

TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

FEBRUARY 3, 2021

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 7:01PM 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 John Lovell, Jr. and Committeewoman Jodi Butler

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

Absent: None

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. Lovell, seconded by Ms. Butler to pay the February bills that total \$663,808.88. Motion carried followed by a roll call vote:

Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Lovell, Ms. Butler, Mr. Duffy

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

Beth Barry, Director of River Restoration, The Nature Conservancy was present tonight to give the Committee an update on the Paulina Dam Removal project overview. Permits have been submitted to Dam Safety and Freshwater Wetlands. The process for approval will take up to a year. If anyone has any questions, Beth can be emailed with their questions.

Mr. Lovell asked about the benefits and cost for the restoration. Ms. Barry talked about the areas that had restoration and the water quality that will be improved. Mr. Lovell did however comment that he is not on board with this project.

REPORTS:

Mr. Campbell, CPWM: reported talked about the recent snowstorm (blizzard) where they worked 48 hours straight and where they had to assist an ambulance on Millbrook Stillwater and another on Slabtown Creek Road. Mr. Lovell talked about the exceptional work that the DPW did with only a three-man crew. Thanks

Mrs. Rolef, CFO: reported that the Financial Report is done. Tax Collection was at 97.88%. The Fund Balance was \$806,000 which is up \$87,000 over last year. Our Budget Work Meeting is scheduled for February 20 at 9AM.

Mr. Lavery, Twp. Attorney: talked about the current Cell Tower lease noting that it will expire March 2022. Towards the end of this year, he will put together the "specs" for going out to bid for the renewal.

Mrs. Fisher, Twp. Clerk: also reminded the Committee about the Budget meeting, Saturday at 9am.

APPOINTMENTS NEEDED FROM REORGANIZATION MEETING:

Driveway Opening Official: Mayor Duffy noted that Mr. Rodman is finishing up his open files as French and Parrello were appointed as the new Township Engineer. They are agreeable to take this over.

Mr. Lovell moved to appoint Denis Keenan as the Driveway Opening Official, second by Ms. Butler. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

Land Use/Planning Board:

Class II: Mr. Lovell moved to appoint Ms. Jodi Butler as the Class II member, second by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

Class IV: Mayor's Appointment

Richard Ohl – Term Expires 12/2024
Fred Butcher – Term Expires 12/2024
Chris Jacksic – Alternate #1 Expires 12/22
Alternate #2 and #2 are still VACANT

Open Space Committee

Fred Butcher Term Expires 12/2023
Motion made by Ms. Butler, second by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried followed by a roll call vote:
Ayes: Ms. Butler, Mr. Duffy
Nay: None
Abstained: Mr. Lovell

There is still one open position on this Committee

Liaison Flow Chart: Committee assignments

John Lovell, Deputy Mayor:

Zoning-Code Enforcement
Insurance
Public Works: Road Department, Building/Grounds
Environmental Committee
Finance Department: Auditor, CFO

Jodi Butler, Committeewoman:

Engineering Department
Animal Control: Licensing Clerk, Animal Control Officer
COAH (Affordable Housing)
Public Safety – Court
Emergency Management: 9-1-1, Bd. Of Health, Fire Safety
Police, Rescue

Kevin Duffy, Mayor:

Open Space Advisory Committee
Agriculture Advisory Committee
Department of Law: Municipal Attorney
Municipal Clerk
Hardwick Seniors
Land Use/Planning Board
Tax Collector, Tax Assessor

Fund Commissioner: PAIC Insurance
John Lovell, Jr.

