

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 17, 2024

The regular meeting of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee was held in the Municipal Building, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Ramos.

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 and by emailing notice to the New Jersey Herald and The Express-Times.

ROLL CALL:

Those present were: Mayor Ramos, Deputy Mayor Stracco, Committeeman McPeek, Committeewoman Natyzak Osadca, Committeeman Stock, Attorney Rich Beilin, Auditor Anthony Ardito, CFO Ashley Kannaly, and Municipal Clerk Donna Zilberfarb.

PROCLAMATION:

WHEREAS, the township of Frelinghuysen, in Warren County, State of New Jersey recognizes the problem of child abuse and neglect and is committed to helping it's victims; and **WHEREAS**, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties recruits, screens, supports and supervises community volunteers as advocates for children who have been removed from their homes due to neglect and abuse; and **WHEREAS**, adverse childhood experiences and trauma, such as those caused by child abuse or neglect, can have long-lasting effects on a child's health, wellbeing and success; and **WHEREAS**, survivors of child abuse need people in their lives that will consider their best interests; and **WHEREAS**, the Court Appointed Special Advocate programs have a record of public service, helping protect the safety and wellbeing of the Township of Frelinghuysen abused and neglected children; and **WHEREAS**, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are assigned by family court judges to champion the needs of child abuse victims; and **WHEREAS**, CASAs are everyday people, with diverse backgrounds and professions, that go through very specialized training to be a volunteer voice for children in the child welfare system; and **WHEREAS**, CASAs volunteers serve as the court's eyes and ears in a child's life, helping to improve the quality of information presented to the court and child welfare systems; and **WHEREAS**, April 2023 is National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month, an observance that reflects the purpose of CASA programs; **NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Keith Ramos, Mayor of the Township of Frelinghuysen, do hereby proclaim: **APRIL 2024 AS CASA CHILD ADVOCATE MONTH** Mayor, Keith Ramos Motion was made by Mr. McPeek to concur and accept, seconded by Mr. Stock. All were in favor.

MINUTES:

- Minutes of the March 13, 2024, work/budget meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. Stock, seconded by Mr. McPeek. All were in favor.
- Minutes of the March 20, 2024 regular session meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Stock, seconded by Mr. McPeek. All were in favor.

BUDGET:

#2024-33 SELF-EXAMINATION OF BUDGET RESOLUTION WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5, the Township of Frelinghuysen has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local government Services, and the Chief Financial officer has determined that the local government meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2024 budget year. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the governing body of the Township of Frelinghuysen that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & 7.6b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements: 1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget: a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures c. Cash deficit of preceding year d. Reserve for uncollected taxes e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes. 2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.3 et seq., are fully met (complies with CAP law). 3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5. 4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law: a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated, b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth c. In itemization, form, arrangement and content, the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality. 5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification. 6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Director of the Division of

Local Government Services upon adoption. **CERTIFICATION** I, Donna M. Zilberfarb, Clerk of the Township of Frelinghuysen, do hereby certify the foregoing Resolution to be a true and accurate copy adopted by the Township Committee on April 17, 2024. Donna Zilberfarb, RMC

Roll Call vote:

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. McPeek	x		x			
Ms. Natyzak			x			
Mr. Ramos			x			
Mr. Stock		X	x			
Mr. Stracco			x			

#2024-24 TOWNSHIP OF FRELINGHUYSEN COUNTY OF WARREN STATE OF NEW JERSEY
WHEREAS, the Township of Frelinghuysen is holding a meeting on March 20, 2024, for the purpose of introducing the 2024 Municipal Budget and conducting other matters; and, **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen, Warren County, New Jersey, that the Township of Frelinghuysen hereby petitions the Director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2024 Local Municipal Budget be introduced and approved on March 22, 2024. **2024 FRELINGHUYSEN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Surplus anticipated general revenues	\$ 550,000.00
Total Miscellaneous revenue	1,679,252.00
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	130,000.00
Local Property Taxes	<u>951,417.00</u>
Total General Revenues	<u>\$3,310,669.00</u>
Salaries and Wages	\$ 399,436.00
Other Expenses	605,929.00
Capital Improvements	620,000.00
Debt Service	998,451.00
Statutory Expenses	201,405.00
Reserve for Delinquent Taxes	<u>485,448.00</u>
Total 2024 Municipal Budget	<u>\$3,310,669.00</u>
2024 Municipal Tax Rate	\$0.328

