

**TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY , APRIL 5, 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. Also present was Clerk Shippis, DPW Supervisor Campbell & CFO Rolef

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

No Public Comment

PRESENTATION

Jim McKim- Status on Land Preservation in Hardwick-

Mr. McKim provided the committee with handouts and an update on the open space plan which will need to be updated in order to receive green acres funding . The handouts provided information on the overview of the land preservation in Hardwick which included the present status that stated 70-75% of Hardwick is present in some form of preservation status. The other handout was titled Extreme Preservation-An Increasing Risk for Hardwick Township and how the term “core” and “corridors” are being defined in the draft of the open space plan which is currently on hold and the open space committee is strongly opposed to anything that endorsed core designation and asked the committee to review the information that was provided.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

DPW Supervisor Tom Campbell state that the township clean-up week will be held May 9th - May 14th. Discussion took place changing the policy from senior citizens and handicapped to having a valid handicap placard. Electronics will be allowed. Flyer will be placed on the website and Facebook pages.

Truck that was approved last year will be built this coming week.

Mr. Campbell would like to have a posting for summer help.

CFO Christine Rolef will be meeting with the township grant writer in the upcoming week regarding the American Rescue Plan. Paperwork needs to be filed on April 30th.

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 5, 2022, Township Committee Meeting Minutes

1. February 16, 2022, Executive Session Meeting Minutes
 2. February 16, 2022, Township Workshop Meeting Minutes
- Motion made by Lovell, second by Duffy and carried to approve the above minutes with corrections.**

RESOLUTION WITH POSSIBLE DISCUSSION – Tabled

- 2022-23-Late Budget Introduction
- 2022-24 Budget Special Items Revenue
- 2022-25 Budget Special Items of General Revenue
- 2022-26 2022 Budget Introduction

Motion/ Second Roll Call:

CONSENT AGENDA

1. 2022-27- Redemption of Certification of Sale No. 2018-01
WHEREAS, the Tax Collector of Hardwick Township has been paid the amount necessary to redeem with interest calculated in accordance with the New Jersey Statues and said payment has been deposited in the current account of Hardwick Township on lands known on the Tax Maps and in the Tax Duplicate as the following:

Block 1003, Lot 11
 Certificate Number 2018-01
 Assessed to: Skavnes, Catherine E
 35 Stillwater Road
 Hardwick, NJ 07825

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of Hardwick Township that the Municipal Finance Officer is hereby authorized to issue two checks for \$67,275.55 (lien) and \$12,000.00 (premium) payable to lien holder:

CHRISTIANA T C/F CE1/FIRSTTRUST
 PO Box 5021
 Philadelphia, PA 19111-0521

and that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel said lien from records and forward cancelled Tax Sale Certificate to redeeming party.

Information for Finance Officer

Tax Cert. Amount		3621.66
Subsequent Payment		48986.49
*Redemption Fee		72.43
*interest on certificate	0.00	
*interest on subsequent		14532.97
Other fees		62.00
Premium		12000.00
Total to lien holder		67275.55
*to be reported on 1099	14605.40	

2. 2022-28- Redemption of Certification of Sale No. 2020-002

3. 2022-29- Award Contract – Network and Internet Storage Upgrades

4. 2022-30- Stipend for 2021 Vacant and Abandoned Property Enforcement

WHEREAS, the Township of Hardwick had wished to pay an annual stipend for Vacant and Abandoned Property Enforcement in the amount of \$4,500; and **WHEREAS**, the 2021 Annual Stipend was inadvertently overlooked and was not authorized to be paid in 2021; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey authorizes a one time retro-active stipend in the amount of \$4,500 paid to George Boesze for 2021 Vacant and Abandoned Property Enforcement.

5. 2022-31- Award Contract – Municipal Building Security

WHEREAS, the Township of Hardwick had wished to pay an annual stipend for Vacant and Abandoned Property Enforcement in the amount of \$4,500; and **WHEREAS**, the 2021 Annual Stipend was inadvertently overlooked and was not authorized to be paid in 2021; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey authorizes a one time retro-active stipend in the amount of \$4,500 paid to George Boesze for 2021 Vacant and Abandoned Property Enforcement.

6. 2022-32- Hardwick Fair Share Housing

Whereas New Jersey municipalities and counties entered into settlement agreements in order to address Fair Share Housing obligations, and

Whereas the Township of Hardwick executed an agreement of settlement on September 20, 2017 and was issued a Judgment of Compliance and Repose on January 20, 2019, and

Whereas the agreement provides a durational adjustment for the provision of seventy-seven (77) low and moderate dwelling units but requires the rehabilitation of four (4) existing dwelling units before the expiration of the settlement, and

Whereas the judgment remains in effect until July 1, 2025, and

Whereas the Township of Hardwick has decided to utilize American Rescue Act funding to fully meet its rehabilitation obligation so as to ensure full compliance with the agreement of settlement, and

Whereas The Warren County Board of Commissioners entered into an agreement entitled “Warren County Housing Program Agreement” with the Township of Hardwick on August 19, 2018, attached hereto, and

Whereas said agreement requires Warren County to administer a Housing Rehabilitation Program on behalf of Hardwick Township so as to allow Hardwick to fulfill its obligation on a timely basis as memorialized in the Judgment of Compliance and Repose, and

Whereas time is quickly running out as we approach the July 1, 2025 deadline which will place Hardwick and all other municipalities entering into similar agreements with Warren County in a vulnerable position of non-compliance.

