

**TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025**

OPENING ROLL CALL:

Mayor Jacksic called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Deputy Mayor Meuse and Committeeman Lovell were present. CFO Christine Rolef, DPW Supervisor Campbell, Township Attorney Wade Baldwin, Tax Assessor Rich Motyka, and Municipal Clerk Shipps were also present.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT:

"Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Law. " 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 New Jersey Herald and The Express Times, following the Township's Annual Reorganization Meeting, at which the 2025 meeting schedule was adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by Lovell, seconded by Meuse, and carried to go into Executive Session at 6:32 pm.

2025-35- Resolution Authorizing Executive Session for Contract Negotiations.

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 Discussion

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 Meuse, seconded by Lovell, and carried to go out of Executive Session at 6:58 pm.

Clerk Shipps stated that one matter was discussed in an executive session regarding contractual matters; no action will be taken at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tara Mezzanotte (NJ DOT PennDOT liaison for I-80/Route 611) reported on three separate Matters.

1. Explore Act Project (Gateway Community Pilot Program).

Status: Support package now complete

- New Support Added:
 - Monroe County Board of Commissioners sent a support letter to the Department of the Interior.

- Northampton County passed a resolution supporting Warren County's request.
- Northampton County Executive Lamont McClure sent a support letter to the Department of the Interior.
- Congressman Ryan McKenzie sent a support letter to the Department of the Interior.
- Current Status: All three counties and municipal support secured.
- Pending: Congressman Bresnahan's support (in consideration queue).
- Next Step: Completed package email to be sent Friday.

2. "Fix the S Curve" Resolution 2025-36.

Purpose: Request NJTPA to include the S-Curve safety study in the long-range transportation plan.

Background:

- NJDOT's current approach: \$5M rockfall mitigation project (now approaching \$100M) plus \$100M retaining wall replacement.
- Community Response: 16 resolutions from multiple municipalities across three counties, hundreds of traveler letters, two formal problem statements from Knowlton Township.
- NJDOT has deflected/denied safety issue requests.

Resolution Action:

- Reaffirms three previous resolutions.
- Requests NJTPA conduct a comprehensive safety study.
- Timing aligned with long-range transportation plan update (draft due July).
- Similar resolutions: Knowlton (passed), Warren County (scheduled), Blairstown (submitted).
- Congressman Kane is aware and supportive.
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3. I-80 Delaware Water Gap Project Review.

Action: Commissioner Director Sarnoski plans to write a letter to the US DOT Secretary requesting project scrutiny.

- Precedent: Federal Rail Authority successfully scaled back "sawtooth bridge" Gateway project.
- Rationale: Current project not yet at final design/permit stage, making scaling back feasible.
- Goal: Potentially redirect resources toward the requested safety study.

2025-36- Resolution Reaffirming Fix the S-Curve Resolutions, Requesting the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) Include a Fix the S-Curve Study in the Long-Range Transportation Plan, and Soliciting Support.

WHEREAS, in 2009, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) initiated plans to mitigate rockfall hazards along a portion of the I-80 S-Curve (milepost 1.0 to 1.5) in the Knowlton-Hardwick Township section of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

The original project was estimated at \$4.5 million with a projected duration of approximately nine months; and

WHEREAS the estimated cost of projects in this same section has since ballooned to \$178.6 million, including the \$82.4 million I-80 Westbound Rockfall Mitigation Project (DBN#09545) and the \$92.2 million I-80 Eastbound Retaining Wall Replacement Project (DBN#22360). These projects are expected to span over seven years, yet fail to address longstanding, well-known substandard safety hazards such as sharp curve radii, limited horizontal sight distance, lack of shoulders, short acceleration and deceleration lanes, and seven exit and entrance ramps within a sharp half-mile S-Curve, all contributing to the area's high crash rate; and

WHEREAS this section of highway experienced two fatalities in 2023. The I-80 S-

Curve--- between Mileposts 0.98 and 1.53-has no shoulders and reports a crash rate of 2.65 crashes per million vehicle miles traveled, compared to the I-80 statewide average of 1.22. It is the only section of I-80 in New Jersey with just two lanes and no shoulders, as documented in the NJDOT 2022 Summary of Crash Rates on State and Interstate Highways in Route and Milepost Order (pages 123-127) and the 2022 Crash Rates for State and Interstate Highways by Route (page 2); and

