

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – April 1, 2024**

Mayor Mueller *calls the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.* announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

PRESENT: Mayor A. Mueller, Mr. J. Albanese and Mr. J. Heller and Mr. J. Huelsebusch Deputy Mayor Panico joined the meeting virtually and left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator R. Sheola, Municipal Clerk K. Parker, Attorney C. Corsini

ABSENT: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Clerk read the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION
EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 *et seq.*, the Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist and desires to authorize the exclusion of the public from the portion of the meeting in accordance with the act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the specified subject matter as set forth in the following Exhibit “A.”

EXHIBIT A

<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Basis Of Public Exclusion</u>	<u>Date Anticipated When Disclosed to Public</u>
Department of Public Works	Personnel	Certain information at the discretion of Twp tonight shall remain confidential
Police Department	Personnel	“ “ “
Personnel	Personnel	“ “ “
Award of Emergency Contract	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
(fuel leak mitigation at DPW site)		
Raritan Township MUA Agreement	Contract Negotiations	“ “ “
Professional Services (Grant Writer	Contract Negotiations	“ “ “
Proposals)		
Block 21, Lot 4 (520 Mountain Road).....	Contract Negotiations	“ “ “
Block 55, Lot 34 (James).....	Contract Negotiations	“ “ “
Block 13, Lot 32 (Telleri).....	Contract Negotiations	“ “ “

Executive Session Minutes..... Attorney-Client Privilege..... “ “ “
 • March 18, 2024

Affordable Housing..... Potential Litigation..... “ “ “

2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Heller to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

Mayor Mueller led those present in the *Salute to the Flag*.

Executive Session:

Personnel/ Personnel

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Personnel / Seasonal Employees (Recreation)

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese to approve seasonal employees for the summer camp recreation program (June 24th until August 2nd) as follows:

LAST	FIRST	TITLE	HRLY WAGE
Ardito	Michael	Counselor	\$15.13
Batten	Rylee	Sr. Counselor	\$17.42
Cassella	Jared	Sr. Counselor	\$17.00
Cirianni	Joseph	Counselor	\$15.13
Evans	Karlee	Sr. Counselor	\$17.42
Fasinelli	Lauren	Counselor	\$15.13
Hawkins	Denise	Director	\$24.48
Icangelo	Isabella	Counselor	\$15.13
Jimerez	Heylin	Counselor	\$15.13
Kowieski	Meesha	Counselor	\$15.13
Lundari	Ryan	Counselor	\$15.13
Marsden	Lucas	Sr. Counselor	\$17.42
Mills	Dayana	Counselor	\$15.13
Pijanowski	Mary	Counselor	\$15.13
Polito	Kristin	Site Supervisor	\$21.85
Smekal	Cameron	Counselor	\$15.13
Stefanik	Viktoria	Sr Counselor	\$17.42
Vinella	Breanna	Sr. Counselor	\$17.42
Williamson	Dylan	Counselor	\$15.13
Williamson	Logan	Counselor	\$15.13

The motion was seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

Personnel / Department of Public Works

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Albanese to promote Michael LaRue to Driver Laborer 6- Table A, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Albanese to approve a stipend of \$1.75 per hour for Amanda Palitchka as the Clean Communities Coordinator, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

Personnel / Police Department

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-71

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION***

WHEREAS, Patrick Brown was appointed to the rank of Sergeant (Probationary) on September 18th, 2023 by way of Resolution #2023-159; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Brown has successfully completed his six (6) month probationary period in accordance with the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Township of Readington and P.B.A. Local 317; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Township Committee appoints Sergeant Patrick Brown as permanent Sergeant for Readington Township effective March 18th, 2024 at a salary set by contract.

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Albanese to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

Contract Negotiations/PBA 317 (Grievance)

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Award of Emergency Contract (fuel leak mitigation at DPW site)

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese to amend the agenda to move this item to New Business, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Contract Negotiations / Raritan Township Municipal Utilities Authority Agreement

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-72

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH RARITAN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITIES RTMUA (“RTMUA”)

WHEREAS, pursuant to In re N.J.A.C. 5:96 and 5:97, 221 N.J. 1 (2015) (Mount Laurel IV), on July 2, 2015, the Township of Readington (hereinafter “Township”) filed a Declaratory Judgment Complaint in Superior Court, Law Division seeking, among other things, a judicial declaration that its Housing Element and Fair Share Plan (hereinafter “Fair Share Plan”), to be amended as necessary, satisfies its “fair share” of the regional need for low and moderate income housing pursuant to the “Mount Laurel doctrine;” and