Motion: Mr. Stracco, Second: Mr. Stock Committee Polled: Mr. McPeek-yes; Ms. Natyzak-yes; Mr. Ramos-yes; Mr. Stock-yes; Mr. Stracco-yes It is hereby certified that this is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the governing body of the Township of Frelinghuysen at a regular meeting held at the Municipal Building on March 20, 2024. Witness my hand and the SEAL of the Township of Frelinghuysen. SEAL: Donna Zilberfarb, Municipal Clerk. Mr. Ramos explained the budget and it was a tougher year due to a larger increase in the bond payment of \$53,000 and a \$171,000 tax rebate to Forest Manor. He explained that the town was able to fully fund ordinances this year, pay down \$920,000 to debt, which reduced debt by 1.5% and currently remaining debt is \$860,000, were able to give 3% increase for raises to the employees. He explained the tax burden this year for the residents will be approximately ½% which is approximately \$17.00 per household. He thanked the committee. Ms. Kannaley, CFO, explained the interest rates and how much higher they are and commended for not borrowing money and having the fully funded ordinances. She explained the sale of the property on Route 94 was very helpful to this budget this year and for the debt service. Mr. Ardito, Auditor, congratulated the committee on a having a smart budget and utilizing the sale of the property for paying down debt and putting into capital and keeping the tax rate low. Motion was made by Mr. McPeek to open to the public, seconded by Mr. Stock. There was no public comment on the budget. Motion was made by Mr. Stracco to close to the public, seconded by Mr. Stock.

RESOLUTIONS:

#2024-32 TOWNSHIP OF FRELINGHUYSEN WARREN COUNTY, NJ WHEREAS, a resolution is required by the Tax Collector to cancel 2023 taxes on Block **902**, Lot **8.01** in the amount of **\$ 202.74**. WHEREAS, John Hansen received a senior citizen deduction in the amount of \$250.00 (for tax year 2023). Mr. Hansen sold his property on October 24, 2023 and the Tax Collector was not aware of the transfer until after the end of the year. Mr. Hansen is entitled to the deduction from 1-1-23 to 10-24-23. Mr. Hansen will pay the amount due to the Township of \$ 47.26. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** on this 17th day Of April, 2024 by the Mayor and Township Committee that the above taxes be cancelled of record. I, Donna M. Zilberfarb, Clerk of the Township of Frelinghuysen, do hereby certify the foregoing Resolution to be a true and accurate copy adopted by the Township Committee on April 17th, 2024. Donna M. Zilberfarb, RMC Municipal Clerk

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. McPeek		x	x			
Ms. Natyzak			x			
Mr. Ramos			x			
Mr. Stock	x		x			
Mr. Stracco			x			

#2024-34 TOWNSHIP OF FRELINGHUYSEN, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE NO. 725 CONCERNING UNLAWFUL OCCUPANCY OF DWELLINGS AND SUPPLEMENTING TITLE 2C OF THE NEW JERSEY STATUTES OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY WHEREAS, the occupancy of a dwelling without the permission of the property owner, also known as "squatting" is an increasing occurrence throughout the State of New Jersey and the Country;

and **WHEREAS**, persons engaging in squatting often do so with the express intention of depriving the lawful property owners of the use and possession of their own property for as long as possible, with the express knowledge that squatting is not a criminal offense, thus requiring a property owner to undertake expensive, time-consuming civil litigation to recover their property, which said litigation can be subject to delay tactics including, but not limited to, bankruptcy applications, resulting in squatters successfully depriving lawful owners of the use and benefit of their own property for extended periods of time; and **WHEREAS**, Senators Steinhardt, Testa and Polistina have introduced and are sponsoring Senate No. 725, which said legislation would establish squatting in various contexts as criminal offenses and crimes of the fourth degree, thus permitting property owners to avail themselves of filing criminal complaints with local law enforcement that can be duly investigated, and, when appropriate, permit police officers to arrest and remove persons found to be engaged in said criminal squatting activities. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen that it hereby adopts this Resolution to memorialize its support for Senate No. 725 and certified copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded by the Town Clerk to the Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the Town's elected Representatives in the State Legislature, and the New Jersey League of Municipalities. Certification I, Donna M. Zilberfarb, Municipal Clerk, Township of Frelinghuysen, Warren County, State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee at a public meeting held on April 17, 2024.