WHEREAS, as the scope and cost of NJDOT's Rockfall Mitigation projects expanded, public concern over the impacts of prolonged construction and lack of comprehensive safety mitigation grew. Local communities began urging NJDOT and NJTPA to initiate a broader "Fix the S-Curve Study", a study to address all safety, mobility, and congestion issues between I-80 Exit 4 (Columbia) and the Delaware Water Gap Bridge. The goal: to develop a comprehensive, multi-phase, cost-effective plan that prioritizes mitigation of the most critical issues; and

WHEREAS, this request is backed by:

- Two formal NJDOT Problem Statement Requests submitted by Knowlton Township in 2017 and 2020;
- Hundreds of letters from concerned travelers;
- Sixteen resolutions adopted by two counties and nine municipalities across three counties in New Jersey and Pennsylvania that speak to supporting a Fix The S-Curve Study including:
 - **September 2020 - Hardwick Township, NJ - #2020-35** Fix The S-Curve Route 80 Between Mile Post 0.0 to 1.5 In Knowlton and Hardwick Townships
 - **September 2020-Knowlton Township, NJ -#2020-113** Resolution Memorializing the July 2020 NJDOT FIX THE S-Curve Transportation Problem Statement Request
 - **September 2020 - Warren County, NJ - #372-20** Resolution to Support Knowlton Township's Submission of the S-Curve Safety, Mobility, and Congestion Transportation Problem Statement for I-80 to NJDOT and Supporting Congressman Gottheimer's June 2019 Request for a Speed Study
 - **October 2020 - Pen Argyl Borough, PA - #2020-7** Resolution Supporting the NJDOT Fix-The S-Curve Problem Statement Request
 - **October 2020 - Upper Mount Bethel Township, PA- #2020-16** Resolution Supporting the NJDOT Fix-The S-Curve Problem Statement Request
 - **October 2020 - Delaware Water Gap Borough, PA- #2020-009** Resolution Supporting the NJDOT Fix-The S-Curve Problem Statement Request
 - **November 2020 - Plainfield Township, PA- #2020-18** Resolution Supporting the NJDOT Fix-The S-Curve Problem Statement Request
 - **November 2020 - Portland Borough, PA - #2020-10** Resolution Supporting the NJDOT Fix-The S-Curve Problem Statement Request
 - **November 2020 - Lower Mount Bethel Township, PA - #2020-12** Resolution Supporting the NJDOT Fix-The S-Curve Problem Statement Request
 - **December 2020-Knowlton Township, NJ - #2020-16** Resolution Amending the I-80 'S- Curves' Problem Statement Submitted to NJDOT (Added Support

Resolutions)

- o **September 2021 - Warren County, NJ - #420-21** Resolution to Request NJDOT Initiate a Problem Statement to Study the Safety, Mobility, and Congestion Issues on I-80 From Exit 4 Columbia to the Delaware Water Gap Bridge
- o **February 2022 - Northampton County, PA - #29-2022** Resolution Supporting A Request for a Study of Interstate 80 in Warren County, NJ that impacts Northampton County, PA
- o **August 2023 - Hardwick Township, NJ - #2023-51** Resolution Requesting NJTPA and NJDOT Take Three Actions Related To \$178.6M NJDOT Delaware Water Gap Projects:
\$82.4M I-80 WB Rockfall Mitigation Project DBN#09545 and \$92.2M I-80 EB Retaining Wall Replacement Project DBN#22360, That Do Not Mitigate Well Known Existing Design Safety Hazards
- o **September 2023 - Knowlton Township, NJ - #2023-67** Resolution Requesting NJTPA and NJDOT Take Three Actions Related To \$178.6M NJDOT Delaware Water Gap Projects: \$82.4M I-80 WB Rockfall Mitigation Project DBN#09545 and \$92.2M I-80 EB Retaining Wall Replacement Project DBN#22360, That Do Not Mitigate Well Known Existing Design Safety Hazards
- o **February 2024 - Hardwick Township, NJ - #2024-27** Resolution Citing Safety Issues Within The I-80 / 611 Delaware Water Gap Corridor, Requesting Agencies Make Immediate Short-Term I-80 S-Curve Area Safety Improvements and Immediately Initiate The Problem Statement/Study Requested In 2020
- o **March 2024 - Knowlton Township, NJ - #2024-40** Resolution Citing Safety Issues Within The I-80 / 611 Delaware Water Gap Corridor, Requesting Agencies Make Immediate Short-Term I-80 S-Curve Area Safety Improvements and Immediately Initiate The Problem Statement/Study Requested In 2020
- o **May 2024 - Smithfield Township, PA- #554** Resolution Supporting Knowlton and Hardwick Township Resolutions Regarding The I-80/SR 611 Delaware Water Gap Corridor

