REGULAR MEETING

Oceanport, New Jersey
January 18, 1996

REGULAR MEETING: The regular meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on January 18, 1996 at 8:02 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilpersons McGee, Filippone, Miller, Taylor, Silkworth and Council President Wolfe.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Cavanagh.

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Borough Clerk, Patricia L. Varca.

OFFICIALS ABSENT: Borough Attorney, Francis A. Margalotti.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council President Wolfe led the audience and members of the Council in the flag salute.

As copies of the minutes from the Regular Meetings held on December 21 and 28, 1995 and the minutes from the Reorganization Meeting held on January 1, 1996 had been made available for review by the members of the Governing Body, Councilwoman Silkworth moved to waive the reading of same and approve the minutes as presented by the Borough Clerk. It was seconded by Councilwoman Filippone and unanimously approved by Council.

Council President Wolfe then advised that this was the time for the public hearing concerning the renewal application made by ComCast Cable in the Borough of Oceanport and advised that Representatives from ComCast will make a presentation, followed by a period for public comment on this renewal application.

Mr. Peter Lyden, Area Manager of Government Relations thanked the Borough Council for having ComCast here this evening and advised that we are presently in the final stages of a federally mandated three year franchise renewal and ComCast initiated this process on or about July 23, 1993 in a letter to the Borough Council and that letter was followed up on October 23, 1995 by ComCast filing an Application for Renewal of Municipal Consent, which is required by law. He continued that the filing follows a State prescribed form and he is here this evening to answer any questions regarding the application.

Mr. Lyden commented that to the best of his knowledge, ComCast has provided all information that was requested from either the Borough or the State Office of Cable Television and he believes that overall the system has enjoyed good working relationships with the Borough. He also thanked the Cable Committee Chairman, Joseph Lyons and Councilman Miller for helping them out. Mr. Lyden also stated that Mr. Smith of ComCast sends his regards and had been part of the negotiations, and he is absent this evening because he just became a new father.

Mr. Lyden advised that under the law there are four tests that the Borough will be applying to the application and stated that they are as follows:

#1 - ComCast is in substantial compliance with the terms of the existing franchise and he believes they have either met them or exceeded those terms.

#2 - The quality of ComCast's service has been reasonable.

Mr. Lyden commented that by most objective accounts, it is better than reasonable and they are widely regarded as one of the best multiple system operators in the Country and in addition, this past undertaken a number of industrywide initiatives designed to take our service to the next level and stated that some of these are a guarantee that they will answer 90% of the phone calls received within 30 seconds; on time guarantee which states that when you make an appointment for an installation or service, if they are not there on time, all the customer has to do is ask and they will receive the installation free or a $20 credit; cable in the classroom is also another undertaking and is just what it sounds like in helping to bring cable into the schools by wiring the schools and providing study materials, etc.

#3 - That ComCast has financial, legal and technical capability to do what they are proposing.

Mr. Lyden stated that this field is an increasingly complex telecommunications environment and they are among the leaders in delivering a broad range of telecommunications, including cable television, programming, cellular telephone and more and they are the third largest multiple operator in the United States and the largest in New Jersey.

Mr. Lyden commented that ComCast is able to meet future cable related needs of the Community and this is where he felt their company really shines and continued that the cable system serving Oceanport and neighboring municipalities is undergoing a rebuild and Oceanport has already had their systems completed, which will provide a solid foundation upon which ComCast can provide a wide variety of telecommunications services. Mr. Lyden concluded his presentation by saying that ComCast looks forward to the Council's consideration toward their application and would be happy to answer any questions either the Council or the audience may have regarding this renewal, but first introduced Mr. Buck Dopp, Vice President and General Manager.

Mr. Dopp stated he appreciated having the opportunity to speak with the Council and residents of the Community and was appreciative of being able to serve the residents of the Borough and if he were to describe what he does on a day to day basis, he would call himself a Quality Control Specialist because in reviewing the calls received, 93% are answered within 30 seconds, 99% of all installations are done on time, but if you are that 1% not done on time or you are one of the 7% who calls in and does not have your call answered within the time limit, it doesn't mean much when he gives these statistics. Mr. Dopp informed everyone that he publishes in our Channel 8 message board that if we fail to live up to our promises, to please call him directly and he gives the number of the phone that rings at his desk.

Mr. Dopp advised that he has also produced a commercial that will be shown beginning next week, where he actually puts the phone number on the screen and he does this because he takes his responsibility as Quality Control Person for ComCast's Operations very seriously.

Mr. Dopp felt that any system can always be improved on and he is continually doing this and he also believes that they have a fine operation and our goal is to become one of the best service businesses in New Jersey and he believes that their customers deserve quality reception, quality programming and prompt, courteous customer service. Mr. Dopp stated that during the Blizzard of 96, which was the most devastating weather to hit this area in quite some time, our fiber held tight

and everyone could watch the Weather Channel within the comfort of their home and we are continuing to upgrade our system all the time. Mr. Dopp explained that fiber allows them to eliminate amplifiers, power supplies, etc., which are the things that can knock the signal down.

