single government continues to pay dividends – and has helped us to reshape ourselves as a more affordable, diverse, and sustainable community. Our boldness in breaking new ground goes beyond consolidation, and Princeton has received statewide, national, and even international recognition in 2014 for many of our innovative initiatives.

Sustainable Jersey presented Princeton with the 2014 Leadership Award for our strong commitment and dedication to community education and outreach initiatives, including Sustainable Princeton's Great Ideas Breakfasts and the Sustainable Leadership Awards. Sustainable Jersey also elevated Princeton to silver status, and we now join the top tier of sustainable communities in the state.

We won the 2014 Outstanding Municipal Partner Award in conjunction with Princeton Community Housing for our leadership and commitment to building affordable housing, presented by the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey.

We won a NJ Smart Workplaces Gold Award for our summer Flextime program, awarded by Greater Mercer TMA.

Our fabulous municipal engineer, Bob Kiser, was named Government Engineer of the Year by the Central Jersey branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Princeton was even recognized as a leader in the international arena – as we were the first municipality in the state to be designated by the World Health Organization as an Age Friendly Community for our walkability, available transportation options, variety of housing choices, and access to social interactions.

We emerged as a leading community on other fronts as well. The Health and Human Services Departments teamed up with the public library to put together workshops to educate residents about their options under the Affordable Care Act, and facilitate health insurance sign ups in the newly created marketplace. These efforts were held up as a model at a national health care conference in Washington DC.

In 2014, we officially ushered in a new era for our police department with the promotion of Nick Sutter to Chief. Under his leadership, our police department has been recognized several times over this year for their professionalism and exemplary community outreach efforts. The department earned its accreditation in March, not an easy feat under normal circumstances, and all the more remarkable given the dramatic changes brought on by consolidation. The combined police department has truly become better than the sum of its parts. We saw during the recent protests over the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner a profound and earned respect between our officers and the community they serve, and I have received many unsolicited emails

and calls praising the work of our officers and communicating to me a collective pride that they serve as the face of our town.

The police department has made tremendous strides. Back in 2013, as one of their first initiatives, the newly formed Safe Neighborhoods Unit conducted a survey on the community's expectations of the department. 500 residents responded, but despite significant outreach, including going door to door and translating the survey into Spanish, the police received no responses at all from our Latino community. The department took that as a wake up call and redoubled their efforts at outreach, hosting a series of community meetings led by Spanish-speaking officers. Chief Sutter issued a directive, clarifying that our local police do not enforce federal immigration laws and can assist immigrant members of the community without being concerned about their documentation. The police, in conjunction with the Human Services Department, also stepped up their enforcement of wage theft, a crime that surfaced as a major problem during the community meetings as immigrants are often targeted.

This summer, thanks to the efforts of Councilwoman Howard, Human Services, and the Public Works Department, the Princeton Council strengthened our stance against wage theft by passing an ordinance regulating landscaper registration. 20 Latino residents came to the public hearing, and several testified about their experiences. It was a powerful moment – members of our community who had previously

felt afraid to speak now felt empowered to participate in the democratic process and make their voices heard.

Our police department's efforts at outreach were featured by the NJ League of Municipalities at its annual conference and praised by members of the Obama administration.

We wouldn't be receiving any of these accolades or be able to function at a high level day to day without the hard work of our exceptional staff. I wanted to take a moment to recognize some of the changing faces this past year. In 2014 we said goodbye to several longtime employees. Bill Urian – who worked in the public works department for Princeton Borough and then the consolidated municipality for a total of 30 years; Director of Public Works Wayne Carr, who retired after 25 years; Greg O'Neil, our town arborist; Christine Lewandoski, historic preservation director, who retired after 25 years; Sgt. Mike Bender, Sgt. Joann Malta, and Sgt. Mike Cifelli; and of course, Bob Bruschi, who served as administrator of the former Borough and saw us through the critical transition year and the first two years of consolidation. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to each one of them for their dedication to our community.

We are thrilled to welcome several new faces. Marc Dashield, our new administrator, came to us from Montclair at the end of October, and has hit the ground running.

Jeff Grosser, our new health officer, had barely set up his new office when he was faced with handling New Jersey's first Ebola quarantine.

