

TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

APRIL 21, 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 6:30PM 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 Richard Wenner, CPWM, 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.

The Township Clerk, Mrs., Fisher, noted that the April 14, 2021, meeting was cancelled, due to a advertising glitch and rescheduled for tonight, April 21, 2021.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Ms. Butler, seconded by Mr. Lovell, and carried to adopt the Resolution to go into Closed Session at 6:35PM.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public 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. Personnel Matter
 - B. Litigation/Attorney Client: Anderson

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: 6:35PM

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

Also Present: CPWM Thomas Campbell, Attorney Larry Cohen and Township Clerk Judith Fisher

Time Out: 6:57PM

Motion was made by Mr. Lovell, seconded by Ms. Butler, and carried to come out of closed session. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Cohen, Township Attorney noted that he met with the Committee at which time they discussed two matters, Litigation/Attorney Client: Anderson and personnel. 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.

PROCLAMATION:

**Older Americans Month
May 2021**

Whereas, the month of May is traditionally designated Older Americans Month by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and

Whereas, the theme for Older Americans Month 2021 is "**Communities of Strength**", which highlights the strengths of older adults and the aging network, with special emphasis on the power of connection and engagement in building strong communities.

Whereas, Hardwick Township includes countless older Americans who enrich and strengthen our community; and

Whereas, Hardwick Township is committed to engaging and supporting older adults, their families, and caregivers; and

Whereas, we acknowledge the importance of taking part in activities that promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being—no matter your age; and

Whereas, Hardwick Township can enrich the lives of individuals of every age by: promoting home- and community-based services that support independent living; involving older adults in community planning, events, and other activities; and providing opportunities for older adults to work, volunteer, learn, lead, and mentor.

Now therefore, Kevin Duffy, Mayor of Hardwick Township, New Jersey does hereby proclaim May 2021 to be Older Americans Month. Residents are encouraged to take time during this month to acknowledge and recognize older adults as vital members of our community.

Dated this 21st day of April, 2021

Kevin Duffy, Mayor, Township of Hardwick

RESOLUTION

Motion was made by Mr. Lovell, seconded by Ms. Butler to adopt **Resolution 2021-29** as presented tonight. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

2021- 29 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY, COVENANTING TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED, APPLICABLE TO THE EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES OF INTEREST ON OBLIGATIONS ISSUED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, TOWNSHIP CLERK, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, AND OTHER TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS THEY MAY DEEM NECESSARY OR ADVISABLE TO EFFECT SUCH COMPLIANCE AND DESIGNATING A \$180,000 BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE, DATED APRIL 30, 2021, PAYABLE APRIL 29, 2022, AS A "QUALIFIED TAX-EXEMPT OBLIGATION" PURSUANT TO SECTION 265(b)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED.

WHEREAS, the Township of Hardwick, in the County of Warren, New Jersey (the "Township") from time to time issues bonds, notes and other obligations the interest on which is excluded from gross income for Federal income tax purposes and desires to take such action as may be necessary or advisable to establish and maintain such exclusion; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), contains provisions with respect to the exclusion from gross income for Federal income tax purposes of interest on obligations, including provisions, among others, that require issuers of tax-exempt obligations, such as the Township to account for and rebate certain arbitrage earnings to the United States Treasury and to take such other action to establish and maintain such Federal tax exclusion; and

WHEREAS, the Township intends to issue a \$180,000 Bond Anticipation Note, dated April 30, 2021, payable April 29, 2022 (the "Note"); and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to designate the Note as a "qualified tax-exempt obligation" pursuant to Section 265(b)(3) of the Code;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick, in the County of Warren, New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. The Township Committee hereby covenants on behalf of the Township, to the extent permitted by the Constitution and the laws of the State of New Jersey, to do and perform all acts and things permitted by law and necessary to assure that interest paid on bonds, notes or other obligations of the Township (including the Note) be and remain excluded from gross income of the owners thereof for Federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Code.

SECTION 2. The Mayor, Township Clerk, Chief Financial Officer and other officials of the Township are hereby authorized and directed to take such action, make such representations and give such assurances as they may deem necessary or advisable to effect compliance with the Code.

SECTION 3. The Note is hereby designated as a "qualified tax-exempt obligation" for the purpose of Section 265(b)(3) of the Code.

SECTION 4. It is hereby determined and stated that (1) the Note is not a "private activity bond" as defined in the Code and (2) the Township and its subordinate entities, if any, do not reasonably anticipate issuing in excess of \$10 million of new money tax-exempt obligations (other than private activity bonds) during the calendar year 2021.

SECTION 5. It is further determined and stated that the Township has not, as of the date hereof, issued any tax-exempt obligations (other than the Note) during the calendar year 2021.

