

**TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY JULY 17, 2024**

**OPENING ROLL CALL:**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jacksic at 6:00 pm. Present was Deputy Mayor Meuse Committeeman Lovell, Also, present were DPW Supervisor Campbell, Chief Financial Officer Rolef, Township Attorney Igor Bykov, and Municipal Clerk Shipps.

**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 time the 2024 meeting schedule was adopted.”.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion made by Meuse, second by Lovell and carried to go into Executive Session at 6:05 pm.

2024-55 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

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 Lovell, second by Meuse and carried to come out of Executive Session at 6:49 pm. Township Attorney Bykov stated that the Hardwick Township Committee emerged from executive session at 6:49 pm where three matters were discussed, personnel, contract negotiations and litigation. Official action was taken on the following motions.

Motion made by Lovell, second by Meuse and carried for the township committee to accept the

amended cell tower lease and authorizing the mayor and clerk to sign the necessary documents.

Motion made by Meuse, second by Lovell and approved by roll call vote; Lovell-yes, Meuse-yes, Jacksic-yes to accept the settlement offer from the Anderson matter and to authorize the attorney to facilitate the approved settlement.

**PRESENTATION-**

Beth Styler Barry-The Nature Conservancy- Paulina Dam Update.

Ms. Styler Barry stated that work is progressing and has visited every house on Ward Road to provide those residents with updates and timelines on the Paulina dam removal as well as providing them with contact information if they should have any questions or issues.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comment

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

DPW Supervisor Campbell stated that there had been several ash trees that had come down over the past few weeks and that the DPW had removed a lot of brush along Maple Lane. DPW Campbell stated he had a question regarding the roof contract and prevailing wages. Township Attorney Bykov agreed to review the contract.

CFO Rolef stated that the tax rate was received with taxes being mailed out by Monday and the tax due date will be August 1<sup>st</sup> with an extension to August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**MINUTES:**

May 15, 2024, Executive Session Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2024, Public Session Meeting Minutes

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

**ORDINANCE:**

**Public Hearing/ Adoption**

2024-01-Ordinance of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Amending and Supplementing Section 13-90A Entitled “Application Requirements” of Chapter 13- Land Development-to Establish a Procedure by which a Party can Submit a Zoning Map Change Request.

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick has been made aware that no procedure or policy exists pertaining to a Zone Change request made by a party, seeking a change and/or an amendment to the Township’s Zoning Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee believes that by establishing such procedure, the Township staff and professionals will be better equipped to accommodate such a request; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee further believes that such amendment is in the best interest of the Township 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 13-90A entitled “Fees Enumerated” of Chapter 13 – Land Development –to establish a procedure instructing a party, seeking a change and/or an amendment to the Township’s Zoning Ordinance, on how to make a Zone Change request as follows:

**SECTION I:**

Additions to this Section shall be delineated by underlined text thusly.

**§ 13-81. Application Requirements.**

a. [. . .]

f. Request to Amend Zoning Map. Any party requesting a zone change shall do so on a Zone Change Request form available at the Township Clerk's office, accompanied by an application fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00), as well as a one-thousand-dollar (\$1,000.00) escrow fee. Any such request shall be submitted to the Township Clerk. Attached to the request shall be an appropriate scaled map identifying the area to be rezoned in specific relation to the neighborhood area and in relation to the entire Township. Zone boundary lines shall be provided in an accurately and clearly drawn format for an area within 1,500 feet of the proposed zone change area.

**SECTION II. Repealer.**

Any article, section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or other provision of the Code of the Township of Hardwick inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

**SECTION III. Severability.**

The various parts, sections, and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section, or clause is adjudged to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction the remainder of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION IV. Effective Date.**

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

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

**No public comment.**

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

**Motion made by Lovell, second by Meuse and approved by roll call vote: Lovell—yes, Meuse—yes, Jacksic—yes to adopt Ordinance 2024-01.**

**Public Hearing/ Adoption-**

2024-04-Capitol Ordinance- Purchase of DPW Equipment

BE IT ORDAINED the Township Committee of the Township of HARDWICK, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, that the following be properly authorized:

Various Equipment for the Department of Public Works Equipment

\$240,000.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the financing for the above is as follows:

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 209,000.00
GENERAL CAPITAL – FUND BALANCE	\$ 31,000.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the period of usefulness of the improvements is in excess of the five (5) year statutory requirement, and that no debt shall be incurred by the Township for this improvement authorization.