Donna M. Zilberfarb, RMC/CMR Municipal Clerk

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. McPeek	x		x			
Ms. Natyzak			x			
Mr. Ramos			x			
Mr. Stock		x	x			
Mr. Stracco			x			

#2024-35 RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR MONTH OF APRIL 2024

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 APRIL 2024; and **WHEREAS**, the Finance Committee find the bills to be in order and recommend to the Township of Frelinghuysen Committee that they be paid by the Chief Financial Officer. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township of Frelinghuysen Township Committee that all bills submitted for the above name date are reasonable and proper and are to be paid from their appropriate account. I, Donna M. Zilberfarb, Clerk of the Township of Frelinghuysen, do hereby certify the foregoing Resolution to be a true and accurate copy adopted by the Township Committee on April 17th, 2024. Donna M. Zilberfarb, RMC Municipal Clerk Ms. Natyzak asked about the Bedell Brothers invoice and Ms. Kannaley explained they are the cleaning company and they now clean the Rec Center. She also inquired about Cliffside Body Corp invoice and Ms. Zilberfarb explained it was for carbide blades and chains.

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. McPeek	x		x			
Ms. Natyzak			x			
Mr. Ramos			x			
Mr. Stock		x	x			
Mr. Stracco			x			

ORDINANCES:

#2024-03 AMENDING SECTION 3-8 OF THE FRELINGHUYSEN TOWNSHIP CODE CONCERNING FALSE ALARMS

WHEREAS, false alarms place a substantial burden on fire and rescue services, and are a detriment to the public health, safety and welfare of the Township and its residents; and **WHEREAS**, the imposition of increased fines for both intentional and unintentional false alarms is an effective means to curtail such false alarms. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen as follows: **Section I** Section 3-8 of the Frelinghuysen Township Code, "False Alarms," is hereby amended to read as follows (additions are boldfaced, deletions are stricken through): **§ 3-8.2 Violations and Penalties.** Any person, firm or corporation who shall willfully cause a false alarm of any kind to be transmitted shall be subject to a fine of ~~not less than one hundred (\$100.00) dollars nor more than one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars.~~ **In addition, such person shall be subject to and/or imprisonment for not exceeding ninety (90) days or ninety (90) days community service at the discretion of the Judge of the Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. **§ 3-8.3 Unintentional False Alarms.** b. During each consecutive twelve-month period, it shall not be lawful for any person, firm or corporation that maintains a fire alarm system in the Township of Frelinghuysen to transmit more than **one (1)** ~~four (4)~~ false alarm in connection with the maintenance and operation of said alarm system. All such persons, firms or corporations shall diligently maintain their fire system alarm so as to avoid the transmission of such false alarms. c. The following penalties shall be imposed for the transmission of false automatic fire alarms in excess of **one (1)** ~~four (4)~~ false alarms: 1, **For a second false alarm during a consecutive twelve-month period, there shall be a fine of \$500.** ~~all alarms in excess of four (4) but not in excess of eight (8) within a consecutive twelve-month period, there shall be a fine of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars for each false alarm in the excess of four (4) during any such consecutive twelve-month period.~~ **2. In addition to any penalties assessed under subsection 3-8.3c1, for a third false alarm during a consecutive twelve-month period, there shall be a fine of \$750.** ~~all false alarms in excess of eight (8) but not in excess of sixteen (16) within a consecutive twelve-month period, there shall be a fine of two hundred fifty~~**

~~(\$250.00) dollars for each false alarm in excess of eight (8) during any such consecutive twelve-month period.~~ **3. In addition to any penalties assessed under subsections 3-8.3c1 & 2, for a fourth false alarm during a consecutive twelve-month period, there shall be a fine of \$1,000.** ~~In addition to any penalties assessed under subsection 3-8.3c1 and 2, for all false alarms in excess of sixteen (16) within a consecutive twelve-month period, there shall be a fine of one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars for each false alarm in excess of sixteen (16) during any such consecutive twelve-month period.~~ **4. In addition to any penalties assessed under subsections 3-8.3c1 through 3, for a fifth false alarm during a consecutive twelve-month period, and for every additional false alarm thereafter during that consecutive twelve-month period, there shall be a fine of \$2,000.** **Section II** 1. Each clause, section or subsection of this ordinance shall be deemed a separate provision to the intent that if any such clause, section or subsection should be declared invalid, the remainder of the ordinance shall not be affected. 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinance inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed as to the extent of such inconsistency. 3. This Ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days following final passage, approval, and publication as required by law. ATTEST: TOWNSHIP OF FRELINGHUYSEN DONNA ZILBERFARB, Clerk KEITH RAMOS, Mayor **NOTICE** Notice is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at the regular meeting of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee held on April 17, 2024 and will be considered for final reading and adoption at the meeting of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee to be held on May 15, 2024 at the Municipal Building, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey at which time and place all interested parties may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance. DONNA ZILBERFARB, Clerk Motion was made by Mr. Mcpeek to open for first reading for introduction, seconded by Mr. Stock. Roll call vote: Mr. McPeek-yes; Ms. Natyzak-yes; Mr. Ramos-yes; Mr. Stock-yes; Mr. Stracco-yes. Second reading for adoption will be held on May 15, 2024.