With the size of the active police force dipping below 50, we hired the first new police officers of the consolidated department: Dashawn Cribb and Donald Mathews. We also welcomed another new officer, who has in a short time already become one of the most beloved, and definitely the furriest member of the force – K9 officer Harris.

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Now that it's been two years since we consolidated, it seems an appropriate time to ask: Are we realizing cost savings? Have we improved services? Do we have a more responsive government? In short, is consolidation working? You might guess what my answers are, but I'll take the questions one-by-one:

Have we realized cost savings? Yes! We've shrunk the size of our staff from 235 employees in 2011 down to 208. If you look around, nearly every other Mercer County municipality has raised its tax rate and most have imposed double-digit increases since 2010. In contrast, Princeton actually has a *lower* municipal tax rate than we did 5 years ago. Collectively, Princeton residents paid over \$500 thousand less in municipal taxes in 2014 than in 2008. This past year, with the help of the Citizens Finance Advisory Committee, the Princeton Council adopted policies on debt service and fund balance levels, developed a long-term capital plan, and maintained our AAA bond rating. Council President Bernie Miller, working with Councilman

Patrick Simon, led successful negotiations with Princeton University for a seven-year agreement totaling over \$21 million dollars. All of these efforts work to stabilize our finances and cushion the current and future tax burden on our residents.

Have we improved services under consolidation? Yes! Even with lower municipal taxes, we've extended residential trash pick up across the entire town. We've increased police services including community policing and traffic enforcement despite having a smaller force.

As a single municipality, we have been better able to harness technology to enhance the services we provide to residents, improve communication, and be more transparent. We now use the phone notification system for leaf and brush pick up announcements. Municipal job openings are now posted on the website for all to see. We've created a public dashboard to provide information and data to the public in an easy-to-read format.

In September we launched Access Princeton, a one-stop call center for all municipal inquiries. It's a transformative technology that assists the town in providing superior service to residents by making it easy to connect to the government-- whether it's to report a pothole or to ask how to get a copy of your marriage license or anything in between. Residents can report issues directly to the call center by phone, or by email or mobile app. In November and December alone,

739 complaints were logged, and 732 of them have been resolved. It's a service that neither the former Township nor Borough would have had the available resources to provide, but with consolidation, we were easily able to convert the vacant Borough police dispatch space into the new Access Princeton call center. Special thanks goes to Deputy Administrator Kathy Monzo for conceiving of and spearheading this great new service, to Christina Iliff and Deb Rodgers for continuing to find ways to improve upon it, and to all the residents who have discovered and are using the service to help make our community cleaner, safer and better.

Do we have a more responsive government? Yes! We are more responsive and better positioned to partner with other community institutions to find efficiencies and improve service. The school district, library and municipality hired a joint networking specialist at a savings to all three institutions. The schools, library and town also formed an energy working group in 2014 to jointly explore energy savings and renewables. In 2015, we expect to issue a request for proposals to install a solar array farm on the old River Road landfill site, making productive use of otherwise unusable land. And just last month, Sustainable Jersey awarded Sustainable Princeton a \$35,000 grant to help our business community save money by saving on energy costs.

As another sign of strengthened community relationships, the municipality signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Princeton First Aid and Rescue Squad. The squad will build its much-

needed new headquarters at the site of the former Township's public works facilities, which had been sitting dormant. In exchange, the town will acquire the squad's existing buildings and property near the Princeton Shopping Center for possible use for affordable housing.

There was a fear that with consolidation we'd lose our identity, compromise our values and fail to support the downtown. If anything, as one community, we are a stronger voice for our values and have been able to deploy extra resources for center of town improvements.

We've worked with Sustainable Princeton to bring long-overdue recycling containers to Nassau Street. We will continue to add capacity in 2015 and at the same time work together with Mercer County, local businesses and landlords to facilitate recycling by shops and downtown apartment dwellers. Meanwhile, Public Works has stepped up its efforts to beautify the central business district and now sweeps up dirt and debris twice a week.

Moore Street, Vandeventer, Park Place and Branch Alley underwent major reconstruction work – with new sewers, waterlines, sidewalks and roads. The engineering department also oversaw the delicate reconstruction of historic Edgehill Road.