The capital budget conforms with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolution promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full details of the Capital Budget and Capital Program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services as on file with the Municipal Clerk is available for public inspection.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication in accordance with the law.

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

**No public comment.**

**Motion made by Lovell, second by Meuse and carried to close public hearing**

**Motion made by Lovell, second by Meuse and approved by roll call vote: Lovell—yes,  
Meuse—yes, Jacksic –yes to adopt Ordinance 2024-02.**

**Introduction:**

2024-05 Ordinance of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, Creating Chapter 40 Entitled “Tree Removal and Replacement” Establishing Certain Rules and Regulations Related to the Removal and Replacement of Certain Qualifying Trees, and Required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Hardwick is required by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to administer certain stormwater pollution prevention requirements within the Township, and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:14A. on December 22, 2022 issued a New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) Permit to the Township of Hardwick as an operator of a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) within the State, and

**WHEREAS**, said NJPDES Permit is a renewal of the Township’s previous NJPDES permit with said new permit having an effective date of January 1, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Hardwick under said new permit is required to adopt certain ordinances to protect water resources within the Township.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that Chapter 40, entitled “Tree Removal and Replacement” establishing certain rules and regulations related to the removal and replacement of certain qualifying trees, as required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, be created as follows:

**SECTION I:**

**Chapter 40. Tree Removal-Replacement Ordinance**

**§ 40-1. Purpose:**

An ordinance to establish requirements for tree removal and replacement in **Township of Hardwick** to reduce soil erosion and pollutant runoff, promote infiltration of rainwater into the soil, and protect the environment, public health, safety, and welfare.

**§ 40-2. Definitions:**

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meanings stated herein unless their use in the text of this ordinance clearly demonstrates a different meaning. When consistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used in the plural number include the singular number, and words used in the singular number include the plural number. The use of the word "shall" means the requirement is always mandatory and not merely directory.

A. “Applicant” means any “person”, as defined below, who applies for approval to remove trees regulated under this ordinance.

B. “Critical Root Radius (CRR)” – means the zone around the base of a tree where the majority of the root system is found. This zone is calculated by multiplying the diameter at breast height (DBH) of the tree by 1.5 feet. For example: a tree with a 6” DBH would have a CRR = 6”x1.5’ = 9’.

C. “Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)” means the diameter of the trunk of a mature tree generally measured at a point four and a half feet above ground level from the uphill side of the tree. For species of trees where the main trunk divides below the 4 ½ foot height, the DBH shall be measured at the highest point before any division.

D. “Hazard Tree” means a tree or limbs thereof that meet one or more of the criteria below. Trees that do not meet any of the criteria below and are proposed to be removed solely for development purposes are not hazard trees.

1. Has an infectious disease or insect infestation;
2. Is dead or dying; senescence
3. Obstructs the view of traffic signs or the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles, where pruning attempts have not been effective;
4. May cause damage to structures (such as building foundations, sidewalks, utilities etc.);
5. Any trees whose angle or growth makes them a hazard to structure or human life, or
6. Is determined to be a threat to public health, safety, and/or welfare.

E. “Person” means any individual, resident, corporation, utility, company, partnership, firm, or association.

G. “Resident” means an individual who resides on the residential property or contractor hired by the individual who resides on the residential property where a tree(s) regulated by this ordinance is removed or proposed to be removed.

I. “Tree” means a woody plant having one erect perennial stem (trunk), that can support itself, at least three (3) inches in diameter at a point 4-½ feet above the ground, a definitely formed crown of foliage and a mature height of at least 13 feet. If the tree is removed, the tree is measured by the remaining stump. If the diameter of the stump is greater than twelve inches (12”), such tree is subject to the provisions of this Ordinance.