WHEREAS, the Township simultaneously sought, and ultimately secured, a protective order providing Readington Township immunity from all exclusionary zoning lawsuits while it pursues approval of its Fair Share Plan; and

WHEREAS, that process ultimately led to the issuance of a Judgement of Compliance and Repose (“JOR”), which provided the Township immunity from builder’s remedy litigation, and which approved the Township’s Round 3 Housing Element and Fair Share Plan (“HEFSP”); and

WHEREAS, and the Township’s Round 3 HEFSP and JOR provided for a 100% affordable housing project to be located at Township-owned land, located at Block 81 and Lot 1, and referred to as the “Three Bridges 100% Project”; and

WHEREAS, the approve plan contemplated that the Township would assist in securing sewer for the Three Bridges 100% Project by taking remedial issues to cure for sufficient I&I to develop the entirety of the 100% Project, which would be served by the RTMUA; and

WHEREAS, the RTMUA owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant and wastewater system located in the Township of Raritan, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the RTMUA and Readington entered into a certain Agreement dated August 5, 1970 whereby Readington was allocated wastewater treatment capacity in the sewerage treatment plant owned and operated by the RTMUA in the amount of 100,000 gallons per day (“GPD”) to service the southern portion of Readington known as the Three Bridges area (“Three Bridges”); and

WHEREAS, on August 17, 1981 the RTMUA and Readington entered into an amended Service Agreement whereby Readington was allocated an additional 55,000 GPD of wastewater treatment capacity as a result of the expansion of the RTMUA’s Wastewater Treatment Plant and Readington’s need for additional capacity, thereby increasing Readington’s total daily capacity allocation to 155,000 GPD; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 1995, the RTMUA and Readington entered into another amended Service Agreement (the “1995 Agreement”) based upon the determination that Readington had a need for capacity in excess of 100,000 GPD but less than 155,000 GPD, and that 125,000 GPD was sufficient to address the needs and requirements of the Township of Readington, which Agreement superseded the agreements of August 5, 1970 and August 17, 1981; and

WHEREAS, the parties desire to enter into a new Service Agreement which reflects their current needs and the circumstances surrounding the parties’ relationship and to acknowledge sufficient capacity for the Three Bridges 100% Affordable Project; and

Resolution #R-2024-72 cont'd:

WHEREAS, in light of the above, the Mayor and Committee finds that it is in the best interest of Readington Township to execute the attached Agreement (on file in Clerk's office) with the RTMUA; and the RTMUA wish to settle their litigation; and wish to settle their litigation; and

THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Township Committee authorizes and directs its Mayor to execute the Settlement Agreement in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, subject to de minimis changes from Counsel; and
2. The Township Committee directs its Affordable Housing Counsel to seek execution of this Agreement by all parties thereto and seek Court approval of the Agreement, if required.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Albanese to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Professional Services (Grant Writer Proposal)

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Block 21, Lot 4 (520 Mountain Road)

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Block 55, Lot 34 (James)

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Block 13, Lot 24 (Telleri)

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / March 18, 2024

A MOTION was made by Mr. Albanese to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 18, 2024 for content only, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Potential Litigation / Affordable Housing

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

The following item was added to the Executive Session:

Contract Negotiations / Tax Appeal Attorney

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Mueller read the following statement:

All items listed with an asterisk "" are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a committee member or citizen requests, in which event the item will be removed from the General Order of Business and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.*

1. * **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of meetings of March 18, 2024
2. * **Resolution and Assurance for Taylor’s Mill Historic District Preservation Plan Grant**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-73

Resolution and Assurances for Taylor’s Mill Historic District Preservation Plan Grant

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Readington authorizes submission of this application for assistance from the New Jersey Historic Trust.

WHEREAS, the Township Committee further authorizes Richard Sheola, Township Administrator, to complete and sign application documents on behalf of the organization.

WHEREAS, the Township Committee further authorizes that, if awarded the grant, matching funds in the amount of \$5,000.00 are committed to complete this project within the required time frame.

