

Good evening and welcome to the 2018 Reorganization Meeting of Long Hill Township.

Father Carton, thank you for your thoughtful and moving invocation.

Before I begin I'd like to ask everyone to join me in a moment of silence to honor two pillars of our community who recently passed, Officer Thomas Scala and Resident Joe Connolly.

Officer Scala served the residents of Long Hill for 14 years. He was a community policing and traffic officer responsible for the DARE program. He was also a veteran of the Coast Guard. He fought the disease that would ultimately take his life with humility, courage and dignity. He fought the good fight and finished his race. Our dear friend Joe taught us leadership is not about winning and losing, it is about doing what is best for the community at large. Governing will be a little bit more difficult without his voice of reason at our meetings. I always returned Joe's calls because I knew what he would have to say would be for the benefit of others, never for himself. We will miss him.

I'd like to thank my colleagues for once again selecting me to serve as Mayor. It is a privilege and honor to serve the residents of Long Hill Township and to be part of such a hardworking and thoughtful committee. One that the Echoes Sentinel characterized as often having spirited debate but governs with a respect for one another and most of all for the community.

I congratulate Matt Dorsi on his selection as Deputy Mayor and look forward to working with him in the New Year. I thank

Cornel for the outstanding job he did as Mayor in 2017 with the assistance of Matt, Brendan and Bruce.

I'd like to thank our residents, former local officials and our friends who are here tonight and who are watching on television. I thank the hard working employees of the township, our countless volunteers and our incredibly generous business community who combine to make our town such a wonderful place to live. Most of all I'd like to thank my family, my wife Sandy, my daughter Chelsea and my son Guy without whose support and understanding I could not devote the time and energy to the responsibilities and commitments required of this office.

I offer special thanks to our distinguished guests; please hold your applause until all representatives have been announced.

Tom Kean, Jon Bramnick, Nancy Munoz, Freeholders, Mark Taylor, Kevin Sullivan, Sally Rubin,

More than expressing our appreciation for your presence here tonight I'd like to thank you, as well as the offices of Congressman Lance and Governor Christie for always answering our calls and for the guidance and assistance you have provided and will continue to provide Long Hill Township. I congratulate Governor-elect Phil Murphy on his election and look forward to working with him and his administration in 2018.

2017 had many bright spots. We worked with New Jersey American to provide nearly \$3 million dollars in investment to the water infrastructure in town. 6 miles of county roads were milled and paved including Valley Road and Meyersville Road. The town's 6-year capital plan for local roads is on schedule.

Former administrator Neil Henry moved on but we had a seamless transition to our talented new Administrator Nancy Malool. Creative recycling efforts have been identified and implemented which benefit the environment and reduce costs. We formed an Opioid taskforce, which is now called The Way Out. A 24-hour Safe Drug Disposal box has been installed at the Police Station and we partnered with Morris CARES (Center for Addiction Recovery Education and Success), which has already assisted several residents in finding the help they need. This effort will continue and expand in 2018. We signed an agreement with Fair Share Housing which meets our legal requirement while limiting the impact of potential development. Furthermore, it provides the township immunity from builder remedy lawsuits until 2025.

Other efforts remain a work in progress many of which are intertwined. The no vote on the wastewater referendum, the proposed redevelopment zone at Valley and Main, completion of the Master Plan, the Traffic Advisory Committee, open space development, compliance with DEP regulations along with our Fair Share Housing obligation, are all tied together. This committee is tasked with threading the needle to insure progress is made regarding all of these complex issues while maintaining the charm that is Long Hill Township. This won't be easy. We must balance our legal obligations with the desire to keep Long Hill the town all of us have come to love. I am confident that this committee with the help and guidance provided by our professionals and the input of our residents are up to the task.

Last but not least this committee will continue to seek ways to reduce expenses without reducing services. I'm proud to say in the past 8 years the increase in the municipal portion of our

budget has totaled 12%, 1.5% per year, well below the 2% cap permitted by state law. Twice in the past 4 years we have had a zero percent increase. New Jersey Magazine often references this fiscal restraint as a primary reason for consistently ranking Long Hill Township in the top 20 best towns in New Jersey to live and raise a family.

However, this committee can not rest on its laurels. Many challenges remain. Let's get to work.

In closing I ask God to bless our leadership and to guide the deliberations and decisions of this committee. God Bless you, God Bless Long Hill Township and God Bless America.

Guy T Piserchia
Mayor
Long Hill Township

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