In 2012, the former Borough and Township both adopted Complete Streets policies, with commitments to make our streets safe for all users, pedestrians and bicyclists included, not just cars and trucks.

And in 2014 we started to implement “complete streets” through proposals for the first ever bike lanes close to center of town – proposals that demonstrate a real commitment to creating a more bikable, walkable community.

We have taken a strong stand in support of fundamental issues like affordable housing. Princeton has had a long, proud history of building affordable housing, dating back to the 1930s with the development of Franklin and Maple Terrace and the formation of the Borough Housing Authority. However, in 2014, New Jersey’s Council on Affordable Housing told Princeton we would have zero obligation to build more affordable housing, despite the needs of hundreds of our residents whose names fill the current waiting lists. Council rightly objected. We still await updated numbers and rules from the state, but in the meantime, we continue our commitment. In 2015, Council President Miller and Councilmembers Liverman and Crumiller, along with the rest of the Affordable Housing Task Force, will identify opportunities for converting underused publically owned properties into sites for affordable housing. Staying true to our values by investing in affordable housing is essential to maintaining and enhancing Princeton's ethnic and economic diversity, and underscores our efforts to be a welcoming community for all.

In addition, Council took action to prioritize quality of life for our residents by preserving the character of our neighborhoods. Last month Council passed an hours of operation ordinance, limiting

middle of the night operating hours for stores located next to homes in residential zones.

Is consolidation working? Yes! But we still have work to do.

Tomorrow night at 6pm we will gather here again to sort out our goals and priorities for the coming year. This is an energetic Council and we will likely have another full plate. In addition to some of the ongoing projects I've mentioned, in 2015 we will be:

- Continuing our discussion of the Witherspoon Street corridor and our desire to retain its character.
- Assessing the facility needs of our Fire Department.
- Working with the Police Department on a strategic plan
- Continuing with the ordinance harmonization process – thanks to Council President Miller, and Councilwomen Jo Butler and Jenny Crumiller for their initial drafting of the ordinances
- Working with Princeton University as they develop their new campus plan
- Continuing to look for ways to innovate and use technology to help us do our jobs better. This April, we'll be teaming up with the library and Tiger Labs for Princeton's first ever municipal hackathon. This is a call to all techies of all ages to come out for an all nighter to work on harnessing technology to address municipal challenges.

In looking ahead to 2015, I'd be remiss not to look back at some of the notable people Princeton lost in 2014, men and women who

helped to shape our community and touched many of our lives: I wanted to acknowledge a few of them this evening. Paul Sigmund, beloved professor and husband of former Mayor Barbara Boggs Sigmund; women and children's advocate and exceptional friend, Liz Erickson, Len Newton, who was instrumental in the fight for interracial housing; Ted Vial, who helped create Princeton Community Housing; social justice advocate Ann Yasuhara; community volunteer Penny Baskerville. And Princeton's extraordinary philanthropist, Bill Scheide. Princeton is a wonderful community because of the truly remarkable people who call this town home and are willing to devote their time, their money and their talents to making our community even better and stronger.

I'll conclude my remarks tonight with the story of another person who is dedicating herself to our community and the special store she opened this year. I had the honor of cutting the ribbon for a new business – a beauty salon on Leigh Avenue – with a unique bit of history. Doris Burrel, a name familiar to many Princeton old timers, ran a hair salon out the exact same location for four decades. Now the building is back in the family, and again open as a hair and beauty salon. Doris' granddaughter, Najwa Comeau, is the co-owner and it's called Makeovers Studio Salon. She is carrying on the legacy of her grandmother, but with her own particular spin.

We can all take inspiration from this story as we take stock of where we as a community have come from, the dramatic changes to our government brought on by consolidation, and where we're heading

now. Like Najwa Comeau reclaiming her grandmother's shop, we should aim to honor Princeton's history and maintain our unique and wonderful identity, while making over our community into a better version of itself – more affordable, sustainable, and innovative.

Of course, we may face discord; 2014 certainly had its share. We have weathered those storms and we have moved on. I am ready and eager to embrace all the challenges and opportunities of the coming year – and look forward to working with my colleagues on Council, the staff, our volunteers, and the broader community to make Princeton a shining example of good government serving an exceptional community.

