

**TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

August 4, 2021

The 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 6:32PM 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 Michael Lavery, CPWM, CPWM Thomas Campbell

Absent: CMFO Christine Rolef

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 6:31PM.

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. Attorney Client/Possible Litigation – Paulinskill Road

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: 6:33PM

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

Also Present: Attorney Michael Lavery, CPWM Mr. Campbell and Township Clerk Judith Fisher

Time Out: 6:50PM

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

Mr. Lavery, Township Attorney noted that he met with the Committee and discussed one issue, Attorney Client – Potential Litigation Paulinskill Road. 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.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:

A motion was made by Mr. Lovell, seconded by Ms. Butler to pay the July bills that totaled \$345,613.22. Motion carried followed by a roll call vote:

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None **Absent:** None

Ms. Desiree Dunn was to be present tonight to discuss Grants and Events. Ms. Dunn sent the Clerk an email with regrets that she will not be able to attend tonight's meeting. Ms. Dunn did note that as for Hardwick Day, it was late now to try to schedule. Mr. Wolff, who is also the Event Coordinator will take with Ms. Dunn about this and will let us know what happens with his discussion with her.

REPORTS:

Mr. Campbell, CPWM: he let the Clerk know that he redid the ad for the Fall Clean Up with a few changes. Once these changes are done, this notice will be posted on the Township Web Page.

Summer Help: Mr. Campbell is recommending that the Township hire Peter Demkowicz for the summer starting July 26 at \$16.50/hour.

Mr. Lovell moved that on the recommendation of Mr. Campbell, that the Township hire Peter Demkowicz as the summer helper at \$16.50/hour, second by Ms. Butler. Motion carried followed by a roll call vote:

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

The State Aid projects according to the Engineer hopefully will be ready by the end of September. There was a discussion on the flower beds on Tara Court and Highlands Lane about taking them out. They are presently raised bed on a cul-de-sac that the trucks hit all the time. Suggestion is to remove them both.

Mr. Lovell motioned that a letter to the homeowners on both roads will be sent out noting that if they have any questions or concerns about the removal of the flower bed and the reconstruction of the loop, to reach out to a Committee member. This cleanup will be done in September and then paved; second by Ms. Butler. Motion carried followed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Rolef, CFO: Reviewed the bill list and reports with the Committee

Mr. Lavery, Twp. Attorney: No update at this time

Mrs. Fisher, Twp. Clerk: no update at this time

RESOLUTION

Motion was made by Mr. Lovell, seconded by Ms. Butler to adopt **Resolution 2021-42** as presented tonight. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

2021-42 Renewal Liquor License for the Hardwick Tavern Corp t/a The Hardwick House

WHEREAS, application for Plenary Retail Consumption License has been received from the following:

HARDWICK TAVERN CORP.

WHEREAS, all conditions set forth by the New Jersey State Division of Alcoholic Beverage has been complied with to the best personal knowledge of this Committee, and

WHEREAS, the Hardwick Tavern has renewed their Alcoholic Beverage Retail Licensee Tax Clearance Certification and the Municipality has received a copy of the said renewal from the Division of Taxation, and

WHEREAS, the Township has received the Special Ruling to permit renewal of inactive license pursuant to N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.39 dated July 9, 2021 from the Director of Law & Public Safety, Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control authorizing the renewal of License No. 2109-33-004-003 for the 2020-2021 license term. According to this SPECIAL RULING, the Director has reviewed the petition filed in this matter and having considered all the facts and circumstances related to the inactive status of this license finds that the petitioner or licensee has established good cause in accordance with the statutory requirements to warrant an application for renewal of the license for the 2021-2022 license period. Should the owner wish to activate said license at the premises during the license terms referenced above, they must file an amendment to their license application pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:2-2.14 transferring the license from "INACTIVE" status to the intended premises.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Plenary Retail Consumption License be issued for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 as follows:

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| License No. 2109-33-004-003 | Hardwick Tavern Corp. |
| Fee Paid Township \$622.00 | t/a The Hardwick House |
| Fee Paid State \$200.00 | 47 Spring Valley Road |
| | Hardwick, New Jersey 07825 |

A motion was made by Ms. Butler, seconded by Mr. Lovell and carried to renew the Plenary Retail Consumption license for the Hardwick Tavern Corp for 2021-2022 license term. The Township Clerk is hereby instructed to provide a copy of this resolution to said party.