J. “Tree Caliper” means the diameter of the trunk of a tree, measured 4-½ feet above the ground.

K. “Tree removal” means to kill or to cause irreparable damage that leads to the decline and/or death of a tree. This includes, but is not limited to, excessive pruning, application of substances that are toxic to the tree, over-mulching or improper mulching, and improper grading and/or soil compaction within the critical root radius around the base of the tree that leads to the decline and/or death of a tree. Removal does not include responsible pruning and maintenance of a tree, or the application of treatments intended to manage invasive species. Removal of trees that cause an obstruction to the line of sight on public or private right of way(s) shall also be exempt from this Chapter.

### **§ 40-3. Regulated Activities:**

#### **A. Tree Replacement Requirements**

1. Any person who removes four (4) or more trees, as defined by Tree removal, with a DBH of 6" or more, unless exempt under Section 40-4, and as part of a Land Use Board application, shall be subject to the requirements of the Tree Replacement Requirements Table below.
2. Any person, who removes one (1) or more tree(s), as defined as Tree removal, within 300 feet of a designated C-1 stream, and/or within 300 feet of a wetlands classified as “high value” by NJDEP, shall be subject to the requirements of the Tree Replacement Requirements Table below.
3. Any residential use lots, clearing an acre or more of land, unless exempt by Section 40-4. Clearing area shall not include buildings, accessory structures, driveways, stormwater facilities, septic system and other ancillary structures.

The species type and diversity of replacement trees shall be in accordance with Appendix A.

Replacement tree(s) shall:

1. Be replaced in kind with a tree that has an equal or greater DBH than the tree removed **or** meet the Tree Replacement Criteria in the table below;
2. Be planted within twelve (12) months of the date of removal of the original tree(s) or at an alternative date specified by the municipality;
3. Be monitored by the applicant for a period of two (2) years to ensure their survival and shall be replaced as needed within a twelve-month (12) period; and
4. Any nonresidential uses or major site plan application shall post a performance bond, the amount of which shall be calculated by the following formula:

**(number of trees to be replaced multiplied by 1.5) \* \$100.00**

Such performance bond shall be posted for a minimum of two (2) years for any tree planted to ensure their survival and shall be replaced as needed within (12) month.

5. Shall be planted in the ground. Pots and container trees will not be considered replacements.

**Tree Replacement Requirements Table:**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Tree Removed (DBH)</u>	<u>Tree Replacement Criteria (See Appendix A)</u>	<u>Application Fee</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>DBH of 6" to 13.99"</u>	<u>Replant 1 tree with a minimum tree caliper of 2.5"</u>	
<u>2</u>	<u>DBH of 14" to 22.99"</u>	<u>Replant 2 trees with minimum tree calipers of 2.5"</u>	
<u>3</u>	<u>DBH of 23" to 47.99"</u>	<u>Replant 3 trees with minimum tree calipers of 2.5"</u>	
<u>4</u>	<u>DBH of 48" or greater</u>	<u>Replant 4 trees with minimum tree calipers of 2.5"</u>	

**B. Replacement Alternatives:**

1. If the municipality determines that some or all required replacement trees cannot be planted on the property where the tree removal activity occurred, then the applicant shall do one of the following:
  - a. Plant replacement trees in a separate area(s) approved by the municipality.
  - b. Pay a fee of three hundred and fifty dollars (\$350.00) per non-exempt tree removed. This fee shall be placed into a fund dedicated to tree planting and continued maintenance of the trees.

**§ 40-4. Exemptions:**

All persons shall comply with the tree replacement standard outlined above, except in the cases detailed below. Proper justification, as outlined below, shall be provided, in writing, preferably with supporting photos, to the by all persons claiming an exemption.

- A. Tree farms in active operation, nurseries, fruit orchards, and garden centers;

- B. Properties used for the practice of silviculture under an approved forest stewardship or woodland management plan, approved by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the New Jersey Forest Service, that is active and on file with the municipality;
- C. Any trees removed as part of a municipal or state decommissioning plan. This exemption only includes trees planted as part of the construction and predetermined to be removed in the decommissioning plan.
- D. Any trees removed pursuant to a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved environmental clean-up, or NJDEP approved habitat enhancement plan;
- E. Approved game management practices, as recommended by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife;
- F. Hazard trees, as identified by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, may be removed with no fee or replacement requirement.
- G. Removal of invasive trees.
- H. Any tree which is part of a cemetery.
- I. Tree directed to be removed by municipal, County, State or Federal authority pursuant to law.
- J. Pruning or removal of trees within the right-of-way by utility companies for the maintenance of utility wires or pipelines
- K. Trees removed in conjunction with farmland greater than five (5) acres in size, that will be actively devoted primarily to agricultural uses, where the owner desires to remove any trees for the purpose of expanding the farmland(s), the owner is required to submit a tree-removal plan to the Township Committee and receive such approval before commencing any such removal.
- L. Fallen Trees due to exceptionally high winds, a snowstorm, a hurricane, or any other kind of natural disaster.
- M. Tree planted in a decorative planter.