WHEREAS, despite this broad and longstanding advocacy, NJDOT has denied or deflected requests for a comprehensive study, citing conflicting reasons. In 2021, the Knowlton Township Engineer was informed of a policy change allegedly preventing NJDOT from considering externally submitted Problem Statements. However, in 2023, in response to comments on the draft 2024-2027 NJTPA Transportation Improvement Program, NJDOT stated: "There is an established process for an outside agency, official or resident to request transportation issues be considered for Problem Statement submission. An agency, official or resident can also contact their local MPO to initiate this process."

(Sources: pages 518 and 524 of the 2025 NJTPA TIP draft:

[https://www.nj12a.com/NJTPA/media/Documents/Projects-Programs/Transportation_Q11_Improvement-Program-\(TIP\)/Current-TIP/NJTPA_FINAL_FY2024-2027_TIP.pdf](https://www.nj12a.com/NJTPA/media/Documents/Projects-Programs/Transportation_Q11_Improvement-Program-(TIP)/Current-TIP/NJTPA_FINAL_FY2024-2027_TIP.pdf)

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of Hardwick reaffirms the following resolutions noted above:

- September 2020 - Hardwick Township, NJ - #2020-35
- August 2023 - Hardwick Township, NJ - #2023-51
- February 2024 - Hardwick Township, NJ - #2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee of Hardwick formally requests the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) include a study in its Long Range Transportation Plan to examine all safety, mobility, and congestion issues along I-80 from Exit 4 (Columbia) to the Delaware Water Gap Bridge. This study should incorporate:

- Previous Problem Statement submissions;
- Rockfall mitigation efforts;
- Structural condition of the I-80 EB S-Curve retaining wall;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hardwick Township Committee urges neighboring municipalities and counties-whose emergency services provide mutual aid or otherwise support this corridor-as well as state and federal legislators for business owners, industries and travelers who rely on this section of I-80, to submit resolutions or letters of support to NJTPA at: "Hayes, Melissa" mhayes@njtpa.org.

Motion made by Lovell, seconded by Meuse, and carried to approve resolution 2025-36.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

DPW Supervisor Tom Campbell stated that the cleanup week was completed successfully, although the volume was lower than in previous years.

Dave Quick has resigned from the road department. DPW Supervisor Campbell and Clerk Shippis created a job posting, which was distributed to the committee for approval.

The job posting will be released to social media platforms and community networks.

Candidates are directed to contact DPW directly for applications and initial screening.

Bob Wolff read the call outs for the Stillwater Fire Department and reported on active Forest Fires in New Jersey.

MINUTES:

April 16, 2025, Executive Session Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2025, Public Session Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Lovell, seconded by Meuse, and carried to approve the above minutes.

ORDINANCE:

Public Hearing/ Adoption:

2025-05 Ordinance of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, Repealing and Replacing Section 2-13 Entitled “Road Department” of Chapter 2-Administration to Amend the Position Comprising the Township Road Department.

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey wishes to repeal and replace Section 2-13 entitled “Road Department” concerning the creation of positions within the department of public works to amend the positions listed therein that comprise the Township’s Road Department; and

WHEREAS, presently, the Township’s Road Department consists of four positions, without accounting for summer and/or seasonal help, nor does the present Section address the chain of command in the Department; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee believes that the reconfiguration of Section 2-13 of the Hardwick Township Code is in the best interest of the Township, its employees, and its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that Section 2-13 entitled “Road Department” of Chapter 2 – Administration – of the Hardwick Township Code is hereby deleted in its entirety and is replaced as follows:

SECTION I:

Section 2-13 entitled “Road Department” of Chapter 2 – Administration – of the Hardwick Township Code is hereby deleted in its entirety and is replaced as follows:

§ 2-13. ROAD DEPARTMENT.

- a. The Township Road Department, subject to the control of the Township Committee or its duly authorized designee, shall take charge of and be responsible for the preservation,

operation and maintenance of all public streets, roads, public buildings, vehicles, equipment and such other public facilities, as well as the cutting and clearing of brush, mowing of grass, removal of snow, and any other duties that may be assigned.

