

TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

March 12, 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 7:07PM 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.
Noted: Mr. Carrazzone arrived tonight at 7:25PM

Also present: Township Attorney Michael Lavery, CPWM Thomas Campbell, CMFO Christine Rolef

Absent: Township Engineer Ted Rodman

At 7:00PM, Mayor Duffy called this Business Meeting to order. It was noted that due to a Nor'easter on March 7th, this meeting was rescheduled for tonight, March 12, 2018.

Payment of the Bills:

A motion was made by Committeeman Perry, seconded by Committeeman Duffy and carried to authorize the payment of the bills in the amount of \$171,691.95.

Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Perry, Mayor Duffy

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** Mr. Carrazzone for this portion of the meeting

REPORTS

Engineer: Not present tonight

DPW: Mr. Campbell reported that he has been busy with the storm damage and high winds that has taken many trees down and wires. During the storm a tree hit the dump truck taking the door off. There were 91 trees taken off Township roads, 16 from the Town Hall and Garage; and 8/10 from the woods. Insurance Company has been called and an Adjuster was out to survey the damage on Sunday, March 11. The roof at Town Hall was damaged and will be handled by Insurance.

CFO: No Report Tonight

Attorney: No Report tonight

Clerk: No Report Tonight

Grant: No Report Tonight

OEM: Joseph Dunn, OEM recapped the first storm, Storm Riley the second was named Storm Quinn. He declared a State of Emergency on March 5th. There was a OEM meeting called in Blairstown that Mayor Duffy and Mr. Dunn attended to get updates and to keep everyone updated in the area as the progress was going on the cleanup. The High School was opened from 9Am to 9PM as a Warming Center with shower, water and pot luck dinners.

Mr. Dunn then talked about the various sections of the Township that needed extensive repairs, new pole, trees removed, power. The hardest hit area were Slabtown Creek, Camp Mason, Tannery Road and other locations.

The State of Emergency here was rescinded on March 11, 2018. Just about then, everyone had their power back, but some had no phones. To date, there are still some residents without phone service.

Retired Fire Warden Bob Wolff was present and gave his fire report.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Duffy and carried to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried.

2018-19 Reappointment of OEM Joseph Dunn

BE IT RESOLVED, that on March 12, 2018, Joseph Dunn was appointed as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Joseph Dunn is a resident of the Township of Hardwick and that his term of office shall expire March 12, 2021.

Mayor Duffy talked about having a debriefing session with all the Mayors and OEM's to discuss the pros and cons on how the storm was handled and other suggestions.

A motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Duffy and carried to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried

2018-20 Introduction of the 2018 Municipal Budget

WHEREAS, the Township of Hardwick is holding a meeting on March 12 2018, for the purpose of introducing the 2018 Municipal Budget and conducting other matters; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick, Warren County, New Jersey, that the Township of Hardwick hereby petitions the Director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2018 Local Municipal Budget be introduced and approved on March 12, 2018.

2018 HARDWICK TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Surplus anticipated general revenues	\$ 151,996.00
Total Miscellaneous revenue	233,233.00
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	92,000.00
Local Property Taxes	<u>751,568.00</u>
Total General Revenues	<u>\$1,228,797.00</u>
Total Operations	
Salaries and Wages	\$ 320,444.00
Other Expenses	411,232.00
Capital Improvement Fund	160,000.00
Debt Service	67,900.00
Statutory Expenditures	60,518.00
Reserve for Delinquent Taxes	<u>208,703.00</u>
Total 2018 Municipal Budget	<u>\$1,228,797.00</u>
2018 Municipal Tax Rate (Estimated)	\$0.4752

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

2018-21 Special Item of General Revenue, Alina Lodge & Cell Tower Revenue

WHEREAS, the 2018 Local Municipal Budget was introduced on the 12th day of March, 2018; and,

WHEREAS, during the fiscal year 2018 the Township of Hardwick will receive revenue for various other special items in the amount of \$65,000.00

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that petition be made herewith to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2018 Local Municipal Budget include a special item of revenue under the heading of "**Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of Local Government Services-Other Special Items:**

Alina Lodge In Lieu Payments	\$ 15,000.00
Cell Tower Revenue	<u>50,000.00</u>
	<u>\$ 65,000.00</u>

