

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NJ FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

**Central Region Office
Robbinsville, New Jersey
January 9, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Fish and Game Council was held on the above date.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Acting Chairman August Gudmundsson.

The flag salute and pledge of allegiance were completed.

Acting Chairman Gudmundsson read aloud the following notice: In accordance with P.L. 1975, c. 231 notice of this meeting was filed with and posted at the Office of the Secretary of State on December 28, 2017 and delivered to the designated newspapers for the Division, the Newark Star Ledger and the Atlantic City Press; published on January 3, 2018.

Roll call was taken in attendance:

Councilman Phillip Brodhecker
Councilman James DeStephano
Councilman Agust Gudmundsson
Councilman Rick Lathrop
Councilman Jeffery Link (late arrival 11:05 a.m.)
Councilman Loren Robinson
Councilman Ken Whildin
Councilman Frank Virgilio

Absent:

Councilman Joseph DeMartino
Councilman Robert Pollock

Division employees included: L. Herrighty, P. Nelson, D. Golden, B. Stoff, L. Barno, C. Stanko, A. McBride, S. Tesar, J. Saintvil, A. Quirk, and S. Coltrain. Present for the swearing in of new Conservation Police Recruit Ms. Jillian Agnello were Conservation Police Officers Toppin, Applegate Lacoix and O'Rourke. Deputy Attorney General Neil Magnus was present for the swearing in also.

There were numerous members of the public in attendance.

Acting Chairman Gudmundsson stated since the last Council meeting, Chairman Dave Burke was replaced by Ken Whildin. Since he is the senior councilman he is assisting in moving the agenda for the first two items listed. He then asked for nominations for the position of Chairman.

Councilman DeStephano nominated Frank Virgilio, Councilman Brodhecker seconded the nomination. Acting Chairman Gudmundsson asked for discussion. Councilman Brodhecker asked if Councilman Virgilio was willing to accept the nomination; he responded yes. A vote was taken, all were in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Director Herrighty explained the process of getting the chairman approved. He will send Councilman Virgilio's name to the commissioner who will forward to the governor's office for approval. Director Herrighty explained the approval could come back quickly or can take a long time.

Acting Chairman Frank Virgilio took his place and carried on the meeting.

Acting Chairman Virgilio asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. There were none.

A motion was made by Councilman DeStephano to approve the December 12, 2017 minutes, seconded by Councilman Gudmundsson. Vote taken, six were in favor; 2 (Councilmen Lathrop and Whildin) abstained, motion carried.

Acting Chairman Virgilio thanked the Council for having faith in him to chair the Council. He cited Aldo Leopold's Unity of Purpose. He stated he understands there are differences of opinion and honors that difference. He asked the two new Council members to introduce themselves.

Councilman Loren Robinson stated he is from Hunterdon County, he has been involved with the State Federation for 20 years. He has been president of the Hunterdon County Federation for over 15 years.

Councilman Ken Whildin stated he is from Cumberland County, he has been president of the Cumberland County Federation for approximate 8 years. He is a lifetime hunter, fisherman and trapper.

Acting Chairman Virgilio asked Director Herrighty for comments.

Director Larry Herrighty congratulated Acting Chairman Virgilio, wishing him much success. He welcomed new Councilmen Robinson and Whildin to the Council. Director Herrighty noted there will be a new Commissioner coming in a week coming from the Environmental Protection Agency. He also stated that is all the Division knows about the transition. Director Herrighty stated approval was given fill some Division employee vacancies, but that has now come to a halt until after the new Governor and his team in in place. An offer was made to fill the vacancy of Marine Fisheries Administrator. The candidate is a Deputy Marine Fisheries Administrator out of Virginia. There was a budget meeting held this morning. A report will be given later in the meeting. Assistant Director Nelson has some federal legislation news to report. Chief Ivany is not present due to preparing for the Deer Classic show this weekend. He reminded the Council the show will be held at the Expo Center in Edison and to let him know if they needed a pass.

