

TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

February 05, 2020

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 6:42PM 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

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

Absent: Committeeman James Perry

Executive Session: RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Mr. Duffy, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone and carried to adopt the Resolution to go into Closed Session at 6:43PM.

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. Attorney/Client: Contractual Possible Open Space Purchase
 - B. Attorney/Client: Contractual Sunset Lake Road

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: 6:43PM

Present: Mr. Carrazzone, Mr. Duffy

Also Present: Attorney Michael Lavery, Township Clerk Judith Fisher

Time In: 6:51PM CPWM Tom Campbell, Engineer Ted Rodman to discuss Sunset Lake Rd

Time Out: 7:09PM

A motion was made by Mr. Duffy, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone to come out of closed session at 7:09PM. Motion carried and unanimous.

Attorney Mr. Lavery noted that he met in closed session with the Committee and discussed two Attorney/Client privilege Information matters. 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. Duffy and carried to authorize the payment of the bills in the amount of \$870,557.84.

Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Carrazzone, Mr. Duffy

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** Mr. Perry

The new Hope Barracks Station Commander for the New Jersey State Police stopped in to give the Committee an update of what's going on in the Township and surrounding area. The Station Commander will try to have a Trooper stop in to our monthly meetings.

REPORTS

Engineer: Mr. Rodman talked again about the core testing that was done on Sunset Lake Road and the penalty that will only affect the paving done by Tilcon.

DPW: Mr. Campbell noted that the old truck is back on the road with a new body. We now have a red cab and green body. The Park trail will be done soon if the weather holds.

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CFO: Mrs. Rolef reviewed her monthly report with the Committee

Attorney: No Report tonight

Clerk: No Report Tonight

Grant: No Report Tonight

OEM: No Report tonight

Retired Fire Warden: Mr. Wolff was absent tonight but sent his report for January. There was a chimney fire on Evergreen Drive that both Stillwater and Blairstown responded to; there were 4 wild fires caused by power lines on Millbrook Road that Forest Fire responded to. Right now, there is a search going on in Worthington State Park for a lost hiker.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Mr. Carrazzone, seconded by Mr. Duffy and carried to approve the following Resolution 2020-15. Motion carried.

2020-15 Refund Overpayment Block 1202 Lot 2.02 \$1,873.35

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector advises of an overpayment of taxes for the tax year 2020. The property owner's mortgage company paid the 1st quarter taxes (the Tax Assessor granted a 100% disabled veteran exemption in 2019), they were advised that the property was exempt but still paid the 1st quarter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 5th day of February, 2020 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
1201	2.02	Mangold, Evan 168 Stillwater Road	\$ 1,873.35

CERTIFICATION

I, Judith M. Fisher, Clerk of the Township of Hardwick, do hereby certify the foregoing Resolution to be a true and accurate copy adopted by the Township Committee on February 5th, 2020.

Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Carrazzone, Mayor Duffy

Nays: None **Absent:** Mr. Perry

ORDINANCE: 2nd Reading and Public Hearing

Motion made by Mr. Carrazzone, seconded by Mr. Duffy and carried to approve the following **Ordinance 2020-01** for second reading and Public hearing.

2020-01 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14) 2020-01

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick in the County of Warren finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2020 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Hardwick Township Committee hereby determines that a 1.0% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$8,199.50 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Hardwick Township Committee hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick, in the County of Warren, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2020 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Hardwick shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$28,698.25, and that the CY 2020 municipal budget for the Township of Hardwick be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced on first reading at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick held on January 08, 2020 and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a regular meeting of the Township Committee to be held on February 05, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the Township Committee may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 40 Spring Valley Road, Hardwick, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the adoption of said Ordinance.

Judith Fisher, R.M.C.

Township of Hardwick

A motion was made by Mr. Carrazzone, seconded by Mr. Duffy and carried to open this portion of the meeting to the public for any comment of **Ordinance 2020-01**.

Seeing there was no comment from the public, this portion of the meeting was then closed on a motion made by Mr. Carrazzone, seconded by Mr. Duffy and carried.

Mr. Duffy motioned to adopt **Ordinance 2020-01** on second reading, seconded by Mr. Carrazzone. Motion carried.

Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Carrazzone, Mr. Duffy

Nays: None **Absent:** Mr. Perry

OLD BUSINESS:

Sussex-Warren Area Energy Co-Op Addendum to Agreement

Mayor Duffy noted that this agreement will be extended to December 31, 2021. IDT will reduce the program rate from \$0.0886/kWh to \$0.0869/kWh beginning from the first meter reading after June 1, 2020 through the balance of the term of the original contract term which ends with the first meter read after December 31, 2020. IDT has agreed to extend the initial contract at the reduced rate of \$0.0869/kWh for a 12-month term beginning from the first meter read after January 1, 2021 through the first meter read after December 31, 2021.

Mr. Carrazzone moved to authorize Mayor Duffy to accept and sign this agreement, second by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried.

Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Carrazzone, Mr. Duffy

Nays: None **Absent:** Mr. Perry

Vass Farmstead Property – Update Nothing has been firmed up yet with the Township becoming the main tenant. Discussions are still on going.

White Lake Area – Update Ridge & Valley no longer managing this property. A group from Phillipsburg will be managing this property and we have been told that all the programs that Ridge & Valley had in place will still be in place with this group.

NEW BUSINESS

Recycling tonnage Grant - Linda Gabel, CRP filing 2019 Grant \$500.00

Ms. Linda Gabel, Certified Recycling Professional (CRP) has agreed to file the Township's 2019 Recycling Tonnage Grant for Hardwick. Upon successful submission of the Grant on or before April 30, 2020. Her fee is \$500.00.

Motion made by Mr. Carrazzone, second by Mr. Duffy to compensate Ms. Gabel \$500.00 upon successful submission of the 209 Recycling Tonnage Grant. Motion carried.

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Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Carrazzone, Mr. Duffy

Nays: None **Absent:** Mr. Perry

YMCA Camp Ralph Mason: Renewal Shooting Range Permit for 2020

The Clerk noted that Camp Mason has paid their fee of \$50.00 and a copy of their application has been forwarded to the Zoning Office so that he can do his inspection and report back to the Township.

Motion made by Mr. Duffy, second by Mr. Carrazzone to approve the renewal of Camp Mason's Shooting Range permit. The renewal will not be sent out until the Township receives the inspection report from the Zoning Officer. Motion carried.

Right To Know & Hazard Communication Consultant: Rullo & Juillet Assoc. \$1275.00

They will be providing this service again for the 2019-2020 year.

Motion was made by Mr. Duffy, second by Mr. Carrazzone to approve Rullo & Juillet Associates from Cedar Grove to do the Right To Know survey, cost is \$1275.00. Motion carried

Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Carrazzone, Mr. Duffy

Nays: None **Absent:** Mr. Perry

COAH/Affordable Housing Consultant - Professional Planning Services Agreement

The Committee reviewed the about agreement from Heyer, Gruel & Associated to be the Township COAH Consultant for 2020.

Motion was made by Mr. Duffy, second by Mr. Carrazzone to accept the above proposal. Motion carried

Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Carrazzone, Mr. Duffy

Nays: None **Absent:** Mr. Perry

Township Attorney, Michael Lavery – Professional Services Agreement 2020

The Committee reviewed the above proposal from Mr. Lavery for Township Attorney.

Motion was made by Mr. Duffy, second by Mr. Carrazzone to accept the above agreement. Motion carried

Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Carrazzone, Mr. Duffy

Nays: None **Absent:** Mr. Perry

DISCUSSION

Computer Upgrade's: Edmunds – Animal Licensing (Cloud)

The Committee decided to hold any discussion on this item since Mr. Perry is absent tonight. This will be held over to the March meeting

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Dec. 26, 2019 – Year End Mtg., Jan. 8, 2020 - Reorganization Mtg, Jan. 15, 2020 - Work Mtg

Mr. Carrazzone moved to approve the above minutes as corrected, second by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Carrazzone asked again for the Senior Group about a 4way Stop at the corner of Spring Valley and Stillwater Roads. IT has been noted that these are County Roads and that the Engineer has talked to the County Engineer about this. We are presently waiting for an answer from them.

Mayor Duffy noted that he will be attending a meeting with Hope regarding the Hope Court. Several Township's have noted interest in joining. Open Space will be meeting next week to discuss an opening date for the Slabtown Creek Park. Mayor Duffy noted that he will be attending Mayor's Day in Washington DC. IT is an opportunity to meet with various State Departments.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Carrazzone, seconded by Mr. Duffy and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting of the Hardwick Township Committee at 7:41PM

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher, RMC