Remarks: Reorg. 1.5.15

I want to start off by saying this year has been a lot like the advertisement I loved as a kid. The saying was " Sometimes you feel like a nut, sometimes you don't. Almond Joy has nuts Mounds Don't." This is how the running and attending the many meetings during 2014 made me feel. I must say now that 2014 is over I feel like the older lady in the Wendy's commercial that said " Where is the beef!"

Yes where is the beef or if I may change the wording a little where are the challenges . I know from working with my committee appointments there are are many challenges this year. Let me first thank Mayor Lempert for having the fortitude and desire to serve this great town of Princeton. As someone born in Princeton I could never have been so proud to have a progressive and fair minded Mayor. I want to Thank Council President Bernie Miller for having the leadership skills to guide this council to consensus on issues where I for one has simply given up but when Council President Miller would ask lets give this another shot. At that point the council seems to come together to get things done.

Let me say that Princeton is lucky that Councilwoman Jenny Crumiller decided to Run for office and serve. Jenny brings a unique and different opinion that lets all of us think outside the box. I have said this before and I will say this again Jenny has a gigantic heart and really does care about everyone. On every Council there is a council person (which is a good thing) that understands and keep the process on course. Our process professional is Councilwoman Butler. Councilwoman Butler because of her keen eye and finance background has proved to be an Asset on Council this year. Sometimes municipal councils need " moral direction and a sounding board." Councilwoman Howard has been such a person. Our Latino's brothers and sisters and so many other groups that where taken advantage of soon learned there is a new " caring and persuasive " moral Sheriff in town. Last but not lease is that this council because of the large amount of information that we receive on a daily basis. We have a detailed and thoughtful councilman name Patrick Simon that dissects the information and may fix or recommend substantives change that help tighten the ordinance or complaint.

We are so lucky to have an excellent Senior staff that supports council and make things work. Special thank you for the 2014 hard workers, Bob Brushi, Marc Dahsield, Kathy Monzo, Linda McDermott, Chief Nick Sutter, Bob Hough, Bob Kiser, Gary DeBlasio, Bob Hough and Bob Gregory.

I wanted to just say this so when I say where are the challenges (or where is the beef) I want the public to know that you have a team in place to represent you and do what's best for Princeton. Princeton Council is ready for the challenges and our unique attributes are ready and able to serve.

I am hoping this year to work with my committee assignments and continue to assist as a positive lightning rod. On **Affordable Housing** we are hoping to finish the blending of ordinances and present a cohesive ordinance to present to council. Under the leadership of Kristy Peacock we are also on top of establishing more affordable housing opportunities in Princeton.

**Corner House** is running as efficient as anyone could hope for. The concerns are certain cuts from the county and other funding sources. We don't want these to impede in services that are rendered. The outreach to high risk teens is going well. All leadership programs are busting through the roof in participation. We have been so lucky to have the leadership of Executive Director Gary De Blasio. To continue to think of ways to save our children.

#### **Princeton Alcohol and Drug Alliance:**

We are heading in a New Year with new vision and more robust plans to let many people know the importance of substance abuse. Under the leadership of Janet Giles We are looking for more members that are sincere and ready to make a difference through education and interaction.

#### **Public Safety Committee:**

Under the leadership of Chief Nick Sutter the Princeton Police should receive

An award for the most thoughtful, sincere and caring Police dept. in new jersey.

The list is through the roof of police and community interactions and the Public Safety Committee with the help of Police Commissioner Councilwoman Heather Howard should be recognized for doing a fine job. Challenges would be to complete the strategic planning process and continue to hire a diverse and Credible police personnel.

To make a long story short I am happy. I am jumping for joy. I am elated to take on the challenges of 2015. It is a blessing to have reached this point.

I am aware that reducing our towns debt was at the forefront of almost all council members goals for the year 2014. I am hoping we continue that goal for 2015 but not at the expense of slashing and dumping certain services that are essential for our community.

I am excited about the study that will be conducted to see what space is needed for the fire dept. personnel. These woman and men are our unsung heroes. They respond to fires and disasters that many of us (including me) would be afraid to do. I want this council to continue to support their efforts to consolidate and

Find the space needed to operate an efficient volunteer fire dept.