Mr. Dopp also advised that since he has been here, they have conducted extensive training every quarter for customer service in order to up grade the quality of our staff and we have also increased our salary levels so that we can attract and keep good people and part of our challenge is training and then keeping trained people on board and we are meeting those challenges.

Mr. Dopp closed by saying that he is a resident in the area and intends to be here for a while and there is a local team here who all care about this area and they all want to make good things happen and feel that the residents of this area deserve the best cable service, for what they are paying. He also mentioned that we are now also in a very competitive environment, which is something many people have been hoping for and satellite dish companies and the telephone companies are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to get into our business and with the threat of competition greater than it has ever been, customers are really going to have more and more viable opportunities to switch and if we turn them off, they will turn ComCast off, so we are ready to meet the challenge of the competitive pressure which is all around.

Council President Wolfe then opened the meeting to the public for any comments or questions regarding the ComCast Renewal Application.

Councilman Miller, 84 Hiawatha Ave., stated that in the last couple of years since ComCast took over from Storer, there has been a distinct improvement in the service and also the representation at our Cable Meetings has been of a higher quality and our meetings were on a much more professional level.

Joseph Lyons, 27 Serand Ave., Chairman of the Cable Committee stated that the Cable Committee and Councilman Miller met with ComCast on January 3, 1996 and discussed some correspondence that had taken place over the previous month and also a draft ordinance, which ComCast had provided for our review. He continued that we had reviewed the draft ordinance prior to that meeting and had found it to be acceptable, with one exception dealing with the Complaint Officer of the Borough and that has been changed and he is in receipt of a revised copy of the ordinance and finds the new wording to be acceptable.

As no one else from the public wished to be heard on this matter of the renewal application of ComCast Cable, Councilman Miller moved to close the public hearing. It was seconded by Councilwoman Filippone and unanimously approved by Council.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. Police report for the month of December, 1995 and a copy will be posted on the Bulletin Board.
2. Raffle license applications submitted by the Shrewsbury Parent Teacher Group to be held on March 9, 1996 for various prizes and one 50/50 cash raffle.

The Clerk advised that all paperwork was found to be in order and the proper fees had been paid, after which Councilman Miller moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman McGee and unanimously approved by Council.

COUNCILMAN MCGEE: Councilman McGee reported under Police that Captain Bebout had recently completed a 24 hour course at the Monmouth County Police Academy on Field Trained Officers and commended the Chief for continuing the education of his Officers in the Department.

Councilman McGee advised that under Insurance, he wished to report that insurance renewals for the Borough were renewed this afternoon and we will be realizing a savings of $7,800 this year and he is pleased to announce this reduction. Councilman McGee also reported that he attended a Statewide Workers Compensation Fund meeting today up in Morris County and our participation in this fund has rewarded the Borough with a $10,000 savings in our Workmen's Compensation premium and he is quite pleased with this coverage. He also advised that we are entering into a Managed Care approach to our claims, which will not only realize premium savings for the Borough, but also make a safer workplace for our employees.

COUNCILWOMAN FILIPPONE: Councilwoman Filippone asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-96-8** appointing the Borough Attorney under the Local Public Contracts Law, after which she moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and unanimously approved by Council.

R-96-9

Councilwoman Filippone asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-96-9** appointing the Borough Auditor under the Local Public Contracts Law, after which she moved to approve same. It was second by Councilwoman Silkworth and unanimously approved by Council.

R-96-10

Councilwoman Filippone asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-96-10** appointing Monmouth County Community Development Representative and an Alternate for 1996, after which she moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and unanimously approved by Council.

R-96-11

Councilwoman Filippone asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-96-11** regarding the transfer of funds, after which she moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and unanimously approved by Council.

R-96-12

Councilwoman Filippone asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-96-12** authorizing the release of escrow funds to the Kimberly Woods Homeowners Association, after which she moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth and unanimously approved by Council.

Councilwoman Filippone called for the introduction of an ordinance regulating towing contractors in the Borough of Oceanport and asked the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance by title only as follows: **AN ORDINANCE REGULATING WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT THE TOWING OF VEHICLES FROM THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT OR STOLEN VEHICLES, AND/OR VEHICLES WHEN NECESSARY TO SAFEGUARD THE PUBLIC HEATH, SAFETY AND WELFARE WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT.**

Councilwoman Filippone moved to approve this ordinance on first reading. It was seconded by Councilman Miller.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons McGee, Filippone, Miller, Taylor and Silkworth.
NAYS: **NONE.**
ABSENT: **NONE.**
ABSTAIN: **NONE.**

