

TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK  
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**AUGUST 5, 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 7:02PM by the Township Clerk Judith Fisher who noted that this meeting was being held in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act":

Mayor Duffy noted that since the Municipal Building is closed to the Public, this is a virtual meeting being done through Zoom because of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

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 on the Township Web page and in the Hardwick Municipal Building.

Mayor Kevin Duffy then led the public in the pledge of allegiance.

**Roll Call:**

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

**Also present:** Township Attorney Michael Lavery, Engineer Ted Rodman and CMFO Christine Rolef

**Absent:** Thomas Campbell, CPWM

Mayor Duffy thanks those that joined us tonight using Zoom. The other Board meeting will also be using Zoom for their meetings. He apologized for any glitches.

**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 \$284,572.96.

Mr. Perry questioned several of the voucher that were presented for payment. The Clerk was able to answer his questions.

**Roll Call**

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

**Nays:** None

**Abstentions:** None     **Absent:** None

**REPORTS**

**Engineer:** Mr. Rodman reported that the final paperwork will be submitted for Sunset Lake Road (State Aid 2019). Final payment should be received. As for the request for a 4-way stop at the intersection of Spring Valley and Stillwater Road, there has been no change in its status. The request has gone to the Warren County Engineer's Office and a traffic count should be done in spring or summer. The resolution for Millbrook Stillwater Road, section 1, was paved on July 23 and 24, 2020. The request amount for this project was \$211,694.00 but received grant money for only \$107,643.00. The total bill for Tilcon is \$137,281.00. This project was awarded at \$74.40/ton for 1,720-ton asphalt plus raising catch basins (\$130,943.00). Because the asphalt price dropped to \$69.00/ton, it was decided by Mr. Campbell, CPWM at the preconstruction meeting to completely pave from Sand Pond Road to Hardwick Road.

Originally, they were going to stop a little before they reached Hardwick Road intersection. Striping and guiderails still need to be addressed. Farmland Preservation on Gaisler Road, there has been a request for approval of an existing 25 foot right of way (Front center line), and a 50 foot right of way for the whole road. Mr. Rodman noted that our ordinance allows a 25 foot right of way would be sufficient for this road. There was a subdivision done years ago and all the records of easement, road dedication. etc. are on file with the Warren County Planning Board.

Mr. Perry moved to authorize the 25 foot right of way on Gaisler as per our Township Ordinance, second by Mr. Carrazzone. Motion carried and a voice vote of the Committee was unanimous.

NOTED is that Sunset Lake Road from Happiness is Camping to Spring Valley Road will be paved tomorrow. Mr. Perry asked about the funding. This will be taken from the Capital Improvement fund in the Budget.

**Mrs. Rolef, CFO:** Reviewed the monthly report

**Mr. Campbell, CPWM:** Was not present tonight

**Mr. Lavery, Twp. Attorney:** No Report tonight

**Mrs. Fisher, Twp. Clerk:** No report tonight

**RESOLUTION**

**2020-31 Corona Virus Federal Money**

Mayor Duffy gave an update regarding noting that the State and Federal Government are not releasing any funds to help the County or Townships in offsetting any of their expenses. Mr. Perry also gave an update about this.

Motion was then made by Mr. Perry second by Mr. Carrazzone and carried to approve Resolution 2020-31 as presented

**Roll Call**

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

**Nays:** None

**2020-31 Resolution Urging Governor Philip Murphy to Reimburse County Governments with Populations of 500,000 Residents or Less with Federal Monies from the CoronaVirus Relief Fund (CRF) under the CoronaVirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for the Extra Ordinary Expenses Incurred in Combatting the Covid-19 Public Health Crisis**

**WHEREAS**, municipal and county governments have led the way on the front lines and played a vital role in providing essential services and protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of residents across the Garden State during this once-in-a-generation pandemic; and,

**WHEREAS**, municipal and county governments have incurred substantial costs in responding to the COVID-19 public health crisis by operating test centers, purchasing and distributing personal protective equipment, hiring public nurses, implementing mitigation measures, disinfecting county facilities, sheltering homeless and at-risk individuals, managing correctional facilities, administering social services programs, conducting elections, and more; and,