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

2018-22 Special Item of Revenue, Clean Community & Municipal Alliance on Alcoholism

WHEREAS, the 2018 Local Municipal Budget was introduced on the 12th day of March, 2018; and,

WHEREAS, during the fiscal year 2018 the Township of Hardwick has been allocated a state grant for various programs in the amount of \$8,959.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that petition be made herewith to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2018 Local Municipal Budget include a special item of revenue under the heading of "**Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of Local Government Services-Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:**"

Clean Communities Program-2018	\$ 8,637.00
Municipal Alliance on Alcoholism - PY Unapprop.	<u>322.00</u>
	<u>\$ 8,959.00</u>

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

2018-24 Cancel Improvement Authorization of the General Capital Fund

WHEREAS, the following improvement authorization are outstanding in the Township's General Capital Fund and have been deemed no longer necessary;

<u>Ordinance:</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Funded</u>
2012-06	Various Road Improvements	\$ 5,750.10
2015-08	Various Road Improvements	\$ 3,447.64
2014-05	Shredder	\$ 66.00
2015-08	Paving and Imp. to Various Rds.	\$26,162.34
2016-04	Ford F350 Pickup	\$ 327.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that the above Capital Improvement Authorizations of the General Capital Fund in the amount of \$35,753.08 be cancelled to General Capital Improvement Fund.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

ORDINANCE: 1st Reading

A motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone and carried to introduce Ordinance 2018-03

2018-03 Capital Improvement Providing for Reimbursement for a Truck Body and Repairs to the 2005-550 and the 1989 L-8000 by the Township of Hardwick, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, Appropriating \$43,000.00 Therefor from the Capital Improvement Fund of the Township to pay for the costs thereof

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The improvement described in Section 2 of this capital ordinance is hereby authorized to be undertaken by the Township of Hardwick, New Jersey as a general improvement. For the improvement or purpose described in Section 2, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$43,000.00 from the capital improvement fund of the township.

Section 2. (a) The capital improvement hereby authorized and the purpose for the use of the capital improvement fund is improvements to various roads in the Township necessary therefor or incidental thereto.

Section 3. The capital budget of the Township of Hardwick is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services is on file with the Clerk and is available there for public inspection.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect immediately after final adoption in accordance with applicable law.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above entitled ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick on March 12, 2018 and will be considered for final reading and adoption at the Regular Meeting of the Township Committee held on April 11, 2018 at 7:00PM at the Municipal Building, 40 Spring Valley Road, Hardwick Township, New Jersey.

Mrs. Fisher noted that second reading and public hearing will be on April 4, 2018

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution 2018-08 Open Space Tax The Committee agreed to increase this to \$0.02 and adopted the following Resolution:

A motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Duffy and carried to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried

WHEREAS, the provisions of the Township of Hardwick's open space ordinance allows the township committee to set the open space tax rate annually within a specified range; and,

WHEREAS, the township committee desires to set municipal open space tax rate at \$0.02 per \$100 of assessed valuation for the 2018 calendar year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick that election be made to set the municipal open space tax rate at \$0.02 per \$100 of assessed valuation for the 2018 calendar year.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

IT Support: Recommendations from the February 21 meeting **HOLD**

Rock Wall Mitigation & Resolution 2018-23

A motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Duffy and carried to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried

2018-23 OPPOSING NJDOT ROUTE 80 ROCK MITIGATION PROJECT THROUGH THE DELAWARE WATER GAP IN HARDWICK AND KNOWLTON TOWNSHIPS

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) intends to build a series of high industrial fences and a 60-foot concrete pyramid called a "rockfall berm" along Route 80 through the Delaware Water Gap; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Route 80 Rockfall Migration will be built on lands located in Hardwick and Knowlton Townships and the Delaware National Water Gap Park; and

WHEREAS, stakeholders Hardwick Township and Knowlton Township have formally opposed the project, and have not given their permission for this project within their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, construction of the Route 80 fence is slated to begin in 2020, may last two years, and will cost between \$55 and \$58 million dollars according to NJDOT estimates; and

WHEREAS, the stated intent of the fence and concrete berm is to prevent rockfall; and

WHEREAS, the NJDOT's Concept Development Report acknowledges that "NJDOT" provides limited rockfall event data, and the actual frequency of rock activity is unknown for this project; and

