

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 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, March 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.

PROCLAMATION:

Prior to reading, Mayor Stracco informed all present that Ms. Baguley had passed this morning. **PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF ANTONINA "NINA" BAGULEY**

WHEREAS, Nina Baguley has been a longtime resident of Frelinghuysen Township, and resides at 48 Golden Chain Road in the Township with her husband Philip and their two children, Marisa and Philip Jr.; WHEREAS, Nina attended Saint Paul the Apostle School in Irvington, and graduated from Mother Seton High School in Clark; WHEREAS, Nina has been an active participant in the Township, the North Warren community, including Scouting; WHEREAS, Nina has been a co-leader of Girl Scout Troop 70023 in Frelinghuysen Township for thirteen years; WHEREAS, as part of her Scouting activities Nina involved her troop in the Foodshed Alliance's LocalShare program to help glean fresh produce to distribute that produce to those in need; WHEREAS, Nina mentored and guided scores of Frelinghuysen Girl Scouts in her years in the Scouting program; WHEREAS, Nina has been an active volunteer with the Salvation Army over the last five years and her volunteer activities there include delivering presents to the needy at Christmastime; WHEREAS, Nina was active in the Blairstown Mom's Club where she made enduring lifetime friendships. WHEREAS, Nina's public service activities have benefitted the Frelinghuysen Township and North Warren Communities at large; WHEREAS, Nina is a parishioner at Saint Jude's Roman Catholic Church in Blairstown Township, and, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED on this 17th day of March, 2021, by the Frelinghuysen Township Committee, on behalf of the residents of the Township of Frelinghuysen, that we hereby convey our deepest appreciation to Nina Baguley for her extraordinary dedication to Scouting, and for the betterment of our Township community.

Motion was made by Mr. McPeek to adopt, seconded by Mr. Ramos. All were in favor.

MINUTES:

1. February 17, 2021 regular meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Ramos. All were in favor.
2. February 17, 2021 executive session meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Ramos, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.
3. March 10, 2021 Budget/Work session meeting minutes were approved as amended on a motion by Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Ramos. All were in favor.
4. February 10, 2021 executive session meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Ramos. All were in favor.

BUDGET:

#2021-30

TOWNSHIP OF FRELINGHUYSEN COUNTY OF WARREN STATE OF NEW

JERSEY RESOLUTION-#2021-30 WHEREAS, the Township of Frelinghuysen is holding a meeting on March 17, 2021, for the purpose of introducing the 2021 Municipal Budget and conducting other matters; and, **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen, Warren County, New Jersey, that the Township of Frelinghuysen hereby petitions the Director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2021 Local Municipal Budget be introduced and approved on March 17, 2021.

2021 FRELINGHUYSEN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Surplus anticipated general revenues	\$ 431,819.00
Total Miscellaneous revenue	319,033.00
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	130,000.00
Local Property Taxes	<u>856,058.00</u>
Total General Revenues	<u>\$1,736,910.00</u>

Salaries and Wages	\$ 422,602.00
Other Expenses	510,094.00
Capital Improvements	30,000.00
Debt Service	276,703.00
Statutory Expenses	40,000.00
Reserve for Delinquent Taxes	<u>457,511.00</u>
Total 2021 Municipal Budget	<u>\$1,736,910.00</u>
2021 Municipal Tax Rate	\$0.2954

Motion: Mr. Boynton Second: Mr. Ramos

Committee Polled: Mr. Boynton-yes; Mr. Desiderio-yes; Mr. McPeek-yes; Mr. Ramos-yes; Mr. Stracco-yes It is hereby certified that this is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the governing body of the Township of Frelinghuysen at a regular meeting held at the Municipal Building on March 17, 2021. Witness my hand and the SEAL of the Township of Frelinghuysen.

SEAL:Donna Zilberfarb, Municipal Clerk Second reading will be held on April 21, 2021.

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 Motion was made by Mr. Boynton to open for first reading for introduction, seconded by Mr. Ramos. **Roll Call**

Vote Introduction: Mr. Boynton – Yes; Mr. Desiderio – Yes; Mr. McPeek – Yes; Mr. Ramos – Yes; Mr. Stracco – Yes. Second reading for adoption will be on March 17, 2021. **ADOPTION:** motion was made by Mr. Ramos to open for 2nd reading for adoption, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor. Motion was made by Mr. Ramos to open to the public, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor. No public comment. Motion was made to close to the public, seconded by Mr. Ramos. All were in favor. Motion was made by Mr. Ramos to approve for adoption, seconded by Mr. McPeek. Roll Call vote: Mr. Boynton- yes; Mr. Desiderio-yes; Mr. McPeek-yes; Mr. Ramos-yes; Mr. Stracco-yes.