RESOLUTION

Motion was made by Mr. Lovell, second by Mr. Duffy to approve **Resolution 2021-19** Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous:

2021-19 Resolution Requesting Signage on NJ Route 94 Approaches to the Spring Valley Road Intersection

Whereas Spring Valley Road (County Route 659) is a gateway thoroughfare into Hardwick Township, the historic Millbrook Village, and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and

Whereas no signage exists along NJ Route 94 denoting Spring Valley Road on either the north or southbound approaches to same, and

Whereas Spring Valley Road does not even benefit from a street sign at the intersection of Spring Valley Road and NJ Route 94, and

Whereas other county roadways intersecting NJ Route 94 in proximity to Spring Valley Road are properly marked with signs in the approach lanes and at the actual intersections, and

Whereas the exclusion of said signage for Spring Valley Road appears to be an oversight on the part of the NJ Department of Transportation as said agency undertook a pavement restoration project on this section of NJ Route 94 in the 2020 year

Now Therefore Be It Resolved on this 3rd day of February 2021 by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick in the County of Warren, NJ that the NJ Department of Transportation is called upon to rectify this deficiency in signage by erecting reflective road signs along both the north and southbound lanes of NJ Route 94 indicating the upcoming intersection of Spring Valley Road.

Be it Further Resolved that the NJ Department of Transportation is called upon to install street signs at the actual intersection of Spring Valley Road and NJ Route 94.

Be It Additionally Resolved that our esteemed colleagues serving on the Frelinghuysen Town Committee and The Warren County Board of Commissioners are called upon to adopt similar resolutions of request

Be It Finally Resolved that copies of this resolution shall be presented by the Hardwick Municipal Clerk to:

The Commissioner of the NJ Department of Transportation
Senator Steven Oroho
Assembly Member Parker Space
Assembly Member Harold Wirth
The Warren County Board of Commissioners
The Frelinghuysen Town Committee

CERTIFICATION

I, Judith M. Fisher, RMC, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Hardwick in the County of Warren, New Jersey hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the Hardwick Township Committee on February 3, 2021.

Judith M. Fisher, RMC
Township Clerk

ORDINANCE: 2nd Reading and Public Hearing

The Township Clerk informed the Committee that the Auditor has made a correction to the COLA for 2021 is 1.0% and not 2.5% and that the final percentage of 3.5% and the amount of \$8,346.47 is correct. Mr. Lovell suggested that the Committee amend the ordinance as recommended by the Auditor and then reintroduce the Amended Ordinance 2021-01 for 1st reading

1st Reading:

Mr. Lovell moved to introduce 2021-01 ordinance amended for first reading, second by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried and a roll call vote followed:

Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Lovell, Ms. Butler, Mr. Duffy

Nays: None

2021-01 To Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank – AMENDED

CALENDAR YEAR 2021

ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK 2021-01 (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14) AMENDED

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 1.0% 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 2021 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 \$8,346.47 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.

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 2021 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 \$29,212.65, and that the CY 2021 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 February 3, 2021 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 March 3, 2021 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

Second Reading and Public Hearing will be at the March 3, 2021 meeting at 7PM.

ORDINANCE: 1st Reading

Motion was made by Mr. Lovell, second by Ms. Butler and carried to introduce Ordinance 2021-02 for first reading. Motion carried followed by a roll call vote:

Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Lovell, Ms. Butler, Mr. Duffy

Nays: None

The Committee thanked the Land Use/Planning Board for their efforts on this ordinance.

2021-02 An Ordinance of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Amending and Supplementing Chapter 13-110 Titled: "Stormwater Control" to incorporate Revisions Mandated by the State of New Jersey.

The intention of the Ordinance is to create requirements for stormwater discharge as required by the State of New Jersey pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:8-1.1. Copies of the Ordinance are on file for public examination and may be viewed on the Township Website, www.hardwick-nj.us. To request a copy of this ordinance, please call or send an email to the Township Clerk at hardwicktownshipclerk@yahoo.com.

Second Reading and Public Hearing is scheduled for March 3, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 public health crisis and the Executive Orders issued by Governor Phil Murphy prohibiting public gatherings, this meeting will be conducted through a web conferencing tool, Zoom virtual meeting services. This meeting will be held at 7:00pm. Detail on accessing the live stream of the meeting and providing public comments will be posted on the Municipal website, www.hardwick-nj.us. Action will be taken at this meeting.

