

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – May 19, 2025**

Mayor Mueller ***calls the meeting to order at 5:00 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. Heller, Mr. J. Huelsebusch and Deputy Mayor V. Panico

ABSENT: Mr. J. Albanese

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Administrator J. Curry, Acting Municipal Clerk A. Lehberger and Attorney C. Corsini

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Clerk read the following Resolution:

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION
EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

May 19, 2025

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</u> <u>When Discussion Will</u> <u>Be Disclosed to Public</u>		
Police	Personnel	Certain information at the discretion of the Township Committee tonight shall remain confidential		
Attorney-Client Privilege.....	Attorney-Client Privilege	“	“	“
Health Benefits.....	Contract Negotiations	“	“	“
Seasonal Employees (Recreation).....	Personnel	“	“	“
Housing and Social Services.....	Personnel.....	“	“	“
Shared Service QPA... ..	Contract Negotiations	“	“	“
Verano LLC (Cannabis License Renewal)...	Contract Negotiations	“	“	“
Open Space Stewardship.....	Contract Negotiations	“	“	“
Raritan Valley Community College				
Open Space Update.... ..	Contract Negotiations	“	“	“.
Block 21.13 Lot 3.... ..	Contract Negotiations	“	“	“.
(Lake Cushetunk)				

Apartments at Three Bridges.....	Contract Negotiations	“	“	“.
NJAW Easement and Consent				
Cortes and Hay Title Search	Contract Negotiations	“	“	“.
(Center and Grove Streets)				
Website.....	Contract Negotiations	“	“	“.
Executive Session Minutes.....	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	“	“	“
• May 5, 2025				
Affordable Housing.....	Potential Litigation.....	“	“	“

2. It is anticipated at this time that the stated subject matter will be made public on or about the time set forth in Exhibit “A”.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

The meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

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

Executive Session:

Personnel / Police

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2025-101

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, due to the appointment of Steven Rindock as Chief of Police, the Readington Police Department has vacancies in the rank of Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, after a personnel file review and interview, Chief of Police Steven Rindock recommends the promotion of Sergeant Jack Mazellan to the rank of Lieutenant (Probationary); and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of Readington Township that this Resolution shall confirm the appointment of Jack Mazellan to the rank of Lieutenant (Probationary) at a salary set by contract effective May 19, 2025.

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

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

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2025-102

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, due to the appointment of Steven Rindock as Chief of Police, the Readington Police Department has vacancies in the rank of Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, after a personnel file review and interview, Chief of Police Steven Rindock recommends the promotion of Sergeant Jason Phares to the rank of Lieutenant (Probationary); and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of Readington Township that this Resolution shall confirm the appointment of Jason Phares to the rank of Lieutenant (Probationary) at a salary set by contract effective May 19, 2025.

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

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

Mayor Mueller swore in Jack Mazellan as Lieutenant.

Mayor Mueller swore in Jason Phares as Lieutenant.

Attorney Client Privilege/Attorney Client Privilege

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Health Benefits

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Personnel / Seasonal Employees (Recreation)

A MOTION was made by Mr. Panico to approve the list of seasonal employees for the recreation department seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Personnel/Housing and Social Services

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2025-103

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION***

WHEREAS, Christine Dey was hired in July of 2018 as Housing Coordinator and Social Services Director; and

WHEREAS, Christine Dey over the past year has taken on additional duties and responsibilities in her role including the development and execution of the Township’s Community Outreach Team which serves the members of the Township community; and

WHEREAS, an adjustment to the annual compensation of Christine Dey to \$110,000 is recommended; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington approves of the recommendation and thereby makes this change effective May 19, 2025.

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

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

Contract Negotiations/Shared Service QPA

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Verano, LLC (Cannabis License Renewal)

Ryan Ewing from Verano LLC was present and confirmed that they received the correspondence from Attorney Corsini’s office regarding clarification on some outstanding matters and spoke to the current state of the New Jersey cannabis industry.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2025-104

