

TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

November 7, 2018

The monthly Business Meeting of the Hardwick Township Committee was held on this date at the Municipal Building, 40 Spring Valley Road, Hardwick, New Jersey. This meeting was called to order at 6:45PM by the Township Clerk Judith Fisher who noted that this meeting was being held in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act":

In accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, notice of this meeting was given by way of notice with the New Jersey Herald and/or the Express-Times, filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office and posted in the Hardwick Municipal Building. Mrs. Fisher then led the public in the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: Mayor Kevin Duffy, Deputy Mayor Alfred Carrazzone and Committeeman James Perry

Absent: None

Also present: Township Attorney Michael Lavery, CPWM Thomas Campbell, CMFO Christine Rolef and Township Engineer Ted Rodman

Absent: None

Executive Session: RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone and carried to adopt the Resolution to go into Closed Session at 6:46PM.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Pubic Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P. L 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from that portion of this meeting
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - A. Potential Litigation: Paulinskill Road
 - B. Attorney Client Privilege: Pahaquarry Foundation

As nearly as can be ascertained, the matter or matters to be discussed at this time will be disclosed to the public when such matters are resolved.

Time In: 6:46PM

Present: Mr. Perry, Mr. Carrazzone, Mayor Duffy

Also Present: Tom Campbell, CPWM, Attorney Michael Lavery and Township Clerk Judith Fisher

Time Out: 7:15PM

A motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone to come out of closed session at 7:15PM and return to Regular Session. Motion carried and unanimous.

Attorney Mr. Lavery noted that he met in closed session with the Committee and discussed two matters:

1. Paulinskill Road – Potential Litigation
2. Pahaquarry Foundation – Attorney Client Privilege Information

No official action was taken by the Committee at this time. Copies of the minutes will be made available at such time as the Committee determines that there is no harm to the public interest.

Payment of the Bills:

A motion was made by Mr. Carrazzone, seconded by Mr. Perry and carried to authorize the payment of the bills in the amount of \$279,456.93

Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Carrazzone, Mr. Perry and Mayor Duffy

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

Hardwick Day – Update - October 21, 2018 - 1:00p to 5:00p Camp Ralph Mason
Mrs. Dunn updated the Committee on this successful event. It was attended by about 150 people. Stillwater Fire Company was there handing out hot chocolate and cookies along with other Organizations. Desiree thanked everyone that volunteered to help.

REPORTS

Engineer: Mr. Rodman reported that the required 12 points need for the Stormwater has been reached for 2018.

DPW: Mr. Thomas Campbell reported that the paving on Birch Ridge along with the shoulder work has been completed. About 325 tons of asphalt was put done. Other than this, according to Tom, WINTER has started.

CFO: Mrs. Rolef handed out her monthly report that was reviewed.

Attorney: No report at this time

Clerk: Correspondence review. Mrs. Fisher talked to the Committee about a challenge from TRES for university and Community Recycling Program. We would be collecting clean/dry plastic bags that need to total 500+ pounds. We would have 6 months from a start date. It would need to be weighed and dropped off at ACME. TRES would then need to be contacted with the number of pounds that was delivered to ACME. Once we reach the 500+ pounds the Township would receive a new bench for the Building or Park. After a brief discussion, the Committee gave the go ahead to participate. Mrs. Fisher would be looking for a few volunteers to help in gathering and sorting the plastic bags. Our target start day could be the first of the Year. There is a TRES box in the Town Hall to collect the plastic.

Retired Fire Warden: Bob Wolff reported that the renewal for Firewise is do Friday, November 16th. Bob along with Eric Weber and Judy Fisher will be working on this to make sure it is filed on time.