Fluke was a major issue last year but we are going to be in good shape this year. They allowed us to maintain 18" three fish limit. There may be an opportunity to get another week or two out of the season. There will be a presentation by Tony McBride on the Summary of the 2015 Comprehensive Black Bear Management Policy and there will be a license restoration and not on the agenda, there will be a new Conservation Police Officer to be sworn in by DAG Neil Magnus after 1:00 pm.

Acting Chairman Virgilio moved the Bear Project Summary presentation to take place before lunch in light of Councilman Gudmundsson's need to leave early. He read the public comment period on agenda items aloud and stated there will be one other time when public comment will be allowed. Which would be if is a public member in the audience speaks out of order, and it is accepted by council, time will be allotted for other public members to have their say on the issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Agriculture Committee Report:

Councilman Brodhecker reported up north it has been cold with a lot of snow and ice coverage. The local

resident New Jersey geese have been congregating wherever there is open water. Warm weather is expected this weekend which could clear the snow coverage on the small grain fields. It is anticipated the geese coming in the small grain fields and eating the growth which will hurt the crop in the Spring. There have been no sightings of bears. Deer can be seen wherever they can find food sources. There are a lot of people feeding deer in the area.

Councilman Link called to state he would be late due to salting the roads.

Dr. Sebastian Reist from New Jersey Department of Agriculture gave an update on ticks. Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) has done a survey by trapping animals and identified all the ticks on them. It was found that none of the ticks they identified were the tick they were worried about. This will have to be revisited in the Spring when the ticks will be active again. Chief Stanko stated she will address this issue later in her report as well.

Farmer/Sportsman Relations:

Councilman Brodhecker stated there was nothing to report at this time.

State Federation Reports:

Councilman DeStefano attended the Morris County meeting. They are preparing for their annual dinner in March as well for the Sussex County Fair. They will be asking for handouts from the Division. The Fair is in August. He also attended the Warren County meeting. Bergen County was cancelled, due to the weather.

Councilman Gudmundsson did not attend any meetings but received a call from Morris County. He asked them about the Pheasant program. They responded they would like to have the birds earlier.

Councilman Robinson reported attending the Middlesex County meeting and was asked to thank the Division for the updated numbers of permits that were sold. The numbers were divided by residents and non-resident as well as the age class of the purchaser. They are still working on the senior reduction in price. The new numbers will help them come up with a proposal to present to the State Federation. They are also involved with the Sportsmen's show this weekend in the Federation booth. Union County cancelled their meeting due to inclement weather. Councilman Robinson stated he will attend the Somerset and Hunterdon County meetings this week.

Councilman Whildin reported Cumberland County Federation is organizing their annual trash hunt. It is a good event and well attended by various sportsmen. They remove tons of trash. He reported receiving one complaint on the pheasant stocking. The person was happy at the beginning of the season, then there was a lull and towards the end of the season things picked up.

Acting Chairman Virgilio reported attending the Cumberland County and Salem County meetings. There is a chance the Salem Nuclear Power Plant may go dark two years from now and support for a nuclear safety bill is in the works. The entire economy in South Jersey depends on the Salem Nuclear Power Plant. We are rallying the troops in the two counties to make phone calls to their legislatures asking them to vote favorably for the bill.

Acting Chairman Virgilio reported receiving an e-mail from Barbara Sachau regarding flushing drugs down the toilet. It had a lot of relevance to sportsmen and what, where, and how we do it. He took a print out from EPA "How to dispose of medical property" to the meetings and passed it out. One way is to take to the police station instead of flushing down the toilet. Acting Chairman Virgilio stated he will bring some fliers to the sportsmen show, to the state meetings, and all other meetings he attends. Salem County also bought up some deer proposals that will go through various levels of the Federation before it is bought to the Council's Game Committee.