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON***

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance #02-2022 adopted on February 7, 2022 (Readington Township Code Section 88-1 et seq.), the Township of Readington ("Township") published notice on April 28, 2022, inviting applications for one (1) municipal business license for a cannabis establishment (adult use) to be located within the Licensed Cannabis Business Overlay ("LCBO") Zone District in the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township received an application on July 20, 2022 from Verano, NJ, LLC ("Applicant") for municipal business licenses to operate as both a Class 1 cannabis cultivator and Class 2 cannabis manufacturer on property it leases from Branchburg Route 22, LLC ("Owner"), which property is known as Block 14, Lot 49 on the official tax map of the Township and is commonly known as of 3576 Hwy. 22, Whitehouse Station, N.J (the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, the Applicant submitted its annual renewal application and supporting documentation on February 20, 2025, to the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township’s Attorney and Director of Land Use and Special Projects reviewed the February 20, 2025, submission, and on April 30, 2025 and April 29, 2025 respectively provided the Township with its recommendation of approval with conditions, which conditions the Township Committee agrees should be imposed; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the above, during the course of the application process, the Applicant has made certain tax payments to the Township pursuant to Township Code Sections 88-12, et seq. pertaining to the imposition of cannabis transfer and user taxes on adult use cannabis, as authorized by the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee does not believe that it has thus far received sufficient information supporting the amount paid toward the transfer/user taxes, in terms of accounting and/or characterization, and the Applicant does not agree with the amounts paid. Accordingly, as in previous years, both the Applicant and Township agree that the Township may have a forensic audit conducted to be paid for by the Applicant, in order to review the information provided by the Applicant in conjunction with the transfer/user taxes. The choice of the auditing firm shall be the Township’s; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has made a request to waive the requirement to connect to a public water source as stipulated in prior approvals and has thus supplied technical information which remains under review by the Township environmental consultants; and

WHEREAS, the Township should be provided with updates on any outstanding or pending violations or enforcement actions from the NJDEP or any other state agency; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee agrees that the Applicant’s application can be approved with conditions and the annual municipal business licenses can be issued.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. The preambles above are incorporated herewith as if fully repeated herein.
- 2. The Township Committee approves the application of the Applicant, Verano NJ, LLC for municipal Class 1 “Cannabis Cultivator” and Class 2 “Cannabis Manufacturer” licenses in the Township of Readington to be used at the property known as Block 14, Lot 49 on the official tax map of the Township, commonly known as 3576 Hwy. 22, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889,
- 3. This license approval shall run from May 22, 2025, and shall expire on May 22, 2026. All future annual municipal license renewal applications shall be submitted at least 90 days prior to the expiration date of the municipal licenses issue.

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

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

Contract Negotiations/Open Space Stewardship (Raritan Valley Community College)

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to approve the agreement with Raritan Valley Community College seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations/Open Space Update

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations- Block 21.13 Lot 3 (Lake Cushetunk)

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations /Apartments at Three Bridges - NJAW Easement and Consent Contract

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Negotiations/Cortes and Hay Title Search (Center and Grove Streets)

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to approve the contract with Cortes and Hay for title search, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Contract Negotiations/Website

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes /May 5, 2025

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 5, 2025 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.

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.*

Deputy Mayor Panico requested to remove Item# 2 and Mayor Mueller requested to remove Item#1 from the consent agenda.

- 1. * **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of meeting of May 5, 2025
- 2.. **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	4-01	\$ 2,741.82
GENERAL	5-01	\$ 816,795.43
SEWER UTILITY OP FUND	5-02	\$ 2,022.54
GENERAL	G-01	\$ 3,455.50
SEWER UTILITY OP FUND	G-02	\$ 11,497.60
OTHER TRUST	X-03	\$ 28,933.31
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 219,460.80
2024 CAP IMPROVEMENTS	X-24	\$ 25,423.29
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$ 1,110,330.29

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to approve the Consent Agenda (with the removal of items #1 and #2), seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC for items listed on the agenda only.

There were none.

PUBLIC HEARING

- 1. **An Ordinance Amending Chapter 43-108 Et Seq. to Provide for Rates of Compensation for Police Officers Working Special Events in the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, and State of New Jersey - Ordinance #09-2025**

Acting Administrator Curry explained that there were substantial changes made to the ordinance and the amended ordinance will be reintroduced under new business.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduction of 2025 Municipal Budget

Township Chief Financial Officer Alicia Noon reviewed the PowerPoint presentation that was presented at the last meeting with an overview of the 2025 budget. She explained that it is scheduled for introduction this evening with adoption on June 16, 2025. She advised that a copy will be posted on the Township website with hard copies available in the Township Clerk’s office. She highlighted the following items:

- Tax Rate
- Sources of 2025 Revenue
- 2025 Municipal Budget Appropriations
- Grant Summary
- Property Tax Overview
- What Residents get for their Tax Dollar

