

**MINUTES OF THE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
UPPER DEERFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, HELD ON
THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024, 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 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.

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

"In compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act", written advance notice of the time, date and place of the meeting, has been given at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting by mailing same to the News of Cumberland County and The Press, Cumberland County Edition, by posting the notice in the Municipal Building at Seabrook, New Jersey, and by filing such notice with the Township Clerk, in compliance with said Act." In compliance with State Fire Safety Statutes, Mr. Crilley instructed those present how to exit the room in an emergency.

Invocation was given by Father Matthew Weber and the flag salute was led by Joseph Spoltore.

Roy J. Spoltore, Township Clerk presented James P. Crilley to be sworn in by Rocco Tedesco and Former Speaker of Assembly Jack Collins, as a member of the Township Committee for a term of three years to expire December 31, 2026. James Crilley takes oath and assumes his position as member of the Township Committee. Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Speranza and unanimously carried that the Clerk serves as Temporary Chairman for the purpose of electing a Chairman of the Township Committee.

Roy J. Spoltore, Township Clerk assumes position as Temporary Chairman and requests nominations for permanent Chairman. Mr. Daddario moves and Mr. Smith seconds a motion that James P. Crilley be elected as Chairman of the Township Committee of Upper Deerfield Township during the year 2024. With no other nominations, James Crilley was selected as Chairperson for 2023 on a roll call vote of 4-0-1 with James Crilley abstaining. Mr. Crilley assumes the Chair, calls for nominations for Vice Chairman.

On a motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by Joseph Spoltore, that John Daddario be nominated to serve as Vice-Chairperson of the Township Committee and serve as Acting Chairperson for the year 2024 during the absence or disability of the Chairperson. With no other nominations, John Daddario was selected as Vice-Chairperson for 2024 on a roll call vote of 4-0-1 with John Daddario abstaining.

Chairman Crilley called for Resolutions 1 through 54 to be combined as a consent agenda and voted upon as one item. John Daddario made the motion, seconded by Scott Smith, to adopt Resolutions 1 to 54 as a Consent Agenda, and unanimously carried. The Clerk read the resolutions by title. On a motion by John Daddario, seconded by Joseph Spoltore, Resolutions 1-54 were unanimously approved by a roll call vote of 5-0, with Joseph Spoltore abstaining on Resolutions 4, 8, 10, and 40.

Resolution 24-1 – Appointing Township Solicitor – Rocco Tedesco, Esq.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-2 - Adopting a Temporary Budget – Township.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-3 - Adopting a Temporary Dedicated Sewer & Water Utility Budget.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-4 - Appointing Township Officials.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-5 - Appointing Municipal Engineer & Utilities Engineer – Brian J. Murphy, PE.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-6 – Appointing Township Auditor – Ford Scott Associates, LLC

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-7 - Appointing Attorney for Tax Appeals & Tax Foreclosures – Todd Heck, Esq

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-8 - Appointing a Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund. – Roy Spoltore and Amy Colaneri.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-9 - Appointing Township Treasurer – Amy Colaneri.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-10 - Appointing Public Agency Compliance Officer – Roy J. Spoltore.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-11 - Cash Management Plan.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-12 - Designating Depository for Municipal Funds – Ocean First Bank.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-13 - Authorizing Signing of Checks for General and Sewer & Water Utility Accounts.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-14 - Authorizing the Clerk’s Office to Maintain a Petty Cash Fund in the amount of \$50.00.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-15 – Authorizing Change Funds.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-16 - Newspapers to receive Notice of Meetings.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-17 - Designating Official Newspaper –Daily Journal.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-18 - Setting Interest and Penalty on Property Taxes.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-19 - Setting Interest and Penalty on Sewer & Water Utility Charges and Rents.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-20 - Authorizing Mayor and Engineer to Sign NJDEP forms.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-21 - Designating Meeting Dates.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-22 - Authorizing Cancellation of Property Tax Refund or Delinquency of Less than \$10.00.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-23 - Authorizing Animal Shelter Contract – South Jersey Regional Animal Shelter.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-24 - Authorizing Contract for Animal Control Services with Shore Animal Control.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-25 - Authorizing Tax Assessor the Authority to File Tax Appeals and Tax Complaints.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-26 - Authorizing Professional Service Agreement with Ambulance Billing Company.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-27 - Authorizing Contract with Cumberland Development Corporation.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-28 - Setting Forth Regulations Regarding Convenience Center Stickers.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-29 - Appointing Staff for CS Regional Municipal Court.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-30 - Authorizing Contractual Services for CS Regional Municipal Court.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-31 - Appointing Prosecutor and Conflict Prosecutor for CS Regional Municipal Court.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-32 - Appointing Public Defender & Conflict Public Defenders for CS Regional Municipal Court.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-33 - Appointing Planning Board Solicitor – Matthew Ritter, Esq. & Theodore Ritter, Esq.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-34 - Appointing Planning Board Planner – Randall Scheule.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-35 - Appointing Planning Board Engineer – Fralinger Engineering, PA.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-36 - Appointing Part Time Construction Office Inspectors

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-37 - Appointing Bond Counsel – John Cantalupo, Esq.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-38 - Appointing Redevelopment Legal Counsel – Joseph Ragno, Esq.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-39 - Appointing Fire Safety Code Official – Chris Williams

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-40 – Appointing Municipal Housing Liaison – Roy J. Spoltore.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-41 – Appointing Tax Collector – Janeen Rossi