**§ 40-5. Enforcement:**

This ordinance shall be enforced by the Zoning Officer and Township Engineer during the course of ordinary enforcement duties.

**§ 40-6. Violations and Penalties:**

Any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be required to replace the removed tree(s), as well as be subject to a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00), imprisonment in the county jail for a term not exceeding ninety (90) days, or for a period of community service not exceeding ninety (90) days.

## **SECTION II: Severability:**

Each section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase of this Ordinance is declared to be an independent section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase, and finding or holding of any such portion of this Ordinance to be unconstitutional, void, or ineffective for any cause or reason shall not affect any other portion of this Ordinance.

## **SECTION III: Repealer.**

Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

## **SECTION IV: Effective Date:**

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption and any publication as may be required by law.

## **Appendix A**

### **Recommended replacement tree Species and Planting for **Hardwick Township****

<u>Tree Species</u>	<u>Planting Season</u>	<u>Planting Procedure (soil type, watering, pruning, staking, wrapping, exposure, depth, mulching, etc.)</u>
<u>American Basswood</u>	<u>Spring</u>	
<u>American Witch-Hazel</u>	<u>Spring or Fall</u>	
<u>American Hornbeam</u>	<u>Spring</u>	
<u>American Beech</u>	<u>Spring</u>	
<u>Bald Cypress</u>	<u>Spring or Fall</u>	
<u>Black Locust</u>	<u>Spring or Fall</u>	
<u>Black Gum, Black Tupelo</u>	<u>Spring</u>	
<u>Common Alder</u>	<u>Spring or Fall</u>	
<u>Common Hackberry</u>	<u>Spring</u>	
<u>Dogwood</u>	<u>Spring</u>	
<u>Eastern Redbud</u>	<u>Spring</u>	
<u>Ginkgo</u>	<u>Spring</u>	
<u>Norway Spruce</u>	<u>Spring or Fall</u>	
<u>Pink Oak</u>	<u>Spring</u>	
<u>Red Maple</u>	<u>Spring</u>	

<a href="#"><u>Red Oak</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Spring</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>River Birch</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Spring</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Swamp White Oak</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Spring</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Sweetgum</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Spring</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Scarlet Oak</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Spring</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Sassafras</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Spring or Fall</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Shadblush, Serviceberry</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Spring or Fall</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Sugar Maple</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Spring</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>White Pine</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Spring or Fall</u></a>	

**Motion made by Lovell, second by Meuse and carried to introduce ordinance 2024-05.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. 2024-56 -Resolution Requesting Consultation with the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) for the Five Planned New Jersey 1-80 and Pennsylvania Route 611 Delaware Water Gap (DWG) Projects (2025-2033) to Help Expedite Efficient Integration of NEPA and Section 105 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) began Preliminary Engineering (PE) for the \$82-Million I-80 West Bound (WB) Rockfall Mitigation Project (Mile Post (MP) 1.04-1.45) ID# 09545 in 2013 and the \$96-Million I-80 East Bound (EB) Retaining Wall Replacement Project (MP 1.2-1.5) ID# 22360 in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) currently plans to begin PE for the \$3-Million SR 611 Rock-Slope Mitigation Phase 2 Project ID# 119707, the \$6-Million SR 611 Retaining Wall Repairs Project ID# 114078, and the \$2-Million PA 611 Retaining Wall Rehab Project ID# 96481; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the above Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Funded Capital Program Projects, the I-80/611 DWG corridor has two concurrent ongoing emergency projects with NO interstate emergency services or traffic impact coordination:

