

**TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRARY 2, 2022**

This meeting was called to order by Mayor Jacksic at 7:02 pm. Those present were Committeeman Duffy, Deputy Mayor Lovell, and Mayor Jacksic.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**Mayor Jacksic read the following sunshine statement:**

**SUNSHINE STATEMENT**

“Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, P.L. 1975, Ch. 231 setting forth the time, date, place, and purpose of this Public Meeting through a legal notice published in New Jersey Herald and The Express Times following the Township’s Annual Reorganization Meeting at which the 2022 meeting schedule was adopted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Paul Hawkins was introduced to the Committee. Mr. Hawkins is the Stillwater Fire Department new Chief. Chief Hawkins is looking forward to working with the township and the Blairstown Fire Department.

**MEETING MINUTES**

1. September 21, 2021- Workshop Meeting Minutes-
2. October 6, 2021, Executive Session Meeting Minutes
3. October 6, 2021- Business Meeting Minutes
4. October 15, 2021-Workshop Meeting Minutes
5. November 3, 2021, Executive Session Meeting Minutes
6. November 3, 2021, Business Meeting Minutes
7. November 17, 2021, Workshop Meeting Minutes
8. December 1, 2021, Executive Session Meeting Minutes
9. December 1, 2021, Business Meeting Minutes
10. December 15, 2021, Executive Session Meeting Minutes
11. December 15, 2021, Workshop Meeting Minutes
12. December 21, 2021, Executive Session Meeting Minutes
13. December 21, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes

**Motion was made by Lovell, second by Duffy and carried to approve minutes 4-9 and 11-13. Clerk Shipps informed the committee that minutes 1-3 were approved at the November 3, 2021, meeting. Deputy Mayor Lovell requested that the December 15, 2021, Executive Session Meeting Minutes be tabled to a later meeting. Mayor Jacksic abstained from voting on all minutes.**

**RESOLUTION**

**2022-15- Resolution of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren and State of New Jersey Adopting Robert's Rules of Order as a Basic Guide for Fair and Orderly Procedure in Meetings.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Hardwick County of Warren and State of New Jersey, that Robert's Rules of Order is hereby adopted as parliamentary authority for procedure in meetings.

**Motion made by Lovell, second by Duffy and carried to approve Resolution 2022-15**

**2022-16- Adopting Agenda Order for Township Meetings**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick shall follow the below agenda order:

1. The agenda for each of the foregoing Township regular meetings shall be as follows:
  - a. Call to order; roll call
  - b. Flag Salute
  - c. Open Public Meetings Act Statement
  - d. Public Comment five (5) minutes
  - e. Department Reports (first meeting of every month)
  - f. Approval of Minutes
  - g. Ordinances
  - h. Consent Agenda for resolutions
  - i. Resolutions for discussion
  - j. Unfinished Business
  - k. New Business
  - l. Correspondence
  - m. From the Municipal Attorney
  - n. From the Municipal Clerk
  - o. From the Township Committee
  - p. Public Comment
  - q. Closed Session, if any
  - r. Adjournment
2. At the commencement of all regularly scheduled meetings, the mayor will announce publicly and shall cause to be entered upon the minutes of the meeting an accurate statement, substantially as follows:

“Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, P.L. 1975, Ch. 231 setting forth the time, date, place and purpose of this Public Meeting through a legal notice published in The Star Ledger and New Jersey Herald following the Township’s Annual Reorganization Meeting at which the 2022 meeting schedule was adopted.

7. The minutes of each meeting shall become public as soon as they are approved by the Township Committee.

2022-11- Adopting Agenda Order for Township Meetings.

**Motion made by Duffy second by Lovell and carried to approve Resolution 2022-16 adding public comment at the end of the meeting before adjournment.**

### **2022-17- Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers**

WHEREAS all claims as reviewed and listed on the attached bill list are approved as reasonable and proper claims against the Township of Hardwick to be paid from its current fund; and

WHEREAS, the CFO has certified that funds are available to pay such claims.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the bills on the attached bill listed are authorized to be paid

**Motion made by Duffy, second by Lovell and approved by roll call vote: Duffy—yes, Lovell—yes, Jacksic—yes Resolution 2022-17.**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Approving Interior Work to the Municipal Building.