There was no report tonight from **Grants, OEM or Hardwick Seniors.**

Jackie Espinozo from JCP&L was present to talk with the Committee about their new program that will take place over the next 4 years. It involves tree trimming that is being required by the BPU. Unfortunately, it will cost the customers/homeowners about \$0.26 per month. JCP&L is looking for support from the Township on this project. There was a brief discussion, Jackie noted that there is a draft Resolution that she will sent the Township to review and adopt at their next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone and carried to approve the following **Resolution 2018-46**. A voice vote was unanimous

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector advises of an overpayment of taxes for the tax year 2018. The property owner paid the 1st and 2nd quarter taxes as billed and the Tax Assessor reduced the value of the farmland assessment for 2018 therefore creating an overpayment of taxes based on the value reduction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of November, 2018 by the Mayor and Township Committee that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to make the refund of taxes as follows:

Block 1201, Lot 1 Q0088 7 Old Orchard Road LLC \$ 272.37

Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Carrazzone, Mr. Perry and Mayor Duffy

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

A motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone and carried to approve the following **Resolution 2018-47**. A voice vote was unanimous

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector advises of an overpayment of taxes for the tax year 2018. The property owner paid the 1st and 2nd quarter taxes as billed and the Tax Assessor granted a 100% disabled veteran exemption for 2018 therefore creating an overpayment of taxes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of November, 2018 by the Mayor and Township Committee that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to make the refund of taxes as follows:

BLOCK	LOT	OWNER	AMOUNT
1102	25.06	Richard & Mary Sue Girardin	\$ 2,885.43

Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Carrazzone, Mr. Perry and Mayor Duffy

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

A motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone and carried to approve the following **Resolution 2018-48**. A voice vote was unanimous

WHEREAS, a resolution is required by the Tax Collector to cancel 2018 taxes deemed uncollectible, and

WHEREAS, the following property owner applied for and was granted a **100% disabled veteran exemption by the Tax Assessor effective January 1st, 2018**, therefore the taxes must be canceled of record:

BLOCK	LOT	OWNER	AMOUNT
1102	25.06	Richard & Mary Sue Girardin	\$ 5,278.80

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of November, 2018 by the Mayor and Township Committee that the Tax Collector is hereby released from collecting the taxes for the 2018 tax year on the above captioned property.

Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Carrazzone, Mr. Perry and Mayor Duffy

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

The following Resolution was discussed by the Committee and decided and agreed to **HOLD ADOPTION** as there were still questions that needed to be answered. Committee will review this again at their next meeting in December.

2018- RESOLUTION BY THE HARDWICK TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE EXPRESSING THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE LEGALIZATION OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA BY THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY (DISCUSSION)

WHEREAS, the Hardwick Township Committee is strongly committed to the health, well-being, and safety of its citizens and youth; and

WHEREAS, it has been purported that legalization of marijuana may provide substantial revenue to the State of New Jersey through taxes that would be established within the legislation, however the revenue does not take into consideration the social costs of widespread marijuana use including increased emergency room visits, hospitalization and treatment for addiction, loss of productivity in the workplace, lower educational achievement, increased unemployment rates, increased accidental injuries and higher crime rates; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America outlaw’s recreational marijuana pursuant to the Controlled Substances Act, 21 USC Section 811; and

WHEREAS, medical marijuana is generally carefully controlled for the amount of delta 9 tetrahydrocannabinol, generally referred to as “THC”, while recreational marijuana is specifically designed to have as much “THC” as possible; and

WHEREAS, “THC” is known to impair physical function in the user including reaction time while operating a vehicle and the user’s ability to perceive danger; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey utilizes drug recognition experts (“DRE”) to determine whether someone is under the influence of a drug, including marijuana, when operating a motor vehicle and there is no current objective standard for operating under the influence of drugs like marijuana as compared to standards established for driving while intoxicated (.08%); and

WHEREAS, marijuana has been genetically modified to increase the potency of the principal psychoactive substance, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), bringing the THC level from below 10 percent (which the marijuana of the 60's, 70's and 80's contained), to 25 percent and higher, with some derivatives containing up to 98 percent THC (according to Rocky Mountain HIDTA); and

WHEREAS, production and marketing of marijuana concentrates, in places where recreational use has been legalized, commonly have THC levels above 90 percent and are sold in waxes, oils, and edible products in the form of cookies, brownies, candy, gummy bears, and lollipops that are indistinguishable from products that do not contain THC; and

WHEREAS, based on the evidence-based studies, research has established a causal link to significant societal costs associated with marijuana use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hardwick Township Committee opposes legislation by the New Jersey Legislature that would permit the recreational use of marijuana in the State of New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hardwick Township Clerk shall forward a certified true copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Jersey, the members of the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the Mayor and Council of all municipalities within the County of Warren

ORDINANCE NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

Status – Century Link Communications

Mr. Perry updated the Committee stating that nothing has been done since their last meeting with Century Link. Complaints have been received and Jim asked that any and all problems should be forwarded to him so that they are documented.