1. PennDOT SR 611 closed due to a rockfall event, awaiting National Park Service (NPS) Special Use Permit to begin Phase 1 Rock Scaling – state funded with a contractor ready to begin.
2. NJDOT I-80 EB Retaining Wall Emergency Repairs ID#22360 – state funded which began in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the jurisdiction over the I-80/611 DWG corridor is complex because it:

- Traverses five municipalities, three counties, and two states: Hardwick and Knowlton Townships, Warren County (NJ), Upper Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County, and Delaware Water Gap Borough and Smithfield Township, Monroe County (PA)
- Traverses three different Metropolitan Planning Organization Regions – the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA-Alliance), the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission/Study (LVPC), and the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)

**WHEREAS**, the I-80/611 DWG corridor is well-documented as highly environmentally, culturally, and historically sensitive because it:

- Is a defining feature of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and in the two other National Park Units: the Middle Delaware National Wild and Scenic River, a segment of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail
- Is home to New Jersey Worthington State Forest, which includes Sunfish Pond, a National Register of Historic Places listed National Natural Landmark
- Includes the southernmost entrance to Historic Old Mine Road – listed in the National Register of Historic Places
- Is likely eligible as a Lenape Traditional Cultural Property/Landscape, National Natural Landmark and National Historic Landmark
- Has the National Register of Historic Places-eligible Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Retaining Wall
- Is in the Natural Heritage Priority Program as a known habitat for, and with the presence of, multiple Federal and State rare, threatened, and endangered species
- Has an interstate bridge, roadways, and railroad owned and maintained by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission (DRJTBC), and the Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority (PNRRA)
- Is served by three different Congressional Districts and six different State Legislative Districts

**WHEREAS**, individually and cumulatively, the NJDOT and PennDOT five planned FHWA I-80/611 DWG projects have significant potential for substantial negative impacts or adverse effects on the above-listed resources and the local and regional communities; and

**WHEREAS**, over 55,000 vehicles per day traverse the I-80/611 DWG corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, the surrounding communities depend on all lanes of travel being open, safe, and free-flowing for emergency services' quick incident response and access to the nearest hospital emergency room; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued closure of 611, anticipated lane closures within the I-80/DWG corridor, and accidents in the I-80/611 DWG corridor result in potentially life-threatening emergency services delays and negative impacts on residential villages, local infrastructure, businesses, employment, freight travel, recreation, and lifestyles of the local community and region; and

**WHEREAS**, after over two years of PennDOT collaboration with the National Park Service, the Special Use Permit for the emergency work to begin on closed PA 611 has yet to be approved due to the complexities of NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) procedures and environmental, cultural, and historical considerations; and

**WHEREAS**, the required consultation under Section 106 of NHPA with local and county government, and historic/cultural affairs offices/commissions was NOT initiated for the I-80 WB Rockfall Mitigation Project until 2019, seven years after PE began, and there has not been a Section 106 Consulting Party update since 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 106 Consultation for the I-80 EB Rockfall Mitigation Project, which began in 2023, has NOT included local and county government input from the Consulting Parties List, has NOT identified potential historic resources, or has NOT considered the Area of Potential Effect, has NOT

answered questions from neighboring communities and has NOT included formal NEPA and Section 106 Integration; and

**WHEREAS**, NJDOT did not begin preparing a NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA) for the I-80 WB Rockfall Mitigation Project until six years after PE began, through silence has ignored multiple municipal, county, legislator and public requests to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and has largely ignored the request for the I-80 EB Retaining Wall Project to be considered in the I-80 WB Rockfall Mitigation Project's EA or EIS; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2017 the Township has been an active participant in every available I-80 DWG Project NEPA and Section 106 public involvement activity, has developed the opinion and has supporting records that demonstrate NJDOT did NOT provide early public input opportunity, input does not appear to have been considered, and NJDOT presentations, materials, letters, and studies contained errors, omissions, and questionable representation of facts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) oversees NEPA implementation, interpretation of regulations for NEPA procedural requirements and helps to resolve disputes between Federal agencies and with other governmental entities and members of the public; and

**WHEREAS**, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)'s responsibility is to administer the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), a process that provides for the consideration of alternatives that promote preservation and offers the public and stakeholders the opportunity to influence federal decision-making.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey as follows:

The Township requests consultation with CEQ and ACHP related to the above-mentioned DWG projects, to help expedite efficient integration of NEPA and Section 106, due to the substantial public interest, jurisdictional complexity, environmental and process controversy, and to ensure public input is considered, impacts adequately addressed, and reasonable alternatives considered expeditiously.