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2025-106

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations attached hereto constitute the local Budget of the Township of Readington, Hunterdon County, New Jersey for the year 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said budget be published in the Courier News in the issue of May 28, 2025 and that a hearing on the Budget will be held at the Municipal Building on June 16, 2025 at 7:45 o’clock (P.M.) or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution and introduce the 2025 budget, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

2. Application for Special Events Permit / George-Doyle Wedding- November 1, 2025

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to approve the Special Event Permit, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

3. *Sustainable Land Use Pledge Resolution*

Mr. Huelsebusch stated that he spoke with Mr. Becker and requested that this be held so that revisions can be made to reflect the parts of the Master Plan regarding Open Space and Agriculture.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to table this item seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

4. *An Ordinance Amending Chapter 43-108 Et Seq. to Provide for Rates of Compensation for Police Officers Working Special Events in the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey - Ordinance #10-2025*

Administrator Curry outlined the changes that were made to the ordinance.

The following ordinance was offered for introduction:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 43-108 ET SEQ. TO PROVIDE FOR RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR POLICE OFFICERS WORKING SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE #10-2025

WHEREAS, it is necessary to adjust the rate of compensation to reflect amended contractual hourly rates; and

WHEREAS, the following amendments are hereby approved [any addition is shown as thus and any deletion is shown as ~~thus~~]

43-108 Authority to employ.

The Township of Readington through the Chief of Police, *or* his/her designee, of Readington Township, when requested by an organizer to take place within the township, shall have the authority to employ or assign sworn police officers from Readington Township.

§ 43-109 Request for off-duty police services.

All requests for off-duty police services shall be made to the Chief of Police of Readington Township. Readington Township may choose to utilize a secondary service to administrate and perform actions related to the off-duty employment process. These actions include but are not limited to communicating with an entity or individual to schedule off-duty assignments, scheduling the officers for said jobs, invoicing the entity or individual, and receiving escrow and or payments from the entity or individual in a manner set forth by the secondary service provider. The secondary service provider may charge an additional fee for services that is above and in addition to the fee structure stated below and shall utilize business type collection rules as set forth in the contract between the Township of Readington and the secondary service provider. The secondary service provider will reimburse The Township of Readington via ACH or other funds transfer methods, according to the fees set forth below, due to the Township and officer in a timely manner, usually coinciding with payroll periods for assignments the officers have performed or were scheduled for, in accordance with the above listed rules of employment between the Township and entity or individual seeking services.

§ 43-110 Fee schedule.

The organizers and/or vendor of the above-stated events who request off-duty police officers shall pay the Township of Readington in accordance with the following schedule:

- A. All police officers of the Readington Township Police Department shall be paid at the rate of Sergeant First Class at one and one-half times the hourly rate. An additional 8% charge will be assessed to the total amount due to the officer and retained by the Township of Readington to cover payroll expenses. ~~In the event a secondary service is not utilized, an additional surcharge of 15% on that amount will be retained by the Township of Readington to cover fringe benefits and administrative costs incurred by the Township.~~

- B. There shall be an administrative fee of \$20.00 per officer for each assignment for payroll processing.

- C. ~~If the special event requires the use of a police vehicle, then notwithstanding the fee set forth in Subsection A above, a vehicle usage fee in the amount of \$20.00 per hour per police vehicle shall be imposed and retained by the Township of Readington to cover the wear and tear on the police vehicles.~~ If the special event requires the use of a police vehicle, then notwithstanding the fee set forth in subsections A and B above, a vehicle usage fee in the amount of \$20.00 per hour per police vehicle shall be imposed and retained by the Township of Readington to cover the wear and tear on the police vehicles.

43-111 Cancellation policy

Should the entity or individual hiring off-duty police officers cancel an assignment for any reason with less than two (2) hours-notice to the police department or secondary service before the scheduled start of the assignment, the entity or individual will be assessed a minimum of 4 hours of compensation per officer. Those scheduled officers shall not be required to be on-site during those paid hours. Additionally, the administrative fee set forth in 43-110 subsection A or B. shall apply to cancelled assignments necessitating police officer pay.

Section 2. All other provisions, sections and language contained in Chapter 43 of the Township Code shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3 Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect upon final adoption and publication according to law.

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

- Mr. Heller - Aye
- Mr. Hulsebusch - Aye
- Mr. Panico - Aye
- Mayor Mueller - Aye

The Public Hearing was scheduled for June 2, 2025 at 7:45 p.m.

