

TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

MARCH 17, 2021

The monthly Work 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 7:00PM 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 meetings will also be using Zoom. He apologized for any glitches.

RESOLUTION

Motion made by Mr. Lovell, seconded by Ms. Butler and carried to approve Resolution 2021-20.

Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

2021-20 RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO MAKE COVID-19 VACCINE AVAILABLE TO THE TEACHERS AND STAFF OF WARREN COUNTY'S SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, providing COVID-19 vaccination to teachers and other school staff will help protect the health of the students, school staff and families of Warren County's school districts; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States of America Joseph Biden has made it a national goal that "every educator, school staff member, childcare worker receive at least one shot by the end of the month of March"; and

WHEREAS, the County of Warren has surveyed its public schools and found that over 1500 public school staff are willing to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, the superintendents of Warren County's school districts have agreed to work with the Warren County Health Department to vaccinate their staff as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hardwick and the Warren County health department are willing to work with any community partners to help meet the President' school vaccination goal in Warren County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Hardwick requests New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and New Jersey Commissioner of Health Judith Persichilli to allocate sufficient COVID-19 Vaccine to County of Warren so that initial vaccination of all eligible and interested school staff can be completed by end of March 2021.

Dated: March 17, 2021

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

Judith M. Fisher, RMC, Township Clerk

ORDINANCES: None currently

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTMENTS

2021-21 Joseph Dunn, OEM

BE IT RESOLVED, that on March 17, 2021, 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 17, 2024.

CERTIFICATION

I, Judith M. Fisher, Clerk of the Township of Hardwick do hereby certify that the above resolution is a true and exact copy adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick at a regular meeting held on March 17, 2021.

Judith M. Fisher, RMC, Township Clerk

2021-22 Desiree Dunn, Deputy OEM

BE IT RESOLVED, that on March 17, 2021, Desiree Dunn was appointed by OEM Joseph Dunn as the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Hardwick Township Committee endorses this appointment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Desiree Dunn is a resident of the Township of Hardwick and that her term of office shall expire March 17, 2024.

CERTIFICATION

I, Judith M. Fisher, Clerk of the Township of Hardwick do hereby certify that the above resolution is a true and exact copy adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick at a regular meeting held on March 17, 2021.

Judith M. Fisher, RMC, Township Clerk

OLD BUSINESS:

Altice/Optimum: The Attorney will contact Altice letting them know that changes was made to the Agreement adding the \$2500 charge to the Township for the permit fee. The ordinance will be ready for the April 7th meeting for 1st reading.

Century Link: no update at this time

Web Site: Update

Our present web site is not user friendly, hard to navigate/work through, needs to be cleaned up and help maintaining. The Mayor has contact several companies that design web sites and asked for a proposal. Questions from the Committee have been who will maintain, who will be trained and who would be the contact person when the contract is awarded to help set it up and who would be the Administrator/Web Master. Mr. Lovell noted that he would like to be part/help in setting this up. The Mayor will keep the Committee updated as the proposals come in about cost, length of time to set up and which companies they would like to review.

Hardwick Addresses: There have been discussions on getting away from using our personal emails and that there is an interest in transitions for new township email addresses that would be hosted by a third party. All this can be done through Office 365/Microsoft. that would be the best to handle this. Our IT person JP can start working on this an get it done in about 2/3 weeks. The Committee is on board with getting this done as soon as possible. Mr. Lovell then talked about purchasing notebook (Township Property) for the Committee in order to be paperless.

The American Rescue Plan was discussed. Hardwick will be getting \$159,037.95 which will be sent directly to the Municipality. The good news is that neither the State or the County can touch it or withhold these dollars. Details re still emerging and everyone is still trying to fully understand the program requirements and guidelines as some of the details still need to be worked out.

Personnel Policy Manual: Revisions/Update Due date to the MEL Insurance is June 1, 2021 Labor Attorney from Mr. Lavery's office is working on this and we might have something by mid-April for the Committee to review.

Job Description: The first step is the DPW and Mr. Lovell is presently working on this. The Mayor would like to have the Zoning Officer position the next one to look at.

NEW BUSINESS:

Spring Clean Up: Since the Township did not do a clean up in 2020 because of COVID-19, the Mayor is discussing possible doing one this year but moving it from May to possible in the fall. Discussed was a possible option like using a voucher system where the resident would bring their item to the Oxford landfill. The pros and cons of doing this type of cleanup were discussed along with not doing a spring cleanup at this time. Final decision was that the Committee agreed to do the cleanup in the fall. Mr. Campbell, CPWM noted that he does not have enough help for a fall

cleanup. Oxford has sent the Mayor the information on doing the voucher system with a late June date.

Motion was then made by Mr. Duffy, seconded by Mr. Lovell and carried to authorize the Mayor to sign the paperwork for the voucher system from the Oxford Landfill with the June date. Motion carried followed by a roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Memorial Day Parade, May 30th: American Legion request for donation - \$1000.00

Question was asked as to what was done in the past. In 2019, the Township donated \$500, but the questions asked from Mr. Lovell was did the monies go directly to the Legion. Answer was yes and Mr. Lovell asked the opinion from the Attorney as to what the statute is. Statute is that the monies should go directly to the vendor and not to the Legion. Mayor Duffy will also check with Warren County Health Department if they give the OK for the parade because of the COVID-19 restrictions. Update at the April meeting.

DISCUSSION

American Rescue Plan: was briefly discussed earlier in the meeting

Congressman Gottheimer held a press conference with the Mayor regarding this Plan.

Hardwick will be getting \$159,037.95 which will be sent directly to the Municipality. The good news is that neither the State or the County can touch it or withhold these dollars. Details re still emerging and everyone is still trying to fully understand the program requirements and guidelines as some of the details still need to be worked out. The Municipality has up to 2024 to spend the funds. After the conference, there was some discussion amongst the Mayors that the municipalities could join together to use these dollars to improve broadband services.

Old Orchard Road (#7) Right of Way Block 1201 Lot 1 Application for Farmland Preservation

This was discussed at the March 3 meeting with the Township Engineer, Ryan Brownell. The outcome of his meeting with Stefanie Miller was the following:

The right of way should be reserved from future road widening or maintenance for the roads that are adjacent to the referenced farm: that Hardwick Township requests that a right of way of 16.5' measured from the centerline of Old Orchard Road be formally dedicated as part of the survey that is being prepared for the farmland preservation application for the subject property. This right of way dedication request is in accordance with the Tax Map sheet 12, prepared by JL Jacobs & Company, dated 2/20/1971, which illustrates a 33' wide legal right of way for Old Orchard Road. The Township reserves the right to review the survey prior to final filing of the Farmland Preservation Application.

Vass Farmstead Lease: Lease agreement The lease was re done again and sent to the State for their review. DEP reviewed and then sent it back that was more restrictive than before. Township feels that there should be more flexibility. Mr. Lovell noted that he respects Mr. Chidley from the DEP but that he will call with him about the lease and the restrictions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Butler no Committee report at this time

Mr. Lovell talked about his meeting with Ms. Roelf, CFO and Chris Jacksic to discussed State Health Care options. Thank you.

Mayor Duffy talked about the Route 80 Rock Wall update.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Lovell, seconded by Ms. Butler, and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting of the Hardwick Township Committee at 8:36PM

Respectfully submitted,
Judith M. Fisher