Finance Committee:

Councilman Brodhecker reported we are flat on the goal of most of the revenue and expenses. The two things that were significant changes were the lease and rent revenues. It was estimated in 2018 as almost double than 2017 and 2016. The reason is due to back leases. Leases that were supposed to be paid in 2016 and 2017 and we are expecting a larger income from that this year. It will be a higher revenue consistently because of the new negotiated leases over the past few years. There is a larger carry forward, which has been increasing over the past several years. A lot of that is due to attrition and no raises for employees over the last few years. There may be a need to back pay for some of that. As far as estimated expenses, there is a request to move monies from salaries over to equipment to help improve infrastructure, vehicles, boats and electronics. Licenses sales are down a little. Most expenses are similar to prior years.

Fish Committee:

Councilman Gudmundsson reported Chief Barno will report on the public meeting at various locations in the coming months.

Game Committee:

Acting Chairman Virgilio reported the Game Committee did not meet.

Legislative Committee:

Assistant Director Nelson stated there has been little activity. The dog tracker bill S2400 was passed and goes into effect immediately. The dog tracker bill will allow certified dogs to track dead deer. The Division is working on rules and processes on how to get certified. There is no fee, but the Division will issue the permits after a dog has been certified. Director Herrightly explained the handlers are volunteers and in working with the Federation and NJOA, the Division agreed not to charge a fee. The Division wanted to be able to control the activity so not any dog would be taken in the woods but only have certified blood tracking dogs.

S2508 also called Nosey's Law, prohibits the use of elephants, wild, or exotic animals in any traveling performance. Examples includes the circus, petting zoos, reindeer exhibits, or anything where the animal has to travel to a location from where it is normally housed. There will no longer be the circus as you knew it because all of the animals except the horses are in this bill.

This is the end of the legislative session. Anything that has been billed to this point will expire. Next week a new set of bills will be out. On the Federal level, the Blue Panel Ribbon has been re-dropped number HR4647 called recovering America's wildlife Act. If this pass, there will be a significant increase in funding available to the Division for species of greatest conservation needs. Estimates would be in the \$13 million annually. The funds are coming from existing funds from oil and mineral leases. The money is already collected by Congress and has not been earmarked for specific activity or agency. This would not be a tax on the general public. We need to have grass roots support for this legislation. Everyone should contact their Federal legislators to say they support this bill. It will be a huge legacy item. The purpose is to figure out how to keep things common, how to work with industry when they know there's going to be an impact.

Endangered & Non-Game Species Advisory Committee:

Councilman Lathrop reported the Endangered and Non-game program has a key role in coordinating research and habitat in this state. He will join an international team going to Tierra del Fuego, South America which is the extreme end for shorebirds especially Red Knot population. Other work is taking place in Brazil as they move their way up to New Jersey. Acting Chairman Virgilio asked if there would be social media documenting and to please send an email to the Council. Councilman Lathrop said he would look into it and send if possible.

Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee:

Acting Assistant Director Golden stated former Chairman Burke was on the committee and asked if he would move up to position. Acting Chairman Virgilio stated he would check with Councilman DeMartino and see if

he had any suggestions.

Wildlife Rehabilitators Advisory Committee:

Councilman Brodhecker reported the next meeting will be February 21st.

Public Member:

No Report, Councilman Pollock was absent.

OLD BUSINESS

State Wildlife Action Plan – Acting Assistant Director Golden reported public comment is still on the website and will close on January 16th. After the public comment period ends, any necessary revisions will be incorporated and submit final version to US Fish and Wildlife Service. Since there will be a new administration, the Plan may have to be reviewed by the Commissioner’s office again. Acting Chairman Virgilio stated he likes how it was regionalized and makes it easier to understand.

DIVISION REPORTS

Barbara Stoff, Licensing and Permits, reported when extending the beaver and otter permits pick-up period, she was expecting to see more of them picked up, but it had no effect. There were a lot of unclaimed permits that went on sale over the counter and were purchased within a matter of minutes. She stated she is not sure if the trappers are not understanding they do not have to fill in a second and third choice. It takes a lot of work and effort on the staff and Active Network to adjust for over-the-counter sales.