In closing let me thank all of you. Thank you for your support and thank you for having faith in your local representatives.

Happy New Year!!!

Thank you,

Lance Liverman

Congratulations to Bernie.

I begin by offering my heartfelt thanks to the voters of Princeton. Cliché though it may be, I sit here as living proof that every vote counts, a fact that is not lost on me. I value and respect each and every person who supported me, and I pledge to continue to work as hard as I possibly can to make our consolidation successful; to deliver excellent services at a reduced cost; to make our government more efficient and responsive to residents; and to make our work transparent and honest.

And to the six special voters who put me over the top – let me say that your new sidewalks will be installed shortly. That, of course is a joke – in part, because everyone in Princeton knows that there is no such thing as a free sidewalk.

On a serious note, we had some significant achievements in 2014, most of which have been covered by Mayor Lempert.

In particular, though, I would like to highlight the significant improvements on the legal front, with a new attorney and reduced expenses. We established a process for regular review, and as members of the legal committee, Ms. Howard and I have taken steps to become more proactive with regard to potential litigation by reviewing possible areas of friction and addressing them before they get to a crisis stage.

I would like to again offer a warm welcome to Marc Dashield as we begin our year in earnest. I look forward to our goal setting tomorrow evening.

We made significant progress on consolidating our ordinances but much work remains, and I look forward to continuing that work with Councilman Miller and Councilwoman Crumiller.

In November, the County Freeholders approved our request to use our Mercer at Play grant money to refurbish Mary Moss Park – a project that is of particular interest to me, and I am delighted that with a new three-year term, I should see this project through completion. The Parks and Rec Department is in the initial stages of planning, and I look forward to the time when we can meet with neighbors and concerned residents to gather their input on the project.

I am pleased by the formation of the Council Finance committee. Under Scott Sillar's leadership, CFAC has done an exemplary job of recommending fiscal policies and communicating important information to the public, and I am eager to continue to work with them. Their analysis has been vital to our decision making. I hope that the Finance Committee will allow Council to do even more work on our capital spending priorities.

Finally, I would close by recalling our message to voters two years ago when we sought their support. We acknowledged our Different Viewpoints but also our Shared Values and commitment to teamwork to make Princeton the best it can be. I renew my commitment to celebrating our differing viewpoints, but also our shared values, and hope we can recommit to teamwork on behalf of our community.

STATEMENT OF COUNCILWOMAN HEATHER HOWARD  
PRINCETON COUNCIL REORGANIZATION MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2015

I'm pleased to be here to mark another year of the consolidated Princeton and to look ahead to 2015. I want to start by thanking my colleagues for their hard work – it's a pleasure serving with you. In particular, I want to congratulate Jo Butler and Bernie Miller on their reelection to the Council, and thank Mayor Lempert for her continued leadership.

Two years ago we were here celebrating the historic consolidation of Princeton. We have rightly been proud of what we've accomplished, but also recognize how much more we have to do. I'd like to briefly highlight some of our successes in the past year, and look ahead to some of the challenges and opportunities we face in 2015.

Consolidation provided us with important tools to address the growing property tax burden, and I'm pleased that we were able to hold the line on municipal taxes last year, even in the face of rising school and county taxes. And we adopted important budget best practices, as recommended by the Citizens Finance Advisory Committee, that will impose discipline on our budget and capital planning processes. Adhering to and building on these new procedures should be a priority going forward.

But consolidation was never just about financial savings – it was also about creating a better and more effective government. I want to highlight on a few areas.

Public safety is a significant portion of our budget and a critical service for our residents, but also a reflection of who we are as a town. The Police Department continued to excel this year under the exceptional leadership of Chief Nick Sutter. Naming him Chief was a highlight of 2014, for it solidified the leadership and allowed the force to continue to gel, resulting in a stronger, more effective and more compassionate department. Those gains were recognized when, after a rigorous external review, the department achieved accreditation. While that would be an accomplishment for any force, it was a remarkable achievement and honor for Princeton, given the short time frame and the leadership challenges the department had faced.

