

**TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

OPENING ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jacksic at 7:00 pm those present were Committeeman Lovell and Deputy Mayor Meuse.

Also present were DPW Supervisor Campbell, Township Attorney Cohen, and Municipal Clerk Shipp.

Flag Salute.

Mayor Jacksic read the following 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 2023 meeting schedule was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public Comment

ORDINANCE

Public Hearing/ Adoption

2023-01 An Ordinance by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick Amending the Township of Hardwick Code of Ordinances to Repeal Chapter 18, Flood Damage Prevention to Adopt a new Chapter, Chapter 18, Entitled Floodplain management and Regulations; to Adopt Flood Hazard Maps; to Designated a Floodplain Administrator; and Providing for Severability and Effective Date.

Motion made by Lovell, second by Meuse and carried to open public comment.

Resident Bill Hughes asked if the Administrator will take part on Land Use Board C1 matters. Mayor Jacksic responded that the Administrator is the Township Engineer.

Motion made by Lovell, second by Meuse and carried to close public comment.

Committeeman Lovell commented that an amendment will be done at a later meeting for this ordinance to add administrator cost, escrow fees and amendments that the townships zoning officer has.

Motion made by Lovell, second by Meuse and approve by roll call vote: Lovell—yes, Meuse—yes and Jacksic—yes Ordinance 2023-01.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

DPW Supervisor Tom Campbell

Ridge & Valley wrote a letter to DPW thanking them for the nice work that was done on Butler road cul-de-sac.

DPW has been cutting brush and making room for storage at the DPW building.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. 2023-23 Various Compensated Appointments.

WHEREAS it is necessary to appoint various persons to fill the numerous positions of authority in the Township of Hardwick.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick that the following appointments effective January 1, 2023, unless noted otherwise, be made for the following offices:

Emergency Management
Coordinator

Nichole Meuse

2. 2023-24 Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Execute the interlocal services agreement between the Pollution Control Financing Authority of Warren County and the Township of Hardwick.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, do hereby authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to enter into the Interlocal Services Agreement Between the Pollution Control Financing Authority of Warren County and the Township of Hardwick,.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that they are authorized to sign and attest on behalf of the township.

3. 2023-25 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 Lovell, second by Meuse and approved by roll call vote: Lovell—yes, Meuse—yes, Jacksic—yes Consent Agenda items 2 &3.

Motion made by Lovell, second by Jacksic and approved by roll call vote: Lovell---yes, Meuse—abstain and Jacksic—yes Consent Agenda item 1.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Voice Over IP Service quotes

Clerk Shipps has an appointment for a second quote regarding the voice over IP.

Spring Valley Rd.

Permit was returned from New Jersey Department of Environmental (NJDEP) with corrections which the county will take care of.

Mallard Pond Rd.

There will be no action taken.

Completion of Projects and Disbursements under the ARPA program in 2023

Committeeman Lovell stated the money needs to be encumbered by the end of 2024 and the Committee needs to make a determination on where the unclaimed funds will go. Discussion took place on an obligation to Fair Share Housing Rehabilitation. Township Auditor Mooney suggested that the committee memorialize the obligation with a resolution.

Town Newsletter

Details are being finalized and the newsletter will be mailed out soon.

Companion Ordinance for Floodplain Management

Discussed in the 2023-01 Ordinance adoption. Attorney Cohen will have an amended ordinance prepared for the March meeting.

Steep Slopes Ordinance

Committeeman Lovell presented the committee with a steep slope ordinance for the committee to review and introduce at the March meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Business Registration Sample Ordinance

The committee was presented with a sample ordinance for review to be introduced at a later date.

Vacant and Abandoned Property Sample Ordinance

The committee was presented with a sample ordinance for review to be introduced at a later date.

2023 Budget Workshop Meetings

Committee agreed the workshop meeting be held on March 15, 2023, at 4 pm.

Proposed Reorganization of Committee Assignment System

Committeeman Lovell suggests creating a organizational chart. The organizational chart will help employees report to their Committee liaison. Committee will review and come up with a grouping of departments.

CORRESPONDENCE

Blairstown Elementary School Board of Education Meeting dates.

I 80 DWG Coalition email.

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY

Attorney Cohen reported on the cell tower bid litigation which will be in court February 8, 2023.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Committeeman Lovell was unable to attend the senior meeting, but hopes to attend next month. Committeeman Lovell would like to sit with Clerk Shipps and DPW Supervisor Campbell next week to go over the personnel manual.

Deputy Mayor Meuse stated that there have been no updates on the Land Use Board. Deputy Mayor Meuse reported that the ACO provided an end of year report.

Mayor Jacksic read the call outs for the Blairstown Fire department.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Web-writer for the Ridge View Echo asked how and when the towns newsletter will be sent out. Committeeman Lovell responded it will be sent via mail and be posted on the township website sometime in the next month.

Executive Session

Motion made by Lovell, second by Jacksic and carried to go into Executive Session at 7:48 pm. 2023-26 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. Contract Negotiations
 - B. Personnel
 - C. Attorney Advice
 - D. Litigation

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 Jacksic, second by Meuse and carried to close Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. There being nothing to report meeting was adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Jacksic second by Lovell and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Shipps, RMC