- b. The Township Committee may, by resolution, make rules and regulations necessary for the proper regulation of the Road Department and these shall be known as the “Rules and Regulations Governing the Road Department” and shall be binding on each employee of the Department.
- c. Creation of Positions. There are hereby created the following positions within the Department of Public Works:

- 1. Certified Public Works Manager (CPWM) – Under the direction of the Township Committee, performs administrative and supervisory duties in planning and organizing the installation, maintenance, and repair of various public works facilities; does other related duties as required. A Certified Public Works Manager certificate, issued by the State of New Jersey, is required to be eligible for this position. Such certification, if not previously obtained, shall be obtained within two (2) years from the date of accepting the position with the Township.

The Certified Public Works Manager shall be responsible for supervising the staff and/or volunteers assigned to the Road Department and shall be responsible for assigning duties and training, as well as evaluating and recommending both promotions and discipline.

The Certified Public Works Manager shall coordinate with other department heads and have direct access to legal counsel, the municipal engineer, and insurance broker. The Certified Public Works Manager shall further coordinate with State and County authorities as needed and meet and participate with his/her counterparts in other municipalities. CPWM shall be authorized to communicate and meet with the general public as representative of Hardwick and shall, at all times, conduct themselves in the highest professional manner.

The Certified Public Works Manager shall also assist in the preparation of budgets and monitor departmental expenditures so as to remain within the confines of the Municipal budget. The Certified Public Works Manager shall also assist the Township Engineer in preparation of grants including the New Jersey Department of Transportation’s annual discretionary grants for road reconstruction and overlays.

The Certified Public Works Manager shall assist in developing specifications, negotiating with contractors and/or vendors, prepare purchase orders with the

assistance of the Chief Financial Officer and shall direct vendor/contractor activities in Hardwick.

2. Senior Equipment Operator/Laborer – Under direction of Certified Public Works Manager, operates one or more types of gasoline or diesel powered equipment to perform the more complex and demanding assignments to fine grade slopes, inclines, ramps, curves, and excavations by scrapping, scooping, rolling, lifting, or leveling on all types of terrain; works to fine specifications from grade stakes set by survey party; inspects machinery daily and reports unsafe conditions, services, and makes minor emergency repairs to equipment in garage or field; may occasionally perform a variety of manual or unskilled tasks; does other related duties, as required. Senior Equipment Operator/Laborer shall be in charge of the Township's Road Department in the absence of the Certified Public Works Manager.

Senior Equipment Operator/Laborer must hold and maintain an active Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Senior Equipment Operator/Laborer shall be proficient in the operation of mowers, tractors, front end loaders, backhoes, dump trucks, chainsaws, chippers, weed cutters, and similar equipment owned or leased by the Road Department in support of municipal operations.

3. Equipment Operator/Laborer – Under the direction of the Certified Public Works manager operates one or more types of gasoline or diesel powered equipment to perform the more complex and demanding assignments to fine grade slopes, inclines, ramps, curves, and excavations by scrapping, scooping, rolling, lifting, or leveling on all types of terrain; works to fine specifications from grade stakes set by survey party; inspects machinery daily and reports unsafe conditions; services and makes minor repairs to equipment in the garage or field; may occasionally perform a variety of manual or unskilled tasks; does other related duties as required.

In the absence of the Certified Public Works Manager, the Equipment Operator/Laborer shall take direction from the Senior Equipment Operator/Laborer.

Equipment Operator/Laborer must hold and maintain an active Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Equipment Operator/Laborer shall be proficient in the operation of mowers, tractors, front end loaders, backhoes, dump trucks, chainsaws, chippers, weed cutters, and similar equipment owned or leased by the Road Department in support of municipal operations.

4. Emergency Truck Driver – under the direction Certified Public Works Manager, shall perform duties assigned by the Public Works Manager on an emergent basis.

5. Seasonal Laborer – shall perform the duties assigned by Certified Public Works Manager during a seasonal/temporary assignment.

d. General powers and responsibilities. Additional duties of the Certified Public Works Manager, Senior Equipment Operator/Laborer, Equipment Operator/Laborer, Emergency Truck Driver, and Seasonal Laborer shall be set by the Township Committee.

SECTION II: Repealer.

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

SECTION III: Severability.

If any article, section, subsection, paragraphs, phrase or sentence is, for any reason, inconsistent with the Code of the Township of Hardwick, or is held to be unconstitutional or invalid, said article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence shall be deemed severable.