NEW BUSINESS:

Best Practices Inventory 2018-2019: Due November 12, 2018

Mrs. Rolaf and Mrs. Fisher reviewed with the Committee responses to the 60+ questions. The Committee was in agreement with the answers and this will be submitted tomorrow to the State.

White Lake: Dock, cost share - \$5000.00 Ridge and Valley Conservancy has plans to purchase a dock for White Lake. The estimated cost according to RVC is \$15,000 of which they placed a down payment of \$7500. This dock is being purchased from Custom Docks in Sandyston. RVC is asking Hardwick to help offset the total cost of the dock with a cost share of \$5000. The size of this dock will be 44', 6-8' with railing.

A motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone and carried to help off set the cost of the dock by contributing to RVC, \$5000 from the Open Space fund.

Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Carrazzone, Mr. Perry and Mayor Duffy

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

Personnel Policy: The Township Attorney has completed and sent what was needed by PAIC

Firewise Renewal: Due November 16, 2018 - Discussed earlier in the meeting under Reports.

Discussion:

Facebook Page: No change in status.

Foreclosed Lots: No change in status

Ted Rodman, Engineer: Stormwater Management – Discussed earlier in the meeting

Verizon Wireless (Nodes): Requesting permission to locate in the Township ROW
No Change in Status. Mayor Duffy noted again that he had requested the location and number of the Nodes along with where they will be placed. It was suggested that they

might be able to use the Cell Tower for the Nodes. So far there has been no response from them.

Green Acres Property: No change in Status – Mayor Duffy asked that this be removed from the Agenda. It will be brought back when there is a status change.

Slabtown Creek Park: Last month the Committee approved the purchase of posts and a new sign for the Park; not to exceed \$1500. The cost of the sign came in at \$495 and 2 posts at \$80. The trail has been marked out and the DPW will be working on this. It is hoped to have it completed by the end of the year.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES September 5, 2018 Business & Executive Session
October 3, 2018 – Business Meeting**

Executive Session minutes for September 5, 2018 will be held to the December meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Carrazzone, second by Mr. Duffy and carried to approve the minutes as presented tonight subject to corrections. Motion carried with Mr. Perry abstaining on the September 5th 2018 minutes; as he was absent then.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone and carried to open this portion of the meeting for comments from the Public.

Mrs. Randazzo, President of the Hardwick Seniors reported that at Hardwick Day, they were able to sign up 3 new members. The Seniors will have their Thanksgiving Day dinner November 17 at the Top of the Green in Harmony. Christmas Dinner will be held at the Boat House in Stillwater on December 13th. A new laptop computer was purchased from the sale of knitted items at Hardwick Day.

A motion was then made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone and carried to close this portion of the meeting to the Public.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Perry: Congratulated Mr. Duffy on his General Election win. Jim reminded everyone that the League convention is the week of November 13th in Atlantic City.

Mr. Carrazzone: Also congratulated Mr. Duffy on his win in the General Election for another 3-year term.

Mayor Duffy: Thanked Desiree and Bob for all their work on Hardwick Day at Camp Mason. Thank you to the Hardwick Seniors for their contribution and Stillwater Fire Company for their Service. Thank you also to all those that volunteered that day. League meeting is the week of November 13. There will be representatives there that he will be speaking to about the DOT Rock Wall Project and DEP for funding for the Vass House.

Year End Meeting will be December 19th, 2018.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Carrazzone, seconded by Mr. Perry and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting of the Hardwick Township Committee at 8:23PM

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher, RMC