**#2021-05 TOWNSHIP OF FRELINGHUYSEN BOND ORDINANCE
BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS 2021 CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FRELINGHUYSEN,
IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY;
APPROPRIATING \$165,500 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE
ISSUANCE OF \$157,225 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO
FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF BE IT ORDAINED AND
ENACTED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
FRELINGHUYSEN, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW
JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively
concurring) AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1. The improvements or purposes described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance are hereby authorized as general improvements or purposes to be undertaken by the Township of Frelinghuysen, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey (the "Township"). For the said improvements or purposes stated in Section 3, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$165,500, said sum being inclusive of a down payment in the amount of \$8,275 now available for said improvements or purposes required by the Local Bond Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:2-1 et seq., as amended and supplemented (the "Local Bond Law"), and now available therefor by virtue of a provision or provisions in a previously adopted budget or budgets of the Township for down payment or for capital improvement purposes. SECTION 2. For the financing of said improvements or purposes described in Section 3 hereof and to meet the part of said \$165,500 appropriation not provided for by said down payment referred to in Section 1 hereof, negotiable bonds of the Township are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of \$157,225 pursuant to the Local Bond Law. In anticipation of the issuance of said bonds and to temporarily finance said improvements or purposes, negotiable notes of the Township in a principal amount not exceeding \$157,225 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to and within the limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law. SECTION 3. (a) The improvements hereby authorized and purposes for the financing of which said bonds or notes are to be issued is the 2021 Capital Improvement Program, which includes, but is not limited to: (i) acquisition of turnout gear and air cylinders for use by the Blairstown Fire Department; (ii) acquisition of miscellaneous apparatus equipment for use by the Hope Fire Department; (iii) repairs and improvements to various roadways in the Township, including, but not limited to, paving, cross drains, tarring and chipping; (iv) acquisition and installation of street signs within the Township; (v) acquisition of miscellaneous tools for use by the Department of Public Works; (vi) various repairs and improvements to the town hall deck; (vii) oil tank repairs and refinishing; (viii) repairs and painting of town garage; (ix) various improvements to the Morton Building within the Township, including, but not limited to, the acquisition and installation of concrete flooring; (x) improvements to Ramsey Road within the Township, including, but not limited to, the acquisition and installation of a standpipe system; and (xi) various improvements and upgrades to the Recreational Field, including, but not limited to, extension of the softball field and the acquisition and installation of new soccer goals. Such improvements or purposes shall also include, as applicable, all engineering and design work, surveying, construction management services, preparation of plans and specifications, permits, bid documents, contract administration, and all work, materials, equipment, labor and appurtenances necessary therefor or incidental thereto, all in accordance with the plans therefor on file in the office of the Township Clerk and available for public inspection and hereby approved.

(b) The estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued for said improvements or purposes is \$157,225. (c) The estimated cost of said improvements or purposes is \$165,500, the excess thereof over the said estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued therefor being the amount of \$8,275, which is the down payment available for such improvements or purposes.

SECTION 4. In the event the United States of America, the State of New Jersey, and/or the County of Warren make a contribution or grant in aid to the Township for the improvements or purposes authorized hereby and the same shall be received by the

Township prior to the issuance of the bonds or notes authorized in Section 2 hereof, then the amount of such bonds or notes to be issued shall be reduced by the amount so received from the United States of America, the State of New Jersey and/or the County of Warren. In the event, however, that any amount so contributed or granted by the United States of America, the State of New Jersey and/or the County of Warren shall be received by the Township after the issuance of the bonds or notes authorized in Section 2 hereof, then such funds shall be applied to the payment of the bonds or notes so issued and shall be used for no other purpose. This Section 4 shall not apply, however, with respect to any contribution or grant in aid received by the Township as a result of using funds from this bond ordinance as "matching local funds" to receive such contribution or grant in aid.

SECTION 5. All bond anticipation notes issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer of the Township, provided that no note shall mature later than one (1) year from its date or as otherwise authorized by the Local Bond Law. The notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer of the Township. The Chief Financial Officer of the Township shall determine all matters in connection with the notes issued pursuant to this bond ordinance, and the signature of the Chief Financial Officer of the Township upon the notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. All notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the Local Bond Law. The Chief Financial Officer of the Township is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the notes from time to time at a public or private sale and to deliver them to the purchaser thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price and accrued interest thereon from their dates to the date of delivery thereof. The Chief Financial Officer of the Township is directed to report in writing to the governing body at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the notes pursuant to this bond ordinance is made. Such report must include the principal amount, the description, the interest rate, the maturity schedule of the notes so sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

SECTION 6. The Capital Budget of the Township is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this bond ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. In the event of any such inconsistency, a resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended Capital Budget and capital programs as approved by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs will be on file in the office of the Clerk of the Township and will be available for public inspection.

