

**MINUTES OF THE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
UPPER DEERFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, HELD ON
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING,
HIGHWAY 77, SEABROOK, NEW JERSEY, PURSUANT TO NOTICE**

Present were James Crilley, John Daddario, Thomas Speranza, Scott Smith and Joseph Spoltore, all being members of the Township Committee. Also present were Roy Spoltore, Township Administrator/Clerk; Janeen Rossi, Deputy Clerk; Amy Colaneri, CFO; and Chad Ott, Public Works Supervisor.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Crilley, and he read the following public meeting announcement.

"This meeting is being held in accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Act." Notice of the meeting has been provided and published as required by law in the Daily Journal and The Press, Cumberland County Edition. Notice has also been posted in the Municipal Building. The Clerk shall enter this statement in the minutes of this meeting. In compliance with State Fire Safety Statues the Chairman instructs those present how to exit the room in an emergency.

James Crilley gave an invocation followed by the flag salute led by John Daddario.

James Crilley, Chairman called for the approval of minutes for the Meeting of April 6, 2023. Scott Smith made a motion, second by Tom Speranza, to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept the minutes as received, unanimously approved, on a roll call vote of 5-0.

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution Authorizing the Reading of 2023 Municipal Budget and 2023 Budget by Title. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Tom Speranza, seconded by John Daddario, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

James Crilley, Chairman called for a public hearing on the 2023 Municipal Budget and 2023 Utility Budget. Michael Garcia of Ford-Scott & Associates, Township Auditor, gave an overview of the 2023 Municipal Budget and 2023 Utility Budget. He noted that the budget has no increase in the local tax rate, is \$44,000 below the cap and \$312,000 below the tax levy cap despite a 20% increase in health benefits and large increases in insurance and utilities expenditures. On motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by Scott Smith to open the meeting for a public hearing on the proposed ordinance, and unanimously carried. The Chairman instructed the Clerk to distribute copies to those present Nancy Ridgway of Irving Avenue appreciated that there would not be an increase in the local tax. There being no other public comments, on motion of Scott Smith, seconded by Tom Speranza to close the public hearing and unanimously carried.

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution Adoption of the 2023 Municipal Budget and 2023 Utility Budget. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by Scott Smith, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

At this time James Crilley stated that the Township is reviewing the past 4 to 5 years of discussions by the fire chiefs about consolidating the fire companies. Any decision regarding consolidation will be made at an open meeting of the Township Committee and the appropriate procedures will be followed. John Daddario the public safety liaison stated that economics has

been the reason for the discussion of consolidation by the chiefs. The Chairman opened the meeting for public comment.

Jeremy Warburton of Landis Avenue recommended that all comments made at a public meeting about any fire department should be of a positive nature. Elsie Tout of Northville Road stated she was very impressed with the fire departments and volunteers. Tyler Hoehe of Irving Avenue commented that her tow truck employees have always received help from the fire departments. Jen Hitchner of Truman Avenue stated she would like to see the firehouse remain open. Donald Johnson of Old Burlington Road stated the personnel at Company 32 are trained in the use of rescue equipment.

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87 – American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of John Daddario, seconded by Scott Smith, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Authorizing Tonnage Grant Application to the NJ Dept of Environmental Protection. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by Joseph Spoltore, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Authorizing Shared Service Agreement with the Cumberland County Health Department – Redesign Web Site. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Joseph Spoltore, seconded by Thomas Speranza, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Payment of Bills in the amount of \$1,358,995.20 The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by John Daddario, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote with Joseph Spoltore abstaining on the payment for Cumberland Regional.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

John Daddario reported that Opening Day for Little League was held on April 15th and around 185 children registered. Approximately 185 signed up for SJFC soccer program which has grown since last fall's registration. Mr. Daddario reported that the public safety subcommittee will be meeting with the volunteer firefighters on Wednesday April 26th.

Scott Smith did not have a report this evening.

Joseph Spoltore reported that the Planning Board meetings in April were cancelled.

Thomas Speranza reported that this is the season for four-wheelers and quads. Please report any activity to the state police. Mayor Crilley added that Upper Deerfield has an ordinance that regulates the use of these vehicles.

Mayor Crilley reported that Cumberland Development Corporation is a coalition of Mayor's that meet regularly to discuss current issues. Presently the group is discussing animal sheltering and mosquito control. Upper Deerfield Township just signed a shared service agreement with Cumberland County for mosquito control. Last year animal sheltering cost the Township over \$62,000 but only collected \$10,000 in licensing fees. He added that the Township

receives requests for streetlights. The purpose of streetlights is for street safety and last year the Township spent around \$150,000 for the lights. The Rabies Clinic on April 15th had about 75 animals that were vaccinated. The mayor reminded everyone that Community Day will be held on Saturday, April 29th.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Roy Spoltore, Administrator reported that the Township newsletter should be in the mail on Monday. The solid waste tonnage report for 2022 is due next Friday. Chad Ott is collecting the final information from various businesses. On Tuesday April 25th from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. the community food bank will be at our location in the back parking lot. Anyone can come and receive food; the only requirement is that you must be a resident of New Jersey. On May 4th there will be a special meeting of the redevelopment entity at 7:30 p.m. The audit has begun and they anticipate they will be here for a couple weeks. Community Day is Saturday, April 29th from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 pm. Departmental and the Treasurer's reports for March are included in this evening's packet.

DEPARTMENTAL MONTHLY REPORTS: March 2023

Animal Control and Dog Registrar Monthly Report
Clerks Monthly Report
Construction Office Monthly Report
Housing and Zoning
Municipal Court Monthly Report
Tax Collectors Report
Vital Statistics
Fire Marshall

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ross Bear of Eisenhower Drive stated he wanted to apologize for some of his comments at the last meeting pertaining to Fire Companies 31 and 33. Nancy Ridgway of Irving Avenue stated that the County Commissioners will be holding a public hearing on the County's budget on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

Kyle Uhland of Highway 77 stated that his property was broken into and stole his truck and tools and was told that the person came from Seabrook House. Mr. Uhland wants to know why Seabrook House is letting people leave the premises at all hours of the night with out any means of transportation. Kevin Uhland of W. Deerfield Road added that residents should not have to deal with this type of situation. Seabrook House should be responsible for the release of its clients. Mayor Crilley asked Roy Spoltore to set up a meeting with the Seabrook House officials to discuss their release procedures.

With no other public comments and no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion by Scott Smith, seconded by Thomas Speranza to adjourn the meeting, and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Janeen Rossi, Township Deputy Clerk

Roy J. Spoltore, Township Clerk