

**TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK**  
**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY December 6, 2023**

**OPENING ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jacksic at 7:00 pm. Present was Deputy Mayor Meuse. Also, present were DPW Supervisor Campbell, Chief Financial Officer Rolef, Township Attorney Igor Bykov and Municipal Clerk Shippis.

Committeeman Lovell was absent.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**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.”

**PRESENTATION**

Tom Caleca- Warren County Office of Aging.

Mr. Caleca is gerontologist which is an aging life specialist from the Office of Aging Advisory Council. He explained services that are available to the elderly, some of which are fee.

Examples included Adult protective Services, nurse’s aide, financial assistance, community senior centers and delivered meals.

Mr. Caleca left literature for the residents to read and thanked the committee for their time.

Beth Styler Barry – Paulina Dam Update.

Ms. Barry provided an update on the Paulina Dam. Permits for this project were issued at the end of October. Notching began on November 24<sup>th</sup> in which they went 60 feet across and 6 ft down. The water level was lowered a foot at a time. This part of the project ended on November 30. Construction will resume in July of 2024 and could run till September.

Mayor Jacksic is concerned of the number of trucks and the weight of the trucks going on a newly paved township road and asked if there was a way to use the sediment to replenish the bank along the road. Ms. Barry said she will talk with the engineers.

Ms. Barry thank the committee for their time.

## I-80/611 NJDOT/PennDOT DWG Update

Mrs. Mezzanotte stated that DEP Flood Hazard Permit that was discussed at a prior meeting has been delayed 120 days for threatening endangered species. Mrs. Mezzanotte also stated that the job has been shut down completely and all machinery has been moved which is concerning since it was an emergency operation.

Mrs. Mezzanotte addressed the email that the committee received from NJDOT stating that they would like to give the committee a briefing on the projects. Knowlton received a similar email, but it was only to discuss one project not two projects and there was no communication to Warren County. Warren County Commissioner reached out to NJDOT and there is now a virtual meet and greet for committee members and liaison to get updates and to ask any questions.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comment

### **DEPARTMENT REPORT**

DPW Supervisor Tom Campbell stated that the floors in the municipal building are completed. Teller windows for the main offices will be installed sometime in the next week. If the weather continues to stay nice DPW workers will sheetrock the holes and paint the main office. Mr. Campbell did get a quote of \$2,700 if DPW weather is not good.

Bob Wolff Fire tower reported on the fire calls. Mr. Wolf stated that Stillwater Hose Company will be having a free pancake breakfast on December 10<sup>th</sup> and Santa will be present. Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> is the Open House for Christmas at the Vass House. Mr. Wolff read the fire tower report.

### **MINUTES**

September 20, 2023, Executive Session Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2023, Public Session Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2023, Executive Session Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2023, Public Session Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and carried to approve the above minutes.

### **ORDINANCE**

#### **Public Hearing/ Adoption**

2023- 16- Ordinance of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Creating Chapter 33 Entitled “Improper Disposal of Waste” As Required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and carried to open public hearing.

No Comment.

Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and carried to close public hearing.

Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and approved by roll call vote: Lovell—absent, Meuse—yes, Jacksic—yes, Ordinance 2023-16.

**Public Hearing/ Adoption**

2023- 17- Ordinance of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Creating Chapter 34 Entitled “Yard Waste Collection Program” As Required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and carried to open public hearing.

No Comment.

Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and carried to close public hearing.

Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and approved by roll call vote: Lovell—absent, Meuse—yes, Jacksic—yes, Ordinance 2023-17.

**Public Hearing/ Adoption**

2023- 18- Ordinance of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Creating Chapter 35 Entitled “Private Storm Drain Inlet Retrofitting” As Required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and carried to open public hearing.

No Comment.

Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and carried to close public hearing.

Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and approved by roll call vote: Lovell—absent, Meuse—yes, Jacksic—yes, Ordinance 2023-18.

**Public Hearing/ Adoption**

2023- 19- Ordinance of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Creating Chapter 36 Entitled “Illicit Connection” As Required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and carried to open public hearing.

No Comment.

Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and carried to close public hearing.

Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and approved by roll call vote: Lovell—absent, Meuse—yes, Jacksic—yes, Ordinance 2023-19.

### **Public Hearing/ Adoption**

2023- 20- Ordinance of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Creating Chapter 37 Entitled “Privately-Owned Salt Storage” As Required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and carried to open public hearing.

No Comment.

Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and carried to close public hearing.

Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and approved by roll call vote: Lovell—absent, Meuse—yes, Jacksic—yes, Ordinance 2023-20.

### **Introduction**

2023-21- Ordinance of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, Amending and Supplementing Sections 5-1.7 “Animal Control Officer” of the Township Code to Allow the Township to Enter into Contract(s) with Other Municipalities Pursuant to Shared Service Agreements.

Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and carried to introduce Ordinance 2023-21.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. 2023-68-Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriations NJSA 40A:4-87 (Solid Waste Administration-Clean Communities)
2. 2023-69- Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriations NJSA 40A:4-87 (Water Resources Planning Management-Stormwater Assistance Grant)
3. 2023-70- Resolution of 2022 Transfer of Funds
4. 2023-71 Public Alliance Insurance Coverage Fund Resolution for Renewal of Membership.
5. 2023-72 Approving Payment of Vouchers

**Agenda item #3 was pulled from the Consent Agenda.**

**Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and approved by roll call vote: Lovell—absent, Meuse—yes, Jacksic—yes December 6, 2023, Consent Agenda.**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Spring Valley Rd.-** no update

**RAVE**

Deputy Mayor Meuse said that RAVE is up and running and will be sending out a test call within the week.

**ACO Shared Service-**discuss during ordinance.

**Voiceover**

Phones are installed waiting for numbers to be ported and Deputy Mayor Meuse to enter in extensions.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Tree Removal Sample Ordinance** -tabled.

**2024 Meeting Schedule**

Clerk Shipps asked what time the reorganization meeting will be on January 2, 2024. The committee discussed 5 pm or 6 pm TBD depending on Senator Steinhardt.

Clerk Shipps stated would like to keep the schedule the same with the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting a month. Changing the June meeting to a different date due to a holiday. Committee agreed on June 12, 2024.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

JCP&L letter date November 9, 2023.

RE: JCP&L Cycle Maintenance Trimming-Blairstown Substation

**TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY**

Attorney Bykov prepared a memo for the committee to read on a cannabis inquiry that they received and asked the committee to review and let him know if there are any questions.

**TOWNSHIP CLERK**

No report

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Deputy Mayor Meuse stated that DPW will need new phones and answering machine.

Deputy Mayor Meuse stated that the Mayor and her had open conversation with Planet Network and getting internet connection in the township.

Mayor Jacksic reported that they also met with Optimum at the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

Mayor Jacksic will be meeting with Senator O'Scallon on a potential third cell tower near camp No bee Boscoe.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public comment

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Meuse, second by Jacksic and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kristin Shipps, RMC