

TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

December 5, 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 6:44PM 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 Rolfe and Township Engineer Ted Rodman

Absent: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Not needed tonight

Motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Duffy and carried to take a short break at 6:45pm and return to Regular Session at 7PM. A voice vote was unanimous.

At 7:00pm Mrs. Fisher called the meeting back to order followed by the Flag salute.

Mayor Duffy asked for a Moment of Silence for the passing of the 41st President George H. W. Bush.

Payment of the Bills:

A motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Duffy and carried to authorize the payment of the bills in the amount of \$59,737.51; pulled from the bills list was check #1740 to Verizon for \$0.63.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

REPORTS

Engineer: Mr. Rodman reported that stormwater projects have been update and that we have the required 12 points for 2018. Birch Ridge overlay has a change order that the contractor and Mayor need to sign. This will be sent back to the State for the required funding. Tilcon bill will be resolved at the year-end meeting on December 19. Denville Line has also been paid \$10,000 for the lines and stop bars.

DPW: Mr. Thomas Campbell reported that thanks to the DPW, Bob Ahlers and Kyle Peck the trail at Slabtown Creek Park was completed; $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile long and 10 feet wide. They rented a machine for \$500 for the week. The new park sign was installed along with the trail markers; next is the kiosk that should be installed next week. Mayor Duffy thanked Tom, Bob and Kyle for their work on the trail.

Mr. Campbell also brought up an issue on Millbrook Stillwater Road; washout of Jerry Underhill's driveway. Tom explained the situation about the waterflow that was changed do to the subdivision many years ago. Mr. Underhill is requested that the township replace the pipe that is in the township right of way. Once replaced, then he will then pave his driveway. The Committee along with the Attorney discussed the issue. Tom noted that to replaced the pipe would be a day's work and about \$500 for a new pipe. The consensus of the Committee was that if the Township caused the problem, then the Township should be responsible to fix it. The Committee also talked about having a Hold Harmless agreement that the Township attorney will draft for Mr. Underhill to review and sign.

A motion was then made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Duffy and carried to authorize the DPW to repair the washout portion of Mr. Underhill's driveway by replacing the pipe. The Township will provide the pipe and labor; the home owner will be responsible for his portion of the driveway. The Township will prepare a Hold Harmless Agreement for Mr. Underhill to sign noted that the Township will provide the labor and pipe to do this repair. Motion carried.

Roll Call: Mr. Perry – yes, Mr. Carrazzone – yes, Mayor Duffy – yes

Lastly, Tom noted that the Dept of Health was in to inspect the DPW for the Right to Know. There were a few minor items that the Mr. Singh wrote the Township up for that were missing. One item was to there DPW did not have a working computer. Tom informed him the IT was working on this; it should be up and running when he comes back for the reinspection.

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

Attorney: No report at this time

Clerk: Correspondence review

Retired Fire Warden: Bob Wolff reported on the Firewise Grant that is due January 15, 2019. Eric Weber will be helping us on this. Steve Sugar from the Stillwater Fire Company would have been present, but they are doing Operation Santa tonight. Mr. Wolff noted that Stillwater and Blairstown Fire Companies had their 3rd drill on October 30. The 4th drill is scheduled for sometime this month. A free Breakfast with Santa at the Stillwater Fire House is scheduled for December 8 from 8A to 11A.

There was no report tonight from **Grants, OEM.**

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolution was discussed by the Committee and agreed to **NOT ADOPT** as there were still questions that need to be answered.

Mr. Perry noted that the League is presently discussing this and they too have many questions.

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

The above resolution was discussed again and the Committee it was agreed not to adopt this resolution. It will be pulled from the agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone and carried to approve the following **Resolution 2018-49**

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CONSENT OF STAKEHOLDER MUNICIPALITIES FOR NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the purpose of local elected officials is to act as a collective voice of the electorate, representing the needs and concerns of New Jersey residents; and

WHEREAS, it is of utmost importance for State Agencies to work cooperatively with the local governments, particular in regards to large transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, despite the outcry of local governments in the area including 20 municipal resolutions of opposition, intervention by Congressional and State representatives, and the opposition of environmental organizations, the New Jersey Department of Transportation is proceeding with a project in North-West New Jersey citing its right to proceed in the right o way; and

WHEREAS, the NJDOT's insistence on carrying out this project despite municipal opposition should be of great concern statewide, since local governments are elected by the people, for the people to safeguard the public interest; and

WHEREAS, when state agencies proceed with projects lacking stakeholder and local elected official support, it undermines the confidence that all New Jersians have in the system of representative government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, calls on the State Department of Transportation to adopt new rules and procedures to provide an opportunity for adequate public notice, public comment and the consent or approval of municipalities affected but ate DOT projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey, the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, and all members of the New Jersey State Legislature.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

ORDINANCE NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

Status – Century Link Communications

Mr. Perry updated that nothing has been done since their last meeting with Century Link. He has received over 30 emails with problems and complaints that have been taken care of quickly. Jim asked that any and all problems should be forwarded to him so that they are documented.

Service Electric - Update Mr. Duffy reported that he met with the Mayor's for Knowlton and Hope in August and then now to get an update. Presently Hardwick does not have a signed agreement. Representatives from Service Electric will be walking the Township's to get a house count and they will go from there.

Slabtown Creek Park - Discussed earlier under DPW report

Vass House – Mayor Duffy updated the Committee. Historically, the Historical Society has been operating and maintaining this building. They have a 20-year lease with 4 year remaining. The DEP presently holds the lease that they are trying to enforce. Good news is that with the help of Senators Oroho and his team, along with Senator Gottheimer and other State agencies, they were able to discuss and prepare a 5-year plan. Mr. Ohl and Mr. Lovel are presently work on this.

Year End Meeting, December 91, 2018 - Time changed to 5:00PM

NEW BUSINESS:

Firewise Renewal: The report was filed and approved

Reorganization Meeting – Scheduled date is January 8th, 2019 at 3:00PM

Discussion:

Facebook Page: No change in status.

Foreclosed Lots: No change in status. Committee discussed selling these pieces by offering them to adjoining owners. The Clerk contacted the Tax Assessor to get his input on these lots. This is something that they will work on for 2019.

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

Verizon Wireless (Nodes): No Change in Status Mr. Perry noted that the FCC will be passing a new law soon that will give them the right to do what they want in the Township right of way without permits. Mr. Perry is presently getting more information and a copy of Piscataway's ordinance that they recently adopted. The NJ League is also working on this.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES September 5, 2018 Executive Session

November 7, 2018 – Business Meeting & Executive Session

Motion was made by Mr. Carrazzone, second by Mr. Duffy and carried to approve the minutes as presented tonight subject to corrections. A voice vote was unanimous

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 they were able to purchase a new computer and software. She talked about their Thanksgiving Dinner at the Top of the Green and that the Christmas luncheon will be held at the Boat House on December 20th. They are presently working on Veteran project for the nursing homes. The American Legion has invited the Seniors to their Christmas Luncheon. Game Day on Monday afternoons at the Municipal Building is well attended and enjoyed.

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: reported that he attended a JCP&L meeting in Knowlton Township. They hired several new linesmen that will be staying in the area. At the League meeting. Kevin Duffy was appointed to the Legislative Committee that meets once a month.

Mr. Carrazzone: Nothing new to report on tonight

Mayor Duffy: thanked Mr. Campbell and Mr. Ahlers from the DPW for their work on the trail at Slabtown Creek Park. Markers have been ordered, any leftover markers will be used on other areas.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting of the Hardwick Township Committee at 8:24PM

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher, RMC