**Motion made by Lovell, second by Duffy and approved by roll call vote: Duffy—yes, Lovell—yes, Jacksic—yes, the quote of \$6,616.00 from C.J. Simson III for construction of storage closets and painting of hallway.**

**Motion made by Lovell, second by Duffy and approved by roll call vote: Duffy—yes, Lovell—yes, Jacksic—yes, the quote of \$2,000.00 from Jean Paul Reece Technology for the server/ network move and cabling.**

Amending Chapter 2, Administration, In Order to Add a New Section Concerning Health Benefit Coverage Upon Retirement for Certain Township Employees.

Amended ordinance was distributed to the committee for review. Discussion took place on if the ordinance should have a limitation on how many months the ordinance should be offered to an employee.

CFO Rolef explained that the employee's contribution is 20% of the premium and will fluctuate depending on the pensionable rate and when the employee retires.

Committeeman Duffy expressed that he will not be able to support this ordinance and feels that it should be put out for referendum to allow the residents to decide.

Deputy Mayor Lovell & Mayor Jacksic support this ordinance and proceeded to introduce ordinance 2022-02 and removing not to exceed by \_\_\_\_\_ months. Mayor Jacksic read the title of Ordinance 2022-02 "An Ordinance of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 2, Administration, in Order to Add a New Section Concerning Health Benefit Coverage Upon Retirement for Certain Township Employees in Order to Provide a Temporary Bridge between the Date of Retirement and the Commencement of Medicare. Public Hearing / Adoption will be held at the March 2, 2022, Township Committee Meeting.  
**Motion made by Lovell, second by Jacksic and approved by roll call vote: Duffy—no, Lovell—yes, Jacksic—yes Ordinance 2022-02.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **C-1 regulations**

Committeeman Duffy stated that the NJDEP has designated the Paulins Kill River and Jackson creek as C1 streams. This means that any work that residents want to do on 300 ft on either side of the river the NJDEP will need to be involved. Committeeman Duffy, Township Engineer Keenen and Land Use Board Chairman Mc Kim attending a meeting with NJDEP.

Committeeman Duffy read a summary of actions that residents need to take if they fall in the C1 stream guidelines and stated that they do not have contact information and clarification, and this will be handled case by case.

### **Cell tower lease bid**

Township Attorney Larry Cohen stated that a letter and bid specs were presented to the committee. Attorney Cohen asked if there were any changes besides the date. Deputy Mayor Lovell suggested negotiating in the lease to move the concrete structure that is currently not being used by the cell tower carrier to the municipal DPW for the municipality to use for storage. Attorney Cohen agreed to speak with Attorney Lavery and updated new specs.

### **Server/ Network Equipment Move and Cabling -discussed during old business.**

Clerk Shipps provided the committee with the surrounding towns emergency snowplow rates. Rates varied from \$25-\$30 per hour with a CDL and \$18.-\$25 per house without a CDL.

**Motion made by Lovell, second by Duffy and approved by roll call vote: Duffy—yes, Lovell—yes, Jacksic—yes to increase the salary of Emergency Snow plow Truck Driver to \$25 effective January 1, 2022.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Mayor Jacksic stated that the cable franchise check from Altice for the amount of \$1032.00 was received and provided to the CFO.

Deputy Mayor Lovell reported that Altice installed, and Jan Paul will be moving the cables to connect Altice to the computers.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

#### **DPW Supervisor Tom Campbell**

Sarah from Ted Rodman's office supplied an index of the forty-two boxes that the township received from Former Township Engineer Ted Rodman office. The township also received the certified streets and road maps from Mr. Rodman.

Abcode Security Systems will install the security system on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Chief Financial Officer- Christine Rolef**

Mrs. Rolef stated that Township Auditor Anthony Arditto will be in to do Financial Statements. Discussion took place regarding the township budget meeting. The committee agreed to have it on a weekday in the later afternoon. No date was agreed on.

### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

#### **Committeeman Duffy**

Committeeman Duffy reported that there is a buyer interested in the Hardwick House and will be attending the Land Use Board Meeting along with the current owner who will be giving his testimony.

### **Deputy Mayor Lovell**

Deputy Mayor Lovell met with Tara Cannon and Bob Canace regarding the Open Space master plan. Deputy Mayor Lovell stated that a 10-year history of the Open Space fund is needed which CFO Rolef agreed to provide. Bob Canace is also looking for the Open Space contract. Clerk Shipps will look into it and send over to him.

Open Space Map has been updated and was distributed to the committee and the open space board. Deputy Mayor Lovell will have bigger maps printed out as well as placing it on the website.

C1 mapping has been place on the website. Committeeman Duffy will be preparing verbiage of the new guidelines for C1 streams to be placed on the township's website as well.

Green Acres requires the township Recreation and Open Space Inventory (ROSI) be updated every few years and the time has come for it to be updated.

Deputy Mayor Lovell spoke with Township Engineer Denis Keenen regarding obtaining a hard copy township tax maps which cost approximately \$200. Deputy Mayor Lovell will speak with the zoning officer to see if he has a hard copy in his office and then report back to the committee.

Deputy Mayor Lovell has been working on a street map with Township Engineer Keenan which is slightly different than a road map. Once the second draft is completed, he would like to present it to the committee for input.

### **Mayor Jacksic**

Mayor Jacksic meet with Emily Hamerlee the new Warren County DPW Director. Spring Valley Road allotted and funded for spring will be done this summer and will be a 2-lane road once again. Spoke about getting traffic calming devices on Stillwater Road and Spring Valley and will have the County engineer take a look.

Also, Spring Valley Rd. between River view and the Paulinskill River where there have been a few crashes to see if there could be better visibility there is a rock wall in the way. Vass house has been busier, and overflow of parking suggestion is to paint a cross walk directly across the road Mayor suggested having a gravel path walk that visitors can follow. Three parking spots at the cemetery that had been discussed will be presented to the county commissioners. Millbrook road has had several outages. They are going to look to see what trees can be taking down within the setbacks.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Motion made by Duffy, second by Jacksic and carried to open public comment.

Resident Glen Robinson asked for an update for Planet Network. Mayor Jacksic spoke with the CEO Robert Boyle who stated it is a Return over Investment. It will be run in the more populist areas first. Mayor Jacksic will continue to be in touch with Planet Network with updates. Mayor Jacksic did state that there is a company called Brightnet that will be coming in and will be competition for Planet Network.

Mr. Robinson stated that he does not know why the committee does not want the health benefit to go to referendum. It is the taxpayer's money that is being spent.

Resident Judy Rosmell asked if the Land Use Board going to go around and notify all the residents who will be affected by the C1 stream guidelines? She had stated that unless someone

goes to the township meetings, they will not know about the guidelines. It was stated that it is the responsibility of the landowner to know the rules of their property. It was also suggested to put a notification in the tax bills when they are mailed out.

Jodi Butler does not understand why the health benefits are not going out for referendum so residents can know about it. She requested it be done last year when she was on the committee and requesting again for this year.

Judy Fisher asked why the committee is afraid to put the health benefits out for referendum? Deputy Mayor Lovell mentioned about minutes that he saw in 2020 where the ordinance was discussed to be drafted and was never talked about again until last year. Mrs. Fisher stated that referendums were always discussed in public session regarding this matter. Mrs. Fisher continued to state that this expenditure will affect the seniors the most. Deputy Mayor Lovell stated that elected official have a certain level of responsibility and cannot put every expenditure that they decided on a referendum.

Robert Ahlers wants to agree with the residents in the room and that this should be put up for a referendum and its is not right for two of the committee members to make a decision for 1800 people in this town. Mr. Ahlers referenced his own situation when he left the township and having to pick up his own medical benefits.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion was made by Duffy, second by Lovell and carried to adjourn tonight meeting at 8:26 pm.**