

**TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16, 2024**

OPENING ROLL CALL:

Mayor Jacksic called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Deputy Mayor Meuse (via phone conference) and Committeeman Lovell were present. Also present were CFO Rolef, DPW Supervisor Campbell, 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.”

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tara Mezzanotte provided the committee with an update on Route 611 which will have one lane open beginning in November. Traffic will be controlled by smart lights.

The New Jersey Department of Transportation held a public information meeting on the mitigation program on Route 80 which was very well attended.

DEPARTMENT REPORT:

DPW

Tom Campbell, DPW Supervisor, reported that the department has continued its work on removal brush and is currently preparing for winter.

Fire Tower

Bob Wolff stated the tower is staffed and trucks are on patrol daily due to the high fire alert. He advised that there is no open burning at this time.

Finance Department

CFO Rolef reported that funds from the American Rescue plan will be going toward renovations of the salt shed. The remaining amount can be used for updating or purchasing new furniture, if it is encumbered by the end of the year.

MINUTES:

September 18, 2024, Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

September 18, 2024, Public Session Meeting Minutes.

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

Resolution:

2024-68 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 for resolution 2024-68.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Spring Valley Rd update.

Warren County received 6 bids for the Spring Valley Rd Bridge project. No award was approved for this bid.

Website Update.

No update was given.

Affordable Housing.

Two Seniors have applied for the housing program. They are waiting to hear back from the county. Committeeman Lovell will draft a letter to the county regarding the lack of communication. Committeeman Lovell requested Clerk Shipps provide him with a copy of the Warren County Housing Agreement.

Sample Ordinance for Storage Containers.

Tabled to next meeting when zoning officer will be present.

Municipal Roof.

Attorney Bykov has reviewed and approved the contract for signature by the mayor.

American Rescue Funds.

Discussion arose during the department reports.

NEW BUSINESS:

Land Use Board Sample Tree Ordinance.

Tabled until the October meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

September 19, 2024 -Township Clerk of Frelinghuysen.

Resolution Opposing Proposal of AR133 and SR93.

September 25, 2024-JCP&L.

Adjustment of the Societal Benefits Charge Clause of its File Tarriff.

September 30, 2024-Township Clerk of Greenwich.

Resolution Opposing Proposal of AR133 and SR93.

October 2, 2024- Mike Streng PSEG Utility Arborist

Hardwick- PSE&G Annual Vegetation Maintenance Notification.

October 3, 2024, Jacquelina Glaka- NJ Board of Public Utilities.

SWEC Energy Aggregation Program.

October 4, 2024, Brian Cramer-Cramer Ecological Services.

Letter of Interpretation-Footprint of Disturbance, Freshwater Wetlands General Permit 10A and Flood Hazard Area General Permit Block 502, Lot 14.

October 11, 2024, Lisa Hibbs CEP Commercial Utility Consultants.

Sussex Warren Area Energy Cooperative (SWEC).

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY:

Attorney Bykov is still waiting on an update regarding the Vass Farmstead lease. No update to report at this time.

TOWNSHIP CLERK:

Clerk Shipps stated that the Clean Communities Day was a success.

The November meeting will be held on November 13th.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Committeeman Lovell**

Committeeman Lovell Thanked the volunteers who were instrumental in the success of the Hardwick Day at the Vass House.

Committeeman advised that there will be a square dance event at the Vass House on October 26th at 6 pm.

Deputy Mayor Meuse

Deputy Mayor Meuse reported that she will be working on the OEM plan within the next few weeks.

Deputy Mayor Meuse will meet with the Warren County and Sussex County dispatchers regarding the delay of dispatched call outs to the Stillwater Hose Company.

Mayor Jacksic

Also thanked all the volunteers for Hardwick Day.

Mayor Jacksic read the Blairstown Hose Co callouts for the month of September.

Mayor Jacksic advised that Planet Network has 2/3 of the town completed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by Meuse, second by Lovell, and carried to go into Executive Session at 7:50 pm.

2024-69- Resolution Authorizing Executive Session

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. 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 Lovell, second by Jacksic, and carried to closed Executive Session at 8:06 pm.

Township Attorney Bykov stated that the Hardwick Township Committee emerged from their Executive Session at 8:06 pm where one matter was discussed regarding the cell tower. No official action was taken, and copies of the minutes will be available at such times as the committee determines there is no harm to the public.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Lovell, second by Jacksic, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kristin Shipps, RMC