

MINUTES OF BUDGET MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2024

The budget meeting of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee was held in the Municipal Building, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Ramos.

SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT:

Under the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by posting notice on the Township bulletin board and by emailing notice to the New Jersey Herald and The Express-Times.

ROLL CALL:

Those present were: Mayor Ramos, Deputy Mayor Stracco, Committeeman McPeek, Committeewoman Natyzak Osadca, Committeeman Stock, and Municipal Clerk Donna Zilberfarb.

RESOLUTIONS:

#2024-20 Township of Frelinghuysen Local Unit Civil Rights A RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM THE TOWNSHIP OF FRELINGHUYSEN’S CIVIL RIGHTS POLICY WITH RESPECT TO ALL OFFICIALS, APPOINTEES, EMPLOYEES, PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTERS, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS, AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT COME INTO CONTACT WITH MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Township of Frelinghuysen to treat the public, employees, prospective employees, appointees, volunteers and contractors in a manner consistent with all applicable civil rights laws and regulations including, but not limited to the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 as subsequently amended, the New Jersey Law against Discrimination, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Conscientious Employee Protection Act, and **WHEREAS,** the governing body of the Township of Frelinghuysen has determined that certain procedures need to be established to accomplish this policy **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ADOPTED** by the Township Committee that: **Section 1:** No official, employee, appointee or volunteer of the Township of Frelinghuysen by whatever title known, or any entity that is in any way a part of the Township of Frelinghuysen shall engage, either directly or indirectly in any act including the failure to act that constitutes discrimination, harassment or a violation of any person’s constitutional rights while such official, employee, appointee volunteer, or entity is engaged in or acting on behalf of the Township of Frelinghuysen’s business or using the facilities or property of the Township of Frelinghuysen. **Section 2:** The prohibitions and requirements of this resolution shall extend to any person or entity, including but not limited to any volunteer organization or inter-local organization, whether structured as a governmental entity or a private entity, that receives authorization or support in any way from the Township of Frelinghuysen to provide services that otherwise could be performed by the Township of Frelinghuysen. **Section 3:** Discrimination, harassment and civil rights shall be defined for purposes of this resolution using the latest definitions contained in the applicable Federal and State laws concerning discrimination, harassment and civil rights. **Section 4:** The Township Committee shall establish written procedures for any person to report alleged discrimination, harassment and violations of civil rights prohibited by this resolution. Such procedures shall include alternate ways to report a complaint so that the person making the complaint need not communicate with the alleged violator in the event the alleged violator would be the normal contact for such complaints. **Section 5:** No person shall retaliate against any person who reports any alleged discrimination, harassment or violation of civil rights, provided however, that any person who reports alleged violations in bad faith shall be subject to appropriate discipline. **Section 6:** The Township Committee shall establish written procedures that require all officials, employees, appointees and volunteers of the (local unit type) as well as all other entities subject to this resolution to periodically complete training concerning their duties, responsibilities and rights pursuant to this resolution. **Section 7:** The Township Committee shall establish a system to monitor compliance and shall report at least annually to the governing body the results of the monitoring. **Section 8:** At least annually, the Township Committee shall cause a summary of this resolution and the procedures established pursuant to this resolution to be communicated within the Township of Frelinghuysen. This communication shall include a statement from the governing body expressing its unequivocal commitment to enforce this resolution. This summary shall also be posted on the Township of Frelinghuysen’s web site. **Section 9:** This resolution shall take effect immediately. **Section 10:** A copy of this resolution shall be published in the official newspaper of the Township of Frelinghuysen in order for the public to be made aware of this policy and the Township of Frelinghuysen’s commitment to the implementation and enforcement of this policy. **CERTIFICATION I,** Donna M. Zilberfarb, Clerk of the Township of Frelinghuysen, do hereby certify the foregoing Resolution to be a true and accurate copy adopted by the Township Committee on February 7th, 2024. Donna M. Zilberfarb, RMC Municipal Clerk

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. McPeek	x		x			
Ms. Natyzak			x			
Mr. Ramos			x			
Mr. Stock		x	x			
Mr. Stracco			x			

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Mayor Ramos – nothing to report
- Deputy Mayor Stracco – nothing to report
- Committeeman Boynton – nothing to report
- Committeeman McPeek – nothing to report
- Committeeman Stock let the committee know that he will be applying for the firefighters grant that closes March 9th. He explained that this grant was also open to emergency services.
- Municipal Clerk Zilberfarb – nothing to report

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- Chief Marino of the Hope Fire Department spoke to the committee and gave them the call numbers for 2023. He discussed needing new air packs and gear and that they are looking into grants as well. Mr. Stracco asked if there was a breakdown for the mutual aid and Chief Marino would get it for him if needed. Mr. Ramos explained to the Chief the process of the budget and that the town is still working on it and let him know that Hope fire department would be receiving \$1,900 per month until Frelinghuysen fire department rolls out. Mr. Ramos also urged Chief Marino to talk to their township. Chief Marino will discuss with the fire department and will get back to the Mayor if they agree to the monthly allotment. He thanked everyone for their time.
- Scott Churchill and Mike Drisdale, Allamuchy Green First Aid Squad, handed the committee their report with call volume. Discussion was regarding their donation and possibly increasing the amount. Mr. Churchill discussed what Allamuchy and Green Townships have given and spoke about fuel charges and helping out with that cost. Mr. Stracco asked what type of fuel they use and it was determined regular fuel. Mr. McPeek stated we only have diesel fuel. Mr. Ramos inquired as to why they don't charge. Mr. Churchill explained their reasoning and spoke of the need for 2 paramedics in a rig for calls etc. After discussion, Mr. Ramos explained that we are going through the budget process and would get back to them after the budget is completed. Mr. Churchill asked if anyone had any questions. The meeting was then open to the public.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Motion was made by Mr. McPeek, seconded by Mr. Stock limiting it to 20 minutes to open meeting to the public. All were in favor. Spoke were:

- Dan Kohuth asked for the call data for Frelinghuysen and Mr. Churchill gave him those numbers and let the public and committee know that anyone could email them and they would answer any questions.
- Dale Durling, Sr. asked how many calls and what the nature of those calls were. Mr. Churchill stated 129 calls and stated the calls range but when they come in the don't know what the nature is.
- Mr. Ramos asked if they had a number in mind for a donation. Mr. Churchill replied \$12,000.00 and explained that the crews are mostly senior members and explained how hard it is to get upstairs and back down stairs with the patients as some are harder to handle.
- Mr. Stracco asked about the average cost per call of \$160 and asked if that was all in? Mr. Churchill stated that was actual running costs from last year.
- Dale Durling, Jr. let the committee know that he understood what they are saying but asked if they know what an emt/ambulance squad would cost. Mr. Ramos explained that they would look and see where and if the town can come up with more. Mr. Durling suggested raising the taxes then and felt that 6,000 - 7,500 is unfair to a squad.
- Mr. Durling Sr. asked if Allamuchy/Green doesn't service Frelinghuysen is there another source for service and asked if he can go without service. Mr. Ramos explained that Forest Manor went with a private contract. He discussed that it is a donation and it's what the town can afford and yes they can pull coverage but noted that is not what the township wants and they will give the donation they can afford.
- Ryan Durling explained that he works for the call center and that even though Atlantic Health has a contract they don't always have the coverage and are unable to answer the calls. Kathy Lippman stated she sees other ambulances than Atlantic health going to forest manor as she lives close. Mr. Churchill said that Atlantic health will sell you a bill of goods and sign a contract and be unable to answer calls. Mr. Ramos explained he will see what the town can do and that the town is committed and hopes the numbers get easier. Mr. Stock discussed the debt is going down and continuing to go down. With lower debt and money in the pocket and use better then long term will be able to give more toward the donation.
- Chris Stracco asked about the average per call and it doesn't include fuel costs. Mr. Churchill explained it to be about 3 ¼ per gallon per Mayor Touey of Allamuchy.
- Mike Drisdale asked if the town was approached by another squad to cover the township. Mr. Stracco explained that even if they did, which he did not remember, nothing came of it.
- Kathy Lippman asked if the fire department would be covering Route 80. Mr. Ramos stated that would be a question for the Chief. Mr. Greco asked if the Chief would be at the regular monthly meetings. Mr. Ramos stated he has been in attendance at other.s

Motion was made by Mr. Stracco, seconded by Mr. McPeek to close to the public. All were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Hope Township – Ordinance 2023-16 and 2023-17
- Green Township Fire Department – December monthly
- Blairstown Hose Company – April 2023 and December 2023 monthly
- Hope Township – November monthly
- Blairstown Hose Company – July monthly

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Stracco, seconded by Mr. Stock to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Zilberfarb, RMC