

**MINUTES OF THE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
UPPER DEERFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, HELD ON
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING,
HIGHWAY 77, SEABROOK, NEW JERSEY, PURSUANT TO NOTICE**

Present were James Crilley, John Daddario, Scott Smith, and Joseph Spoltore, 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; Brian Murphy, Township Engineer and Chad Ott, Public Works Supervisor. Thomas Speranza 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. There being no public comments, James Crilley, Chairman called for the approval of minutes for the Meeting of September 21, 2023. Joseph Spoltore made a motion, second by John Daddario, to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept the minutes as received, unanimously carried 4-0-1 on a roll call vote with Thomas Speranza abstaining.

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution Amending the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual of the Township of Upper Deerfield. John Daddario made a motion, second by Scott Smith, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution Appointing Full Time Utilities Technician- Shrader. Thomas Speranza made a motion, second by Scott Smith, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 4-0-1 on a roll call vote with James Crilley abstaining.

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution Appointing Full Time Public Works General Maintenance- Ackley. John Daddario made a motion, second by Scott Smith, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution Appointing Roy J. Spoltore Township Clerk. Thomas Speranza made a motion, second by Scott Smith, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 4-0-1 on a roll call vote with Joseph Spoltore abstaining.

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution Awarding Contract to TKT Construction Inc. to Construct the Replacement of the Seabrook Water Tower Through Funding Providing by the New Jersey Water

Bank. Scott Smith made a motion, second by Joseph Spoltore, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution Payment of Bills in the amount of \$ 179,038.63 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.

INSERT RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE REPORTS

John Daddario reported that Sunset Lake Park playground is completed and looks really good. The bathrooms were put in place today, the plumbing and electrical installations will be completed in the future. The new playground at the recreation complex is being constructed and looks great.

Scott Smith did not have a report this evening.

Joseph Spoltore reported that the Planning Board meeting has been moved to Wednesday due to Columbus Day.

Thomas Speranza stated that the Environmental Commission had a meeting last night and they are working on the pollinator grant for the Munyon tract.

Mayor Crilley reported that Mr. Speranza and Mr. Spoltore will have their first food truck sub-committee meeting on Tuesday. The Township has requested the use of the County's speed limit sign for N. Park Drive.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Roy Spoltore, Administrator stated we received the PDF version of the audit and there are no recommendations or comments from the 2022 report. A resolution will be prepared for the next meeting. The County has established the tax assessment ratio for 2023. Upper Deerfield Township is at 76.69% for 2024, last year it was 80.33%. The Tax Assessor stated that the Township had \$5.7 million in added assessments in 2023. The state released their 2023 best practices. The CFO and administrator reviewed the survey, and the Township had a score of over 34 with 29 being required for 100% funding from the State. The building cupola and dormers will be painted to match the color of the window trim.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Brian Murphy, Township Engineer stated the bathrooms came in today and were put in place by a crane. It was a smooth process and he thanked Chad Ott and Ricky Slade Construction for their assistance. The playground installation at the complex should be done in a week or two. Mr. Murphy thanked Senator Durr's office for their assistance with the water tower project. A preconstruction meeting for the water tower will be held at the end of this month. He added he is beginning to prepare a phased concept for the installation of sewer, water and storm pipes for the Hildreth Tract.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Rocco Tedesco did not have a report this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Deirdra Stoneham, of Eisenhower Drive asked if the food trucks need special permission to be at a special event. Roy Spoltore, Township Administrator stated that they would need to speak with the zoning officer. Dean Hawk, of Merritt Avenue asked if there were any other warehouses looking to come to Upper Deerfield Township besides the one on Highway 77. There are no other applications at this time. Nancy Ridgway, of Irving Avenue thank Chad Ott for getting the light by the municipal building entrance repaired. Ross Bear, of Eisenhower Drive requested an update of the cable that is sticking out of the ground near his home. Chad Ott addressed the issue and stated that it is a conduit plastic pipe belonging to Verizon. He has reached out to them and sent pictures but has not received a response. John Daddario stated that his phone number is posted for anyone to contact him, but he did not want to have his personal address posted on social media.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Janeen Rossi, Township Deputy Clerk

Roy J. Spoltore, Township Clerk