The new license year (2018) sales started on time. This was the first time in a while this has happen due to not having too many problems. The end of the year’s sales of all licenses and permits for 2017 have been compared to 2016. The numbers are down with everything. It is within “the normal” percentage that fish and wildlife agencies across the nation has been seeing. Anywhere between 1.24% lower than last year with the deer permits up to 20% down with Fall turkey permits. Most of the hunting licenses are 2.5% down. Fishing licenses are 1.37% down. Both include apprentice licenses and fishing buddy. They have not shown much of a boost and if compared to sales the year before, they are the same percentages. There was approximately 20% reduction in sales for the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) use permits that include horseback riding and boat permits, non-consumptive use permits. Ms. Stoff stated she would work with I&E R3 personnel to prioritize for the Division what our efforts are going to be in targeting communication.

The last of testing is being done for Spring turkey period which opens on the 25th of January. Our contract vendor Active has now changed their name to Aspire. A mass e-mail was sent out to everyone who purchased an item in 2017 thanking them and wishing them a good 2018. There were some nice responses in return.

Acting Chairman Virgilio asked Ms. Stoff when she meets with I&E, ask them if it would be advantageous to reactivate the Fish and Game Council Information and Hunter Education Committee. We have about \$11,000 to offer towards recruitment type things and maybe get some Council members involved and move this program out to the sporting groups.

Assistant Director Nelson stated the Division is aware of the funds, but wants to do some in-house planning first.

Presentation by Bear Project Staff Member Tony McBride

Mr. McBride gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Black Bear Management Policy highlighting the significant accomplishments since 2015 and comparing to previous plans. The report will be posted to the website.

DIVISION REPORTS continued

Chief Lisa Barno, Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries, reported the Fish Code adoption document is at the Governor's office. We met with the Commissioner who reviewed the summary of the public comments and we are moving forward. There is a noon deadline on January 11th for the February Register we are trying to make. We are reaching out to the governor's office to see if we can prompt a quick review as we are trying to get the adoption filed under this current administration. The next filing date would be January 26th which was our original target date. Legal Affairs have been very helpful in getting through the adoption document with their reviews.

The Freshwater Digest is out and includes the new rules which will take affect five days after being published in the Register. As indicated by Councilman Gudmundsson this is the public meeting time of year. North Jersey forum will be on January 20th at the Hackettstown Hatchery, South Jersey forum will be February 24th at Batsto Visitors Center. The two forums are typically steered towards the warm water fisheries side of the discussions. The trout meeting will be held March 3rd at Pequest. Adjustments to the allocation to the trout stocking will be discussed. Biologist Ross Shramko will present the results of his stocked trout telemetry study on the Flat Brook at the Trout Meeting on March 3rd.

Chief Barno gave an update on Spruce Creek where a local quarry had discharged slurry into 1.7 miles of the creek down to the Spruce Run Reservoir. The settlement fine is \$467,000 and another \$100,000 for an environmental project. The Bureau is working with Site Remediation to discuss options for potential projects. The company wanted to stock trout, but we are trying to redirect them into cleaning up some material and debris in the creek.

Chief Barno gave an update on the Johanna Farms discharge. The cleanup had to stop in mid-December. The areas they had cleaned up the food material from had redeposited into creek; meaning there is another source somewhere in addition to the original channel that had been cleared. They stopped the cleanup to give Johanna Farms a couple of weeks to identify where that additional source may be. Streamside will come back in the middle of January and restart clean-up efforts.

We are already a month into Trout Stocking from the research and management side. With all the allocations with a lot of the wild trout regulations and with some of the delineations changes that occurred during this fish code cycle there's going to be a number of changes relative to the allocations across the board.

Trout opening day is April 7th so trucks start rolling out on March 19th. Chief Barno and Director Herrighty attended a meeting on December 22nd with members of the Lake Hopatcong Commission and Foundation. They are interested in stocking Grass Carp in Lake Hopatcong to control the weeds. Currently the regulations only allow lakes less than 10 acres in size and they have to have containment. Lake Hopatcong does not meet either of those requirements. They were advised of that. To allow the stocking of Grass Carp in Lake Hopatcong would require a change of regulations.