Judith M. Fisher, RMC
Township Clerk

OLD BUSINESS:

Service Electric/Altice: Mayor Duffy and the Township Attorney met with Altice again. Altice noted that they would provide free cable tv to the Municipal Building. Discussion was that the Township is asking for Internet to the Building and not free tv. Altice then came back asking if the Township would pay the \$2500 which is the fee for the permits. After a brief discussion, the Committee agreed that all their looking for is good internet to the Building and if this is what it will take, then we should agree to pay for the permit fee. Mayor Duffy will let them know.

Century Link: Update: There have been no new changes at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Warren County Mosquito Control Commission: Aerial Mosquito Spraying
Motion made by Mr. Lovell to authorize Mayor Duffy to sign the form for aerial spraying within the Township, second by Ms. Butler. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

Camp Mason (YMCA): 2021 Shooting Range Renewal – Zoning Officers Report
Mr. Boesze report noted that he inspected the range and found all to be in order for an approval to renew.
Motion was then made by Mr. Lovell, second by Ms. Butler. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

Open Space Consultant 2021: Mr. Lovell noted that he met with Mr. Bob Canace who agreed to be their Consultant for 2021; his fee will be \$5,000.00 for the year. Mr. Canace will send the Township his contact for approval at next month's meeting.

DISCUSSION

Vass Property: Lease agreement There has been no approval yet from NJDEP.

Municipal Organization and Assignments:

Mr. Lovell gave a quick presentation on draft organizational chart that is open for discussion tonight. If after the discussion, he would then ask the Township Attorney to draft the ordinance. The Ordinance would create departments that cluster underlying divisional assignments based upon correlating and sometimes, overlapping functions.
Mr. Duffy felt that at this time and ordinance is not necessary, but that it can be revisited in the future. Ms. Butler noted that she also was in line with Mr. Duffy's thoughts at this time.

Fair Share Housing – Strategy for when the durational Housing Adjustment Expires in 2025
Mr. Lovell reminded all that the agreement for now is 78 units for low to moderate income households. Property values are going up and by 2025 we can see the Township change from what we have now. He talked about things that we can do for now to preserve land. There is no real solution to this except to protect the Township the best we can.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 2, 2020 Business Mtg
December 30, 2020 Year End Mtg

Mr. Lovell moved to approve the above minutes, second by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried followed by a roll call vote:

Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Duffy

Nays: None

Abstained: Mr. Lovell, Ms. Butler

Mr. Lovell moved to approve the following Minutes, second by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried and a roll call vote followed:

January 6, 2021 Reorganization Mtg

January 24, 2021 Special Mtg. Interviews

January 27, 2021 Special Meeting, Appointment New Member

Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Lovell, Mr. Duffy

Nays: None

Abstained: Ms. Butler

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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

Mr. Jacksic thanked the Mayor for his appointment on the Land Use Board. He also thanked Tom for an amazing job on the roads during the snowstorm.

Mr. McKim also added his thanks to the Road Department. Amazing job as always. He then thanked the Committee for introducing the Stormwater Ordinance tonight for first reading.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Butler thanked Tom and his Road Department also for the great job on keeping the road open during the snowstorm. She thanked the Committee on her appointment to the Committee and is happy to work with everyone.

Mr. Lovell echoed his thoughts on the amazing job done by the Road Department on keeping the roads open during the storm.

Mayor Duffy: gave an update on the Route 80 Rock Wall. He also echoed his thanks to the Road Department.

Budget Meeting: Saturday, February 20 at 9:30am. This will be a Virtual Meeting and open to the Public through Zoom. Mayor Duffy, Ms. Butler and the Auditor will be on Zoom, with only the CFO, Ms. Rolef, Mr. Lovell. Mr. Campbell and Ms. Fisher the only ones in the Building.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ms. Butler, seconded by Mr. Lovell and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting of the Hardwick Township Committee at 8:27PM

Respectfully submitted,
Judith M. Fisher, RMC