CERTIFICATION

I, Judith M. Fisher, RMC, Clerk of the Township of Hardwick, Warren County, New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is true and exact copy adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick at meeting held on the 04th day of August, 2021.

Judith M. Fisher, RMC
Township Clerk

RESOLUTION

Motion was made by M. Butler, seconded by Mr. Lovell to adopt **Resolution 2021-43** as presented tonight. Motion carried followed by a roll call vote

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

2021-43 Award of Contract for Road Resurfacing

WHEREAS, The Township of Hardwick is a member of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing System and wishes to utilize the contract for Road Resurfacing for Improvements to Millbrook- Stillwater Road; and

WHEREAS, South State, Inc., Bridgeton, NJ has been awarded Contract #6 for Road Resurfacing through the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council of which the Township of Hardwick is an active participant; and

WHEREAS, Cifelli & Son General Contracting, Inc., Nutley, NJ has been awarded Contract #26 for Roadway Curbing through the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council of which the Township of Hardwick is an active participant; and

WHEREAS, Road Safety Systems, LLC, Shamong, NJ has been awarded contract #36 for Beam Guide Rail & Safety Ends through the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council of which the Township of Hardwick is an active participant; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that road resurfacing services Millbrook-Stillwater Road, is awarded to South State, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$112,400.00; Road Safety Systems for \$37,520.00, and Denville Line Painting for \$4,299.25

CERTIFICATION

It is hereby certified that this is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick, Warren County, NJ at a Regular meeting held on Wednesday, August 4, 2021.

Judith Fisher, RMC
Municipal Clerk

ORDINANCE: 2nd Reading and Public Hearing

Motion made by Ms. Butler, seconded by Mr. Lovell and carried to approve the following **Ordinance 2021-06** for second reading and public hearing. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

2021-06 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 2021

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick that salary for 2021 for the following employees shall be as follows:

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| SECTION 1: The not to exceed annual salaries for the following Township Employees shall be: | |
| Township Committee Members | 3,381.00 per annum |
| Township Clerk | 48,673.00 per annum |
| Township Clerk – Stipend | 2,000.00 per annum |
| Chief Financial Officer | 18,213.00 per annum |

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Tax Collector | 14,902.00 per annum |
| Deputy Tax Collector | 3,312.00 per annum |
| Tax Assessor | 22,344.00 per annum |
| Land Use Board Secretary | 11,796.00 per annum |
| Recreation Coordinator | 1,009.00 per annum |
| Animal Control Officer | 8,893.00 per annum |
| Licensing Clerk | 1,371.00 per annum |
| Zoning Official | 13,610.00 per annum |
| 911 Coordinator | 1,109.00 per annum |
| Emergency Management Coordinator | 2,502.00 per annum |
| Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator | 1.00 per annum |
| Grants Coordinator | 833.00 per annum |
| Recycling Coordinator | 259.00 per annum |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Road Foremen/Certified Public Works Manager | 43.39 per hour |
| Equipment Operator/Laborer | 28.51 per hour |
| Emergency Truck Driver | 21.80 per hour |
| Extra Help | 20.00 per hour |
| On Call Stipend - Road Foreman/Certified Public Works Manager | 2,14.00 per annum |
| On Call Stipend - Road Laborer | 1,654.00 per annum |

The salaries set forth in this ordinance herein shall be effective and retroactive to January 1, 2021.

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 July 7, 2021 and will be considered for final reading and adoption at the Regular Meeting of the Township Committee held on August 4, 2021 at 7:00PM at the Municipal Building, 40 Spring Valley Road, Hardwick Township, New Jersey.

Judith M. Fisher, RMC
Township Clerk

Motion was made by Ms. Butler, seconded by Mr. Duffy and carried to open this option of the meeting to the Public for any questions/comments.

Seeing that there were no questions from the Public on **Ordinance 2021-06**, a motion was then made by Ms. Butler to close this portion of the meeting to the Public, seconded by Mr. Lovell.

Motion carried.

Motion was then made by Mr. Lovell, seconded by Ms. Butler to adopt **Ordinance 2021-06** on 2nd reading. Motion carried followed by a roll call vote:

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Altice/Optimum: Mr. Duffy talked about a Zoom meeting that he attended with Congressman Gottheimer and Altice. The Township is still waiting for the invoice from Altice for the \$2500 that the Township agreed to pay for the permit.

