

AMENDED MINUTES OF BUDGET/WORK MEETING OF MARCH 10, 2021

The regular meeting of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee was held virtual via zoom virtual meeting service, Township Municipal Building, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 and as called to order at 7:00 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 via zoom were: Mayor Chris Stracco, Deputy Mayor Keith Ramos, Committeeman David Boynton, Frank Desiderio (7:02 pm), Committeeman Todd McPeek, CFO Danette Dyer, and Municipal Clerk Donna Zilberfarb. Auditor Anthony Ardito and Engineer Paul Sterbenz were present.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION #2021-27 RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO MAKE COVID-19 VACCINE AVAILABLE TO THE TEACHERS AND STAFF OF WARREN COUNTY'S SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, providing COVID-19 vaccination to teachers and other school staff will help protect the health of the students, school staff and families of Warren County's school districts; and **WHEREAS**, the President of the United States of America Joseph Biden has made it a national goal that "every educator, school staff member, child care worker receive at least one shot by the end of the month of March"; and **WHEREAS**, the County of Warren has surveyed its public schools and found that over 1,500 public school staff are willing to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible; and **WHEREAS**, the superintendents of Warren County's school districts have agreed to work with the Warren County Health Department to vaccinate their staff as quickly as possible; and **WHEREAS**, the County of Warren and its health department are willing to work with any community partners to help meet the President' school vaccination goal in Warren County. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Frelinghuysen Township Committee requests New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and New Jersey Commissioner of Health Judith Persichilli to allocate sufficient COVID-19 Vaccine to the County of Warren so that initial vaccination of all eligible and interested school staff can be completed by end of March 2021. A copy of this Resolution shall be distributed to the Office of the Governor, the New Jersey Commissioner of Health, the Warren County Commissioners, and the Administrators of the North Warren Regional School District and the Frelinghuysen School. **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 March 10, 2021. SEAL Donna Zilberfarb, Municipal Clerk

| | MOTION | SECOND | AYE | NAY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|---------------|--------|--------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Mr. Boynton | | x | x | | | |
| Mr. Desiderio | | | x | | | |
| Mr. McPeek | | | x | | | |
| Mr. Ramos | x | | x | | | |
| Mr. Stracco | | | x | | | |

#2021-28 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 10, 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 Stracco was on phone calls with the Governor and County offices regarding the vaccine and distribution. The Commissioners are urging vaccines in Warren County. Mr. Stracco also stated that he would be putting out a letter opening up the township meetings back to in person effective April 1, 2021. The exception board meeting is the Land Use Board as they are too large and can not accommodate with the protocols for social distancing.
- Deputy Mayor Ramos discussed the zoom meeting with Congressman Gottheimer regarding internet. Warren County expectations for funding is approximately \$26.9 million with a % going to each town. The first phase should be out in 60 days. He asked if projects that were currently for bid within a town if this bill will help to offset some of the skyrocketing costs. The Congressman will get back to Mr. Ramos. Mr. Ramos explained that Altice is backed up and Marilyn, from Altice, will get back in touch with Mr. Ramos in regards to the next phase of roads with in the township.
- Committeeman Boynton discussed the propane being filled at the FFP and he checked and it is at 50%. Ms. Zilberfarb will look into the total amount that is ordered to make sure the 50% is correct. The tank is filled with a cap on the cost. Mr. Boynton also discussed that Scott Cooke came and serviced and fixed the furnace and that the furnace is now working.
- Committeeman Desiderio had nothing to report.
- Committeeman McPeek had nothing to report.
- Municipal Clerk Zilberfarb reminded the members to watch the elected officials risk management seminar for this year. Mr. Ramos already completed. All must be done by May 1st and the town will get a reduction in the last insurance payment.

