

TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

December 19, 2018

The Year End 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 5:00PM 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.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: None

Also present: Mayor Adele Starrs, Knowlton Township, Township Attorney Michael Lavery, CPWM Thomas Campbell, Township Engineer Ted Rodman, Jim Miller, Construction Official DCA, Christine Rolef, CFO, Michael Kitsopoulos, Gerry Kitsopoulos, Esq. and Municipal Clerk Judith Fisher

Absent: None

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 \$324,456.82. Noted that Mr. Perry's voucher for \$414.05 was pulled at this time for further discuss later tonight.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

Mayor Adele Starrs was present to talk to the Committee about doing a Shared Service. It would be for a Community Information Service with a company called Nixle. Knowlton has been using them since 2014 at no cost. This service is no longer being offered free-of-charge. She did let the Committee know that it has been well received by her Community. The cost per year is \$3400 with a one time set up charge of \$272. She also discussed another company called Code Red which offers the same service. After a brief discussion on how to split the cost, it was agreed to charge Hardwick \$1250 per year with the one-time set up cost of \$272. Hardwick's fee was based on population of the township. Mayor Starrs was comfortable with this and will bring it back to her Committee for their blessing to proceed.

A motion was then made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone and carried to moved forward with Nixle Community Information Service for \$1250 per year and the one time set up fee of \$272 contingent on the CFO certifying the available funds and the authorize the Mayor to sign the Shared Service Agreement, which Knowlton Township will be preparing.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

Resolution

Motion made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone and carried to adopt Resolution 2018-50
2018-50 Changes to School State Aid Funding for 2018-2019 for North Warren Regional Board of Education

WHEREAS our public schools play a critical role in our community, **AND**

WHEREAS without notice or prior discussion with community stakeholders, drastic changes to the school funding formula were made by P.L. 2018 Chapter 67, which reduced 2018/2019 State School Aid for the North Warren Regional Board of Education ("Board") by \$253,897, **AND**

WHEREAS the New Jersey Department of Education notified the Board that Chapter 67 will further reduce aid by at least \$2,416,811 over the next six fiscal years, **AND**

WHEREAS because of demographic changes within the Board's regional district ("District"), the Board believes that Chapter 67 will actually further reduce aid by another \$1,143,366 over the next six fiscal years, **AND**

WHEREAS a total aid reduction of approximately \$3,814,074 will have drastic, dramatically negative, and irreversible consequences on the students, homeowners, and employees throughout the District, **AND**

WHEREAS these school funding losses will have a devastating impact not only on our schools but also on the economic viability of our local community felt throughout our region, **AND**

WHEREAS when our schools suffer, our students and communities lose, **AND**

WHEREAS the Board’s efforts to proactively and efficiently conserve already limited resources has been recognized through the Board’s designation as the most efficiently operated regional school district throughout the tri-county region.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hardwick Township Committee calls on state lawmakers to freeze further reductions to state aid funding allocations until an appropriate joint legislative committee is convened to address this funding crisis allowing local and state lawmakers to work together to find a viable solution that benefits all impacted stakeholders, most importantly, our students.

Motion made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone and carried to adopt Resolution 2018-51
2018-51 Transfer Funds as recommended by Christine Rolef, CFO

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:4-58 permits transfers between current year budget appropriations during the last two months of the municipal fiscal year; and;

WHEREAS, there are certain Budget Year 2018 appropriations that require transfers to meet the charges and obligations that will be incurred by the end of this fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the transfer below is hereby authorized by a 2/3 vote of the full Governing Body

TRANSFER FROM:		TRANSFER TO:	
ADMIN S/W	5,239.00	MAYOR AND COUNCIL O/E	450.00
FINANCE S/W	1,900.00	MUNICIPAL CLERK S/W	90.00
TAX ASSESSMENT OTHER	1,800.00	LEGAL	13,000.00
TAX COLLECTOR S/W	250.00	ADMIN O/E	5,600.00
TAX COLLECTOR O/E	800.00	STRETS AND ROADS S/W	5,800.00
TAX ASSESSMENT ADMIN O/E	2,700.00	BUIDLIGN AND GROUNDS	7,000.00
TAX ASSESSMENT WEB SITE	300.00	UTILITIES - TELEPHONE	1,575.00
HUMAN RESOURCES -	900.00	GAS - NATURAL PROPANE	1,400.00
PLANNING BOARD O/E	3,600.00	SOCIAL SECURITY	2,900.00
INSURANCE UNEMPLOYEMNT	2,300.00		
OTHER INSURANCE	900.00		
UTILITIES - ELECTRIC	1,900.00		
FUEL OIL	1,500.00		
INSURANCE EMPLOYEE GROUP	1,000.00		
INSURANCE GENERAL	10,700.00		
STRETS AND ROADS O/E	2,026.00		
	37,815.00		37,815.00

Roll Call Ayes: Mr. Carrazzone, Mr. Perry, Mayor Duffy
Nays: None **Abstentions:** None **Absent:** None