SECTION IV: Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

Motion made by Lovell, seconded by Meuse, to open the public hearing.

No comment from the public.

Motion made by Lovell, seconded by Meuse, to close public hearing.

Motion made by Lovell, seconded by Meuse, and approved by roll call vote: Lovell—yes, Meuse—yes, Jacksic—yes, for the adoption of Ordinance 2025-05.

Introduction:

2025-06 Ordinance of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Amending and Supplementing the Township's Salary Ordinance to Supplement the Road Department Personnel.

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey adopted Ordinance No. 2023-12, fixing the salaries and wage ranges of the officials, appointees and employees of Hardwick Township; and

WHEREAS, presently, the above-cited Ordinance accounts for four positions in the Road Department; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee wishes to amend Section 2-13 – Road Department – of the Township Code by amending the provisions related to the Department of Public Works to incorporate the position of Senior Equipment Operator/Laborer and Seasonal Laborer, as well as to amend the title of Director of Public Works to Certified Public Works Manager; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee further wishes to amend certain salary ranges of the Department of Public Works employees, and the Qualified Purchasing Agent; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee believes that such amendment is in the best interest of the Township, its personnel, and the Township residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the Township's Salary Ordinance be amended and supplemented as follows:

SECTION I:

ADMINISTRATION	AMOUNT	PER	PAYABLE
Township Committee Members	3,300.00-5,000.00	Year	Quarterly
Township Clerk/Registrar	45,000.00-60,000.00	Interlocal Agreement	
Office Assistant (P/T)	13.00-22.00	Hour	Bi-Weekly
Recreation	1,000.00-4,000.00	Year	End of Year
Grants Coordinator	750.00-2,500.00	Year	Monthly

FINANCE

Chief Financial Officer	17,000.00-28,000.00	Year	Monthly
Tax Assessor	20,000.00-28,000.00	Interlocal Agreement	
Tax Collector	14,000.00-23,000.00	Interlocal Agreement	
Qualified Purchasing Agent	2,500.00-3,500.00	Year	Monthly

LAND USE

Board Secretary	10,000.00-20,000.00	Year	Quarterly
Extra Meeting Above 12	85.00-125.00	Year	Quarterly
Code Enforcement Official	13,000.00-23,000.00	Year	Monthly

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Certified Public Works Manager	95,000.00-115,000.00	Year	Bi-Weekly
Senior Equipment Operator/Laborer	21.00-40.00	Hour	Bi-Weekly
Equipment Operator/Laborer	21.00-35.00	Hour	Bi-Weekly
Emergency Truck Driver	21.00-30.00	Hour	Bi-Weekly
Seasonal Laborer	15.50-25.00	Hour	Bi-Weekly

CLEAN COMMUNITIES

Recycling Coordinator	250.00-500.00	Year	Quarterly
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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Coordinator	2,500.00-5,000.00	Year	Quarterly
911 Coordinator	1,000.00-3,500.00	Year	Quarterly

SECTION II: Repealer.

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

SECTION III: Severability.

If any article, section, subsection, paragraphs, phrase or sentence is, for any reason, inconsistent with the Code of the Township of Hardwick, or is held to be unconstitutional or invalid, said article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence shall be deemed severable.

SECTION IV: Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

Motion made by Lovell, seconded by Meuse, and carried to introduce ordinance 2025-06.

Consent Agenda:

1. 2025-36- Resolution Reaffirming Fix the S-Curve Resolutions, Requesting the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) Include a Fix the S-Curve Study in the Long-Range Transportation Plan, and Soliciting Support – Approved in public comment.
2. 2025-37- Approving Vouchers and Claims

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, seconded by Meuse, and approved by roll call vote: Lovell yes, Meuse—yes, Jacksic—yes approving resolution 2025-37.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Website Update -No update.

Township Fee Schedule- Clerk Shipps reported that fees have been forwarded to the township attorney, and he will prepare an ordinance for introduction at a later meeting.

State Development and Redevelopment Plan Cross-Acceptance Process 2024 Cross-Acceptance Manual-Deputy Mayor Meuse reported that she will submit the changes suggested by Committeeman Lovell to the county.

Vass Farmstead Lease Update-Committeeman Lovell stated that the township is awaiting final documents from the state.

Municipal Phone Lines-Clerk Shipps stated that Bright speed has been contacted to disconnect phone lines in the municipal building.

Alinda Lodge Meeting-No update.