Taylor’s Mill Historic District Preservation Plan

at a cost of		\$45,720
Municipal 11%	5,000	
County 14%	6,430	
NJHT 75%	34,290	

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED that by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington:

- a. The facts, figures and information contained in this application, including all attachments, are true and correct;
 - b. Any funds received will be expended in accord with the terms and conditions of N.J.A.C. 5:101 and the grant agreement to be executed with the New Jersey Historic Trust; and
 - c. The organization agrees to abide by the time frame set forth in the grant guidelines
3. ***Payment of Bills** – (Complete bill list is on file in Clerk’s Office)

<u>Fund Description</u>	<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>Received Total</u>
GENERAL	3-01	\$ 2,846,021.88
GENERAL	4-01	\$ 2,136,004.21
SEWER UTILITY OP FUND	4-02	\$ 117,782.71
OTHER TRUST	X-03	\$ 3,813.25
MISC REFUND,COUNTY TAX		
LIENS	X-05	\$ 960.00
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 459,067.54
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$ 5,563,649.59

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Heller and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Mr. Albanese | -Aye |
| Mr. Heller | - Aye |
| Mr. Huelsebusch | -Aye |
| Mayor Mueller | - Aye |

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC for items listed on the agenda only

There were no comments from the public.

PUBLIC HEARING

As it was after 7:45 p.m., **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE #33-2021 AMENDING CHAPTER 148 OF THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY PERTAINING TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND ADOPTING A REPLACEMENT ORDINANCE

Ordinance #04-2024

Township Engineer Rob O'Brien requested that the ordinance be carried to the first meeting in May to allow him time to review and address comments that were received from the County.

Mayor Mueller asked if there were any comments from the governing body.

There were none.

Mayor Mueller asked if there were any comments from the public.

There were none.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Albanese to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE #33-2021 AMENDING CHAPTER 148 OF THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY PERTAINING TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND ADOPTING A REPLACEMENT ORDINANCE

Ordinance #04-2024

A MOTION was made by Mr. Albanese to continue the Public Hearing of Ordinance #04-2024 to May 6, 2024, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

A MOTION was made by Mr. Albanese to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

An Ordinance Reappropriating \$9,539.14 from Ordinance #22-2005 and \$92,890.84 from Ordinance #11-2014 Proceeds of Obligations not Need for their Original Purpose in Order to Provide for the Remediation Expenses and Removal of Fuel Storage Tanks at the Public Works Facility in and by the Township of Readington, in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey - Ordinance #11-2024

Ordinance #11-2024

Mayor Mueller asked if there were any comments from the governing body.

There were none.

Mayor Mueller asked if there were any comments from the public.

There were none.

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Albanese to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

An Ordinance Reappropriating \$9,539.14 from Ordinance #22-2005 and \$92,890.84 from Ordinance #11-2014 Proceeds of Obligations not Need for their Original Purpose in Order to Provide for the Remediation Expenses and Removal of Fuel Storage Tanks at the Public Works Facility in and by the Township of Readington, in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey - Ordinance #11-2024

Ordinance #11-2024

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Albanese to adopt this ordinance, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION

1. Notice of Public Hearing dated March 13, 2024 from the Hunterdon County Planning Board in ***the Matter of the Growth Management Plan***. No action taken.
2. Letter dated March 20, 2024 from Jamie Hawn, Director of Rates and Regulatory, NJ American Water in ***the Matter of the Petition of New Jersey-American Water Company, Inc for Approval of Increased Tariff Rates and Charges for Water and Wastewater Service, Change in Depreciation Rates, and Other Tariff Modifications***. No action taken.

OLD BUSINESS

1. ***Recommendation of Newly Proposed Hunting Properties by the Wildlife Advisory Committee for the 2024/25 Hunting Season***

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese to approve the additional properties for the 2024/25 hunting season as follows:

- Groendyke (Block 55, Lot 7.09) - 25.09 acres: Bow Only
- Hillcrest-Pine Bank (Block 66, Lot 25.99) - 65.5 acres: Bow Only
- Delaware Road (Block 70, Lot 42.90) - 19.71 acres: Bow Only
- Stover Way (Block 73, Lot 6.14) – 25.78 acres: Bow Only
- Pleasant Rub – Chamberlain (Block 64, Lot 41) – 25.61 acres: Bow and Firearms
- Forest Hill Drive (Block 93, Lot 1) – 23.58 acres: Bow Only

