

TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

June 23, 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":

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 James Moscaqiuri, CPWM Thomas Campbell and Bob Canace, Conservation Advising

Absent: None

7:00PM PUBLIC Hearing GREEN ACRES APPLICATION

The following statement was read by Mayor Kevin Duffy:

This public hearing is scheduled in accordance with New Jersey Green Acres Rules and Regulations N.J.A.C. 7:36 which requires that a municipality hold a public hearing when it applies to the Green Acres Program under the Local and Nonprofit Assistance Program for funds to acquire open space.

Hardwick Township intends to submit an application to Green Acres to advance the priorities of its Open Space Program, more specifically the preservation of large tracts of land within the township that maintain its rural character, add to existing open space, are vulnerable to development, and/or create new opportunities for outdoor recreation, protect the township's ground water resources, and help protect habitat for wildlife.

The application is intended to provide funding under Green Acres Planning Incentive Grant Program, which allows some flexibility in spending for open space based on the township's priorities. The present application requests funding for the property on Stillwater Route, County Route 521, known as Block 9901/Lot 2m owned by DonCon Enterprises. The purpose of the acquisition is to add to the protected area around Warren County's White Lake Natural Resource area. The application is intended to allow the township to pursue acquisition of the property, should the landowners agree to sell, or to acquire properties of similar characteristics.

The present application to Green Acres has been available at Town Hall, was placed on the Township website, and will be placed on the Green Acres website after this hearing for any additional comments.

The township invites any questions or comments on the application at this time. All public comments will be recorded in the minutes of this meeting and submitted as part of the application package.

At this time, a motion was made by Mr. Lovell and seconded by Ms. Butler open this portion of the meeting to the public for any questions/comments on this Green Acres Application. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

Seeing there were no questions/comments from the public present, Mr. Lovell moved to close this portion of the meeting to the public, seconded by Ms. Butler. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

The Committee thanked Mr. Canace for being present tonight for this public hearing.

Mr. Canace noted that these Green Acre applications are very competitive. He also wanted to thank the Hardwick Township Land Use Board and the Warren County Department of Land Preservation for their support letters.

RESOLUTION None at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

Fall Clean Up: Schedule for September 20 – 25, 2021 at the Township Garage.

Altice/Optimum: The Attorney reported that he had nothing new to report on from them. We are still waiting for the invoice from them for the \$2500 for the permit fees that we agreed to pay.

Web Site: Update The Mayor and Clerk reported that they have reviewed 3 demos and discussed each one in length. Our recommendation to the Committee is to go with ARAE Network Solutions, LLC, J. P. Reece. He is also the Township's IT Consultant. Once the awarded to ARAE Network, the township will need their contract. What the Committee will needs to work on is the format for the new website. It will take about 6/8 weeks when all said and done to have it up and working.

A motion was then made by Mr. Lovell, seconded by Ms. Butler to award the contract for the new website to ARAE Network Solutions. LLC for \$8100.00. Motion carried followed by a roll call vote:

Roll Call:

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

NAY: None

Knowlton Fire Services: Their agreement was draft by Leslie Parikh Knowlton's Township Attorney. After reviewing there were a couple corrections and the agreement was sent back to Ms. Parikh, Knowlton's Attorney.

Broadband Funding Grant Opportunity: Mayor Duffy reported that there are a number of grants out there. He is working with Congressman Gottheimer, who represents District #5. Right now, Hardwick has made the cut, we are 1 out of 10 that might have of opportunity to be considered for the grant in District #5.

NEW BUSINESS

Northern New Jersey Council (No Be Bosco): Shooting Range Renewal, Fee Paid, Zoning Rpt.

Mrs. Fisher noted that all the paperwork was in order and can be approved tonight.

Motion was made by Mr. Lovell, seconded by Ms. Butler and carried to approve the shooting range renewal for Northern New Jersey Council (NO Be Bosco). Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

NJ Dept of Labor & Workforce: General Inspection – Notice to comply

Mr. Lovell noted that this is a yearly inspection of the Township garage done by POSHA.

Mr. Campbell reported that all the items that were sited have been addressed and that he will be calling for a re-inspection.

Landmark I Appraisal: Appraisal Report. This company was awarded the contract last month to do this appraisal for the property on Stillwater Road and is part of the Green Acres Application that had the Public Hearing earlier tonight. Mr. Canace was given a copy tonight to mark part of the application to Green Areas.

DISCUSSION:

Job Description: DPW and Zoning Officer

Mr. Lovell reported that the description for the DPW has been forward to the Township Attorney. He might have the ordinance drafted to present to the Committee at the July meeting.

The Zoning/Code Enforcement version will be ready also for the July meeting.

Vass Farmstead Lease: Lease agreement will be expiring soon. January 2022

Mr. Duffy spoke with Mr. Chidley from DEP about the revisions to the lease and he is satisfied with them. Approval of the lease should happen very soon. Mr. Lovell needs to next speak with the Township's insurance Agent, Ms. Cooper from PAIC.