5. Agricultural Land Advisory Committee /Open Space Advisory Board

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Mueller to accept the resignation of Ryan Dunn as chair of the Agricultural Land Advisory Board, seconded by Mr. Hulsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

- Mr. Heller - Aye
- Mr. Hulsebusch - Aye
- Mr. Panico - Aye
- Mayor Mueller - Aye

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Mueller to accept the resignation of Ryan Dunn as member of the Open Space Advisory Board, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

6. *NJ State Firefighter's Association Application for Membership (Grace Sarsalari)*

Mayor Mueller commended Grace on volunteering her time to the Community.

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Mueller to approve the application of Grace Sarsalari for membership to the NJ State Firefighter’s Association, seconded by Mr. Panico and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

7. *Resolution of the Readington Township Committee Authorizing the Issuance of Estimated Tax Bills for the 3rd Quarter of 2025*

Deputy Mayor Panico explained that this resolution is to allow for the issuing of estimated tax bills.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2025-105

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP
HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION OF THE READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF ESTIMATED TAX BILLS FOR
THE 3RD QUARTER OF 2025**

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the Township of Readington will not be able to issue tax bills for the 3rd quarter 2025 payment on a timely basis due to the failure of the State of New Jersey to provide the necessary certification to the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has determined that there could be insufficient cash flow to support operations in August if the tax bills are not sent out shortly; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey, Division of Local Government Services, is unable to provide a timeframe for the provision of the necessary certification to the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation.

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

1. The Tax Collector be and is hereby directed to take all steps necessary to send out estimated tax bills for the 3rd Quarter 2025 installment.
2. The total estimated tax levy for 2025 is hereby set at \$89,776,472.65 and the estimated tax rate is \$2.679.
3. In accordance with the law, the third installment of 2025 taxes shall not be subject to interest until the later of August 10 or the 25th calendar day after the date the estimated tax bills are mailed. The estimated tax bills shall contain a notice specifying the date on which interest will begin to accrue.

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

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

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Acting Administrator Curry reported that on or about June 2nd the County will be begin work on County Road 520 (Dreahook Road East) to include tree removal, drainage improvements, guiderail replacement and resurfacing.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Attorney Corsini stated that he had nothing further to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JONATHAN HELLER

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

JUERGEN HUELSEBUSCH

Mr. Huelsebusch reported that the next Open Space Walk will be on Cole Road in June and that many improvements are being made to the trailheads with additional trees being planted. He also provided an update on the planting project at the Holland Brook headwaters on the large 20-acre fenced parcel and noted that this will be an ongoing Community project and they will be looking for many volunteers to help with tree planting.

ADAM MUELLER

Mayor Mueller reported that the Township is currently working on addressing the Round 4 Affordable Housing mandate and deadlines. He also stated that the Township’s Memorial Parade will be on Monday, May 26 starting at 10:30 am from the King’s shopping plaza and encouraged everyone to attend this wonderful community event honoring the veterans.

VINCENT PANICO

Deputy Mayor Panico reported on the upcoming Museum Barn Dance on May 31st. He also reported that State Senator’s Community Funding grant applications are open with a deadline of Wednesday for submission.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Robert Becker, Environmental Commission Chair provided an update on the planting project and thanked Ron Christy and the Department of Public Works for their help with the project. He also thanked the Committee for continuing the stewardship program with Raritan Valley Community College.

Paula Tropello asked for clarification on the location of the planting project.

Barbara Nastro inquired as to a status of the Solberg Airport Master Plan and expressed concern about transparency to the public and where the Township stands on their involvement in the process.

Paula Tropello asked for clarification on the Sustainable Land Use Pledge and inquired about what is causing the tax rate to go up other than the debt service and healthcare costs. She expressed concern about the high debt service and rising healthcare costs. She also expressed concern about bicycle safety,

especially on Main Street, fire safety with the recent fires that have occurred and trees around power lines.

Jessica Gallico spoke to the Board of Education budget and inquired how they were obtaining information from the municipalities to prepare their budget.

Barbara Bateman Doyle inquired on what the top line number is for the budget.

Suzy Hlinka inquired on the status of the state median project along Route 22 expressing concern about safety due to the many accidents occurring especially at the School Road intersection.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Mueller to appoint Jake Spooner to the Open Space Advisory Board, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

As there was no further business, A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico at 9:00 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Submitted by:

Ann Marie Lehberger, *RMC*
Acting Municipal Clerk