NO. 2024-04 AMENDING SECTION 2-64 OF THE FRELINGHUYSEN TOWNSHIP CODE CONCERNING THIRD PARTY BILLING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT AND RESCUE SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Frelinghuysen Township Volunteer Fire Company and the first aid squads servicing Frelinghuysen Township incur expenses in responding to automotive incidents within the Township, which become a burden on the taxpayers; and WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the Township and its residents to impose reasonable costs upon the owners of vehicles involved in such accidents, to assure that the highest quality emergency services can be provided to the public. NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen as follows: **Section I** Section 2-64 of the Frelinghuysen Township Code, "Third Party Billing for Fire Department and Rescue Services," is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

§ 2-64. THIRD-PARTY BILLING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT AND RESCUE SERVICES.

§ 2-64.1 Purpose; Assessment of Fees and Costs. The Frelinghuysen Township Volunteer Fire Company and other fire departments, as well as first aid squads servicing Frelinghuysen Township, are called out from time to time to respond to automotive incidents within the municipal boundaries of Frelinghuysen Township, including, but not limited to, responding to emergencies along and upon Interstate Route 80. Those responses require the use of supplies, material and other types of response expenses that are not otherwise recoverable, and therefore become a burden upon the taxpayers of Frelinghuysen Township. Accordingly, the Township Committee has determined that the owners of vehicles involved in automobile accidents in and along and upon the roadways within the municipal boundaries of the Township of Frelinghuysen shall be charged the cost of supplies, equipment and treatments used in response to emergencies, including but not limited to treatments for fuel spills. If, during the course of providing emergency services any of the equipment utilized by a fire department or a first aid squad is damaged, the cost of the repair and/or replacement of such equipment shall also be the obligation of the owner of the vehicle involved in the incident.

Compensation for the charges and costs specified herein may be assessed as follows:

- a. In the case of automobile incidents and accidents in and along Interstate Route 80, any fire department responding to same shall be authorized to seek compensation, as well as any first aid squad.
 - b. In the case of automobile incidents and accidents within the municipal boundaries of the Township of Frelinghuysen, but not along Interstate Route 80, the Frelinghuysen Township Volunteer Fire Company and any first aid squad shall be authorized to seek compensation.
- § 2-64.2 Procedure.** The fire department or first aid squad, as applicable, shall submit to the owner of the vehicle involved in the incident or accident, and to the insurance company insuring the vehicle, if known, a certification including:
- a. The date, time and place of the response by the fire department or first aid squad;
 - b. A list of the expendable equipment, supplies, treatments, etc., used by the fire department in responding to such automotive incident and accident together with the reasonable cost to replace such equipment, supplies, treatments, etc.;
 - c. The cost of repair and/or replacement of equipment that was damaged or destroyed in responding to such automotive incident and accident, and
 - d. An explanation of the right to appeal the decision, and the procedure for same as set forth at Section 2-64.3.