The Police Department has made intensive efforts to strengthen relations with the community, to ensure all residents have their rights respected and feel that their voices will be heard. Building bridges with all members of our community will not only make our law enforcement efforts more effective and our town safer, but also forge a more just and humane community. The Department built on the Chief's immigration order with innovative training,

continues to work with Human Services to address wage theft and build bridges with the immigrant community, and the Safe Neighborhoods Unit is a model of community policing. These efforts garnered state and national recognition and I hope will continue to bear fruit.

It's important to note that the department continues to do more with less – we hired two terrific new officers to compensate for retirements, and still reached the Transition Task Force's target for a smaller force size well ahead of schedule. And the department continues to innovate and promote transparency, establishing a "ride along" program, expanding and modernizing the monthly police report, and instituting smart reforms to our dispatch to reduce overtime.

A key partner in the Police Department's efforts to strengthen community relations has been the Human Services Commission and our fabulous Human Services Director, Elisa Neira. She completed a community needs assessment, which will help us provide more efficient services to our most vulnerable residents, is working with various stakeholders to implement our wage theft reforms and expand the Send Hunger Packing (SHUP) program, and always responds compassionately to residents' needs.

And Elisa's had a key partner in our wonderful new Health Officer, Jeff Grosser. Together, they jumped into action when our WIC Clinic was threatened, preserving a vital service for at-risk moms and kids in town. Jeff has been on the job less than a year, but he's already done a masterful job helping to handle the meningitis outbreak on Princeton University's campus and dealing with the state's first Ebola quarantine. With his expertise and enthusiasm, we have already begun laying a foundation for a healthier Princeton.

I'm also pleased that we are finally getting a handle on our legal fees, an area of our budget that had seemed immune to significant savings from consolidation. Councilwoman Butler deserves much credit for adoption of the new monthly retainer arrangement, a more cost-effective contract for outside legal services, and I look forward to continuing to work with her to find ways to constrain these costs. In addition, through rigorous oversight and smart management of thorny issues, we hope to prevent litigation where possible.

We wouldn't be here today celebrating our successes without the dedicated staff and committed volunteers who serve on our boards and commissions. While we have successfully managed significant staff departures this past year, we will likely continue to face staff changes, and we must be vigilant about maintaining high quality staffing and services in Princeton. We recently welcomed our new administrator, Marc Dashield, and Marc's smooth transition bodes well for 2015.

2015 promises to be another exciting year for Princeton. I look forward to working with my colleagues, the tremendous staff and many engaged residents to continue to achieve the promise of consolidation and to keep Princeton the vibrant and diverse community we love.

remarks for January 5, 2015 Princeton Council meeting  
Patrick Simon

Happy New Year!

I have worked with so many people this past year, who work on municipal issues large and small, mostly with little fanfare, and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank as many of you as I can.

I would like to start by thanking the members of CFAC, the Citizens Finance Advisory Committee, who help make the all too often murky world of municipal budgets and finance more clear, both for the public and for this governing body. I especially want to thank Scott Sillars, who as the chairman, puts in a great deal of time on CFAC, and ably represents the committee in public meetings. I also want to thank Brian McDonald, Will Dove, and Adrienne Kreipke, all of whom are continuing this year, and also Gary Patteson, who has served on CFAC for the past two years, and Maureen Kearney, who joins the committee this year. I would also like to thank my colleagues Mayor Liz Lempert and Councilwoman Jo Butler, who serve as liaisons from the governing body, and from the professional municipal staff, our Director of Finance Kathy Monzo, and CFO Sandy Webb.

From the Alexander Street University Place Traffic and Transit Task Force, working on long term traffic and transit focused along Alexander Street and University Place, I would like to thank Chairman Kevin Wilkes, citizen volunteer and transit development and planning expert Nat Bottigheimer, and Kristin Appelget and Kim Jackson of Princeton University. I also wish to thank Councilman Lance Liverman, who serves with me, and from the professional municipal staff, Planning Director Lee Solow, as well as Municipal Engineer Bob Kiser and Municipal Land Use Engineer Jack West, and Kerry Philip. I also would like to acknowledge the many citizens who have contributed to the discussions of this task force, including Ralph Widner, Anton Lahnston, Sheldon Sturges, Rodney Fisk, Chip Crider, Heather Kisilywicz, Kip Cherry, and former Borough Mayor Marvin Reed.

