

MINUTES OF WORK MEETING OF AUGUST 11, 2021

The regular meeting of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee was held at the Township Municipal Building, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey on Wednesday, August 11, 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, Attorney Rich Beilin, and Municipal Clerk Donna Zilberfarb.

RESOLUTIONS:

#2021-70 A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF FRELINGHUYSEN

WHEREAS, the Township of Frelinghuysen, in order to comply with New Jersey Emergency Management Directive #102, must make a minimum three-year appointment of an Emergency Management Coordinator; and WHEREAS, James Burns is qualified to serve as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Township of Frelinghuysen; and WHEREAS, the Mayor wishes to appoint James Burns to the position of Emergency Management Coordinator for a period of three years from August 11, 2021 and ending August 10, 2024, with the advice and consent of the Township Committee. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the appointment of James Burns as Emergency Management Coordinator for the Township of Frelinghuysen is hereby confirmed by the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen. CERTIFICATION I, Donna Zilberfarb, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Frelinghuysen do hereby certify the above to be a true copy adopted by the Mayor and Township Committee on August 11, 2021. ROLL CALL VOTE:

	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. Boynton			X			
Mr. Desiderio	X		X			
Mr. McPeek			X			
Mr. Ramos		X	X			
Mr. Stracco			X			

#2021-71 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF RAFFLE LICENSES FOR ANTLER RIDGE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY WHEREAS, the Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary has applied for a raffle license to conduct an on premises tricky tray consisting of application #2021-01; and WHEREAS, the Findings and Determination by the Municipal Clerk has determined that the organization is qualified to conduct such raffle. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary raffle application #2021-01 is hereby approved.

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

#2021-72 SETTING EXECUTIVE SESSION WHEREAS, it is necessary to discuss items dealing with contract negotiations, possible litigation and personnel matters. 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 August 11, 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			

Mr. Desiderio	x		X			
Mr. McPeek		x	X			
Mr. Ramos			X			
Mr. Stracco			X			

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Mayor Chris Stracco – Nothing to report but thanked everyone involved with the salt shed for all their time and efforts and is extremely delighted that 8 years plus it is now getting done.
- Deputy Mayor Ramos reported that he met with contractors and Paul Sterbenz. Grading needs to be completed. He discussed that the tentative start date of project with the contractor is September 7, 2021 with a tentative completion date of December 6, 2021. Mr. Ramos also discussed that the park will be shut down and will have fencing
- Committeeman David Boynton reported he received a call from Amy Winfield regarding the fireplace at the rec center and asked if it worked. It was determined that it doesn't work and should not be used.
- Committeeman Frank Desiderio let the committee know that he enjoyed the demolition of the salt shed and filled 2 40 yard containers.
- Committeeman Todd McPeek reported that he spoke with Mike Weir and he is interested in helping out with the mowing of the ball fields and would like to keep him on as a part time employee at a pay rate of \$18.67 per hour. He also thanked Mr. Desiderio for work with the demolition.

Motion was made by Mr. McPeek to hire Mike Weir as a part time employee with a pay rate of \$18.67/hour, seconded by Mr. Desiderio. All were in favor.

- Municipal Clerk Donna Zilberfarb reminded the committee of the League of Municipalities conference in November for anyone that would like to attend, she will sign everyone up. She also gave the remainder of the year of her time off to all committee members stating it could change and there will be more days that haven't been determined as of today.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Salt shed update was discussed in Committeeman Ramos report.
- Stand pipe on Ramsey Road has been held for a month, will discuss in September.
- Mr. Stracco has not heard back from Chief Slater on Hess Road vacation.
- Mr. Ramos asked that time clocks be held until he can discuss further with the CFO.
- Hope fire department was present. Mr. Stracco discussed the letter that was received from all 3 fire chiefs and asked if Hope fire department was still requesting \$23,000. Chief Marino answer the email with questions he received from Mr. Ramos, explaining some of the information took time to get and that is why it wasn't sent back prior. Answers were as follows: Hope township donates \$23,000., Hope pays outside of capital and O&E \$87,000., most recent truck cost \$160,000., average annual cost for the department to run \$80,000., Route 80 calls 60 average per year (3 year average), total received for cash for crash & 7,394., Average donations over 5 years \$98,000. Chief Marino also explained what they've been able to purchase in the past with the capital and donations from Frelinghuysen Township. He explained that last month they had to pay out \$8,000 to put equipment on the new truck. Discussion was had regarding the number of houses and cost per house and adding forest manor and route 80 into costs for Hope Fire department. After discussion, Mr. Stracco explained different aspects of getting more monies to them, if the committee agreed. Mr. Stracco asked if \$10,000 would be acceptable. The town would need to do a bond ordinance for that amount and monies would not be available until mid-October or mid-November. After discussion, the committee will discuss at the regular meeting on the 18th. Mr. Stracco will also look into a special assessment for forest manor for fire coverage. Mr. Stracco asked that all committee members be prepared to discuss at the regular meeting next week.

Motion was made to open to the public for Hope Fire Department discussion only, seconded by Mr. Ramos. All were in favor.

- Loren Greco, Greendell Road, asked if the fire department sent out donation letters to all residents in Frelinghuysen or just the ones they cover and suggested that they send to everyone. Chief Marino explained

that they send out letters for donations but due to covid they did not send any out.

- Donna Eitner, State Park Road, thanked the fire department for their service and felt it was justified to receive additional monies.

Motion was made by Mr. Ramos to close to the public for Hope Fire Department discussion only, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mr. Stracco explained the OEM coordinator had sent email that basically stated that if there weren't contracts with the 3 fire departments he was resigning. Motion was made by Mr. Ramos to accept the resignation of Ralf Irizarry effective immediately, seconded by Mr. Boynton. Roll call vote: Mr. Boynton-yes; Mr. Desiderio-yes; Mr. McPeek-yes; Mr. Ramos-yes; Mr. Stracco-yes. Mr. Stracco will inform him tonight.
- Motion was made by Mr. Boynton to accept George Boesze, Zoning Officer, resignation with regrets, seconded by Mr. McPeek. All were in favor. Ms. Zilberfarb will advertise for the position.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

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

- Mr. Greco asked what the salt shed will be made out of. Mr. Ramos explained metal with wood.
- Marty O'Connor, Lincoln Laurel Road, inquired about the signs on Lincoln Laurel and asked why they are still up. Handed photos to the committee members. He discussed the Ordinance and after 2 weeks they should be taken down but they haven't been. After a brief discussion, Mr. Ramos will reach out to Pastor Marc and Amy to discuss.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

No action was taken.

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

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:

Mr. Stracco explained the purpose of the executive session was to discuss ongoing contract negotiations and personnel matters.

Motion was made by Mr. McPeek to hire Edmund Rosenburgh as laborer in dpw at \$21.00 per hour effective September 1, 2021. A new hire drug screening will be conducted prior to start date, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.

Mr. McPeek asked the Mayor to read the Green Township Correspondence regarding ISO. After the Mayor read it Mr. McPeek discussed contacting his insurance company and that this doesn't affect your coverage and that it hadn't recognized the ISO rating. Mr. Ramos has reached out as well and rates are not affected.

Mr. Boynton questioned the 20 minutes for public session and when it changed. Mr. Stracco explained that residents/public should be heard and better to hear all present in his opinion.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC AGAIN:

Motion was made by Mr. Desiderio, seconded by Mr. Boynton 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 present

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Green Fire Department – ISO-PPC Correspondence
- Ralf Irizarry, OEM Coordinator – email

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. McPeek, seconded by Mr. Desiderio to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Zilberfarb, RMC