Tuesday, April 5, 2022, Township Committee Meeting Minutes

Now Therefore Be It Resolved by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick in the County of Warren on this 5th day of April, 2022 as follows:

1. The Warren County Board of Commissioners are called upon to place a high priority on re-instituting a Housing Program with adequate support and staffing
2. The Warren County Board of Commissioners are requested to coordinate announcements and advertising of the program with all participating municipalities so as to ensure that the public is aware of the rehabilitation program
3. The Warren County Board of Commissioners shall ensure staff managing the program provide timely reports to all participating municipalities
4. The Warren County Board of Commissioners shall assign one of its members to oversee the program with the stated goal of ensuring that compliance with the July 1, 2025 deadline is achieved in those municipalities that have fully funded their housing rehabilitation obligations

Be It Further Resolved those copies of that copies of this resolution and attached agreement shall be forwarded to all members the Warren County Board of Commissioners, and

Be it finally resolved that the Committee of the Township of Hardwick formally extends its appreciation to the Warren County Board of Commissioners for their anticipated support and assistance in prioritizing this matter so as to achieve full compliance with the aforementioned Judgment of Compliance and Repose.

7. 2022-33- 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

8. 2022-34 Resolution of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren and State of New Jersey Approving and Authorizing the Lease Agreement with Hardwick Township and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
9. 2022-35- Resolution of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren and State of New Jersey Approving and Authorizing the Sublease Agreement with Hardwick Township and Hardwick Historical Society.
Motion made by Lovell, second by Duffy and approved by roll call vote: Duffy—yes, Lovell—yes, Jacksic the April 5, 2022 Consent Agenda. French & Parrello Voucher is to be pulled from payment of vouchers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Cell tower lease bid-update-tabled

Cleaning Company

Motion made by Duffy, second Jacksic and approved by roll call vote: Duffy—yes, Lovell—yes, Jacksic—yes to approve the contract with Bendell Brother cleaning services.

Abcode Security -update

Clerk Shipps provided an update on the security system which will be completed this coming week.

Voice Over IP Service

Discussion took place on a grant that township was approved for and if the funds can be used for the voice over system. Committeeman Duffy will reach out to the state for a letter and it will be discussed at a later meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Paper Shredding Event

Will be held on April 30th from 1 pm- 4 pm at the municipal building

Motion made by Lovell, second by Duffy approved by roll call vote: Duffy—yes, Lovell—yes, Jacksic—yes to accept the quote from Absolute Shredding.

Spring Cleanup-discussed during department report

Certified Recycling Professional

Motion made by Lovell, second by Jacksic and approved by roll call vote: Duffy—yes, Jacksic—yes, Lovell—yes to approve the the quote for the 2022 recycling coordinator.

Shoulder Build-Out on Spring Valley Rd.

DPW Supervisor Campbell will reach out to the county to build a shoulder across from the church for safety reasons.

French & Parrello Meeting

Deputy Mayor Lovell stated that the future invoices will be separated in category.

Discussion took place on the Primrose Rd project which will be utilize the NJDOT State aid and the remaindered of the funds will come from the general improvement.

DPW Supervisor Campbell broke down the new voucher of French & Parrello and had many concerns. Deputy Mayor Lovell agreed to sit with Mr. Campbell and go over it line by line again.

Allocating Funds for American Recovery Plan

CFO Rolef prepared and sent a memorandum on what the American Rescue Plan funds are being used for which the committee felt was very informative.

Video Taping Township Meetings

An email received requesting for the township start video taping township meetings like Blairstown started. Consensus of the committee was not to videotape the meetings at this time.

Operation of Motorized Vehicles on Township Property (Riverview Drive)

Mayor Jacksic feels that the township maintains the property around the cell tower. Mayor also suggested that a letter be generated and sent to the entire street regarding motor vehicles riding on the township property. Deputy Mayor Lovell agreed to prepare the letter.

Job Description for Zoning/ Code Enforcement Officer

The committee was presented with the Job description for the Zoning/ Code Enforcement officer which will need to be approved by ordinance.

L.J. Brill Survey Proposal

Motion made by Lovell second by Duffy and approved by roll call vote Duffy—yes, Lovell—yes, Jacksic—yes for the survey proposal for the cul-de-sac acquisition on Paulinskill which will cost \$2000 and was already budgeted for.

Deputy Mayor Lovell spoke to the committee about having our tax maps updated and converted to AutoCAD in the future and to set aside funds. Clerk Shipp will have a professional service resolution prepared for the next meeting

CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY

No Attorney reports

TOWNSHIP CLERK

No Township Clerk Report

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committeeman Duffy- stated that Hardwick House sale may still be moving forward and will be on the May Land Use Board Meeting.

Deputy Mayor Lovell attended the Stillwater Fire Department Reorganization dinner which was a very nice event.

Mayor Jacksic read fire reports from March.

Mayor Jacksic stated that an AT&T cell phone tech was in the area and it was discovered that there was no cell service in the Sand Pond Area. Engineers are getting involved to see if a cell tower is needed.

CenturyLink is pushing the Brightnet which will be a new internet company for resident to choose from.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sharon Cooper Public Entitle advocates wanted to introduced herself to Mayor Jacksic.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Duffy, second by Lovell and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm