

*Libertarian Party of Central New Jersey
Meeting Minutes - August 23, 2004*

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at about 7:40 p.m. at the Lone Star Restaurant in Scotch Plains. In attendance were members Jim Harshman, Brenda Bell, Frank Warren, Scott Lenger, Kevin Pearce, Howard Schoen (chair) and John Paff (secretary).

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the July 10, 2004 and July 29, 2004 meetings were approved with one change: In the July 29, 2004 minutes, the title "Correspondence not relating to a matter reported in these minutes" should read "Correspondence not relating to a matter reported elsewhere in these minutes."

Paff reported that he never received copies of minutes of the February 2004 meeting. Apparently, they were taken by Jeff Pawlowski.

**CORRESPONDENCE NOT RELATING TO A MATTER REPORTED ELSEWHERE
IN THESE MINUTES**

None

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Chair's Report

No report.

Vice Chair's Report

No report.

Treasurer's Report

Lehmann was absent. Schoen reported the bank balance to be \$189.56.

State Board Representatives' Report

Warren reported that he attended the Steering Committee meeting on August 13, 2004 and also reported on the achievement of securing enough signatures to get Badnarak on the ballot.

A State Board meeting (improperly referred to in the newsletter as a "general meeting") is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2004, 1 p.m. at Tumulty's Pub on George Street in New Brunswick.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recruitment

Paff led a discussion on how the party can more effectively follow up with those who contact us.

Activities/Public Relations Committee

Paff reported that argument on summary judgment pertaining to the party's public record suit against the Middlesex Freeholder clerk would be heard on Friday, August 26, 2004, 9:00 a.m., in New Brunswick.

Schoen reported on his unsuccessful attempts to gain access to the Middlesex Freeholders' public web site and said that he is working on a letter to the county's IT professional. Schoen also reported the Middlesex Freeholders' upcoming meeting schedule.

Schoen reported that we will not participate in South Plainfield's Labor Day parade because he has not been able to contact Aaron Bersin.

Schoen reported that he would attend and set up the OPH booth for the Monroe Mother's OPH event on September 12 and the Bedminster Fair on September 18 if his calendar was clear for those days.

Harshman withdrew from heading up the Monroe Mother's OPH event on September 12.

Schoen reported that we are not attending the Old Bridge street fair on October 2nd but that an application has been sent for the Metuchen Country Fair held on the same date.

Program Committee

No report.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 2004, 7:00 P.M. at the Lone Star restaurant on Route 22 W, Scotch Plains. The business meeting will conclude at 7:30 at which time we will have a social meeting.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Open Government Task Force

Linden Minutes Audit

No further activity.

Roselle Park Municipal Court

Paff reported that he attended the August 5, 2004 council meeting and presented the authorized letter and provided oral testimony. The material requested in the letter was sent to Paff the very next day, August 6, 2004, in the form of a letter and attachments from Joan Robinson Gross, P.J.M.C. (see attached).

Roselle Park Council Executive Sessions

Paff reported that he ordered \$17.50 worth of minutes from Roselle Park and seeks reimbursement.

Paff and Pearce agreed to hold a Task Force meeting at the Roselle Park council meeting on Thursday, September 2, 2004, 7:30 p.m. at the Roselle Park Borough Hall, 110 E Westfield Ave.

Franklin Township Redevelopment Agency

Paff reported that he received an unsatisfactory reply to the July 30, 2004 letter and OPRA request (see attached) and submitted new OPRA request on August 17, 2004 (attached).

Branchburg Board of Education

Paff will present the attached report to the Board during public session at its August 26, 2004 meeting.

Bridgewater Fire District No. 3

Paff reported that on August 10, 2004, I met with the Fire District's secretary, audited his minutes and sent the District the attached August 14, 2004 letter.

Union Township

Paff reported that he sent an August 9, 2004 report (attached) to the Clerk for distribution to the Township Committee. Ray Lehmann has agreed to ask for a response to the report during the public portion of the Committee's August 24, 2004 meeting at 7:30 p.m.

North Plainfield

Warren reported that he raised the issue of improper closed session resolutions during the public portion of North Plainfield's August 16, 2004 council meeting.

MUNICIPAL WATCH

Paff v. Perth Amboy - Loitering Ordinance

Mayor Vas was quoted in the August 8, 2004 Star Ledger (attached) that the ordinance will be repealed.

Nuisance Ordinance - Cranbury

A follow-up letter and OPRA request (attached) was sent to the Cranbury Health Department on August 23, 2004.

Nuisance Ordinance - Edison

Schoen signed an August 24, 2004 letter to Councilman Patel that was drafted by Paff (attached). Paff suggested that Schoen may wish to attend a future council meeting and speak during the public portion if he doesn't get a substantive response to the letter.

Nuisance Ordinance - Franklin

Paff reported that he filed an Amicus Curiae brief (attached) in Franklin Municipal Court challenging the constitutionality of the nuisance ordinance and will argue the cause on Thursday, August 26.

Letter to Prosecutor RE: Franklin "Interference with police" ordinance.

Moved by Paff: Resolved, that the letter dated August 26, 2004 and addressed to Joseph V. Rocchietti be mailed or delivered to the addressee with copies to the officials named on page 2 of that letter. (see attached). Carried.

Lawsuit - Edison Township

Paff reported that default was entered against Edison's clerk on July 30, 2004 due to her failure to answer. On August 4, 2004, Attorney for Edison moved to vacate the default. Our lawyer, Richard Gutman, consented to the vacation of default and oral argument on our summary judgment motion has been postponed to Friday, September 24, 2004.

Court Records in Readington

Paff reported receipt of a August 2, 2004 letter from Carol A. Welsch (attached) informing that AOC is considering a statewide citizen complaint probable cause procedure and form based on our suggestion.

Paff reported a new issue—should the Readington Court have handled the probable cause hearing on a citizen complaint against one of its own officers as it did in the Teeple matter? The letter from Judge Gross, mentioned above, suggests that the Readington judge should not have conducted the hearing but should have sent it to another court.

Parking Rights restoration in North Plainfield

Warren said that the matter is on hold.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nuisance Ordinance - New Jersey Department of Health

No further activity.

Prisoner Release - Letter to Ombudsman

No response received.

Writing to unaffiliated voters

Latsko absent. No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Candidates

No report.

Bylaws Changes

No report.

Web site

Warren announced that he has created a website for the party at www.lpsmc.org. He demonstrated it on his laptop.

Business being concluded, the meeting adjourned.

John Paff