This motion was seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

NEW BUSINESS

1. ***An Ordinance Authorizing the Acceptance of a Deed of Dedication for the Acquisition of Real Property Designated as a Portion of Lot 5.01 in Block 3.01, on the Official Tax Map of the Township of Readington More Commonly Known as 202 Halls Mill Road, Readington, NJ 08889***

The following ordinance was offered for introduction:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A DEED OF DEDICATION FOR THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY DESIGNATED AS A PORTION OF LOT 5.01 IN BLOCK 3.01, ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 202 HALLS MILL ROAD, READINGTON, NJ 08889

Ordinance #12-2024

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-3 authorizes a municipality to acquire real property; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-5 requires that the acquisition of real property by municipalities be accomplished by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, CHWSNJ001, LLC (Grantor) is the owner of real property located in the Township of Readington (Township), which is under the jurisdiction of the County of Hunterdon (County); and

WHEREAS, Grantor obtained preliminary and final major site plan approval for the Overlook Farm office development on Grantor’s property, memorialized in the Township of Readington Planning Board Resolution #2000-26, adopted on July 24, 2000; and

WHEREAS, as a condition of approval, the Board required Grantor to convey and dedicate a portion of the property for public roadway improvements within the requirements of the relevant Planning Board Resolution; and

Ordinance #12-2024 cont'd:

WHEREAS, Grantor has tendered a deed of dedication to the Township, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference, for the purposes of conveying to the Township a fee simple interest in a portion of Lot 5.01 in Block 3.01 which is the designation of such real property on the Official Tax Map of the Township of Readington: and

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the Township Committee that accepting this deed of dedication and thereby acquiring fee simple interest in the subject real property would be in the best interest of the Township;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. The Township is hereby authorized to acquire from CHWSNJ001, LLC, the real property hereinbefore described as a portion of Lot 5.01 in Block 3.01 of the Official Tax Map of the Township of Readington, which property is more specifically described in the attached deed of dedication.

After all requirements respecting the enactment of this ordinance have been fulfilled the deed of dedication shall be recorded in the Office of the Hunterdon County Clerk.

SECTION 2. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to execute any and all instruments and to do all things necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof.

SECTION 3. All Ordinances, resolutions, and regulations or parts of ordinances, resolutions, and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed as to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 4. If any section, paragraph, article, subdivision, clause, or provision of this Ordinance shall be judged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, article, subdivision, clause, or provision so adjudged and the remainder of this Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and approval in accordance with law.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese to introduce this ordinance, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

The Public Hearing was scheduled for April 15, 2024 at 7:45 p.m.

2. **Emergency Resolution N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 (Temporary Appropriations)**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-74

**EMERGENCY RESOLUTION
N.J.S.A.40A:4-20 (TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS)**

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40a:4-19 the Township Committee of the Township of Readington adopted Resolutions to provide temporary funds for the period from January 1, 2024 until the adoption of the Operating Budget for the Township of Readington, New Jersey; and

Resolution #R-2024-74 cont'd

WHEREAS, additional appropriations will be required from April 1, 2024 until the *adoption of the budget*; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides that the governing body by two-thirds vote may make temporary emergency appropriations for any purpose for which appropriations may lawfully be made for the period between the beginning of the current fiscal year and the date of the adoption of the budget for said year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, NEW JERSEY, that:

1. The governing body by a two-thirds vote of its full membership hereby amends its temporary budget by making the following emergency temporary appropriations:

CURRENT FUND	\$6,500,000.00
SEWER UTILITY FUND	\$ 500,000.00

2. This action shall take effect April 1, 2024.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be immediately filed with the Director of Local Government Services by the Township Clerk of the Township of Readington.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese to adopt this ordinance, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

3. **Application for Special Events Permit / Readington Brewery Maifest**

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese to approve the special event permit *contingent up the applicant providing an updated event map for review by the Director of Land Use and Development and Police Department*, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

4. **Application for Special Event Permit / Good Days Cafe Grand Reopening**

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese to approve the special event permit, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

5. *Application for Special Events Permit / Team Somerset Wheelman Circuit Trials*

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese to approve the special event permit, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

6. *Resolution in Recognition of Jake Beatrice Attaining Eagle Scout*

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-75

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Jake Beatrice a valued member of his Boy Scout Troop 1969, is a dedicated young man who has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow scouts through his active participation in the many programs sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Scout Candidate Jake Beatrice’s Eagle Project involved a complete repair and rehabilitation of the American Flag pedestal at the Readington-Tewksbury Junior Baseball League Complex; and

