

MINUTES OF WORK MEETING OF NOVEMBER 22, 2021

The work meeting of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee was held at the Township Municipal Building, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey on Monday, November 22, 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 were: Mayor Chris Stracco, Deputy Mayor Keith Ramos, Committeeman David Boynton, Committeeman Frank Desiderio, Committeeman Todd McPeek, and Municipal Clerk Donna Zilberfarb.

RESOLUTIONS:

#2021-87 RESOLUTION APPOINTING SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF FRELINGHUYSEN PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL PUBLIC CONTRACTS LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, ET SEQ. WHEREAS, there exists a need for special counsel to represent and advise the Frelinghuysen Township on matters involving fire coverage for Frelinghuysen Township and its residents; and **WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5, *et seq.* provides that a contract or agreement may be awarded without public advertising for bids and bidding if authorized by resolution, and if the subject matter thereof consists of professional services, defined as services rendered or performed by a person authorized by law to practice a recognized profession, and the performance of which services requires knowledge of an advanced type in a field of learning acquired by a prolonged formal course of specialized instruction and study; and **WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 *et seq.*) requires the governing body of a contracting unit to publish a notice in a newspaper authorized by law to publish its legal advertisements, setting forth the nature, duration, service and amount of a professional services contract. **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen, County of Warren, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Justin A. Marchetta, Esq. ("Marchetta") of the firm of Inglesino, Webster, Wyciskala & Taylor, LLC is hereby retained as special counsel for the Township of Frelinghuysen, to provide counsel, advice and legal services to the Township commencing November 10, 2021 nunc pro tunc, for a term of one year and until a successor is appointed and qualified.
2. The Mayor and Township Clerk are authorized to execute an Agreement for Professional Services with Marchetta.
3. The contract is awarded competitive bidding as a "professional service" under the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5, *et seq.*
4. Notice of this Agreement shall be published once in the official designated newspaper of the Township within 10 days of the date hereof.

CERTIFICATION I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Frelinghuysen Township Committee at a meeting held on November 22, 2021. DONNA ZILBERFARB, Clerk

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

#2021-88 RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE SHBP/SEHBP FOR DENTAL PLAN COVERAGE. BE IT RESOLVED: 1. The Frelinghuysen township – 006900, a participating employer in the SHBP/SEHBP, hereby elects to participate in the Employee Dental Plans provided by the New Jersey State Health Benefits Act of New Jersey (N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.25 *et seq.*) and to authorize coverage for all the employees and their dependents thereunder in accordance with the statute and regulations adopted by the State Health Benefits Commission. 2. As a participating employer, we will remit to the State Treasury all changes due on account of employee and dependent coverage and periodic charges in accordance with the requirements of

the statute and the rules and regulations duly promulgated thereunder. 3. As the employer, I understand that the employer is responsible for at least 50 percent of the dental program. 4. We hereby appoint Danette Dyer, CFO to act as Certifying Officer in the administration of this program. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately and coverage shall be effective as of 1/1/2022, or as soon thereafter as it may be effectuated pursuant to the statutes and regulations. I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the: Frelinghuysen Township, 11/22/2021, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey 07825, 908-852-4121. Donna Zilberfarb, Municipal Clerk. Number of employees: 3 employers state employer Identification number (EIN) 22-6001825, present dental plan carrier: none. Mail completed resolution to: NJ Division of Pension and Benefits, Health Benefits Bureau, PO Box 299, Trenton, NJ 08625-0299.

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

#2021-89 RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 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 NOVEMBER 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		x			
Mr. McPeek			x			
Mr. Ramos			x			
Mr. Stracco			x			

#2021-90 SETTING EXECUTIVE SESSION WHEREAS, it is necessary to discuss items dealing with contract negotiations and potential litigation. 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 November 22, 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			

NEW BUSINESS:

- Appointment for dpw laborer. Motion was made by Mr. Ramos to hire Justin Huffman as dpw laborer at \$22.00 per hour effective November 29, 2021, seconded by Mr. McPeek. All were in favor.
- Mr. Ramos made a motion to hold the annual reorganizational meeting on January 3, 2022 at 7 pm, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor. Ms. Zilberfarb will advertise.

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:

- Marty Connor, Lincoln Laurel Road, asked what the special counsel was appointed for and Mr. Stracco explained for the fire departments issues.
- Mr. Connor asked what happened to Jamie? Mr. Ramos explained that he received a text stating she changed her mind about the laborer position.

- Mr. Connor asked if Justin was good and Mr. Ramos explained that he interviewed him and feels good about the hire, as well as the foreman.
- Mr. Connor asked if they have given consideration to having a 3 person dpw. Mr. Ramos explained they'd like to fill the 2 positions before considering.
- Mr. Stracco asked Mr. Connor about the greenhouse being removed completely. Mr. Connor was not positive and will get back to Mr. Stracco. If it is not a letter will be sent out.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Mr. Ramos to enter into executive session, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Mr. Ramos to exit executive session, seconded by Mr. McPeek. All were in favor.

RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING:

Mr. Stracco explained that the executive session was for ongoing contract negotiations and potential litigation.

Mr. Boynton discussed the heat situation at the FFP lodge and that ongoing thermostat issues are being resolved. He felt someone was unlocking the thermostats. Mr. Ramos will look at this weekend and would look into wifi systems with locks and lockouts for the thermostats.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. McPeek, seconded by Mr. Desiderio to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Zilberfarb, RMC