Councilwoman Filippone then moved to hold the public hearing on this ordinance at the meeting scheduled to be held on February 1, 1996 beginning at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Miller.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons McGee, Filippone, Miller, Taylor and Silkworth.
NAYS: **NONE.**
ABSENT: **NONE.**
ABSTAIN: **NONE.**

Councilwoman Filippone then called for the introduction of an ordinance licensing professional landscapers in the Borough and asked the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance by title only, as follows: **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "LICENSES AND PERMITS" OF THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT PASSED AND APPROVED ON FEBRUARY 2, 1989.**

Councilwoman Filippone moved to approve this ordinance on first reading. It was seconded by Councilman Miller.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons McGee, Filippone, Miller, Taylor and Silkworth.
NAYS: **NONE.**
ABSENT: **NONE.**
ABSTAIN: **NONE.**

Councilwoman Filippone moved to hold the public hearing on this ordinance at the meeting scheduled to be held on February 1, 1996 beginning at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth.

The Clerk called the roll:

AYES: Councilpersons McGee, Filippone, Miller, Taylor and Silkworth.
NAYS: **NONE.**
ABSENT: **NONE.**
ABSTAIN: **NONE.**

Councilwoman Filippone reminded the residents of the Borough that Diane Cook will be conducting a Blood Drive on January 29, 1996 at the Oceanport First Aid Squad Building from 6-9 P.M. and she urged anyone who is able to give blood, since there is a shortage at the present time. She also informed everyone that if a resident of the Borough is in need of blood, they can use the Borough's blood bank even if they have not donated and they should contact Diane Cook.

Councilwoman Filippone also reminded the residents that we will be conducting a free rabies clinic on Saturday, February 24, 1996 at the Port-au-Peck Chemical Hose Fire House from 9-11 AM and they will be inoculating both dogs and cats.

Councilwoman Filippone reported that we will be holding the Annual Health Screening on Saturday, April 13, 1996 and she will have more information in the near future and reminded everyone that this is the same screening she has been doing for the past twelve years.

Councilwoman Filippone offered her congratulations to our Police Sgt. John Connor and his wife, Carole on the birth of their new son and she welcomed John Thomas Connor to Oceanport.

R-96-13

COUNCILMAN MILLER: Councilman Miller asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-96-13** authorizing the execution of a DEPE required form regarding the Monmouth Park Race Track Wastewater Treatment System, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Filippone and unanimously approved by Council.

R-96-14

Councilman Miller asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-96-14** authorizing the submission of a Clean Communities Grant application for 1996 and naming a Clean Communities Coordinator, after which he moved same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Silkworth and unanimously approved by Council.

Council President Wolfe advised that this is the eighth year that the Borough has applied for the Clean Communities Grant funding and he and Councilman Terra began this back in 1989 and over the years, we have received close to approximately $85,000 and it is a sliding scale and every municipality in the State of New Jersey can apply and there is a set fund which changes from year to year. Council President Wolfe explained the funds are used to purchase recycling containers in the parks, offsets the cost of the Boroughwide street sweeping in the Spring as well as many other areas and we are most appreciative to have these funds, which remove some of the burdens from the tax payers.

Councilman Miller offered his thanks to Joe Lyons, Chairman of the Cable Committee along with the members of that Committee, Diane Jablonski, Arlene Mullen and Walter Prang for their help in negotiating the cable renewal application made by ComCast and stated that there is not a lot of latitude in negotiating with the cable contract, but over the last four or five years, this Committee has collected complaints, documented them and held meetings with the representatives of the cable company and he commended them on a find job and he felt we have the best possible renewal contract we could have gotten.

COUNCILMAN TAYLOR: Councilman Taylor reminded all the residents that the Public Works Department will be picking up Christmas Trees next week to be recycled and asked that everyone place the trees at the curb.

Councilman Taylor stated under Drug Alliance he wanted to congratulate Wolfhill School and Principal John Tavis who is the recipient of the National Council of Alcohol and Drug Award for Excellence in Prevention, which is for the BABES Program.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOLFE: Council President Wolfe offered the following appointments to the Zoning Board of Adjustment:

Michael Savarese as a regular member to an unexpired term ending 12/31/96
Greg Schultz as an Alternate #1 term expiring 12/31/96
Barbara Reagor as an Alternate #2 term expiring 12/31/97

Councilwoman Silkworth moved to approve these appointments. It was seconded by Councilwoman Filippone and unanimously approved by Council.

Council President Wolfe stated it was his pleasure to offer the name of Thomas J. Crochet to fill the position of Foreman of the Public Works Department effective January 18, 1996.

Councilwoman Silkworth moved to approve this appointment. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and unanimously approved by Council.