SECTION 7. The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) The improvements or purposes described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance are not current expenses and are improvements which the Township may lawfully undertake as general improvements, and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be specially assessed on property specially benefited thereby.

(b) The average period of usefulness of said improvements or purposes within the limitations of the Local Bond Law, according to the reasonable life thereof computed from the date of the said bonds authorized by this bond ordinance, is 6.45 years.

(c) The Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Township and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the Office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, and such statement shows that the gross debt of the Township as defined in the Local Bond Law is increased by the authorization of the bonds or notes provided for in this bond ordinance by \$157,225 and the said bonds or notes authorized by this bond ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

(d) An aggregate amount not exceeding \$3,000 for items of expense listed in and permitted under Section 20 of the Local Bond Law is included in the estimated cost indicated herein for the improvements or purposes hereinbefore described.

SECTION 8. The full faith and credit of the Township are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this bond ordinance. The bonds or notes shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Township, and the Township shall be obligated to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all the taxable real property within the Township for the payment of the bonds or notes and the interest thereon without limitation as to rate or amount.

SECTION 9. The Township reasonably expects to reimburse any expenditures toward the costs of the improvements or purposes described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance and paid prior to the issuance of any bonds or notes authorized by this bond ordinance with the proceeds of such bonds or notes. No funds from sources other than the bonds or notes authorized herein have been or are reasonably expected to be reserved, allocated on a long-term basis or otherwise set aside by the Township, or any member of the same "Controlled Group" as the Township, within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-1(e), pursuant to its budget or financial policies with respect to any expenditures to be reimbursed. This Section 9 is intended to

be and hereby is a declaration of the Township's official intent to reimburse any expenditures toward the costs of the improvements or purposes described in Section 3 hereof to be incurred and paid prior to the issuance of bonds or notes authorized herein in accordance with Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2, and no further action (or inaction) will be an abusive arbitrage device in accordance with Treasury Regulation Section 1.148-10 to avoid the arbitrage yield restrictions or arbitrage rebate requirements under Section 148 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). The proceeds of any bonds or notes authorized herein used to reimburse the Township for any expenditures toward the costs of the improvements or purposes described in Section 3 hereof will not be used directly or indirectly (i) to "refund" an issue of governmental obligations within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-1(d), (ii) to create, within one year, following the reimbursement of any expenditures of bond proceeds "replacement proceeds" within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.148-1 of the bonds or any other bond issue, or (iii) to reimburse the Township for any expenditure or payment that was originally paid with the proceeds of any obligation of the Township (other than borrowing by the Township from one of its own funds or the funds of a member of the same "Controlled Group" within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-1(e)). The bonds or notes authorized herein to reimburse the Township for any expenditures toward the costs of the improvements or purposes described in Section 3 hereof will be issued in an amount not to exceed \$157,225. The costs to be reimbursed with the proceeds of the bonds or notes authorized herein will be "capital expenditures" in accordance with the meaning of Section 150 of the Code and Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-1. This provision will take effect immediately, but will be of no effect with regard to expenditures for costs paid outside the permitted reimbursement period set forth in Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2(d)(2). SECTION 10. The Township covenants to maintain the exclusion from gross income under Section 103(a) of the Code of the interest on all bonds and notes issued under this bond ordinance. SECTION 11. This bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law. **ADOPTED ON FIRST READING DATED: March 17, 2021 ADOPTED ON SECOND READING DATED: April 21, 2021 APPROVAL BY THE MAYOR ON THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2021.** Motion was made by Mr. Boynton to open for first reading for introduction, seconded by Mr. Ramos. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Boynton-yes; Mr. Desiderio-yes; Mr. McPeek-yes; Mr. Ramos-yes; Mr. Stracco-yes. Second reading for adoption will be held on April 21, 2021.

RESOLUTIONS:

#2021-29 RESOLUTION FOR MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN A COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF FRELINGHUYSEN TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and **WHEREAS**, the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency " has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services; **WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2021 the governing body of the Township of Frelinghuysen, County of Warren, State of New Jersey duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** as follows: **TITLE** This RESOLUTION shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Township of Frelinghuysen **AUTHORITY** Pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)*, the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency. **CONTRACTING UNIT** The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the *Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.)* and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey. **EFFECTIVE DATE** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. **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 March 17, 2021.

