

January 20, 2021

Re: Return to All Virtual Format for Township Meetings

Dear Frelinghuysen Resident:

On March 16, 2020 myself and the OEM, Nick Pachnos, signed a Proclamation of Local Disaster and Emergency in Frelinghuysen Township in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. That Proclamation remains in effect.

On March 18, 22 and 24 Original, and Amended and Supplemental Frelinghuysen Township Directives for Implementation of the Governor's Executive Orders 107, 108, Administrative Order 2020-4, and the Proclamation of Local Disaster and Emergency, were posted on the Township's website.

We have continued to work closely with the County of Warren, the Warren County Office of Emergency Management, the Warren County Department of Health, other municipalities, our state and Federal representatives, to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, as we as the provision of accurate information to the public through the Township's OEM's website, and periodically, as necessary, through the Township's website.

Although Town Hall remains closed to the public for the duration of the State of Emergency, all municipal services remain operational.

We had previously allowed in-person meetings of Township Boards and Committee's to resume pursuant to the directives of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services, and Administrative Order 2020-4 provided they can ensure that adequate social distancing can occur, proper notice is given, and where appropriate, applications are deemed complete.

However, due to the recent increase in cases of COVID-19 both in the State, County and the Township, both the OEM and myself once again must restrict all Township Committee and Board meetings to remote only format. Such meetings will be conducted virtually and remotely, provided the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act can be complied with as directed by the Department of Community Affairs. Notice will be provided to the public in advance on how to access these meetings remotely. In short, no official Township meetings required under the Open Public Meetings Act shall be in-person for the foreseeable future.

Myself and the OEM will reevaluate the circumstances as time progresses.

As of today I am informed that there are or have been a total cumulative 145 positive COVID-19 diagnoses in the Township, with a total of 4,860 in the County, with 175 COVID related deaths in the County.

I wish everyone in the Township well.

Christopher Stracco, Mayor