Council President Wolfe advised he recently attended a County Recycling and Waste Management meeting on behalf of Councilman Taylor and it was reported that the rate increase for 1996 is going to be lower than originally projected and the County had given notice of a 20-25% increase effective this July, but it now appears they have received much negative feedback from the municipalities in Monmouth County and the increase will be 10% effective July 1, 1996 and will stay at 10% increases for the next two years, which will make it easier to work into our budgets.

Council President Wolfe also reported that effective January 1, 1996 there was a $4.00 reduction in the tipping fee which the County had implemented as a Resource Recovery, which had been put in effect for ten years, which funds they used to construct the hazardous waste facility in Tinton Falls and should be completed some time during the early Spring. He stated since the money was allocated for this purpose, they no longer need to have this tax in place, so effective this month, there is a $3.95 decrease due to the State implementing a five cent increase.

Council President Wolfe announced that the Borough is one of six municipalities being considered to have a home composting pilot program sponsored by the County and asked Councilman Taylor if he cared to comment on this project.

Councilman Taylor reported that Oceanport is one of six eligible towns to be in this composting program and he will be receiving more information later next week. He further explained that if selected for this project, 400 homes would receive a compost and the County will supply a Consultant to mange the waste coming from the houses to the recycling area in Tinton Falls and this program would help show the savings to our garbage collection by reducing waste going to the Reclamation Center.

Council President Wolfe also commented that at the recycling meeting it was announced that of the 53 municipalities in Monmouth County, Oceanport was seventh in weight for household batteries collected and in 1995 the Borough collected 2287 pounds and were only surpassed by much larger towns.

Council President Wolfe offered his thanks to the firemen of Oceanport Hook & Ladder and Port-au-Peck Chemical Hose Co. for digging out the fire hydrants after the blizzard at the request of the Emergency Management Director and they did this during freezing temperatures in order to make the hydrants accessible in case of emergency.

R-96-15

COUNCILWOMAN SILKWORTH: Councilwoman Silkworth asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-96-15** appointing the Borough Engineer under the Local Public Contracts Law, after which she moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman McGee and unanimously approved by Council.

Council President Wolfe then opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments they might care to make.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Bob Kelly, 76 Gooseneck Point Road stated he had three letters that he wished to read in order to make them part of the record and commented that there is quite a contingent of people present this evening from Gooseneck Point and Shore Roads and their concerns are the snow removal or lack thereof during the recent storm.

Mr. Kelly read a flyer he had prepared and distributed to his neighbors with regard to Gooseneck Point Road not being plowed until 7:45 P.M. on Monday and Shore Road not being plowed until late Tuesday; he objected to other streets out of the flood prone areas being plowed before flood prone areas when a high tide was expected; he was concerned how residents of the Gooseneck area would get out if the tide came up and high snow drifts at the entrance to Gooseneck. Mr. Kelly ended his flyer by stating there is no protocol for snow removal for secondary streets and flood prone areas are treated like any other street and that no one seems to be aware of any plan on how the Borough would handle a fire or personal emergency if the street was under water and fire and/or first aid personnel could not get down to the end of Gooseneck Point and urged his neighbors to attend the Council meeting if they shared his concerns.

Mr. Kelly also read a letter from Robert Broege of 93 Gooseneck Point advising that the plow had stopped plowing before the small circle and because of the height of the snow, he had to hire a private contractor to not only plow out his driveway, but also that portion of Gooseneck in order to provide ingress and egress to his property.

Mr. Kelly then read a letter from Mr. & Mrs. F. Philip Tucker of 84 Gooseneck Point who have lived on Gooseneck Point for the last 60 years and wrote that this was the first time they felt unprotected by their town and hoped the Borough would plan better in the future for both floods and snow storms.

Mr. Kelly felt that they believe it is the responsibility of the municipal offices to serve and protect the residents and he felt that his flyer and Mr. Broege's letter indicates there was no service and no protection for the Tuckers, who are over eighty years old or for anyone else who was stuck in their home. Mr. Kelly stated that what the residents are looking for is the establishment of a protocol to remove snow immediately after the primary streets are cleared, in the flood prone areas in the Borough. Mr. Kelly commented that as we found out back in 1992, when the tide comes, the residents of Gooseneck are all alone and they need to be able to make a decision to get off the street and to be able to execute that decision.

Mr. Kelly stated that he read in the Two River Times today that people in the surrounding towns of Rumson, Red Bank and Little Silver wrote to compliment their Street Departments for their fast and total response to the storm and in addition, thanked them for coming back and digging out the front driveways that they had continually plowed in, since it does not do any good to plow a street and make it passable and then have a five or six foot snow drift block your driveway because of the snow plows pushing the snow higher and higher.

Carole White, 54 Gooseneck Point Road wanted to add to Mr. Kelly's statement that by the time the Borough plow came around, it got stuck for a half hour in the deep snow, which is probably the reason why they did not clear the end of the street, because they were probably afraid they

would get stuck again. She continued that it stands to reason that if you wait that long, even a gigantic piece of machinery, like the plows, will get stuck.