**WHEREAS**, under the CARES Act, the State of New Jersey received \$2.5 billion in federal CRF monies to alleviate the staggering financial burden imposed by COVID-19 public health crisis and of which the United States Department of Treasury authorized to provide much needed relief for local governing bodies that did not receive direct aid because their populations fell below 500,000 residents; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Treasurer of the State of New Jersey allocated \$250 million in CRF monies to the Local Government Relief Fund in the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to reimburse local governing bodies for COVID-19 related expenses but has yet to release any funding while municipal and county governments continue to spend monies with limited property taxpayer dollars battling the COVID-19 public health crisis.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Governing Body of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey hereby urges Governor Philip Murphy to reimburse (municipalities and) counties with populations of 500,000 residents or less with federal monies from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for the extraordinary expenses incurred in combatting the COVID-19 public health crisis.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that certified copies of this resolution are to be forwarded to the Honorable Philip Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey; the Honorable Stephen Sweeney, the President of the New Jersey State Senate; the Honorable Craig Coughlin, the Speaker of the General Assembly; the Congressional and the Legislative delegations representing Warren County; the Clerks of the board of chosen freeholders in Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Morris, Salem, Somerset, Sussex and Warren Counties; the Municipal Clerks in each of the municipalities located within Warren County; the New Jersey State League of Municipalities; and the New Jersey Association of Counties.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Judith M. Fisher, Clerk of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the Hardwick Township Committee at a meeting of said Township Committee held on August 5, 2020.

Judith M. Fisher, RMC  
Hardwick Township Clerk

Mr. Wolff was present tonight via zoom to give his Fire Report. There were 150 wild fires. There was also a dump truck fire on Hamilton Ridge Rd in the Park that Knowlton, Blairstown, Stillwater and Forest Fire responded to. Unfortunately, there were 4 drownings in the Delaware Water Gap Park. There were also several searches done for lost or injured hiker's mostly on the weekends.

**ORDINANCE: 2<sup>nd</sup> READING and PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Duffy noted that he was not ready to have this 2<sup>nd</sup> reading tonight. Recommendation is at this time to vote to down and then reintroduce with any corrections are made.

Motion was made by Mr. Perry to have the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and hearing on Ordinance 2020-03, second by Mr. Carrazzone. Motion carried followed by a roll call vote:

**Roll Call**

**Ayes:** None

**Nays:** Mr. Carrazzone, Mr. Perry and Mr. Duffy

**Noted is that Ordinance 2020-03 died on a roll call vote. Mayor Duffy noted that it will be reintroduced at a later date.**

**2020-03 An Ordinance to Amend and Ordinance Entitled “An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of the Employees of the Township of Hardwick. County of Warren, State of New Jersey”.**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick wishes to adopt an ordinance establishing the salaries and compensation of several employees of the Township in 2020

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick that salary for 2020 for the following employees shall be as follows:

**SECTION 1:** The annual salaries for the following Township Employees shall be:

Township Committee Members	3,314.00 per annum
Township Clerk	47,718.00 per annum
Township Clerk – Stipend	2,000.00 per annum
Chief Financial Officer	17,855.00 per annum
Tax Collector	14,609.00 per annum
Deputy Tax Collector	3,247.00 per annum
Tax Assessor	21,905.00 per annum
Land Use Board Secretary	11,564.00 per annum
	87.19 per extra meeting above 12**
Recreation Coordinator	989.00 per annum
Animal Control Officer	8,718.00 per annum
Licensing Clerk	1,344.00 per annum
Zoning Official	13,343.00 per annum
911 Coordinator	989.00 per annum
Emergency Management Coordinator	2,452.00 per annum
Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator	1.00 per annum
Grants Coordinator	816.00 per annum

**\*\*EXTRA MEETINGS SHALL BE CONSIDERED ANY MEETING OTHER THAN THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED BUSINESS MEETING**

**SECTION II: ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Road Foremen/Certified Public Works Manager	42.53 per hour
Equipment Operator/Laborer	27.95 per hour
Emergency Truck Driver	21.37 per hour
Extra Help	15.24 per hour
On Call Stipend - Road Foreman/Certified Public Works Manager	2,154.00 per annum
On Call Stipend - Road Laborer	1,654.00 per annum

**SECTION III: RECYCLING**

Recycling Coordinator	253.00 per annum
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The salaries set forth in this ordinance herein shall be effective and retroactive to January 1, 2020.

Any and all other portions and sections of this ordinance inconsistent with this ordinance which are heretofore passed and adopted are hereby repealed only to their inconsistencies.