SECTION 6. The Township will, to the best of its ability, attempt to comply with respect to the limitations on issuance of tax-exempt obligations pursuant to Section 265(b)(3) of the Code; however, the Township does not covenant to do so, and hereby expressly states that a covenant is not made hereby.

SECTION 7. The issuing officers of the Township are hereby authorized to deliver a certified copy of this resolution to the original purchaser of the Note and to further provide such original purchaser with a certificate of obligations issued during the calendar year 2021 dated as of the date of delivery of the Note.

SECTION 8. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Altice/Optimum: The Mayor reported that they have agreed to bring the internet to the Municipal Building in exchange for the Township paying \$2500 for the permit fee. The Attorney has been in communication with the Attorney handling Altice and the permit fee.

Web Site: Update The Committee is actively looking at 3 vendors and the pricing. They will be scheduling demo's and hope to have a decision by the end of June.

Hardwick E Mail Addresses: Mr. Duffy talked with our present IT, Mr. Reece about doing the conversion of having all the Committee and Employees with new addresses. This way they will not be using their personal email. Mr. Reece could have this conversion done in about 2 weeks for \$3200.00.

The Committee agrees with getting this done as soon as possible.

A motion was then made by Mr. Lovell, seconded by Ms. Butler, and carried to have Mr. Reece do the conversion for new E Mail addresses as soon as possible, cost to be \$3200.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Personnel Policy Manual: Revisions/Update Due by November 1, 2021

Mr. Richard Wenner, Labor Attorney is presently working on the policy/revisions.

Recruitment: The Ad is presently in the New Jersey Herald. Applications can be picked up at the DPW Garage by calling the office. Deadline to apply is May 3, 2021.

Job Description: Mr. Lovell reported that this is done and that he needs to talk with the Attorney about doing this by Ordinance or Resolution.

NEW BUSINESS

Spring Clean Up - Looking to do this possibly in September and as it was done in years past, at the Township Garage. The Committee at previous meetings did discuss various options. They discussed again using the voucher system with the Oxford Landfill. There were several pros and cons to using this. The Committee then discussed with Mr. Dunn, OEM about doing what we did to the past, resident bring items to the Township Garage. Using the Township Garage outweighed using the voucher system. The Committee was then in agreement with scheduling a September Clean Up, Monday through Saturday. Mr. Lovell will be involved in setting this up with Mr. Campbell. The Mayor will cancel the Oxford Landfill that was tentatively schedule for the third week in June.

NEW BUSINESS

Memorial Day Parade, May 30th: American Legion request donation - \$1,000.

Mr. Lovell talked about the strict laws on municipalities donating to private entities. We can donate by correctly working with a vendor and paying them directly. Mr. Lovell will follow up with Mr. Ohl, Membership/Adjutant to see if there is a vendor that we could work with. This would be the correct way. The Committee talked about approving \$500.

Slabtown Creek Park: Formal Opening/Dedication Discussion is to do this after Memorial Day. Date has not been determined yet.

There was an issue at the Park regarding Horse Back riding. The complaint was that they were riding near the stream and the trail was broken up. Question was maintenance and it was suggested that this issue be referred to Open Space Committee to get their input. A sign that would prohibit Horse Back Riding in the Park was discussed, but will wait to see what the Open Space Committee suggests.

DISCUSSION

Hardwick PPE Packs: Dozens of packs have been hand delivered to the resident who responded by emailing the Clerk with their name, address, and phone number. If interested, please email the Clerk.

Hardwick House: Update

Mr. Lovell has talked with Mr. McKim Chairman of the Land Use Board about redevelopment to help the owner. This is usually done for areas but not single pieces. Mr. Duffy will reach out to the property owner again to discuss.

Vass Farmstead Lease: Lease agreement will be expiring soon.

The lease is still with the DEP and we are waiting for their response again.

Twp. Millstone: Resolution requesting Municipalities to join together in a consortium to help improve JCP&L overall services.

Committee requested to hold discussions to the May 5th meeting.

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 public discussion at this time, a motion was made by Mr. Lovell, seconded by Ms. Butler to close this portion of the meeting to the public. Motion carrier and a voice vote was unanimous.

Committee Reports:

Ms. Butler: reported that the Grants Committee met and that they are working presently on several grants that they are working on but have agreed to prioritize them. Update at the next meeting

Mr. Lovell: No report at this time

Mr. Duffy: Updated Covid: reporting that 40% of Warren County have had their first shot. The County numbers are still going up and Hardwick has reported 5 new cases.

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 7:47PM

Respectfully submitted,
Judith M. Fisher, RMC