The Township continues to support and encourage every possible action to safely open and maintain all lanes of the I-80/611 DWG corridor, including the ongoing emergency projects.

The Township acknowledges and appreciates actions by Congressman Gottheimer, Congresswoman Wild, Congressman Kean and Congressman Cartwright over the years and requests they, and our US Senators continue to assist by supporting this request any way possible.

2. 2024-57 Fixing the Salaries and Wages of Officials, Appointees and Employees of the Township of Hardwick in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey for 2024  
**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of HARDWICK, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the salaries of the elected officials, appointees and employees of the Township of HARDWICK, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey, shall be as follows for the year 2024:

<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>PER</b>
Township Committee Person	3,714.00	Year
Township Clerk – Interlocal Blairstown Township	53,045.00	Year

**FINANCE**

Chief Financial Officer	25,750.00	Year
Qualified Purchasing Agent	2,500.00	Year
Tax Assessor	23,706.00	Year
Tax Collector – Interlocal – Blairstown Township	20,600.00	Year

**LAND USE**

Board Secretary	12,954.00	Year
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**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Director	48.99	Hour
Operator/Laborer	32.16	Hour
Emergency Driver	23.94	Hour
Summer Help	21.22	Hour

**CONSTRUCTION AND ZONING**

Zoning Officer	17,598.00	Year
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**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Coordinator	2,749.00	Year
911 Coordinator	1,219.00	Year

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that other employees' benefits and compensation are set forth in the Personnel Policy, as amended.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall be retroactive to January 1, 2024, except as otherwise noted.

3. 2024-58 Approving 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, the July 17, 2024, Consent Agenda.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Spring Valley Rd update**-Warren County Bid specs have been posted.

**Cell Tower Lease** -discussed after executive session.

**Vass Farmstead Lease**-discussed after executive session.

**Website Update**-Deputy Mayor Meuse stated that there were a few changes to be made and hoped to have it up for approval by August.

**Affordable Housing**-Attorney Bykov stated that there is another deadline coming up in September providing a spreadsheet on expenses regarding residential development.

**Accessory Structures**-Deputy Mayor Lovell spoke about container boxes on residential properties and would like to get a sample ordinance for the next meeting.

**Hardwick Day**-Mayor Jacksic asked if the committee would like to do the birds of prey and reptiles at Hardwick Day which the committee agreed to have.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Open Space and Recreation Plan**

Clerk Shipps acknowledged that the plan had been adopted.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

June 13, 2024- Warren County Commissioners

Resolution Urging to Support Online Legal Notices.

July 5, 2024- Commercial Utility Consultants

Response to Rate Counsel Comment Letter.

**TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY:**

No report at this time.

**TOWNSHIP CLERK:**

Clerk Shipps stated she is working on the shredding event for October.

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Committeeman Lovell publicly thanked Mayor Jacksic for his constant communication regarding the recent stabbing in Hardwick Township.

Committeeman Lovell stated that he will not be present at the August meeting and would like to call in.

Stillwater Fire provided their report for the month of June.

Deputy Mayor Meuse read the call outs for Blairstown Hose Company and Blairstown EMS for the month of June.

Deputy Mayor Meuse was informed that Newton Township has hired a new Animal Control Officer. This will not affect the interlocal agreement that the township has with Newton.

Information will be provided to the clerk to post on the website.

Deputy Mayor Meuse stated that the updated Emergency Plan has been submitted to Warren County

Mayor Jacksic spoke about the stabbing and the reverse 911 call that went out and issues that need to be resolved.

Mayro Jacksic also stated that planet network is running lines in Hardwick Township.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Kathy Kanara 18 East Crisman Road wanted to express her concern about the conditions at 12 East Crisman Road with the massive amount of junk on the property. Committeeman Lovell stated that the zoning officer has put the resident at 12 East Crisman Road on notice for the junk.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion made by Meuse, second by Lovell and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kristin Shipps, RMC