§ 2-64.3 Appeal. The owner of such vehicle shall have 30 days from the time that the owner receives the certification to pay in full the amount requested or in lieu of the payment thereof, to file an appeal of said bill/assessment. Any person desiring to appeal such bill/assessment shall file such appeal with the fire department or

first aid squad issuing the certification, and shall state the reason or reasons that the vehicle owner disputes the imposition of such amount. The notice of appeal shall be filed with the fire department or first aid squad that served the certification by certified mail, return receipt requested. The fire department or first aid squad that served the certification shall hear such appeal at the next regularly scheduled meeting following the receipt of the notice of appeal and shall render a decision upon such appeal not later than 45 days following the close of the hearing of such appeal. The decision of the fire department or first aid squad may affirm the assessment, adjust the assessment based upon information presented during the hearing of such appeal, or may cancel and discharge the assessment in full or in part. The decision of the fire department or first aid squad shall be final and binding upon the owner of such vehicle. **§ 2-64.4**

Violation; Enforcement. Should the owner of such vehicle fail to pay the amount certified to be due by the fire department or first aid squad within the time specified in the certification, or fail to file within the same time period set for payment an appeal of the assessment, the fire department or first aid squad shall issue a certification to the Frelinghuysen Township Municipal Court, in lieu of a summons, that the owner of the vehicle has failed to pay the assessment or file a timely appeal of the same. The failure set forth in the certification of the fire department or rescue squad shall be deemed a violation of this subsection which may be enforced in the Municipal Court in the same manner as any other violation under the Code of Ordinances of Frelinghuysen Township and shall be subject to, in addition to the amount of the assessment, a fine not to exceed \$100 together with costs. Any judgment of the Municipal Court may subsequently be enforced by a proceeding to collect such amounts in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Warren County. **Section II** 1. Each clause, section or subsection of this ordinance shall be deemed a separate provision to the intent that if any such clause, section or subsection should be declared invalid, the remainder of the ordinance shall not be affected. 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinance inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed as to the extent of such inconsistency. 3. This Ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days following final passage, approval, and publication as required by law. ATTEST: TOWNSHIP OF FRELINGHUYSEN

DONNA ZILBERFARB, Clerk KEITH RAMOS, Mayor **NOTICE** Notice is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at the regular meeting of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee held on April 17, 2024 and will be considered for final reading and adoption at the meeting of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee to be held on May 15, 2024 at the Municipal Building, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey at which time and place all interested parties may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance. DONNA ZILBERFARB, Clerk Motion was made by Mr. Mcpeek to open for first reading for introduction, seconded by Mr. Stock. Roll call vote: Mr. McPeek-yes; Ms. Natyzak-yes; Mr. Ramos-yes; Mr. Stock-yes; Mr. Stracco-yes. Second reading for adoption will be held on May 15, 2024.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Mayor Ramos – nothing to report
- Deputy Mayor Stracco – nothing to report
- Committeeman McPeek – nothing to report
- Committeewoman Natyzek – nothing to report
- Committeeman Stock – nothing to report
- Attorney Rich Beilin – nothing to report
- Municipal Clerk Zilberfarb let the committee know that Clean up week will be June 3-8 this year.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business discussed

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mr. Ramos explained discussing the sharp curve on South Street with the Engineer and signs are needed for each side. Motion was made by Mr. McPeek to proceed with signs, seconded by Mr. Stock. All were in favor.
- Motion was made by Mr. Stock to accept with regrets, Christine Pilkington's resignation from Recreation Committee, seconded by Mr. McPeek. All were in favor.
- Motion was made by Mr. McPeek to remove Meg Choudry due to absences, from the Environmental Commission, seconded by Mr. Stock. All were in favor.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Motion was made by Mr. McPeek for a consent agenda for department reports 1-16, seconded by Mr. Stock. All present were in favor.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Motion was made by Mr. Stock, seconded by Mr. McPeek limiting it to 20 minutes to open meeting to the public. All were in favor. Spoke were:

Rich Beilin, Attorney, explained to the public that the Land Use Board application and that because it is a pending application it can not be discussed at this meeting.