BY: _____
Christopher Stracco, Mayor

ATTEST BY: _____
Donna Zilberfarb, Municipal Clerk

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

Mr. Ramos			X			
Mr. Stracco			X			

#2021-31 WHEREAS, the 2021 Temporary Budget of the Township Committee of Frelinghuysen Township, as adopted January 1, 2021, appropriated sufficient funds to cover the Town’s financial obligations for the first three months of the calendar year, and **WHEREAS**, due to a revision in the State budget calendar the 2021 budget will not be adopted by March 31st, **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Committee of the Frelinghuysen Township, that the temporary budget be extended and that the appropriations be increased by one twelfth of appropriations made for all purposes in the budget for the year 2020 excluding appropriations made for debt service, capital improvement fund and public assistance. **CERTIFICATION**: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Committee of Frelinghuysen Township at a meeting held on March 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			

#2021-32 TOWNSHIP OF FRELINGHUYSEN COUNTY OF WARREN STATE OF NEW JERSEY WHEREAS, the 2021 Local Municipal Budget was introduced on the 17th

day of March, 2021; and, WHEREAS, during the fiscal year 2021 the Township of Frelinghuysen will receive revenue for various other special items in the amount of \$1,131.00 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that petition be made herewith to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2021 Local Municipal Budget include a special item of revenue under the heading of "**Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of Local Government Services-Other Special Items:**

Blairstown Contribution Municipal Alliance **\$ 1,131.00**
\$ 1,131.00

Motion: Mr. Ramos Second: Mr. McPeek Committee Polled: Mr. Boynton-yes; Mr. Desiderio-yes; Mr. McPeek-yes; Mr. Ramos-yes; Mr. Stracco-yes

I, Donna Zilberfarb, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Frelinghuysen, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the Frelinghuysen Township Committee at the business meeting held on March 17, 2021. Witness my hand and the SEAL of the Township of Frelinghuysen. (SEAL) Donna Zilberfarb, Municipal Clerk

#2021-33 RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR THE MARCH 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 MARCH 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			
Mr. Desiderio			x			
Mr. McPeek		x	x			
Mr. Ramos	x		x			
Mr. Stracco			x			

#2021-34 SETTING EXECUTIVE SESSION WHEREAS, it is necessary to discuss items dealing with contract 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 March 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			

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Mayor Chris Stracco – Attended a meeting in Hope Township with Congressman Gottheimer and Mayors from Knowlton, Hope, Hardwick and Blairstown to discuss the Covid Relief Fund Act. This can be utilized for internet within the township.
- Deputy Mayor Ramos – let the committee know that there is nothing new to report on Altice/internet at this time, the salt shed will be discussed at the special meeting being held tomorrow and that the website is revised and up to date.
- Committeeman David Boynton – nothing to report
- Committeeman Frank Desiderio – nothing to report
- Committeeman Todd McPeek - explained that the barn at the FFP was now down and cleanup was in progress.
- Attorney Rich Beilin – nothing to report
- Municipal Clerk Donna Zilberfarb – nothing to report

OLD BUSINESS:

- Salt shed – there is a special meeting scheduled for tomorrow (Thursday, March 18, 2021) to discuss the salt shed project.
- Mr. Beilin had nothing new to report on remote meeting protocols
- Mr. Stracco will get Mr. Beilin a copy of the survey for the property on Ramsey Road in regards to the stand pipe.
- Carter Smith, Eagle Scout project was discussed and will be held to the work session on April 7, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Interlocal PCFA agreement was presented and motion was made by Mr. Boynton to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign, seconded by Mr. Ramos. All were in favor. Ms. Zilberfarb will forward signed agreement to the PCFA.
- Warren county public works shared services agreement was presented and motion was made by Mr. McPeek to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign, seconded by Mr. Boynton. Vote: Mr. Boynton-yes; Mr. Desiderio-yes; Mr. McPeek-yes; Mr. Ramos-yes; Mr. Stracco-yes. Ms. Zilberfarb will forward the signed agreement to Warren County public works.
- Lawn care proposals were discussed and motion was made by Mr. Desiderio to approve Horticare Pest Service, as amended, with preemergent for the clay, seconded by Mr. McPeek. All were in favor. Ms. Dyer will reach out to Horticare pest service.
- The town clean up dates will be May 24-29, 2021. Vouchers will be ready for the residents after April 15th at the townhall.
- Mr. Beilin explained the feasibility and LEAP programs and explained the study application that was made via North Warren was by 3 of the 4 participating towns and that the law permits this to be completed without Frelinghuysen's consent. Mr. Stracco asked the question of does the town adopt a resolution and go into the application, which is for the grant, or does the town do nothing? The discussion was opened to Stephanie Bonaparte, Frelinghuysen Elementary superintendent, Kim Neuffer (FT BOE), Dave Hocking (FT BOE), Kevin Brennan (NW BOE), and other board members present. After discussion, it was determined that the Board of Education for Frelinghuysen feels the same way as in 2019 and still feels that \$30,000 is not enough to complete a true feasibility study and if cost is more where does it come from. There is no communication to the BOE only to the townships, and this includes all the elementary school districts. Regionalization and consolidation were also discussed and Ms. Bonaparte and the BOE members present were all in agreeance that there has been no communication from North Warren and only from the Mayor and Committee. Mr. Brennan will let the NW BOE know that there has been no communication to the sending districts BOE's on either of these issues. After discussion, it was determined unanimously that the township will wait until more information is available and will not move forward.
- Motion was made to accept the resignation of the OEM Coordinator, Nick Pachnos and the OEM Deputy Coordinator with regrets, Colin Kellaher by Mr. Ramos, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.