Motion made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone and carried to adopt Resolution 2018-52
2018-52 Transfer of 2017 Budget Appropriations

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:4-59 permits appropriation transfers during the first 3 months of the succeeding year; and;

WHEREAS, there are certain appropriations requiring transfers of 2017 appropriation reserves:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, confirmation 2/3 of the full Governing Body; that the following transfers are authorized:

TRANSFER FROM:		TRANSFER TO:	
		TAX ASSESSMENT ADMIN	700.00
INTERLOCAL COURT	3,400.00	LEGAL	3,502.00
SOCIAL SECURITY	3,400.00	STREETS & ROADS S/W	2,200.00
GENERAL ADMIN S/W	1,414.00	STREETS & ROADS O/E	7,600.00
GENERAL ADMIN O/E	1,178.00	UTILITIES - ELECTRIC	300.00
FINANCE S/W	879.00	BUILDING AND GROUNDS	2,000.00
PLANNING O/E	1,018.00		
MUNICIPAL COURT O./E	566.00		
RECREATION O/E	500.00		
GASOLINE FUEL	392.00		
STREET LIGHTING	500.00		
UTILITIES - ELECTRIC	565.00		
POL.ICE DISPATACH 911	923.00		
MAYOR AND COMM S/W	45.00		
TAX COLLECTOR S/W	479.00		
ENGINEERING	120.00		
PLANNING BOARD S/W	119.00		
CONSTRUCTION CODE S/W	99.00		
CONSTRUCTION CODE O/E	225.00		
INSURANCE OTHER PREMIUMS	295.00		
OEM	111.00		
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION S/E	52.00		
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION O/E	20.00		
TAX ASSESSMENT O/E	2.00		
	16,302.00		16,302.00

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

At this time, Mr. Michael Kitsopoulos and his son Gerry were present to discuss their intent of the property on Spring Valley Road and the Hardwick House. Mr. Miller, Construction Official from DCA was present noting that there are fines that are still being levied against the property. Permits were taken out and are still open for a demolish since 2016. There was a rough inspection in which it failed. Mr. Miller noted that these permits need to be closed out and soon. The property/structure needs to be made safe. After a brief discuss on what needed to be done. Mr. Kitsopoulos agreed that the necessary work will be done to make the property/structure safe This work would be done no later than January 16, 2019.

OLD BUSINESS:

Century Link Communications: Update No change in the status. Still many complaints

Service Electric: No change in Status

Slabtown Creek Park: The sign has been installed and the trail is in. Than you ro the DPW for their work on constructing the new trail

Vass House: Update Mayor Duffy along with Mr. Ohl and Mr. Chidley from DEP has come up with a 5 years plan. It is presently being review by the Historical Society.

Verizon: The attorney update this. The escrow had been approved for release

NEW BUSINESS:

Reorganization Meeting: Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 3:00pm

DISCUSSION:

Facebook Page: no change in status

Foreclosed Lots: No change in status. The Clerk has asked the Assessor in information on the lot. The Committee discussed the possibility as selling to adjoining property owners. More information to come in 2019.

Verizon Wireless (Nodes): No change in status. Mayor requested that this be off the agenda until any updates come in

Public Comment:

Motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone to open this portion of the meeting to the Public. Seeing there was no public comment, Mr. Perry then motioned to open this portion of the meeting to the Public, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone. Motions carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

Reports:

Mr. Wolff reported that the 4th drill between Stillwater and Blairstown Fire Companies has been done. The Firewise Grant is due by January 15, 2019 and parties are working on this to see if it is possible to get the necessary paperwork in.

Mr. Rodman reported that the overlay on Birch Ridge Road is done and Tilcon has been paid There was a change order for Tilcon that needs the signature of the Mayor
Mr. Carrazzone motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign the necessary change orders for Tilcon as recommended by the Engineer, seconded by Mr. Perry. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Ohl, President of the Historical Society reported that they will be meeting with the Pahaquarry Foundation to get issues resolved.

Payments of the Bills:

Discussion: Voucher from Mr. Perry The voucher was pulled for receipts that were no attached per the CFO. Mayor Duffy then talked about Mr. Perry paying back the Township to offset the medical expense. So far, there has been no effort made from Mr. Perry to do this. In 2019, there

will now be no reimbursement for Township Committee on food or mileage unless an effort is made by Mr. Perry to payback the medical expense to the Township. Mayor Duffy then noted that he will sign Mr. Perry's voucher for his league 2018 expense only if the proper receipts are attached.

Committee Comments:

Mr. Perry: No comments at this time

Mr. Carrazzone: No report at this time

Mr. Duffy: Discussed the Christmas Party possibly at Buck Hill Dates is needed

Mr. Campbell noted that he would like the Committee to approve the hiring of Ken Lally, Jr. for snow plowing as the extra person.

Motion was then made by Mr. Carrazzone, seconded by Mr. Perry to hiring Mr. Ken Lally, Jr as the extra person for the DPW for snow plowing. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

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 6:16PM

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher, RMC