

**MINUTES OF THE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
UPPER DEERFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, HELD ON
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 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 and Scott Smith all being members of the Township Committee. Also present were Rocco Tedesco, Solicitor; Roy Spoltore, Township Administrator/Clerk; Janeen Rossi, Deputy Clerk, Amy Colaneri, CFO; and Chad Ott, Public Works Supervisor. Joseph Spoltore was unable to attend.

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.

At this time James Crilley, Chairman opened the meeting for public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Contino, of Johns Way and Stefanie Modri, of Johns Way, representing the homeowner's association at the Estates of Upper Deerfield wanted to address the potential dissolution of the homeowner's association and wanted to know how to move forward. They added that the association met in September, and they received positive feedback about the potential dissolution. Mayor Crilley requested that they put the plan in writing and allow the Committee to review the proposal. Rocco Tedesco, Solicitor stated that there is not a simple solution and that the association's attorney must present a detailed legal proposal containing the end use of the basin, recreation area, easements, inlets, conduit and any other improvements associated with the homeowner's responsibility to the Committee for their review.

Sandy Acevedo, Old Burlington Road stated the County Commissioners went into executive session the other night and the CCUA was on the agenda. She asked if Mr. Andrea would be staying on the Authority's Board. Mayor Crilley stated that the Commissioner's make the appointments.

Dean Hawk, Merritt Avenue states he has spoken about the Homeowner's Association at the Estates of Upper Deerfield many times. This group of houses that are involved with the HOA pay a large amount of taxes and he recommended an ordinance be adopted that says HOA's are not allowed in Upper Deerfield.

There being no other public comments James Crilley, Chairman called for the approval of minutes for the meeting December 29, 2022, and the meeting of January 5, 2023. On a motion of Scott Smith, seconded by Thomas Speranza to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and to accept the minutes as received, unanimously approved, 4-0 on a voice vote.

James Crilley, Chairman called for a public hearing on an ordinance entitled, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 405-68. The Clerk read the proposed Ordinance by title. Roy Spoltore explained that this establishes escrow hourly rate for professionals be included as part of the professional's annual contract rather than at the rate of \$125.00 per hour that was established in 2011. On motion of John Daddario, seconded by Thomas Speranza to approve and adopt proposed ordinance on first reading and setting the date for Public Hearing on February 1, 2023 at 7:00pm and was carried 4-0 on a roll call vote. The chairman instructed the Clerk to advertise same in the Daily Journal as required by law and copies to be made available upon request.

INSERT ORDINANCE

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Approval of Change Order #1 Small Cities – Martindale. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Thomas Speranza seconded by Scott Smith to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 4-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Payment of Bills in the amount of \$562,990.73. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by Scott Smith, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 4-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

John Daddario did not have a report this evening.

Scott Smith reported that leaf collection has ended.

Thomas Speranza stated he is getting a report from the Bridgeton Barracks in reference to traffic violations. He added that there will be a new Station Commander. Mr. Speranza reported that there was a fire today at the Upper Deerfield Convenience Center, it looks like the pole barn is a total loss. The facility will be closed on Friday with the hope of reopening on Saturday. All updates will be posted on the Townships website. We are very fortunate that no one was hurt and the Fire Departments did a great job.

Mayor Crilley said it was amazing to see the local Fire Departments working together showing mutual aid is alive and well. The Director of the CCUA said that they have a generator available for temporary power if it is needed. Chad Ott commented that power should be restored in the morning. Chairman Crilley noted that there is an opening on the Agricultural Advisory Committee and he is recommending that Russ Blair be appointed. On a motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by Scott Smith and unanimously approved, Mr. Blair was approved as a member of the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

On a motion of John Daddario, seconded by Scott Smith and unanimously approved the Township Committee meeting was temporarily adjourned for the meeting of the Upper Deerfield Township Redevelopment Entity. On a motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by John Daddario and unanimously approved the Township Committee meeting was re-opened.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Roy Spoltore reported that the JIF was informed about the fire and the pole barn appears to have an insured value of \$431,000 and the backhoe was purchased in 2009 at a cost of \$59,920. The accumulated leave account as of the end of 2022 is 108.82% funded for eligible employees and 91.99% for all employees. The JIF elected officials training is being offered online as well as in person. The nitrate treatment is working electronically now with the exception of one valve which should be fixed next week. The Committee agreed to allow the baseball teams to use the football pole barn for training. The Committee discussed an extension request by the attorney for K&E Holding for their renewal of the land mining permit. The committee agreed to give the applicant until April 30, 2023 to receive approvals with a January 1, 2023 to serve as the beginning of the next 3 year renewal. On a motion of Scott Smith, seconded by Thomas Speranza and unanimously approved on a vote of 4-0, the extension was granted.

INSERT RESOLUTION

The Committee agreed to see if the Township could provide the staff to host a Rabies Clinic in April. The solicitor will review Township ordinances pertaining to a request to operate a Food Truck in parking lots in the Township with permission of the property owner. Departmental Reports and the Treasurer's Report were contained in this evening's packet.

DEPARTMENTAL MONTHLY REPORTS: December 2022

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Rocco Tedesco reported that the Bristol Ponds financial agreements are being reviewed. Mr. Tedesco added that he has been in contact with the Sika attorney regarding the possibility of a redeveloper's agreement for their proposed development. He added that the settlement proposal has been sent to Cohansey Soccer Clubs attorney but he has not heard back from him. Mr. Tedesco stated that he has sent a letter to Security Tech informing them that contracts are terminated due to state contract law. The solicitor stated that a recent tax map and survey discrepancy is a private matter, and the Township should not get involved.

At this time James Crilley, Chairman opened the meeting for additional public comments. With no public comments and there being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Daddario, to adjourn, and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Janeen Rossi, Township Deputy Clerk

Roy J. Spoltore, Township Clerk