Bob Hickey, 92 Gooseneck Point stated that he has lived here for three years and it is the first time he has ever felt marooned in his home, which is rather disconcerting considering the contribution that the residents of Gooseneck make to the community of Oceanport through our taxes. He continued that as Councilman Wolfe is aware, they are also dealing with another issue with the Planning Board to try and preserve the value that the residents have seen on Gooseneck Point and he felt this was quite a disappointment in that the township does not recognize what Gooseneck Point road is bringing to the community and stated it is somewhat frightening recognizing that in their case, as Mr. Kelly discussed earlier, that there was an 85 year old couple living out there and no way that this couple could have gotten out of Gooseneck under any emergency situation.

Mr. Hickey requested that the Council give some consideration to dealing with flood prone areas and also to remember that the residents of Gooseneck only have one way off that street and it requires proper attention.

Doug White, 54 Gooseneck Point Road reminded the Council that back in January of 1993, after the major flood, we had a meeting with the Mayor and the residents of Gooseneck Point Road and at that time the Mayor proposed a three phase program to solve the problem of egress and ingress to Gooseneck Point. He continued that the original proposal was flapper valves, which were installed in 1995 and obviously they did not work because we have had three floods on Gooseneck Point since December 1, 1995. Mr. White asked the Council what they planned to do in Phase 2 which was to raise the road and Phase 3 which was to get some type of emergency equipment, similar to what was used in Bosnia, where they drop a road over the top of the flood for emergency help and aid for the Police and Fire Departments to get in and for the residents to get out. Mr. White stated that the snow matter complicates what is basically the real problem of flooding on Gooseneck and the fact that most of the people lose at least their cars and personal property and it could come to ultimately losing lives, and he felt this warrants serious attention, which they have brought to the attention of the Council almost three years ago.

Steve Draper, 68 Gooseneck Point thanked the Police Chief for helping digging out his wife's car which had been up at the end of Gooseneck Point where Mr. Broege had to do some plowing. He noted that one of the reasons the plows have problems at the end of Gooseneck Point is when there is a flood, it happens so quickly that they cannot get through because of the water and as a practical matter, anyone on Gooseneck Point who has raised their property, becomes a parking lot for the rest of the residents. Mr. Draper commented as a practical matter, the Council adopt a simple procedure that says plow all the main roads and then immediately go to the streets on the river.

Mr. Draper also pointed out that the flooding generally happens in the worst weather and the worst weather is when it snows, so to the residents on Gooseneck this is a high priority and he hoped that a simple set of procedures could be set up to have the streets in the flood prone areas plowed soon after the main roadways are open.

Mr. Lyttle, 100 Gooseneck Point stated that this is the first significant snowfall he has experienced since moving here and shares the concerns of everyone here this evening and he was also concerned with his two small children as well as concerned about the emergency preparedness for their street. He is worried about the future of the street and what plans the Council has to make sure they are all safe in their homes and hoped a solution can be found because he likes living in the Borough and would like to remain here.

Rudy Pernini, 12 Shore Road thanked Councilman Wolfe for his quick response after they spoke with him on Tuesday morning to have someone come down and plow their street. He also wanted to remind the Council that he has a son who is an asthmatic and there could have been a tragic situation had the roadway not been cleared and he hoped that the Council will consider everything that was said this evening and take into serious consideration what must be done not only for Gooseneck and Shore, but for the entire community.

Council President Wolfe addressed the residents who are here this evening from Gooseneck Point and Shore Road stating that he felt that they have valid concerns and everyone that sits up here, is sitting here with the intention of protecting and serving the people of Oceanport and we all take the comments and concerns expressed very seriously. He wanted to let the residents know that the Council will address the comments made tonight and although he does not have an answer for them tonight, he assured everyone that a lot of time will be spent revisiting the issue of plowing some of the flood prone streets in the Borough.

Council President Wolfe stated in answer to Mr. Kelly and other residents who commented this evening that felt they were unprotected, our Emergency Management Coordinator is here tonight and there is a plan that the Borough utilizes and takes into effect many different areas, but obviously a hundred year storm with sixty mile an hour wind, that creates four to five foot drifts, sometimes goes beyond what was anticipated. He continued that in speaking with both Mr. Slattery, Chief Joyce and the Public Works Department, the residents were not left unprotected. Council President Wolfe asked Mr. Slattery to give an overview of his plan with regard to protecting the Borough and its residents.

Mr. Slattery, Emergency Management Coordinator introduced himself and stated that he understood how everyone feels, but also stated that when you live in a flood prone area, you must be very aware of the weather around you and we had received about one week advanced notice of the snow and a few days notice about the possibility of flooding and it was on the Weather Channel and also on the local television stations. He stated if this information had been missed, he wanted everyone to know that we do have a plan in effect for the entire municipality and sites specific to Oceanport, but it is not site specific to any one street or location, because each individual in town, although they think they are the most important person in the world, is not the only pebble on the beach and we have a lot of people that we have to deal with. He continued that the plan that we use has been approved by all the Agencies in Oceanport and the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management.