Chief Al Ivany, Information and Education was not present and Assistant Director Nelson reported on his behalf. She stated Chief Ivany and staff was preparing for the Garden State show which will run from January 11th – 14th. The Deer Classic will be held at 2:30 pm on Sunday and there are over 50 deer heads on display. The Hooked On Fishing-Not On Drugs (HOFNOD) video is in its last cut. If there is time on the agenda next month, it will be presented. Assistant Director Nelson passed around an e-mail that was sent out to listserve members showing the new style of messaging created by Granicus. As a result, the listserve is increasing by 50 people per day. Assistant Director Nelson stated all Council members should have received a notice and if they have not, they should let her know.

Acting Assistant Director Golden reported on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management and gave an update on

Duran Glass property. This property is in Millville, purchased by Green Acres. The city of Millville asked the Commissioner that this property be sold to the City because they view it important to their economic growth. The commissioner approved the request. Due to the size of the property it had to go through the Ogden Rooney process. This matter was heard back in 2015 and was tabled due to a procedural problem. It sat dormant for the past two years. The Commissioner recently sent a letter back to the State House Commission withdrawing his request for it to be heard. In his letter he stated he considered the matter closed. The Department will continue to own the property and the Division will continue to manage the property.

Acting Assistant Director Golden gave an update on the Millville shooting range. The Division recently realigned the range creating a 200-yard muzzle loader rifle range open to center-fire rifles. We also created a 50-yard muzzle loader/shotgun/center fire and realigned and created a new trap range. We were in the middle of working on it and hunting season came upon us so we decided to make it as good as possible and open it up to the public. Signs were posted that the range would be closed in January so we could complete the renovations.

Acting Assistant Director Golden stated Chief Stanko will give an update on the pheasant season but stated he wanted to give an update on the pheasants that were purchased in 2017. This was the first year we intentionally purchased adult pheasants and stocked them in the southern region. The Division purchased 15,000 birds. Because we knew there were some concerns about the quality of purchased birds, early in the season we weighed the purchased birds and the Rockport birds in order to do some comparison. The average weight for the male pheasant were exactly the same within two decimal places, 2.58 lbs. The female purchased birds were significantly heavier than Rockport bird, 1.68 lbs. vs. 1.53 lbs. There was a difference in the age of the birds. The purchased birds were older, which probably accounts for the difference in the weights. The purchased birds were approximately 26 weeks old and the Rockport birds were approximately 22 weeks old. We gathered the information so as we move forward and evaluate how we get pheasants for future stocking, we determine there is not a difference.

Acting Assistant Director Golden also updated everyone on where the Division stands on the Request For Information (RFI) that was put out. We will trickle up from the Game Committee regarding the Rockport facility and where we are going to go with getting pheasants in future years was the idea we should put out a RFI to see if there are vendors out there that can provide adult birds. We worked with Treasury to put out a RFI. We sent it out to a lot of growers in the area and we received some information back. The questions were, would you be interested in providing adult pheasants, how many could you provide, when would we need the order to be able to provide the birds, and what kind of contract duration would they want. We heard back from three vendors which leads us to believe, if the Division wanted to move forward with purchasing adult pheasants in future years, as early as 2019, there is a supply of birds in the pheasant market that could provide enough birds to the Division. With that information we are communicating with the Department of Treasury to see what would be involved in order to move a contract forward. What we need to know and discuss, do we want to try to move forward in 2019 with adult pheasants. If we do, we would need to act on this quickly, in order to have a contract in place on time. Once the decision is made to move forward, work with Treasury to put out a Request For Proposal (RFP) there is a point of no return.

Acting Chairman Virgilio asked how much time do we have and should this go through committee. Chief Stanko responded it is best to not waste any more time and go straight through Council.

After a brief discussion, **Councilman Brodhecker made a motion proceed forward to work with Treasury to get a Request For Proposal started and address the issue further at the next Council Meeting; Seconded by Councilman Gudmundsson, seven (7) in favor and one (1) nay Councilman DeStephano; motion carried.**

Lunch: 12:03 pm – 12:50 pm

Director Herrighty introduced John (Sean) Cianciulli as Acting Chief of the Bureau of Law Enforcement.