WHEREAS, Jake removed all of the old landscaping around the pedestal and replaced it with a paved stone patio and repaired the flag light so as to proudly display the American Flag over the baseball fields at night; and

WHEREAS, Jake and his team also re-graded the area and planted three October Glory Maple trees; and

WHEREAS, Jake lead the project from beginning to end, which took over 200 hours and raised over \$3,000 to complete the project at no expense to the league; and

WHEREAS, Jake has spent many hours in community service at the local food bank and initiated a coat drive in Readington Township; and

WHEREAS, Jake played baseball on the field for over 13 years, making lifelong friends and amazing memories and hopes that the flag pedestal and newly planted trees will be enjoyed by children and families of the community for years to come; and

WHEREAS, the Eagle Scout is the highest rank of recognition offered in Scouting; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2024, Jake Beatrice successfully completed his Eagle Board Review, meeting all requirements for the Eagle Scout and is well deserving of this recognition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington hereby commends Eagle Scout Jake Beatrice for his diligence, determination, and dedication in pursuing the highest honor awarded by the Boy Scouts of America and congratulates him on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

7. **Resolution in Recognition of Ryan Levison Attaining Eagle Scout**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-76

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Ryan Levison a valued member of his Boy Scout Troop 1969, is a dedicated young man who has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow scouts through his active participation in the many programs sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Scout Candidate Ryan Levison's Eagle Project involved rebuilding an extensive outdoor fire and barbeque pits for the Quakertown Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Ryan reset all the cinderblocks, leveled the field, and conducted a full cleanout; and

WHEREAS, Ryan also braced and vented the overhang roofing to allow use of the barbeque during inclement weather; and

WHEREAS, the barbeque pit is used for cooking for the fire department and community events; and

WHEREAS, Ryan has been interested in Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) since the age of 14, dedicating over 1000 hours volunteering for the Whitehouse Rescue Squad and the Quakertown Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Ryan chose this project as a token of his appreciation for all the training he had been given and so that all members of the fire department and community could enjoy the use of the fire and barbeque pits for years to come; and

WHEREAS, the Eagle Scout is the highest rank of recognition offered in Scouting; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2024, Ryan Levison successfully completed his Eagle Board Review, meeting all requirements for the Eagle Scout and is well deserving of this recognition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington hereby commends Eagle Scout Ryan Levison for his diligence, determination, and dedication in pursuing the highest honor awarded by the Boy Scouts of America and congratulates him on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Mueller to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

8. ***Resolution in Recognition of Danny Schneider Attaining Eagle Scout***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-77

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION***

WHEREAS, Daniel J. Schneider a valued member of his Boy Scout Troop 1969, is a dedicated young man who has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow scouts through his active participation in the many programs sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Scout Candidate Daniel J. Schneider’s Eagle Project involved designing and constructing a new patio area at the Readington-Tewksbury Baseball League Complex; and

WHEREAS, Daniel worked with a landscaper and the head of the league to scope out the area for the patio, measure and design the specific layout; and

WHEREAS, Daniel calculated the necessary amount of pavers, polymeric sand, edging, and other materials required to construct an 800 square foot patio; and

WHEREAS, Daniel lead a project team of 18 volunteers to grade the area, lay pavers and sand which took over 130 hours to complete and raised \$4,000 to cover the material costs for the project; and

WHEREAS, Daniel’s rich scouting experience included many hours of community service, camping trips, tours, two high adventure scout activities and election by his fellow scouts to the Order of the Arrow; and

WHEREAS, Daniel has been a member of the Readington-Tewksbury Baseball league since he was in Kindergarten and hopes that the beautiful and functional patio will allow visitors and spectators to comfortably enjoy watching games for many years to come and create a lasting legacy of his dedication to the community; and

WHEREAS, the Eagle Scout is the highest rank of recognition offered in Scouting; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2024, Daniel J. Schneider successfully completed his Eagle Board Review, meeting all requirements for the Eagle Scout and is well deserving of this recognition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington hereby commends Eagle Scout Daniel J. Schneider for his diligence, determination, and dedication in pursuing the highest honor awarded by the Boy Scouts of America and congratulates him on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

A MOTION was made by Mayor Mueller to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

9. * ***Resolution and Assurance for Taylor’s Mill Historic District Preservation Plan Grant***

