

**TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MEETING MINTUES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022**

This meeting was called to order by Mayor Jacksic at 7:00 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.

BLAIRSTOWN AMBULANCE CORP

Captain Scott Druesler provided the committee with an update on volunteers and call outs. Captain Druesler explained that volunteer numbers have dropped since COVID. A majority of day calls are answered by mutual aid which is an ambulance from the surrounding towns, who also have a shortage of members.

Discussion took place on how to get the word out on recruiting new volunteers. Mr. Druesler stated that members of Blairstown Fire & Rescue are becoming EMT certified to help.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public Comment

ORDINANCE

Public Hearing/ Adoption

2022-01- CALENDAR YEAR 2022 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year’s final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick in the County of Warren finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2022 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year’s final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens: and,

WHEREAS the Hardwick Township Committee hereby determines that a 1.0% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$ 8,695.03 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary: and,

WHEREAS the Hardwick Township Committee hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick, in the County of Warren, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2022 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Hardwick shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$ 30,432.61, and that the CY 2022 municipal budget for the Township of Hardwick be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding year, and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction, and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Motion made by Duffy second by Lovell and carried to open public hearing.

Motion made by Duffy second by Lovell and carried to close public hearing.

Motion made by Duffy second by Lovell and approved by roll call vote: Duffy—yes, Lovell—yes, Jacksic—yes, the adoption of Ordinance 2022-01

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Schedule budget review meetings

Suggested meeting dates were February 28, March 3rd or March 4th. Clerk Shipps will speak with CFO Rolef to choose a date from those 3 with the auditor.

Affordable Housing - Rehab requirement

Hardwick Township has a contract with Warren County for up to 4 units for the Rehabilitation Program. There has been no application made through Warren County for Hardwick Township. The agreement is \$10,000 per unit totaling \$40,000 discussion took place on allocating the funds. Deputy Mayor Lovell believes the funds can be used from the American Rescue Plan

Status of the bid specifications for cell tower lease

Attorney Cohen said that the specs are ready to go however provisions will need to be added regarding the storage building, that is near the cell tower. The township would like to own it and have it to stay at its current location.

Hardwick House Restaurant Update

Mayor Jacksic provided the committee with an update from the Land Use Board meeting regarding the Hardwick House prospective buyers who were told that their notice would need to be amended to address a catering operation.

Committeeman Duffy spoke with the prospective buyer who is not happy with the outcome of the meeting and may walk away. Committee Duffy informed the committee that as of this date the current owner has not prepared a notice nor has he asked to be placed on the next Land Use Board Agenda.

C-1 Update/ Discussion

No update at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Records review/destruction

Deputy Mayor Lovell said that Alfia Schemm Land Use Board Secretary has agreed to go through former Township Engineers Ted Rodman's boxes for \$20 per hour. Ms. Schemm will go through about 5 boxes at a time until complete and will keep the required documents the township needs.

Mayor Jacksic asked about having a shredding event for Township residents. Clerk Shipps agreed to get the information and set up a day.

CORRESPONDENCE

March 16, 2022 Workshop meeting will be cancelled.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Lovell, second by Duffy and carried to go into Executive Session at 8:10 pm.

2022-19 Resolution Authorizing Executive Session for the purpose of:

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. Pending Litigation
 - B. Acquisition of Property

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.

Motion made by Duffy, second by Lovell and carried to come out of Executive Session at 8:32 pm.

Adjournment

Motion made by Duffy, second by Lovell and carried to close the workshop meeting at 8:33 p.m.