

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

**December 21, 2021**

The Special 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 11:30AM 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., Committeewoman Jodi Butler and Committeeman Elect Chris Jacksic

**Also present:** Township Attorney Michael Lavery, CPWM Thomas Campbell, CMFO Christine Rolof and Township Clerk Judith Fisher

**Absent: None**

Ms. Butler arrived at 12:06AM and attended the remainder of the Closed Session

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: RESOLUTION**

A motion was made by Mr. Lovell, seconded by Mr. Duffy, and carried to adopt the Resolution to go into Closed Session at 11:34AM.

**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. Interviews for new Municipal Clerk
  - B. Contractual with IT

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:** 11:34M

Present: Mr. Lovell, Mr. Duffy, and Committeeman Elect Chris Jacksic

Also Present: Attorney Michael Lavery and Township Clerk Judith Fisher

**Time Out:** 12:19PM

Motion was made by Ms. Butler, seconded by Mr. Lovell, 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 two issues, interviews for new Municipal Clerk and a Contractual with IT Support Maintenance Proposal. 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:** Currently no bill to pay tonight

**RESOLUTION:** Currently no Resolutions tonight

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Altice/Optimum:** Committee discussed the Property Access Agreement from Altice. Mr. Lavery reported that Altice has agreed to remove their equipment when they leave. Mr. Lavery is waiting for them to make this revision to their property agreement. Once we received this, the Mayor will be authorized to sign.

**New Web Site:** Update

Mayor Duffy is hoping to have the new Web up and running before the end of the year.

**The following item will be brought back for discussion at the February 2022 meeting:**

1. **MEL Cyber Risk:** Requirements to bring Township into compliance (proposed cost)
2. **New Internet and new Phones:** Quote from IT Consultant JP Reece
3. **Proposal:** Wireless for visitors
4. **Proposal:** ARAE Network Solutions Annual Support Maintenance Proposal

**Township Official Street and Road Map:** Proposed cost from Engineer

Mr. Lovell is working on this with the Township Engineer Denis Keenan. We have a quote of \$2,000 and Mr. Lovell noted that it is relatively accurate.

Mr. Lovell motioned to authorize French and Parrello (Denis Keenan) to go ahead with doing Hardwick's Official Street and Road Map for a not to exceed \$2,000, motion was second by Ms. Butler and a roll call followed:

Roll Call:

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

**Nays:** None

**Municipal Building:** Security and Safety

Mr. Lovell is working on this. Any updates will not be until January 2022

**Proposal:** Clean of the Municipal Building

We have the quotes from Opulent Commercial Cleaning Service, Newton, NJ for first cleaning \$350 Carpet shampoo \$275 and then regular cleaning \$225 bi-weekly. Mr. Lavery reviewed their contract and found it to be in order.

Mr. Lovell motion to award the cleaning contract to Opulent, second by Ms. Butler. Motion carried followed by a roll call vote. The Clerk will notify them to forward the Township a copy of their Certificate of Insurance.

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

**Nays:** None

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Bob Canace:** Open Space Advising Proposal for 2022

Mr. Canace's proposal is to continue providing open space and farmland preservation to Hardwick Township for 2022. Conservation Advising Services has changed their name to Ridge and Valley Consulting to better reflect the service they provide and the area in which they work. The term of the contract is for a period of 12 months commencing March 1, 2022, to February 28, 2023. The annual fee is \$5000, including all time and travel expenses, to be provided under this agreement. Mr. Lovell requested that this be held over to January 2022 meeting.

**Fire Inspection Report:** Municipal Building and Township Garage 12/14/2021

Copies were provided to the Committee and Mr. Campbell, CPWM. The report was reviewed noting that the abate date is January 14, 2022. Mr. Campbell was instructed to request an

extension. The Township will need to obtain 3 permits from DCA at a cost of \$42 each and these will not be issued until they receive the check.

### **DISCUSSION**

**Vass Farmstead Lease:** The Attorney made the revisions to the lease and the Committee was copied to review. Mr. Lovell noted that the Historical Society will not be meeting until 2022 to get their input. He did however note that Historical Society has update their 5-year plan. Update will happen once the Society has reviewed the lease and commented by to the Committee.

**Spring Valley Road:** Update by the end of January or February 2022  
The Committee plans on having Commission Sarnoski and the County Engineer present for this meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** None currently

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**A motion** was made by Mr. Lovell, seconded by Ms. Butler, and carried to open this portion of the meeting for comments from the Public. Seeing there was no one present, motion was then made by Mr. Lovell, second by Ms. Butler to close this portion of the meeting to the Public. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Ms. Butler:** No report currently

**Mr. Lovell:** talked about a phone call he received from someone in Harrisburg, PA asking about growing cannabis. He informed this person that the Township has passed an ordinance to opt out. This person is looking at a farm on Millbrook Road. Mr. Lovell didn't feel comfortable speaking with this person, so he referred him to the Township Attorney.

Mr. Campbell brought up a pricing contract from Space Farm in Beemerville, Sussex County. They are extending their contract pricing through December 2022 for removal of deer carcasses from municipal road right of ways at \$31.00 per deer with Committee approval.

Mr. Lovell motion to extend the contract for deer removal with Space Farm through December 2022 at a price of \$31.00 per deer removed, second by Ms. Butler. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

**Mr. Duffy:** talked about the Local Hero's award for the 5ht District. This award was bestowed to Jim Mc Kim for him 30 years of volunteering. Mr. Duffy read the letter that he sent to Congressman Gottheimer.

### **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 12:53PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith M. Fisher, RMC