Web Site: Update The Township has a signed contract with ARAE Network Solutions. The Committee will now start work on revamping the website site. Hopes are to have something ready within 6/8 weeks.

NEW BUSINESS:

Freedom Business Machines: Maintenance Agreement Kobra Shredder \$229.00

Mr. Lovell motion to renew the maintenance agreement for the Kobra shredder with Freedom Business Machine for \$229.00, second by Ms. Butler. Motion carried followed by a roll call vote

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Broadband Funding Grant Opportunity: Mayor reported that this is a work in progress. If we are successful in getting this grant it would pay the full cost of the web redesign and equipment in full. Mr. Duffy update the Committee on his talk with Congressman Gottheimer regarding this grant.

Municipal Building: Security and Safety

Mr. Lovell noted that at this time, he is working on this and that there is presently no update.

DISCUSSION

Job Description: Mr. Duffy updated that the zoning/code enforcement job description is complete and has been forwarded to Mr. Lovell and the Township Attorney Mr. Lavery.

Vass Farmstead Lease: Lease agreement will be expiring soon. Presently there is no update except that the revised lease had been sent to the Division of Leases to review. Mr. Lovell did meet with our Insurance Agent Ms. Cooper to discuss insurance on the buildings. Ms. Cooper walked the site and took pictures of the barn and house. Waiting to hear back about the insurance.

Spring Valley Road: No update at this time Mr. Lovell will be talking with the County Engineer and will have an update at the next meeting.

Employee Health Benefits/Options for going forward: Retirement Information on the Health Benefits on retirement has been post on the Township website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 19, 2021 Work Meeting & Executive Session Motion was made by Mr. Lovell, second by Ms. Butler to approve the above minutes as corrected. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

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. Campbell, Taxpayer ask if there was any update on the matter that he brought up at last months meeting. Mr. Lavery noted that he will have a report for the Committee at the next meeting.

Mr. Hughes spoke up that he is the person that Mr. Campbell has an issue with and is on the Land Use Board. Mr. Hughes informed the Committee that he has no problem stepping down on issues that come before the Board regarding Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Rossmell asked about the mirror in Spring Valley Road by the bridge. This is County Route 659, and the Township has no jurisdiction there. It questions a liability issue.

Mr. John Nause, President of the North Warren Board of Education came to comment on the tax increase to Hardwick Taxpayers this year. He noted that it is important to know that the biggest increased number of students this year came from Hardwick, with budget cuts and state aid also being cut didn't help. It ended up being the perfect storm. They thanked John for coming in tonight but asked if he would consider providing a chart on the student population now and for the future.

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

Committee Reports:

Ms. Butler: No report at this time

Mr. Lovell: noted that the County has closed a several pieces of property in Hardwick and questions future development. He is presently looking at a new kiosk for the Municipal Building, there are new mulch beds, and the building was power washed, and the doors painted. He will be asking the Engineer for a price on getting a Township Street/Roads map for Hardwick. He will ask the CFO to prepare a Capital Ordinance for next month meeting that will include the DPW Fuel Depot, New Server and the cul-de-sac on Paulinskill Road. He thanked the Engineer for doing the C-1 Stream mapping and suggested that the Zoning Office get a copy.

Mr. Duffy: Planet Network is very active in the area. About 40% of the residents have taken the survey for Planet Network. Recently Happiness is Camping has been hookup up. They are presently working on Spring Valley and Stillwater Road running their lines. Next he talked about Hardwick Engineers records that are in Ted's office. Since Ted is no longer our Engineer and he is presently selling his building, these records need to be moved. The talk is to bring them here and then possibly hire Sarah to archive the records. Mr. Duffy asked the Committee about doing a gift card to Tractor Supply for Mr. Ahlers, who recently retired, amount to be determined.

Mr. Robert Wolff, Events Coordinator with Desiree Dunn will talk with the Camps on doing Hardwick Day. A fire Wise Grant was awarded to Hardwick for standpipes. The fire companies are working on what they need, but the problem is that they must purchase through a State Contract. Joe Battersby who has been working with the Fire Wise Grant is presently out of State fighting the fires out West.

Mr. Duffy reported that the County numbers for Covid are increasing. There is a need to keep an eye on this. If the number get too high, there might be a need to do Zoom meetings again. Only time will tell.

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 8:25PM

Respectfully submitted,
Judith M. Fisher, RMC