Mr. Slattery explained that in Oceanport for a snow plan alone, when we have it, we declare an emergency, which gives him power through the Governor of the State of NJ to enact certain things, which consist of a unification of all the facilities of the Borough, which includes the Road Department, Police, Fire, First Aid and anyone else that he feels is necessary at that time. He continued that if we were to have a fire in Oceanport during the snow storm, it would consist of one plow, possibly two; two fire trucks; one first aid rig and the Oceanport Police; we also have back up the use of four by fours to help transport people and a snow mobile was also available.

Mr. Slattery stated the next step was our flood plan and for that we have a U.S. Army 6 x 6 Highway Vehicle; two fire trucks; first aid; boats and other rescue equipment that we can use during an emergency as well as floating pumps in case of fires where there is flooding. He stated that we all learned some lessons from the storm in 92 and we have gone onto Gooseneck Point and raised some of the fire hydrants.

Mr. Slattery advised that the Emergency Plan that we have, is one that we have used and during 1993 we used the Plan about 15 times for various incidents where there were fire and/or first aid calls throughout the Borough where special equipment was used. He also stated that during the height of the storm we actually went into Gooseneck Point Road and retrieved a Doctor who was needed at Monmouth Medical Center and it was done during the high tide portion of the flooding.

Mr. Slattery stated that we also watched this flood as it progressed, through information on the Weather Channel, what we receive from Atlantic City and from local barometers. He stated that our local barometer at its lowest point went down to 29.27 at 7 AM on Monday and this is high already for Oceanport and when we had the flood in 1992, we were almost down to 27.04, so it was a lot lower than we had and our full moon was on the fifth, which was two days after we had this problem, so we were not looking for astronomical high tides. Mr. Slattery stated that some of these things are not understood by everyone, we have actually learned a lot from the 1992 flood and we really do know what we are doing and we have exercised our Plan and we have taken people out of an area such as Gooseneck Point Road during high tide and flooding using high wheel vehicles on first aid calls.

Mr. Slattery stated that he understands that no one likes to be locked in their homes because we are all used to freedom all the time, and at that point when you cannot get out you get cabin fever, but luckily we did not lose power, we did not lose telephone and for everyone's enjoyment, we did not lose cable. He continued that this was a storm that closed every airport from Boston to Washington DC which means their snow removal equipment could not keep up with the falling snow in keeping the runways clear and he does not think it is any different than what happened here in Oceanport. He commented that he cannot speak for snow plowing, because he does not control that area, but as far as Emergency Services and Planning, we do have them and they do work and they have been drilled and each time we use them, we critique them and make them better for the next storm. He also asked that if anyone could offer some constructive suggestions on what we can do better next time, he would be happy to speak with them after the meeting.

Mr. Draper stated that in Mr. Slattery's explanation, he commented that he has nothing to do with the snow plowing and felt that was part of the problem and if he is going to be in charge of emergency preparedness, he suggested that they consider that snow plowing is synonymous with emergency and perhaps he should be more involved with the direction of what gets plowed when. Mr. Draper appreciated hearing about the various types of equipment that are on hand, but felt if your area is not plowed and you are in a flood prone area, you are not just like everybody else because you are going to have flooding problems and may lose your vehicle. He felt that the timeliness of the plowing is essential in the lower lying areas and felt that being plowed early on, would allow people to get in and out and not rely on all the emergency equipment.

Ward Coles, 555 Port-au-Peck Ave. stated that he lives at the end of Pocano Ave. and commented for 26 years we all know that Pocano Ave. goes under water first and he wanted to thank Mr. Slattery because his daughter was called out at 6 AM as an ICU Nurse for a 20 hour shift and we were able to get her out. He continued that later on, Chief Joyce came down and helped get his wife out later on, who is a Dialysis Nurse and was called to work, when the men were busy trying to keep Port-au-Peck Avenue cleared.

Stu Briskey, 43 Manitto Place stated he is a life long resident, fifth generation of Oceanport, wanted to compliment the Public Works Department on the job they did with the snow removal during this blizzard and since the contingent from Gooseneck Point is here this evening, he wanted to make them aware that we only have two dump trucks which serve this town very well when we don't have a storm, but when we do, it is an Act of God and if you want the type of equipment that could clear this

type of snowfall, our taxes are going to increase greatly. He continued that this town is very big on volunteerism and we have a very good volunteer Fire Department and an excellent volunteer First Aid Squad and during that blizzard, the First Aid Squad would go out in anything, while the residents from Gooseneck are only worried about getting out of their homes. He stated the volunteers put themselves on the line, go on the roads to help someone in need and he was here in 1993 as the Fire Chief and listened to this same contingent about the fire on Gooseneck. He stated that Gooseneck is a beautiful area and he would like to live their himself; beautiful in the summer, but it floods, which is an Act of God as was the flood in 1992 and the Fire Department did not want to lose that house, and we had received over 60 calls in a six hour period, but with the limited resources we had at that time, something had to give. He advised that if the residents of Gooseneck are afraid during a storm, he suggested they call the Police Department and one of the emergency services will come and get you out and he recommended to Mr. Slattery, if everyone on Gooseneck Point is so afraid, perhaps he should consider making that area a mandatory evacuation street and make everyone leave.