From the Transit Trust Fund, I would like to thank citizen volunteers Scott Sillars, Anton Lahnston, Princeton University representatives Kristin Appelget, Kim Jackson, and Karen Jezierny, and Municipal Engineer Jack West, along with my colleagues Mayor Liz Lempert and Council President Bernie Miller.

From the LEPC, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, I would like to thank all of the volunteers, partners, staff, and colleagues who help plan for disasters of all kinds, including Director of Emergency Management Bob Gregory, Council President Bernie Miller, Councilwoman Heather Howard, Administrator Marc Dashiell, Chief of Police Nick Sutter, Director of Finance Kathy Monzo, Director of Infrastructure and Operations Bob Hough, Municipal Engineer Bob Kiser, our very able citizen volunteers Mark Scheibner and Grace Sinden, and Dan Dingle from Princeton Hospital, Gary Weisman from the Princeton Public Schools, and Paul Ominsky, Princeton University's Director of Public Safety.

From the Advisory Planning Districts Task Force, who are working on improving the neighborhood planning and zoning processes, I would like to thank citizen volunteers Wanda Gunning, Valerie Haynes, Bill Harla, and Ryan Lilienthal, our municipal Director of Planning Lee Solow, and task force chair and colleague Councilwoman Jenny Crumiller.

From the Public Works Committee, which is an internal council and staff committee, I would like to thank the professional municipal staff, lead be Director of Infrastructure and Operations Bob Hough, and

Municipal Engineer Bob Kiser, Assistant Engineer Deanna Stockton, Dan Vanmater, Janet Pellichero, and Janice Most. I would also like to thank my colleagues Mayor Liz Lempert, who has served on the committee for the past two years, Jenny Crumiller, who will continue to serve on the public works committee, and Council President Bernie Miller, who joins the committee effective today.

And before I forget, to Matt Wasserman and the members of the Environmental Commission, Donna Liu and the members of the Cable TV Committee, and Dianne Ciccone and the members of the Princeton Community TV Board, I want to say thank you all for your service to Princeton, and I look forward to working with you in 2015.

I also wanted to say a special thank you to a man who has only recently begun working for the municipality, and yet who seems to be everywhere he needs to be and then some. Administrator Marc Dashield, welcome, one more time, to Princeton; and thank you for putting in such an effort to make a fast start.

Turning to my colleagues, I would like to start by congratulating Councilwoman Butler and Council President Miller on their reelection this year, and Council President Miller on his election to President of this body for a third year.

I would like to thank all of my colleagues on this governing body. At this juncture, I have served with all of you for two years, and I know that each of you invests so much of your own time and effort on behalf of our community. Take pride in you individual contributions, and in what we have accomplished, and will accomplish, together. I have and will do the same, and I consider it an honor to serve beside each of you in this government.

I wish to acknowledge, especially, two of my colleagues, with whom I have had the opportunity to work closely, this past year. Councilwoman Jenny Crumiller, on some of the most challenging issues we face, I know I can turn to you for your insights and perspective. You bring an uncompromising commitment to fairness, and a deep sense of empathy and concern for individuals, to everything you do, to everything we do as a council.

And Councilwoman Jo Butler, this council does not give an award for its hardest working member, but if we did, you would be the finalist each and every year. Since long before I took office, you have been, simply put, indefatigable, working tirelessly on behalf of the Princeton community, resolute, whatever the challenges and whatever the obstacles. Thank you.

On a more personal note, I want to say thank you to my spouse, Marc Weiner, for the sacrifices you make so I can do this work, and I would also like to wish Happy Birthday to my mother, Margaret Simon, who this year is warm at home in West Bloomfield Michigan.

I would like to close by expressing my appreciation to all of you here today, to the people who may view these proceedings in the future, and to all of the people of Princeton. A little over two years ago, and again last year, you gave me the title Councilman, and put the word Honorable in front of my name. From the first day I took office, and still very much so today, I am deeply humbled by the faith and trust you have placed in me. I thank you for the privilege and opportunity to serve as your representative on this council.

Thank you everyone, Happy New Year, and good night.