- Glen Fielding asked about the road improvement schedule and if there is one. Mr. McPeek explained that they are working on a schedule and will be paving certain roads and patching. Mr. Ramos explained that this year Greendell road and a portion of Kerrs Corner will be paved and possible for Mill Road but patching will be ongoing. Mr. Fielding asked how his road could get on the list for next year. Mr. Ramos explained the grants that we get from the State and have assessed roads 1-5 for road repairs and paving. He explained the costs associated with paving as well.
- Anthony Alleyne asked the committee to rectify the public dispute and explained issues he has had. Mr. Beilin explained that this has been discussed a number of times and urged Mr. Alleyne again to obtain an attorney for the issues.
- Howard Ryan thanked the Committee for their civic duty and discussed the Oath Of Office that each was given and read it to the public. He discussed civil rights violations and federal law for substance abuse. Mr. Kohuth asked why the Governor has not been brought up on Federal law charges being that cannabis is legal in NJ. Mr. Ryan stated he couldn't give a damn. Mr. Kohuth stated that State Laws superseding and Mr. Ramos stopped the discussion and asked that the public address the committee and not the others in the public.
- Frank Desiderio stated that when the town opted in for cannabis that we opted for distribution. It was explained that we did not choose distribution and cultivation and manufacture are the only things allowed.
- Anthony Alleyne asked about the survey on the website and how long it was up for and Mr. Ramos explained it was up for 1 month.
- Rayleine Kempinsky asked why if only 6% completed survey why opt in? Mr. Ramos explained how the State referendum was positive and gave % for Frelinghuysen and let her know that surrounding towns are available as well. Mr. Beilin explained that it was during covid and how it came from the State and each town needed to choose within the timeframe given.
- Melissa Hart asked how to change a zone on piece of property works. Mr. Beilin explained that it appeared in the Master Plan revision by the Planner and was given to the Land Use Board and the Planner agreed and it then came back to the Township Committee. Ms. Hart asked what the reasons for rezoning the piece of property were. Mr. Ramos explained the town did their due diligence and explained the auctions that occurred and that only one bidder came for the last auction.
- Janet DeFillippis asked about 2.2 million for the property and who came up with that value? Mr. Ramos explained that it was 2 million and dropped to 1.8 million.
- William J. Fehr asked if all 8 members believe a good idea? Mr. Ramos explained they can not speak on that, Mr. Beilin explained that this was discussed at the beginning of the meeting that it could not be discussed.
- Dave Togno asked that another survey be done by postal service and get more than 6% of people. Mr. Ramos explained that 600 people were yes for the State referendum question. Mr. Togno stated that he did not care about New Jersey question, does not want in his back yard. Mr. Ramos explained that the results have been proved and can not go back and survey again. He explained that this type of thing does not happen overnight and recommended attending meetings. Mr. Togno let the Committee know that nothing is set in stone.
- Howie Ryan asked Mr. Beilin if the councils failure to disclose federal illegality when the survey was put out render it mute? Mr. Beilin explained that the survey was not required and with the constitutionality issue and he disagrees.
- Dan Edwards started there is a communication issue and why not take recording and post on website so people can see that way. Mr. Ramos explained being an advocate for that but explained it all takes money but is working toward a solution.
- Dale Durling stated that surveys on line are not good because the internet is horrible. Mr. Ramos explained that they did the best that they could with the circumstances.
- Rick Smith asked about the letter that was sent out on May 21st. Mr. Ramos stated it was not mailed out but it was posted on the website and at townhall.
- Lisa Ryan discussed planet networks and thankful for that but wouldn't be able to log in for any zoom meetings.
- Tammy Arfken spoke of the survey in 2021 and asked about facebook. Mr. Stracco discussed the State referendum of being 60% in favor of legalizing cannabis and that the State and County were higher percentages.
- Kirk Perez discussed understanding rateables and having a young family and good place raising children and discussed the school. He asked what happens to the value of homes in the area.
- Dan Kohuth commented that the Committee has done the best they could and that it is every voters given right to vote.
- Howard Ryan stated again the legality per Federal law and discussed large amounts of cash and will draw in teams of organized people.
- Chris Breumaster asked when next meeting was and Mr. Ramos let him know that the Land Use Board meets May 6th at 7 pm.

- Ann Hockle asked if question is to be addressed to Land Use Board or Township Committee concerning the aquifer and hiring of people. Mr. Ramos explained to address the Land Use Board.
- Ed Ramia stated that he guesses the decision comes from Land Use Board. He explained looking through documents and feels greenhouses done right but feels they should remove “shall” and replace with must. Mr. Beilin explained under NJ law shall means must. Mr. Stracco also agreed that under NJ law shall means must but will take a look at it.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- State of New Jersey, DOT – Pavement preservation project
- State of New Jersey, Dept of State Planning commission – State Development and Redevelopment Plan
- Board of County of Commissioners of the County of Warren – Resolution #235-24 “in support of Senate Bill S-725 concerning unlawful occupancy of dwellings and supplementing Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes of the State of New Jersey
- Allamuchy Township – Ordinance #2024-09 “Private storm drain inlet retrofitting”
- Colliers Engineering and Development – Affordable Housing Legislation

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Stracco, seconded by Mr. McPeek to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Zilberfarb, RMC