Spring Valley Road:

Resolution designating John Lovell as the Spring Valley Road – Township Committee Liaison with Warren County

Ferla’s Pond:

Mr. Lovell talked about the pond and the flooding that happens several years ago. He had heard that a portion of the pond had been filled in by the Township. The Municipal was built in 1992 and finished in 1993 and wetlands were identified back in 1993 by DEP and there was no protection back then. The debris that is there is from the owners and not the township. There has been rumors that the County has satellite maps of the area, but he still feels firmly that the township had done wrong to cause this flooding. Township had done logging about 7 years ago and that was cleaned up. The County Engineer Department still is blaming Hardwick for the flooding and that we need to fix the problem. Mr. Duffy feels that this problem was driven naturally. He also noted that the best person to talk to about this is Bob Canace, if anyone in the area knows about Fleras Pond it’s Bob Canace.

After a brief discussion, Ms. Butler moved to adopt **Resolution 2021-38** appointing Mr. Lovell as the Liaison to Warren County, seconded by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 2021-38

Whereas members of the Warren County Board of Commissioners have indicated that an improvement to restore two-way traffic on Spring Valley Road (Warren Route 659) will be scheduled for calendar year 2022, and

Whereas the flooding of Ferlas Pond across Spring Valley Road occurred in late 2019, and

Whereas the rising flood water conditions necessitated the closure of Spring Valley Road in 2020, and

Whereas in the late spring of 2020, Warren County constructed a temporary elevated one way improvement so as to allow vehicle passage, and

Whereas in March of 2021, Hardwick Township Committee Member, John Lovell forwarded a letter to Freeholder Director Kern requesting an update on the status of the reconstruction of Spring Valley Road, and

Whereas in June of 2021, Mayor Kevin Duffy was advised that delays in improving Spring Valley Road occurred due to the COVID pandemic and that an improvement would be scheduled for calendar year 2022, and

Whereas the Town Committee of Hardwick Township wishes to monitor the progress for design, permitting, funding and construction of an improvement so that further delays can be both minimized and local citizens may be kept informed.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved by the Township Committee of the Town of Hardwick on this 23rd day of June 2021, that Deputy Mayor John Lovell shall be appointed as the liaison to Warren County for purposes of maintaining an ongoing dialogue on the progress of reconstructing a flood proof improvement for Spring Valley Road in the vicinity of Ferlas Pond.

Be It Further resolved that the Township Clerk shall provide copies of this resolution to members of the Board Of Commissioners, County Administrator and County Engineer.

CERTIFICATION

I, Judith Fisher, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Hardwick Township Committee at a meeting held on the 23rd day of June 2021.

Judith Fisher, RMC, TOWNSHIP CLERK

NJDOT GRANT APPLICATION – PRIMROSE ROAD PROPOSAL FOR 2022

Estimates for paving Primrose Road were sent from the Engineer, Ryan Brownell. He submitted two variations, paving the entire length, total cost \$596,337.60 (2.02miles) or Section 1, existing oil/chip pavement surface, total cost \$343,877.91 (1.03miles). Currently the paved portion of Primrose is in good condition; the issue is the oil/chip portion is it need of paving. Mr. Campbell’s recommendation is either one. Ms. Butler talked with a resident on this road about the proposed paving and she was opposed to the township doing the entire road. She felt that it would only cause cars to speed because of the new paving. She recommended that she and other resident come to the meeting to discuss their concern. Mr. Lovell will not vote on this

proposal as his son lives on this road. After a brief discussion, Mr. Duffy motion that the Township authorize the Engineer to submit the NJDOT Grant Application estimate for paving
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only the oil/chip portion of Primrose Road, 1.03 miles for a total cost \$343,877.91, seconded by Ms. Butler. Motion carried followed by a roll call vote:

AYES: Ms. Butler, Mr. Duffy

NAY: None

Abstained: Mr. Lovell

Building Security – Grants

Mr. Lovell has only quote and will be getting another for the July meeting

Employee Health Benefit: Subcommittee Report – Retirement Benefits

Mr. Lovell thanked the Subcommittee, which consisted of himself, Chris Jacksic and Christine Roelf, CFO in preparing this report. The Committee reviewed and discussed briefly tonight, and they were asked to consider the option for the retirement health benefit. Mr. Lovell would like to see this report released to the public by posting on the website. Mr. Duffy and Ms. Butler noted that they wanted to discuss this report in greater depth before releasing.

A motion was then made by Mr. Lovell to have this report made available to the public and posted on the township website, seconded by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

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 Ms. Butler, seconded by Mr. Duffy to close this portion of the meeting to the public. Motion carrier and a voice vote was unanimous.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Lovell congratulated all those who won the Primary Election and the Democratic process. A lot needs to be done for the Township and all agree that they want what's best for the Township.

Ms. Butler presently did not have a report for tonight.

Mr. Duffy congratulated Chris Jacksic on his Primary Election win, both he and Nicole Meuse together ran a solid campaign. Plane Network trucks are though out the township. Right now, they are on Sunset Lake Road and are going as far as Happiness is Camping for now.

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