Mr. Briskey stated that he does understand what the residents are saying, but there are over 6,000 residents here and the resources do the best they can for all the residents and some times there have to be sacrifices. He continued that in 1992, we had a sacrifice and lost the house, but as soon as the Fire Department was sure that no one was in that house, they had to let it go because they were not going to risk lives because there was a live power line in the water and that is what they are worried about is lives and not cars and offered anyone the use of the Port-au-Peck Firehouse to park their vehicles during a storm. Mr. Briskey also stated that he did not think anyone on Gooseneck belonged to any of the volunteer services in the Borough and suggested that if they are this concerned, then they should think about getting more involved. He also commented that this is not only a very affluent street, but an intelligent area as well, but this is the second time he has seen reactionary management after the fact and questioned why the residents of this area don't get involved before the fact and do something about it and see what this town really has and what we do.

Mr. Kelly stated that if you have a five day warning, then the Borough should have time to hire some extra contractors to help with the snow plowing, to which Council President Wolfe advised that we did do that and we did not consider costs in doing this, only that it was necessary for the betterment of the Borough.

Council President Wolfe stated he did not want to go over this matter all night nor have one side against the other side and we are all residents of the Borough and we on the Dais are trying to do the best we can for all the residents and as he said earlier, the Council does recognize their concerns and they will be addressed at the next work shop and will invite the residents of Gooseneck back to discuss the future plans and also advised that this will not be a long drawn out matter and will be taken care of in the very near future. He also stated that the Road Foreman of Public Works is present this evening and has been listening to the comments made and he is sure that many of the comments made this evening have hurt, since the Foreman worked for 50 plus hours straight, which is a long time, directing the snow plowing in the Borough, but it still does not make the residents feel any better if your street was not plowed going into the second day of the storm.

Chief Joyce stated that during the storm and right after it, he spent 72 hours right here in this building or in the Public Works Garage next door and he wanted to advise everyone that he saw five men and four pieces of equipment go around this town non stop and the all deserve a standing ovation from everyone in this Borough including the residents of Gooseneck Point. He continued that the residents sit in their homes and don't know what is going on outside of Gooseneck, but he does because he was out there and put on almost 500 miles on his car in three days. He could give

everyone an overview of what happened and produced a lengthy amount of paper which consisted of all the phone calls received by his Department during the storm and added that both the County and State pulled their trucks off the roads Sunday afternoon because of a "white out", while our men continued plowing non stop all day and all night into Monday and Tuesday to get the roads opened and they did a superb job. He commented that only yesterday he had to send one of his men to Trenton, where some of the roads are still not plowed and felt the residents should not be complaining and pointed out that they live in one of the best towns in the County and they should be proud to live here and stated that we all do everything to make it better after an incident like this one and we review what took place and find ways to do better the next time.

Mrs. White stated that the residents of Gooseneck Point are not elitists and did not come here tonight to bring up past issues, but they were part of his conversation with a few low blows and the residents of Gooseneck Point are part of volunteer organizations and we have every right to attend a Borough Council meeting and say what is on our mind, since we are citizens of this Borough. She felt that if someone took a poll of the residents on Gooseneck, they would find that many of the residents have lived here for many years and they are allowed to be frightened and allowed to complain, but this is the second time that she has been to a Council meeting and because of the people working with them and trying to help them out, they are being attacked and she did not like the tone used.

Council President Wolfe stated that no one on the Dais is attacking anyone, but this is a free Country and everyone has a right to speak their mind and he does not want to have a shoving match back and forth, but everyone has strong feelings on both sides of this issue.

Elwood Baxter, 21 Pocano Ave. congratulated Tom Crochet on his appointment as Foreman of the Road Department.

Mr. Baxter offered advice to any resident who lives in a flood prone area and has a car in the garage, the first thing to do is get it out of there because whether he is plowed or not plowed, he can be sure that the tide will be high and also suggested that if you happen to have an older couple like the Tuckers living next door, you may want to go over at the beginning of the storm and get them out of the street.