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 – Nothing to report

Land Manager – Mr. Connor let the committee know that he spoke with John Parks of the NJ Audubon Society and should hear within a month for moving forward. He also discussed the crushed stone that is needed by dpw and will coordinate with Dan and Donna to get it ordered. He also started the spring house restorations.

Recreation committee – Mr. Ramos discussed that the Easter egg hunt will be on April 10th at the townhall fields, NW little league will not be using any of the fields for any practices or games this year, and that there will be one softball team for grades 3-4 this year and that soccer is going well.

Environmental Commission – No meeting

Farmland/Open space Committee – No meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

No action was taken.

Motion was made by Mr. McPeek, seconded by Mr. Desiderio to exit executive session.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:

Mr. Stracco explained that the executive session was to discuss ongoing contract negotiations.

Motion was made by Mr. Ramos to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement for Blairstown Hose Company, seconded by Mr. Boynton. Roll call vote: Mr. Boynton-yes; Mr. Desiderio-No; Mr. McPeek-yes; Mr. Ramos-yes; Mr. Stracco-no.

The work session meeting will be held on April 7, 2021 at 7 p.m. rather than April 14, 2021. Ms. Zilberfarb will advertise the meeting date change.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

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

- Cheryl Towey, 109 Bear Creek Road, asked why agreed to switch fire departments with out taking opinions of the public. She is curious on the towns reasoning and lack of consideration of this. She also asked why the OEM's resigned and asked how much money we saved. Mr. Ramos explained that we are in negotiations between the two fire departments and town. Mr. Stracco explained that the Green Fire Department gave the right to cancel our fire coverage, per Green Township at any time. It was also stated that Ms. Towey would need to ask the OEM 's why they resigned. Mr. Ramos explained that the town has been working and negotiating on a fire agreement.
- Dave Hocking, South Street, discussed the fire at his house 2 years ago and had issues with 911 for dispatching the fire departments. He added that more notice to the public would be helpful in these situations.
- Colin Kellaheer, 1 Saddle Ridge Road, asked how Mr. Hocking called 911 and explained the difference of a landline and cell phone call to 911. He also stated he resigned because he couldn't support the decision the town made and that he heard OEM was going to be OEM in Blairstown. He felt this was huge disservice to the town. Mr. Stracco explained the risk again about the coverage being cancelled at anytime and asked Mr. Kellaheer about mutual aid and responding. Mr. Kellaheer explained how mutual aid works. Mr. Stracco and Mr. Ramos explained how they tried to come to an agreement with Green Fire Department but with the clause of cancelling coverage at any time changed the negotiations and are looking at other options for the town.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- State of New Jersey, DEP – FY2021 Annual Fee Report
- Highlands region master plan
- Warren County Mosquito control – annual information packet
- Green Township – ordinance 2021-03 amending Chapter 30 Land use regulations
- Hope Township – Ordinance 2021-02 amending Certain sections of Chapter 20-20 Stormwater control in the land use section
- Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund – MEL Annual Report
- Valley Medical Group – Corporate wellness calendar
- JCP&L – Verified petition of JCP&L company’s seeking the boards approve of the advanced metering infrastructure program throughout its service territory, including an associated cost recovery mechanism.
- Blairstown Hose Fire Report – February 2021
- Green Township Fire Report – February 2021

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. McPeck, seconded by Mr. Boynton to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Zilberfarb, RMC