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

10. *Award of Emergency Contract (fuel leak mitigation at DPW site)*

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-78

AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON TO ENTER INTO AN EMERGENCY CONTRACT WITH AURORA ENVIRONMENTAL FOR EMERGENCY FUEL LEAK MITIGATION AT DPW SITE

WHEREAS, on or about February 23, 2024, a diesel fuel leak occurred at the Department of Public Works Facility at 287 Mountain Road in the Township of Readington, and

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Works has determined that emergency repairs were required to remediate the damage before further contamination occurred; and

WHEREAS, there exists an immediate need within the Township of Readington for services related to emergency repairs related to this leak; and

WHEREAS, The Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 41A:11-6, permits for any contract to be negotiated or awarded for a contracting unit without public advertising for bids and bidding therefor, notwithstanding that the contract price will exceed the bid threshold, when an emergency affecting the public health, safety or welfare requires the immediate delivery of goods or the performance of services;

WHEREAS, the total contract amount has been quoted by Aurora Environmental at \$147,650 for: 1) removal of two (2) 4,000-gallon Con-Vault fuel tanks, 2) site remediation from fuel spill at DPW facility of up to fifty (50) tons, and 3) and \$6,000 in additional funds to be expended if the contamination on site exceeds fifty (50) tons;

WHEREAS, in no event should the amount to be paid pursuant to this resolution exceed of \$150,000 without amendment hereof;

WHEREAS, this procurement is further authorized pursuant to State Contract No. 42274;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. An award of contract for emergency repairs for the aforementioned diesel fuel leak is hereby made to Aurora Environmental, located at 1102 Union Avenue in Union Beach, NJ 07735 on an emergency basis, in an amount to be determined, but not to exceed \$150,000.00.
2. The Mayor, Adam Mueller, and the Township Clerk, Karin Parker, are hereby authorized to execute the township standard form of Contract for Goods and Services, or a contract as written to suit the emergency needs of the Township, as well as any non-substantive modifications thereto and related to such contract.
3. The Township Clerk is directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Qualified Purchasing Agent, Chief Financial Officer, Township Engineer, Township Attorney, and Aurora Environmental.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Albanese to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Administrator Sheola spoke to the draft proposed fee ordinance and requested consideration by the Committee to approve the increase in Department of Public Works (DPW) fees as follows:

Brush Waste Permit

\$25 per car/truck load

\$50 per trailer load

Bulk Waste Permit

\$25-\$50 per permit

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mayor Mueller to approve the increase in DPW fees effective immediately, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Administrator Sheola invited the community to attend the recognition ceremony for 1st Lieutenant Dale Haver on May 4th.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Attorney Corsini stated that he had nothing further to report.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Engineer O’Brien reported that the demolition permit was received for 24 River Road and that he was notified about pipe repair work that will be done at 2 Higginville Road.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JOHN ALBANESE

Mr. Albanese stated that he had nothing further to report.

JONATHAN HELLER

Mr. Heller reported that the annual tree giveaway has been rescheduled to April 6th from 9am to 12pm at Pickell Park and the Raritan Headwaters sponsored stream cleanup will be held on April 20th.

JUERGEN HUELSEBUSCH

Mr. Huelsebusch reported that the next Open Space walk will be April 21st on Pleasant Run. Mr. Huelsebusch highlighted the Township’s recent 96.76 acre acquisition of Barrettstown Joy Farm on Lamington Road for preservation in conjunction with the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) and Hunterdon Land Trust (HLT).

ADAM MUELLER

Mayor Mueller reported that the budget process is ongoing. Mayor Mueller also reported that he received an email from the Recreation Director recommending the replacement of Ken Groel, who has not attended any Recreation Committee meetings, with former committee member Bill Quinn.

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Mueller to appoint Bill Quinn to the Recreation Committee for a term to expire 12/31/24, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

John Broten spoke to the safety of crosswalks on Main Street and questioned the success rate of the ash tree treatment program.

Neil Hendrickson responded to Mr. Broten’s inquiry of the success rate of the ash trees that were treated.

John Kalinich commented on the increase in DPW permit fees and questioned the process for filling potholes.

Melissa Adams requested an update on the airport.

Bill Quinn thanked the Committee for the reappointment to the Recreation Committee.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

As there was no further business, A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese at 8:45 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Submitted by:

Karin M Parker, *RMC*
Municipal Clerk