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. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Ramos to exit executive session.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- Salt shed update – Paul Sterbenz discussed the bid documents for the salt shed and site improvements and timelines with the committee. The bid opening was held on March 4th. 2 bids were received and were very similar in costs. The low cost was from Walkill NJ at approximately \$488,000 and the 2nd bid was from Reinhold PA at approximately \$498,000. He explained that these numbers were not expected and he went back and interviewed each contractor. Both contractors explained that they were subcontracting everything out for the most part. Lumber, steel and metal prices are higher and one of the contractors was building from scratch. Mr. Sterbenz feels there should be a different approach on this project with possibly the dpw doing more of the work.

Mr. Ramos questioned the 311 page bid document and out of 8 people that purchased the bid doc only 2 actually bid. He discussed the document being extensive and that the project definitely needs to be broken down and simplified. The salt shed is going to be a Morton building with 2 garage doors. He felt that the dpw could demolish the old building and do some of the other work. He would like to speak with Pioneer Pole Barns and would like to prepare the bid document. Mr. Ramos asked Mr. Sterbenz if there would be any future simplified costs moving forward and Mr. Sterbenz stated that there would be but he will work to keep them at a minimum. Mr. Desiderio discussed moving the brine tank and grading. They all agreed that the coop could do the paving. After discussion amongst the committee, there will be a special meeting held next week, preferably, to discuss the next steps. The committeemembers, cfo, engineer and clerk should all be in the meeting. Ms. Zilberfarb will email all to schedule and advertise in the newspaper.

- Stand pipe on Ramsey Road was held until regular meeting on March 17th.
- Remote meeting protocol was held until regular meeting on March 17th.

- Carter Smith's Eagle Scout presentation was given to each Committeeman and they were asked to look at this and be prepared for the meeting on March 17th to discuss with Carter Smith.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 2021 Municipal Budget – the operating budget was discussed by Ms. Dyer and Mr. Ardito. Ms. Dyer explained that the budget remains with a flat tax rate for the municipality. There has been \$15,000 added to the capital improvement fund and moved the fire departments from outside of the cap to inside cap.

Breakdowns for the fire departments:

- Blairstown Hose Company - \$20,000 in capital and \$5,000 donation
- Hope township fire department - \$9,500 in capital and \$3,000 in donation. They asked for extraordinary amount of capital. The committee would pay over 5 years
- Green township fire department - \$12,000 in donation. They asked for all in donation and no capital.

These can all be modified if we reach an agreement. All committeemen were in agreeance with the budget as is with zero (0) tax rate for the municipality. Mr. Ardito will prepare the budget resolution for introduction for the March 17th meeting.

- The capital budget \$162,500 was discussed and the breakdown is:
 - Fire departments \$29,500
 - Dpw \$1,000 signs, \$1,000 tools, \$80,000 road work
 - Buildings & Grounds \$2,000 townhall deck, white back wall, tanks, \$10,000 dpw garage stucco and all trim repairs
 - Morton building floor \$30,000
 - Standpipe \$5,000
 - Recreation \$1,500 soccer goals, and \$2,500 softball extensions
 - Section 20 expenses \$5,000
- Mr. Ardito told the committee that the budget for the town is looking good and surplus was at \$710,000 and used \$431,000 to fund the budget. Commended the committee on the job they are doing.
- Mr. Ramos explained the state funding losses for the schools and asked Mr. Ardito about the school deferred tax credit and how the town can plan for the future. Mr. Ardito agreed and the town can get in front of that but will need to structure the budget to get ahead. He explained that there is no legal method to put the reserve on the books and explained that they need to keep surplus.
- Ms. Dyer discussed the introduction of the bond ordinance and after discussion, she will contact bond counsel and get the information to them for introduction on March 17th.
- Mr. Stracco explained the location agreement for a short film being filmed at the old bank on Route 94. Motion was made by Mr. Ramos to retroactively authorize the Mayor to sign the location agreement, seconded by Mr. Stracco. All were in favor.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Motion was made by Mr. Ramos, 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:

- No public comment

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

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Ramos, seconded by Mr. McPeek to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Zilberfarb, RMC