**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 June 3, 2020 and will be considered for final reading and adoption at the Regular Meeting of the Township Committee held on July 1, 2020 at 7:00PM at the Municipal Building, 40 Spring Valley Road, Hardwick Township, New Jersey.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Land Use/Planning Board:** Alternate #2, Term expires 2021

The Board is not ready to make an appointment to this position yet. Update next month

**Service Electric/Altice:** Consent under the Municipal Consent/Ordinance – Certificate of Approval

Mayor Duffy noted he met with the Attorney for Altice and Marilyn Davis, who will be our Governor Affairs Director. He did note that they do intend to upgrade the entire system and increase the speed to 400 MB in the later fall. This was all verbal and he will be asking to provide this information in writing. They are also working on a possible relief on houses per mile in this area. Mr. Perry noted that this North West corridor is the worse for service in the area.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Freedom Business Machines:** Maintenance Agreement – Shredder \$229.00

Motion was made by Mr. Perry, second by Mr. Carrazzone to approve the renewal of the Maintenance Agreement for Shredder for \$229.00. Motion carried

**Roll Call**

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

**Nays:** None

**Review Liaison Committee Appointments: Hold to September meeting**

Mr. Perry recommended that this be done at the next Reorganization Meeting which is only a few months from now. Mayor Duffy agreed but with the option to bring it back up before the end of the year.

**Job Descriptions – DPW Department**

Attorney Mike Lavery explained the revisions. He did note that the present descriptions are very thin. This puts a little more meat to this and additions and deletions can be made at future dates. Mr. Perry requested time to review, noting that the Road department has the only 2 full time employees and remainder of the employees are part time.

This was then tabled to the September meeting for review again and possible action at that time.

**DISCUSSION**

**Kahn Farm:** 7 Old Orchard Road, possible Open Space Purchase

A letter from Corey Tierney, CADB Administrator for Warren County is asking for support from Hardwick on the purchase of a section of the Maffenbeir property. The present owners have declined the offer made by CMV. The Hardwick Open Space Committee endorses the request to support this purchase. They are requesting Hardwick to kick in approximately \$45,000 from our Open Space Fund of which their members all agreed. Mayor Duffy noted that the County had been trying to obtain this property for over 25 years.

Mr. Perry motioned to approve the expenditure of \$45,000 from the Open Space Fund to help preserve the Kahn Farm, Block 1201, Lot 1, second by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried

**Roll Call**

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

**Nays:** None

**Corona Virus:** Plans on reopening the Municipal Bldg. to allow public in

For the health and safety of the employees, the building will remain closed to the public. The OEM, Joseph Dunn recommends that the building not open until a vaccine is available and that the proper safety barriers are in place. Right now, it is too premature to open.

**Vass Property:** Township becoming the Tenant and the HHS as the sub-tenant

Mayor Duffy explained that the State, and Fish and Wildlife have been working with the Township on the lease. The present lease agreement is being revised with the help of the Township Attorney Mr. Lavery. A copy of the proposed revisions has been sent to the Committee to review and comment on. Mr. Lovell, President of the Historical Society noted that the Society has been struggling with the present lease and trying to increase their revenues. Mr. Perry asked what if the Historical Society folds in the future. The lease notes that it can be cancelling with notice and that this is in the lease. Mr. Perry also asked about it's membership. There are 10 active members with a total of 17; in the Fall there will be a membership drive. He also noted that his concerns are that he doesn't want to tie the hands of future Committees. Mayor Duffy also noted that the State and County would like the Township to become the Tennant and that this would then benefit us and the Historical Society. At this time, all they are

asking is to authorize the Attorney to make those additions and then send it to the State to review and comment on. Mr. Perry again commented that he didn't want to obligate other Committees. After another brief discussion, Mr. Perry made the motion to authorize the Attorney Mr. Lavery to allow the Township to be the Tennant and to add an opt out cause, second by Mayor Duffy. Motion carried with a roll call vote:

**Roll Call**

**Ayes:** Mr. Perry and Mr. Duffy

**Abstained:** Mr. Carrazzone

**Nays:** None

**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.

Karen Okupniak thanked the Committee for adopting the resolution regarding the Rock Wall and the "S" Curves.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Mr. Carrazzone:** No Report at this time

**Mr. Perry:** Replied to Karen Okupniak comments of the resolution for the Rock Wall and "S" Curves.

**Mayor Duffy:** Talked about the 3 roads that are being paved; commented on the Altice Report; talked about the NJDOT where they had a meeting with no public or press and that they hired an advisory Group for the Rock Wall Leadership. Reminded everyone to please complete the Census, if not, then Census takers will be knocking on your doors to get this information. Congratulations to John Lovell for his Primary Election win.

**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 8:27PM

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher, RMC