WHEREAS, there are no documented rockfall events nor any recollections of significant rockfall events over the last ten years within Area "D" portion of the project where the concrete pyramid is to be places; and

WHEREAS, there are 70 to 80 motor vehicle accidents on Route 80 in this section of Route 80 annually due to speed and poor road conditions yet this project involves no road improvements; and

WHEREAS, two years of construction on Route 80 will have significant negative impact on residents for New Jersey and Pennsylvania and on emergency personnel's ability to get to nearby hospitals; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware Water Gap is a nationally prominent scenic wonder and a gateway to the one of the most widely used National parks in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will directly impact the viewshed of the Appalachian Trail, which has an entrance at the Delaware Water Gap Park; and

WHEREAS, the income generated by tourism to the Delaware Water Gap and the scenic value of Northwest New Jersey will likely be negatively impacted by the proposed fence; and

WHEREAS, the millions of dollars appropriated for this non-essential project could be better directed to creating safer roadways conditions in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and other areas of Northwest New Jersey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 12th day of March 2018, that the Township of Hardwick and the Township of Knowlton opposes the current NJDOT Route 80 Rockfall Mitigation Project and requests the assistance of the following elected Representatives in halting the current NJDOT project:

1. U.S. Congressman Josh Gottheimer
2. U.S. Senator Cory Booker
3. U.S. Senator Robert Menedez
4. State Senator Steven Oroho
5. State Assemblyman Parker Space
6. State Assemblyman Harold Wirths
7. Warren County Freeholders Edward Smith, Jason Sarnoski and Richard Gardner

NEW BUSINESS:

MSI: Tax Collector & Financial Package

Mrs. Rolef, CFO asked the Committee about switching from Edmunds for Tax Collection to MSI for both Tax Collection and Financial package. This was discussed at the budget meeting but no decision was made then. If we are going to do this, the Tax Collector would need this to be done before the next tax quarter which is May 1st. The total cost would be \$11,261, break down Financial \$6500, Tax \$1000 and dog \$250. After a brief discussion, the Committee decided to make the switch.

A motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone and carried to go with MST for the Financial, Tax Collection and Dog programs at a cost of \$11,261. These funds are already figured into the 2018 budget.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

Discussion:

Snow Storms: Storm Riley, March 2nd, 2018 and Storm Quinn, March 7, 2018

This was discussion under OEM Report earlier in the meeting

Gypsy Moth: No update at this time

Firewise Grant: No update at this time

GovPilot Started Package: **HOLD**

Delaware Basin/Watershed: Fracking Regulations Resolution **HOLD**

Green Acres Property: Results of Inspection No update

Mayor Duffy will discuss this at the next Open Space Meeting

Slabtown Creek Park: Concept Plan No update at this time

Mayor Duffy will discuss this at the next Open Space Meeting

Emergency Operations Plan (EOP): No update except that the preliminary plan has been submitted

Foreclosed Lots: No Update at this time

Ted Rodman, Engineer: Stormwater Management - No update at this time

2018 Professional Service Contract – was discussed

A motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone and carried to approve Mr. Rodman's 2018 Professional Service Contract.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

Verizon Wireless(Nodes): Requesting permission to locate in the Township ROW

This issue was discussed. The Attorney talked about a Resolution that the Committee could approve subject to Zoning approval. Update at the next meeting.

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.

Mr. Dunn, OEM talked about the Open Space Tax and the amount of Revenue it brings in. About \$15,000.

Mr. John Lovell thanked the DPW for the great job they did during and after these snow storms. He also thanked Mayor Duffy for the great job he did in getting out the information to the residents.

Seeing there was no public comments, a motion was then made by Committeeman Perry, seconded by Committeeman Carrazzone and carried to close this portion of the meeting to the Public.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Perry echoed what Mr. Lovell said, great Team Work. He also noted that he and the Mayor will be attending Mayor's Legislative Day in Trenton at the State House, March 14th.

Mr. Carrazzone talked about the Open Space Funds and that he would like to see the Ordinance change to reflect Historical Preservation. The Committee reminded him that they would need to do a Referendum in order to change this and Mayor Duffy noted that this would be for future discussion.

Mayor Duffy thanked everyone for the hours and time they spent during this storm. It was muchly appreciated.

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