Acting Chairman Virgilio noted today was National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. He also noted that Conservation Officers are secretive sentinels that protect our resources across the state. They are selfless individuals that devote more time than you can imagine. They take their jobs seriously and they are out there for all people who work and live in New Jersey who hunt or don't hunt. He gave hats off to them.

Acting Chief Cianciulli gave background the Bureau's officer title change. He stated across the nation there has been some drastic change in the way people recognize law enforcement. Since there are many of them, most of our constituents are not use to interfacing with them and felt the name Police in the title give people from other parts of the country, other parts of the world, definite, distinct information as to who we are and what our authority is. We have no plans to change our mission. We have and always had police powers in the State of New Jersey.

Director Herrighty stated it is an officer safety issue. With the public we serve, we want them to know who we are. This will also help with law enforcement grants.

Acting Chief Cianciulli reported on a request for assistance from Ringwood Police Department to help out on serving a search warrant to an individual who was familiar to them. The individual had several untagged deer parts including antlers in a chest freezer. Also recovered was stolen hunting equipment including groundblinds, a tree stand, and cameras taken from private property. There were nine counts of hunter harassment charges, seven counts of possession of untagged deer parts, and unlawful possession of game animals including two foxes and a mink.

There was a complaint in Burlington County of a ground blind that was within 400 feet of an occupied dwelling. The individual came out of the ground blind with a holstered sidearm. Conservation Police went into the blind and took out a .223 semi-automatic rifle, a crossbow with yellow arrows and field tips, and other knives and weapons. He was charged by Conservation Police with hunting violations under Title 23 and was charged by Pemberton Police Department with multiple criminal charges. Two days later he was back in the blind with firearms and charged a second time by Pemberton Police Department.

Conservation Police Officer Kelly is investigating an individual who bragged about shooting numerous antlered deer during the fall bow season and the permit bow season. Surveillance done on the property was able to identify numerous sets of deer antlers that were not registered which established probable cause to get a search warrant for the property. Officers were able to serve the warrant without incident. They recovered 16 untagged whitetailed deer and 35 leghold traps. During the investigation they were able to identify that four of the deer were legally registered and tagged. They were returned. The hunter was charged with illegal possession of 12 untagged and unregistered deer, and charged for possession of leghold traps.

The five recruits hired a little over a year ago are now out of the police academy and in in-house training. They are currently wrapping up their field training operations. Another recruit has been hired and will be sworn in today.

Acting Chief Cianciulli introduced officers present to witness the swearing in to the new Council members along with Deputy Attorney General Neil Magnus.

Deputy Attorney General Magnus swore in Conservation Police Officer Recruit Jillian Agnello. Director Herrighty wished her well in the academy.

Chief Carole Stanko, Bureau of Wildlife Management, reported on the stocking of pheasants. The Bureau's goal was to stock 45,000 but we were able to stock much more. The Bureau stocked 880 birds for the dog

training areas, 2,280 birds for Take-A-Kid hunting program, 200 for the veterans' hunt, and the rest went to stocking hunting areas. The Farm supplied 40,880 birds and purchased 15,000 adult birds totaling 55,880 birds.

As of the first of the year, the deer harvest was on par with last year, down about 2%, which is less than 1,000 animals (829 fewer deer). This exceedingly long cold snap has not help the harvest. The deer were not moving and hunters were not out either.

Chief Stanko reported she and Dr. Lovy participated in a conference call with the Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) on the long-legged ticks mention by Dr. Reist earlier. The Division plans on doing additional surveillance since the last surveillance did not find anything. We did not expect to find anything since the weather was cold at that time. SCWDS is going to send two staff members for two weeks at a time in May and June. The Division is going to do a targeted response around the areas sampled in Hunterdon County where the sheep was found. We will look at everything, not only deer but small mammal trapping and birds. Chief Stanko asked Dr. Reist if the Department of Agriculture was planning on sampling farms around the site. Dr. Reist responded at this time there are no plans to do that.