Dedication Ceremony for the Reopening of Spring Valley Road-No dedication ceremony is planned. Spring Valley Road is now open.

Veterinary Agreements-Clerk Shipps is directed to contact Newton Veterinary and North Warren Animal Hospital with an agreement for services not to exceed \$500.

Bear Proof Garbage Can Pilot-Over 200 Bear Proof Garbage Cans were ordered. Clerk Shipps is just waiting to hear what the next steps will be from the state.

NEW BUSINESS:

Funding the Master Plan Project and the General Property Reevaluation Project.

Committeeman Lovell stated that the township's last reevaluation was conducted in 2001, making the current assessment data approximately 24 years old. The previous assessor's records were inadequate, as the assessor worked from home and proper documentation was not transferred upon his passing.

Tax Assessor Rich Motyka provided a proposal from the only company that will do reevaluation in northern New Jersey. The reevaluation will require physical inspection, inventory, and photography of all structures. The completion time is approximately 18 months from the start. Discussion took place regarding funding, during which CFO Rolef explained that the State of New Jersey allows deferred charges for revaluations:

- Five-year payment plan authorized.
- \$32,000 annual budget allocation for five years beginning in 2026.
- Emergency appropriation required for 2025 to initiate the project.

Tax Assessor Motyka and CFO Rolef will obtain sample contracts from other townships for reference and review at the next meeting.

A discussion took place regarding the distribution of newsletters to residents, aimed at educating them in the reevaluation process.

A proposal was presented to the committee for re-examination of the Master Plan.

Finance for this project is a similar proposal to the reevaluation. The proposal will be reviewed by the attorney for approval at a later meeting.

Resignation of DPW Employee David Quick and hiring of new DPW employee.

Discussed occurred on both matters during the department report.

Contribution to Rotary for 4th of July fireworks

Motion made by Lovell, seconded by Meuse, and approved by roll call vote: Lovell—yes, Meuse—yes, Jacksic—yes for Hardwick Township to contribute \$1000 to the Blairstown Rotary for the 4th of July fireworks.

CORRESPONDENCE:

April 29, 2025, Madeline Dubuche, NJDOT.

Subject: New Traffic Impact Notice.

May 1, 2025, Kailene Pierson, Knowlton Township.

Subject: I-80 Exit 4 Traffic Study Response & Request for “Fix the S-Curve” to Be in NJTPA Long Rand Plan.

May 3, 2025, Edward O’Donnell, Jersey Shore Coastal Coalition.

Subject: JSCC Letter to Legislators on EMO Package.

May 7, 2025, Lisa Hibbs, Concord Engineering.

Subject: SWAEC- Updated Procedures/ Documents for GEA Program and Auction.

May 12, 2025, Joesph Mancini, Mayor of the Township of Long Beach.

Subject: Opposition to NJPACT/ Real Act.

May 16, 2025, Jacquelin Galka New Jersey Board of Public Works.

Subject: Staff Comments Re: GEA Sussex Warren SWAEC E025050292.

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY:

No report.

TOWNSHIP CLERK:

Clerk Shipps announced that Lisa Hibbs from Concord Energy will be at the next meeting.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committeeman Lovell made a motion to promote Dan Harmon to Senior Equipment Operator Laborer. The appointment will take effect on the next payroll with a \$1.50 increase. Motion was seconded by Meuse and approved by roll call vote: Lovell—yes, Meuse—yes, Jacksic—yes,

Committeeman Lovell stated that there was a successful wedding event at the Vass Homestead.

Deputy Mayor Meuse commented on the loss of a resident, Jay Mena, who was a huge pillar not only of Hardwick Township but also of the surrounding townships. Clerk Shipps will arrange for flowers to be sent to the services that will be held in memory of Jay.

Mayor Jacksic reported that Planet Network states that they will have Hardwick township 100% covered within the month.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bob Wolff thanked the DPW for cutting the line of sight from roadway corners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by Meuse, seconded by Jacksic, and carried to go into Executive Session at 7:45 pm.

2025-38- Resolution Authorizing Executive Session for

- Compensation

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:

3. The public shall be excluded from that portion of this meeting.
4. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - B. Personnel.

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 Meuse, seconded by Lovell, and carried to go out of Executive Session at 8:25 pm.

Township Attorney Baldwin stated that one matter was discussed in an executive session regarding benefit leave payout no action will be taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Lovell made a motion, seconded by Meuse nd carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kristin Shipps, RMC