Mr. Baxter stated he has lived here for 30 years and has heard complaints similar to the ones made this evening from residents of this Borough who live in flood prone areas, but he stated that Sunday morning it began to start snowing really hard and when he returned home from Church, he immediately moved his vehicles, because he knew from experience that there were going to be problems and you have to prepare for the worst and he was not plowed out until Tuesday night and they had the same worries about the tide as the residents on Gooseneck Point. He felt that this is something you must learn to endure and prepare for and take some precautionary measures on your own and not depend entirely on the town to get you out of a jam, because in a storm such as this last one, they cannot keep up with just the plowing alone.

Mr. Baxter stated that we do not have the type of equipment to fight a storm such as the blizzard was and if we were to purchase enough equipment, we would be paying probably twice the taxes we are now and he did not think anyone wanted to do that for a storm that happens every one hundred years.

Mr. Slattery advised that Councilmen McGee and Wolfe and himself as well as several other people on a Committee have set up a meeting that we plan to conduct for the flood insurance

program. He continued that there is a new flood insurance program which was approved by Congress in 1994 which supersedes the past program. He informed everyone that this meeting is scheduled to be held on March 28, 1996 in this meeting room at 8:00 P.M. and Councilman McGee has invited a Professor of Insurance to attend and speak on this subject and he felt it would behoove anyone who has flood concerns to attend this meeting.

Mr. Slattery stated that the question came up tonight about what would happen if we could not get fire equipment into an area that is flooded and someone's house is on fire and we have had this situation happen. He explained that thanks to the Marriott Corporation, they have worked out a sprinkler head that only requires 11 gallons per minute and there are residential home sprinklers that can be placed in your homes and all you need is a one inch water service and you can utilize you actual service, so you do not have to pay for a stand by service. He suggested that anyone who lives in a flood prone area and has a concern about a fire emergency, should think about having one of these sprinkler systems installed and the cost runs approximately $3,000-$5,000 depending upon the size of your home and the amount of pipe and sprinkler heads that would be required. He felt it was one of the smartest things a homeowner could do and pointed out that in either Vermont or New Hampshire, they recently passed a law requiring all new construction have approved in home sprinkler systems installed and he felt this will most likely change into law for all new homes by 2,010 and following that, as homes are sold, you will see it required just like we do now for smoke detectors.

Doug White, 54 Gooseneck Point Road commented that this was a good recommendation, if in fact, a fire is the problem, but if it is a different type of emergency such as an injury or a heart attack, you need the emergency equipment. He stated he understands that in a small town like the Borough of Oceanport, emergency equipment is expensive and there is not a lot of money available to purchase this equipment, but having discussed this problem since 1993, what he would like to know is what equipment have we purchased since the flood of 1992 and what equipment don't we have that we would like to have, but just don't have the funds and then perhaps we could run a type of fund raiser for this purpose. He felt that we have many people in this Borough that are creative, have many contacts and knowledge in various areas and perhaps we could possibly have some type of rent or loan type program for this equipment. He also commented that we have a race track down the street which brings in one million dollars a day and felt there must be some way we could raise enough money to purchase an emergency boat.

Council President Wolfe stated that we purchased a lot of equipment since the 1992 storm and we now have several boats and floating pumps, etc., to which Mr. Kelly stated he is hearing about equipment that the residents never heard of before and suggested that someone prepare a list of all the emergency equipment and publish the list in the Bulletin, so the residents know what we have in case of emergencies.

As no one else from the public wished to be heard, Council President Wolfe closed the public portion of the meeting.

Councilman Miller just wanted to comment that he listened to the scanner during the entire storm and heard a number of emergencies and at each call, Tom Crochet was leading the way with his plow in order to make it easy for the emergency services to get where they needed to be.

Councilman Miller also stated that there are numerous residents of Gooseneck Point who belong to volunteer committees and he has served with four or five over the last five years on the Waterways and Water Watch Committees and people who sit on various boards and he wanted to

clear up that point that they are not just sitting out there as an elitist group and letting the rest of the town do the work and he felt that the comments made earlier were kind of a low blow, to which Council President Wolfe stated he felt that Mr. Briskey was referring to emergency services.

Councilwoman Filippone moved to approve the bills as listed on the Voucher Register dated January 18, 1996. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and unanimously approved by Council. TOTAL 1995 VOUCHERS $130,73. TOTAL 1995 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING $21,183.77. TOTAL 1995 OPERATING FUND $21,314.50. TOTAL 1996 VOUCHERS $453,459.79. TOTAL 1996 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING $38,739.76. TOTAL 1996 OPERATING FUND $492,199.55. TOTAL DOG REGISTRY ACCOUNT $442.20. TOTAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE II ACCOUNT $929.76. TOTAL TRUST ACCOUNT $10,513.63. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS $533.00. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-FIRE PREVENTION $74.90. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-MARRIAGE LICENSES $150.00. (SEE VOUCHER REGISTER)

At 9:36 P.M. Councilwoman Silkworth moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on February 1, 1996. It was seconded by Councilman Taylor and unanimously approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Varca

PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK