

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2021

The regular meeting of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee was held virtual via zoom virtual meeting service and in person, Township Municipal Building, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 and as called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor, Chris Stracco.

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, Township website and by e mailing notice to the New Jersey Herald and The Express-Times.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL:

Those present were: Mayor Chris Stracco, Deputy Mayor Keith Ramos, Committeeman David Boynton, Committeeman Frank Desiderio, Committeeman Todd McPeek, Attorney Rich Beilin, and Municipal Clerk Donna Zilberfarb all via zoom meeting.

MINUTES:

1. January 20, 2021 regular meeting minutes were approved as amended on a motion by Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. McPeek. All were in favor.
2. January 20, 2021 executive session meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Ramos, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.
3. February 10, 2021 Budget/Work session meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Ramos. All were in favor. Mr. Desiderio abstained.
4. February 10, 2021 executive session meeting minutes were approved as amended on a motion by Mr. Ramos, seconded by Mr. McPeek. All were in favor. Mr. Desiderio abstained.

ORDINANCES:

#2021-01 CALENDAR YEAR 2021 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14) WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to **1.0%** unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and, **WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and, **WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen in the County of Warren finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2021 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and, **WHEREAS**, the Township Committee hereby determines that a **1.0%** increase in

the budget for said year, amounting to **\$8,881.27** in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and, **WHEREAS** the Township Committee hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen, in the County of Warren, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2021 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Frelinghuysen shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to **\$ 31,084.45**, and that the CY 2021 municipal budget for the Township of Frelinghuysen be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and, **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and, **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and, **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

CERTIFICATION

I, Donna Zilberfarb, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Frelinghuysen do hereby certify the above to be a true copy introduced by the Frelinghuysen Township Committee at a meeting held on February 17, 2021 and will be considered for adoption on final reading at the meeting of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee to be held on March 17, 2021 at 7:30 pm at the Municipal Building, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey and via zoom virtual meetings at which time and place all interested parties may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance. Donna Zilberfarb, RMC **Roll Call Vote Introduction:** Mr. Boynton – Yes; Mr. Desiderio – Yes; Mr. McPeek – Yes; Mr. Ramos – Yes; Mr. Stracco – Yes.

RESOLUTIONS:

#2021-23 RESOLUTION REQUESTING SIGNAGE ON ROUTE 94 APPROACHES TO THE SPRING VALLEY ROAD INTERSECTION **WHEREAS**, Spring Valley Road (County Route 659) is partially located within the Township of Frelinghuysen and Hardwick Township, and **WHEREAS**, no signage exists along NJ State Route 94 denoting Spring Valley Road on either the north or southbound approaches to same, and **WHEREAS**, other County roadways intersecting NJ State Route 94 in proximity to Spring Valley Road are properly marked with signs in the approach lanes and at the actual intersections, and **WHEREAS**, the exclusion of said signage for Spring Valley Road appears to be an oversight on the New Jersey Department of Transportation as said agency undertook a pavement restoration project on this section of NJ State Route 94 in the 2020 year, and **WHEREAS**, the Township of Frelinghuysen is in support with Hardwick Township of signage at the north and southbound approaches to the Spring Valley Road intersections. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 17th day of February 2021 by the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen, County

of Warren, State of New Jersey that the New Jersey Department of Transportation is called upon to erect reflective road signs along both the north and southbound lanes of NJ State Route 94 indicating the upcoming intersection of Spring Valley Road. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, The Warren County Board of Commissioners, Senator Steven Oroho, Assembly Member Parker Space and Assembly Member Harold Wirths for their support. **CERTIFICATION** I, Donna Zilberfarb, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Frelinghuysen, do hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Frelinghuysen Township Committee at their meeting of February 17, 2021.

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. Boynton	X		X			
Mr. Desiderio			X			
Mr. McPeek			X			
Mr. Ramos		X	X			
Mr. Stracco			X			

#2021-24 RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR THE FEBRUARY 17, 2021 WHEREAS, the Finance Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen have reviewed the bills submitted by the Municipal Clerk to the Frelinghuysen Township Committee for the month of FEBRUARY 2021; and WHEREAS, the Finance Committee find the bills to be in order and recommend to the Township Committee that they be paid by the Chief Finance Officer. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Frelinghuysen Township Committee that all bills submitted for the above named date are reasonable and proper and are to be paid from their appropriate account.

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. Boynton	X		X			
Mr. Desiderio			X			
Mr. McPeek		X	X			
Mr. Ramos			X			
Mr. Stracco			X			

#2021-25 SETTING EXECUTIVE SESSION WHEREAS, it is necessary to discuss items dealing with contract and property negotiations. WHEREAS, under the Open Public Meetings Act (number 7 of the permitted exceptions to the requirements that a public body hold its meetings in public) it is permissible that such matters be discussed in executive or private session.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on February 17, 2021 that the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen will adjourn to private or executive session to discuss the above mentioned and results or portions of that discussion will be made known in reasonable length of time.

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. Boynton		X	X			
Mr. Desiderio			X			
Mr. McPeek			X			
Mr. Ramos	X		X			
Mr. Stracco			X			

#2021-26 WHEREAS, certain bills have been presented for payment for year 2020 charges for which there are insufficient funds in the 2020 budget to pay, and WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59 permits transfers of appropriation reserves within the first three months of the succeeding year to cover said charges, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following 2020 Budget Appropriation Reserve transfers be authorized;

<u>TRANSFER FROM:</u>			<u>TRANSFER TO:</u>	
Legal O/E	\$130.00		Engineering O/E	\$130.00
Totals		\$130.00	Totals	
				\$130.00

CERTIFICATION I hereby certify that the above is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the governing body of the Township of Frelinghuysen, at a meeting held February 17, 2021.

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. Boynton	X		X			
Mr. Desiderio			X			
Mr. McPeek			X			
Mr. Ramos		X	X			
Mr. Stracco			X			

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Mayor Chris Stracco – nothing to report. The Mayors report will be in executive session.
- Deputy Mayor Ramos – nothing to report.
- Committeeman David Boynton gave a shoutout to the dpw and felt they did a great job during the major storm.
- Committeeman Frank Desiderio – nothing to report
- Committeeman Todd McPeek reiterates what Mr. Boynton said regarding the dpw.
- Attorney Rich Beilin had nothing new to report at this time regarding the remote meetings protocols.
- Municipal Clerk Donna Zilberfarb – nothing to report

OLD BUSINESS:

- Remote meeting protocols was discussed during legal reports.
- Mr. Ramos let the committee know that the salt shed went out for bid and will be received in about 2 weeks.
- Stand pipe on Ramsey Road was held.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Chief Mike Marino and Assistant Chief Kruk discussed their budget for 2021. Hope fire department had 43 calls and most of them were on Route 80. They explained that they purchased a truck last year and that they are asking for \$10,000 for donation and \$50,000 for capital for outfitting the new truck. They invited the committee to stop by and see the truck that was purchased. Mr. Boynton noted that he has seen the truck and was impressed that they sought out to find the truck they purchased for the amount of monies that were paid.

Mr. Stracco let them know that the town will get back to them and commended them on a thrifty move on purchasing the truck.

- Carter Smith of Boy Scout Troop 140 presented to the committee and public his ideas for his Eagle Scout Award. He would like to build tent platforms at the FFP and put them around the new fire pit. He is looking at 3-5 depending on the price of lumber and how many donations he will get. Mr. Connor asked if he could see the plans and asked who would maintain that area. Carter was asked to forward the plans to Ms. Zilberfarb for the committee to review. Carter thanked the Committee for their time and he will send the plans.
- Beth Styler Barry and Michelle DiBlasio updated the committee and public on the Paulina dam. They are proposing the project will happen in the summer of 2023 with a small chance of starting in 2022. They discussed giving a presentation for the environmental commission. Mr. McPeek and Mr. Boynton had a few questions. Ms. Barry explained that the work for removal will be with machines and will be lowered about a foot a day and that it is by Crisman road. Ms. Zilberfarb will forward their information onto Ms. Barry.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Motion was made by Mr. Boynton for a consent agenda for department reports 1-10, seconded by Mr. Ramos. All were in favor.

DPW – Ms. Zilberfarb stated that the monthly report is in the book and had nothing else to report. Mr. McPeek discussed the GMC and had a slight problem and the sales rep was coming out. He also stated that the salt was low to almost out but had deliveries over weekend that he and Ms. Zilberfarb handled.

Land Manager – Mr. Conner stated that a report was submitted.

Recreation committee – Sports registrations are going out. Easter and Founders Day are on schedule and the schedule will be on the website.

Environmental Commission – No meeting

Farmland/Open space Committee – No meeting

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Motion was made by Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. McPeek to open meeting to the public limited to 20 minutes with 3 minutes per member of the public. All were in favor. Spoke were:

There was no public comment

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Mr. Ramos, seconded by Mr. Boynton to enter into executive session.

No action was taken.

Motion was made by Mr. Ramos, seconded by Mr. Boynton to exit executive session.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:

Mr. Stracco explained that the executive session was to discuss disposition of property, contract negotiations and possible litigation.

Ms. Zilberfarb reminded the committee that she would be working from home tomorrow and to call her cell if they needed anything. She also said with the storm that there most likely will be no one at the townhall now.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- State of New Jersey, SADC – Municipal Planning Incentive Grant Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriation Announcement
- Hardwick Township – Resolution 2021-19
- JCP&L – BPU Docket Nos. QO19010040 and EO20090620
- Blairstown Hose company – January 2021 fire report
- Green Township Fire Department – January 2021 fire report

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Desiderio, seconded by Mr. Boynton to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Zilberfarb, RMC