

MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 19, 2024

Mayor Ferro calls the meeting to order 8:01 p.m. followed by a flag salute and a moment of silence.

STATEMENT OF NOTICE AS REQUIRED BY P.L. 1975, C231 IS READ.

I hereby announce that pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in the annual meeting notice which was mailed to the Asbury Park Press and the Trenton Times, posted on the public announcements bulletin board in Town Hall and filed in the Office of the Township Clerk on December 21, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Committeeperson Eric Davis – absent, Deputy Mayor Chris Morris – present, Committeeperson Tara Zabrosky – absent, Committeeperson Jeff Ziner - present and Mayor Al Ferro - present. Also, in attendance: Brian Chabarek, Esq. - Township Attorney, Kevin Abernethy – Township Administrator and Kathleen Hart - Municipal Clerk.

All attendees and participants agree to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for public gathering. Individual speakers should be advised that no right of privacy protects a person’s public comments made in a public forum. Accordingly, all participants bear responsibility for their own statements and commentary.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 24-150 Resolution to Read Budget by Title Only

Motion to adopt was moved by DM/Morris; second by C/Ziner.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: DM/Morris, C/Ziner, M/Ferro

NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: C/Davis, C/Zabrosky

PRESENTATION: 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Deputy CFO, Melissa Peerboom presented the 2024 Municipal Budget.

The local municipal tax rate increased by one cent to \$0.234. The average home assessment is currently \$535,394.16 with the average home local municipal tax payment equating to \$1,252.82. This is change of 5.11%. The Township accomplishments are road improvements, increased open space, continued financial support for first aid and additional shared services which include the Tax Assessor. The goals are minimal tax rate increases to offset the rising cost of goods and debt costs; construct a budget that provides the required services but limits the financial impact to residents; include required capital improvements for the upkeep of the community without incurring new debt which is extremely important to the Township Committee. This year we have fully funded capital improvements; addressed EMS by providing financial support for first aid operations with the Fire Department and will improve energy efficiency. We have had a substantial jump in the annual net valuation this year due to the warehouses. The annual tax collection percentage has been steady over the years and 2023 is 98.82%. The anticipated total revenue is \$10,295,165.03 which increased \$214,523.81 from last year. The capital improvement program presented is an estimated projection of capital projects for the next six years. This is merely a plan of capital improvements, not authorizing funding. The year 2020 was the last year we bonded our debt and we will not incur any debt this year. The estimated property tax rate summary is as follows: 70.3% school; 11.6% county; 10% municipal; 5.5% fire district; 2.6% municipal open space. In summary, the Township continues to collaborate with efforts to manage new challenges and priorities; continues to review appropriations; seek shared services and cost reduction opportunities and research additional revenue resources. Millstone Township ranks #5 out of 53 municipalities for the lowest municipal local purposes tax rate in Monmouth County.

Mayor Ferro and Kevin Abernethy, Township Administrator thanked Melissa Peerboom.

Affidavit of Publication presented

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Mayor Ferro opens the meeting to the public at 8:22 p.m.
No public comment.
Mayor Ferro closes the meeting to the public at 8:22 p.m.

RESOLUTION 24-151 Adopt the 2024 Municipal Budget

Motion to adopt was moved by C/Ziner, second by DM/Morris.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: C/Ziner, DM/Morris, M/Ferro
NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: C/Davis, C/Zabrosky

RESOLUTIONS: CONSENT RESOLUTION POSTED ON BULLETIN BOARD.

ALL MATTERS LISTED UNDER ITEM “CONSENT AGENDA” ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE (1) MOTION IN THE FORM LISTED BELOW. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION ON THESE ITEMS, IF DISCUSSION IS DESIRED OF ANY ITEM, THAT ITEM WILL BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY.

- 24-152 Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Third Amended Shared Services Agreement Between the Township of Millstone and the Millstone Township Fire District
- 24-153 Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Alcohol Beverage 2024-2025 License for the Loyal Order of Moose Jackson Lodge #1459 License No. 1332-31-007-001
- 24-154 Resolution Appointing Full-Time DPW Laborer Without CDL
- 24-155 Resolution Appointing Full-Time DPW Laborer With CDL
- 24-156 Payment of Vouchers – June 19, 2024
- 24-157 Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of Alcohol Beverage 2024-2025 License for Domal Restaurant Corp. License No. 1332-33-003-011
- 24-158 Resolution Directing Tax Collector to Refund Real Estates Taxes Listed on Schedule A
- 24-159 Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of Alcohol Beverage 2024-2025 License for Indus Holdings, Inc. T/A Buy Rite Liquors, License No. 1332-44-004-007
- 24-160 Resolution Appointing Full-Time Deputy Chief Financial Officer
- 24-161 Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of Alcohol Beverage 2024-2025 License for Vesuvio's Family Restaurant, LLC License No. 1332-33-001-010

Motion to adopt was moved by DM/Morris, second by DM/Morris.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: C/Ziner, DM/Morris, M/Ferro
NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: C/Davis, C/Zabrosky

RESOLUTION:

- 24-162 Resolution Granting an Extension of Current Mining Permit for Buck Mining and Materials, Inc., Block 28, Lots 11 & 13.01 to July 17, 2024

The Township Attorney stated that pursuant to the Township Code Chapter 22, Section 22-4.2 “an application for the issuance of a mining permit shall be filed with the Township Clerk not later than 30 days before the hearing which is the first Township meeting in June”. The application was submitted on June 18th and was not filed timely. The Township Engineer did not have time to review, inspect and report his findings and recommendations to the governing body. Also, pursuant to Township Code Chapter 22-4.1, Subsection i “No mining permit will be issued until the applicant has submitted proof that it is current in the payment of real estate taxes on the subject property”. The current mining permit expires June 30, 2024. The resolution on the agenda for consideration by the governing body is a temporary extension until July 17, 2024. M/Ferro stated that the temporary extension will give the Township Engineer enough time to prepare his report for the governing body to review.

MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 19, 2024

Motion to adopt was moved by DM/Morris, second by C/Ziner.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: DM/Morris, C/Ziner, M/Ferro
NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: C/Davis, C/Zabrosky

REPORTS FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS FOR MAY 2024:

Tax Collector	\$10,607,057.64
Clerks Report	\$ 9,444.00
Dog License	\$ 468.00
Municipal Court	\$ 9,172.18
Recreation	\$ 131,153.38
Construction (April)	\$ 41,060.00
COAH (April)	\$ 4,276.00
Construction (May)	\$ 34,200.00
COAH (May)	\$ 12,843.00
2024 Interest Revenue	

Motion to file was moved by C/Ziner, second by DM/Morris. All in Favor.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES:

1. Regular Meeting Minutes – May 15, 2024

Motion to adopt was moved by DM/Morris, second by C/Ziner.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: DM/Morris, C/Ziner
NAYS: None ABSTAIN: M/Ferro ABSENT: C/Davis, C/Zabrosky

2. Executive Meeting Minutes – May 15, 2024

Motion to adopt was moved by C/Ziner, second by DM/Morris.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: DM/Morris, C/Ziner
NAYS: None ABSTAIN: M/Ferro ABSENT: C/Davis, C/Zabrosky

3. Executive Meeting Minutes – June 5, 2024

Motion to table the executive meeting minutes of June 5, 2024 was moved by C/Ziner, second by DM/Morris.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: C/Ziner, DM/Morris, M/Ferro
NAYS: None ABSTAIN: M/Ferro ABSENT: C/Davis, C/Zabrosky

Executive Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2024 are tabled to the July 17, 2024 Township Committee meeting.

VOTE: C/Zabrosky ____, C/Ziner ____, C/Davis ____, DM/Morris ____, M/Ferro _____

4. Regular Meeting Minutes – June 5, 2024

Motion to table the regular meeting minutes of June 5, 2024 was moved by C/Ziner, second by DM/Morris.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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AYES: C/Ziner, DM/Morris, M/Ferro

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: M/Ferro

ABSENT: C/Davis, C/Zabrosky

Regular Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2024 are tabled to the July 17, 2024 Township Committee meeting.

APPLICATION FOR A RAFFLE LICENSE:

1. PTO Freehold Township High School Patriots, RA #322, On-Premise 50/50 Raffle, to be held on July 29, 2024 at Charleston Springs Gold Course, 101 Woodville Road, Millstone NJ 08535.

Motion to approve was moved by DM/Morris, second by M/Ferro. All in Favor.

2. PTO Freehold Township High School Patriots, RA #323, On-Premise Merchandise Raffle, to be held on July 29, 2024 at Charleston Springs Gold Course, 101 Woodville Road, Millstone NJ 08535.

Motion to approve was moved by DM/Morris, second by M/Ferro. All in Favor.

LIAISON REPORTS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

COMMENTS FROM THE DIAS:

The Township Administrator discussed that the 2024 budget has been adopted and the Township can now proceed with the road program. There is DOT funding for Stillhouse and Paint Island Spring Road and the next funding round we submitted an application for Spring Road and Carrs Tavern Road. The DOT funding is only for arterial roads, not development roads. We will review what roads are in the worst shape and hopefully, the price of fuel will drop so more roads can be done.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: (Limited to ½ Hour)

M/Ferro opens the meeting to the public at 8:35 p.m.

Anthony Lombardino, 14 Holdman Place, discussed his concerns about the condition of Pinehill Road at the section where Buck Mining utilizes the roadway, which is in terrible condition. It should have been paved several years ago, but has only been patched several times. The section from the intersection of Stillhouse Road and Pinehill Road to the entrance of Buck Mining was paved but the remaining section of Pinehill Road from Buck Mining to Millstone Road is still in terrible shape. It was understood that once the mine closed after the permit expired on June 30, 2024, the road would be paved. Since the Township Committee is considering the renewal of the mining permit, this should be one of the items considered. The Township Administrator stated that he met with Mr. Lombardino to discuss this issue and several others, including a request for a streetlight at the intersection of Pinehill Road and Millstone Road. M/Ferro stated that the resolution that was just adopted only extends the mining permit to July 17, 2024 and the Township Committee is waiting for the report from the Township Engineer who will take into consideration the road condition of Pinehill Road.

William Stone, Buck Mining, stated that the resolution extends the permit to July 17, 2024. He has discussed with the Township Engineer the road condition and possibly patching again as they are continuing to run the trucks or possibly being able to split the cost of the paving with the Township. Mr. Stone also stated that the property taxes will be brought up to date. Possibly, the County is interested in purchasing the property, including Campo Mine. M/Ferro asked if there is a concrete date when Buck Mine will close. Mr. Stone said that this would probably be the last two years for the mining operation. Also, Buck Mining has been restoring certain areas. The route that the trucks must take is: Left onto Millstone Road, left onto Sweetmans Road, left onto Route 527A, to Route 33. Mr. Stone also stated that they have a company that sweeps the road on a regular basis.

MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 19, 2024

Anthony Lombardino, 14 Holdman Place stated that patching the road is unacceptable and it needs to be paved properly. Please keep in mind that it is a residential area.

M/Ferro closes the meeting to the public at 8:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was moved by DM/Morris; second by C/Ziner. All in Favor.

Time Out 8:50 p.m.

Audio of the meeting is available in the Municipal Clerks Office.

June 19, 2024 Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes approved at a Township Committee meeting held on August 21, 2024.

Kathleen Hart, RMC
Municipal Clerk