Chief Stanko reported the brant numbers had been declining in numbers over the past several years. A mid-winter waterfowl survey which showed to be about the same as last year which is 20% above the last five-year average. This means production is good. It was suggested the recovery of sea lettuce, which is their favorite food, has something to do with the increase. Sea lettuce was decimated during Hurricane Sandy.

There is one thing that needs to be voted on. Federal Aviation Administration William J. Hughes Technical Center (FAA Tech), Zone 66, a special area, is requesting an extension of their season. Due to inclement weather on January 6th, they had to shut down their hunt. There were only 13 deer harvested this year and they would like to take more out for the permit shotgun and permit muzzleloader seasons. The authority for that is found in the Game Code under 7:25-5.28b which is muzzleloader and 5.29b which is shotgun which states, "if the anticipated harvest of deer has not been accomplished during the season, additional days of deer hunting may be authorized by the Director in consultation with the Council". The extension will be January 20th & 27th.

Acting Chairman Virgilio opened the floor for public comment since there will be a vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3MINUTES)

Barbara Sachau, Whitehouse Station, NJ stated she was opposed to granting the extension.

Councilman DeStephano made a motion to extend the season, seconded by Councilman Brodhecker; all were in favor, motion carried.

Chief Stanko reported preliminary numbers on the deer harvest. Six-day firearm was up almost 4% 6,526. Fall bow was down 7%. There was unseasonably warm weather during the fall bow season which may have been a factor since permit bow was up almost 5%. Youth days were down 10% and as of the first of the year permit muzzleloader was up 10% from last year, permit shotgun was down 26% from last year.

Early License Restoration Appeal Hearing

Captain Linda Quirk read the statement for revocation appeal for Mr. Benjamin L. Williams who was present. Mr. Williams was convicted of a violation on October 3, 2017 possession of two summer flounder under legal size and on February 7, 2017 for, 23:7-1, trespass for the purpose of taking wildlife.

Mr. Williams testified as to why the Council should restore his license. Acting Chairman Virgilio allowed the

Council to ask Mr. Williams questions.

Acting Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion to open the floor for discussion.

After the Council discussed Mr. Williams violations, **Councilman Brodhecker made a motion to reinstate Mr. Williams license due to extenuating circumstances. Councilman Brodhecker stated he could see the confusion and find it hard to believe he would access the site, bait it and be harassed by a person and re-access to hunt if he was questioning his legality there. Seconded by Councilman DeStephano. Five (5) were in favor, two (2) opposed (Acting Chairman Virgilio and Councilman Lathrop), motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT (3MINUTES)

Janet Pizar, Millburn, NJ asked if the license restoration is for December 2016 or 2017. There should be some type of statute when there is a conviction, the person who lost their license has to complete at least 50% of that time before he can apply for restitution. It is not fair to the Conservation Police Officers out there who are risking their life with people who are armed who may be breaking the law and have confrontation with the officers. Ms. Pizar welcomed the two new Council members and for the third time noted it is not stated the Council members are trustees of the publicly owned wildlife resources. It does not belong to the Council, the governor, DEP Commissioner or the hunters even though comprise only 1% of New Jersey's population. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of New Jersey's population are not hunters. The number one caveat for the management for a publicly owned natural resource, is that it is managed for the benefit of the public. Every voting decision that is made, is this outcome for the benefit of the public, should be on the forefront of your mind. If the answer is no, you should not be voting on it.

Barbara Sachau, Whitehouse Station, NJ stated she wanted to know if the taxpayers was paying for Dr. Lathrop's trip to Dante Fuego, South America. Dr. Lathrop responded it was from a foundation supported research grant, not from the taxpayers. Ms. Sachau did not agree with the restoration of hunting license and he should have had it taken away. There should be a more strict interpretation. He did wrong two times. There is too much propaganda coming out of the Fish and Game Division.

A motion was made by Councilman Brodhecker and seconded by Councilman Link to adjourn the meeting at 1:44 pm. Vote taken, all in favor, none-opposed; motion carried.