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-42 - Authorizing Purchase of Materials, Supplies or Equipment under State Contract.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-43 - Authorizing the Execution of the Contract with Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center to Provide for the Support and Maintenance of the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center Exhibit and Museum.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-44 - Appointing Surveyor for Tax Map Maintenance – Fralinger Engineering, PA.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-45 - Appointing Conflict Engineer – Thomas J. Tedesco, Jr.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-46 – Authorizing Shared Service Agreement with Lawrence Township – Zoning/Housing Office.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-47 – Certifying Salaries for Shared Service Agreements.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-48 –Appointing Judge and Conflict Judge for CS Regional Court-Lauren Van Embden, Esq

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-49 – Appointing Traffic Consultant – Horner & Canter Associates

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-50 – Appointing Township Physician – Dr. Michael Hong

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-51 – Authorizing Shared Service Agreement with Pittsgrove Township – CFO

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-52 – Appointing Township Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer– Anthony Lamanteer, Jr.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-53 – Appointing Township Housing Officer – Anthony Lamanteer, Jr.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-54 – Governing Body Certification of Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution for Payment of Bills in the amount of 1,252,461.54. 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, with Joseph Spoltore abstaining on payment to CRHS.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Mayor Crilley Called for Appointment of Members of the Township Committee to Serve as Committeemen-in-Charge of Various Subcommittees and Divisions of Municipal Government for the Year 2024.

INSERT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Crilley called for appointments to the various Boards, Commissions and Committees with consent of the Committee.

Recreation Commission
Planning Board
Industrial Commission/Economic Development Committee
Historical Commission
Environmental Commission
Agricultural Advisory Committee
Senior Center Advisory Committee

Chairman Crilley asked for a Motion to approve appointments to Commissions, Boards & Committees, on motion by Mr. Speranza, seconded by Mr. Daddario the appointments were unanimously approved 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT APPOINTMENTS

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

John Daddario noted that 2023 was a challenging year. Mr. Daddario stated that recreation saw many positive attributes with the new playgrounds and the success of the new soccer club. Public works and public safety continue to be a priority and maintain top notch service to our residents.

Scott Smith congratulated Mayor Crilley and Deputy Mayor Daddario on their re-appointments.

Jospeh Spoltore congratulated Mayor Crilley and Deputy Mayor Daddario on their re-appointments and is looking forward to 2024. He added that the Environmental Commission is working towards their vision adjacent to the recreational facility and CRHS has tied into the solar array on Love Lane.

Thomas Speranza congratulated Mayor Crilley and Deputy Mayor Daddario. He wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated there are great plans ahead for the Township in 2024. Mr. Speranza stated he was appointed as Under Sherriff with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office and the Sheriff has plans to focus on helping the Township's.

Mayor Crilley congratulated John Daddario on his re-election as Deputy Mayor. Chairman Crilley stated that the Committee continues to face economic budgetary challenges forcing the Committee to make difficult and hard decisions. Mayor Crilley commented that 2023 was a unique year but much was accomplished. He thanked the public for his re-election, his wife Donna and his family. He thanked Father Weber and Jack Collins for their attendance this evening. He added that the Township has a reputation for conducting business in a professional manner and attributed that to the work of the Committee, Professionals, Staff and Volunteers. Mayor Crilley briefly shared a few highlights from 2023.

The highlights for 2023 begin with approximately one million dollars in grants. The walking trails in the park consist of 2.5 miles, new playground equipment and new ADA bathrooms. Hoover Road will be repaved in the spring and design work on paving Acorn, Dawson, Oak Hill and Colonial has begun. A new grant to construct public sewer and water in the Hildreth Tract has been submitted to NJ DCA.

The Township remains involved in various shared service agreements that provide savings for all participants, including the CS Regional Court which now has ten participating municipalities; there are seven municipalities utilizing the Township's Construction Code offices; the Township is one of 41 municipalities in a joint insurance fund, sharing our CFO with Pittsgrove, sharing our zoning official with Lawrence and housing official with Shiloh and Lawrence, utilizing Millville's Tax Assessor plus many other shared service agreements with a municipality or governmental entity.

The Township continues to provide funds to help offset expenses for recreational leagues, maintains the grounds of the 100-acre park. Public Works continues to repair and reconstruct drainage inlets on Township roads. Leaf Collection will end January 12th. The Love Lane water facility has continued to meet the safe drinking standards since July 2019. The Township has constructed a nitrate removal system at Love Lane which will ensure further safe drinking standards. EMS handled over 2,100 calls in 2023. A new ambulance was ordered at a cost of \$440,000, the last ambulance received three years ago cost \$235,000. A new fire truck was ordered at a cost of \$1,250,000. The Township continues to utilize Clean Community funding to be used to clean up roadsides in Upper Deerfield. The Environmental Commission maintains the Rain Garden by the Senior Center and received a grant to construct pollinators near the football complex. The Senior Center continues to provide activities and programs under the direction of Sherrie Dixon, Director and the senior advisory committee.

Express Liquor opened in the Carlls Corner Shopping Center and Shears opened on Park Drive. MaxFit and DiLisi Restaurant have new owners. Chipotle should be opening in the spring. The mixed use residential/commercial Bristol Ponds Redevelopment off Cornwell Drive received Planning Board approval in 2021 and project construction is anticipated to begin in 2024. The Planning Board approved site plans for Sika Corporation, Sussex Irrigation and Precious Jewels Day Care in 2023.

The Township continues to be prudent and operates the local government services with approximately 5% of the tax dollars collected. The tax dollars are distributed as follows for every \$100 dollars paid: the County Government receives \$38.55, Upper Deerfield Schools receive \$36.94, Cumberland Regional receives \$19.25, and the Township receives \$5.26 to operate the local government.

The Mayor concluded by stating that the Township has the best staff and group of dedicated volunteers. The Mayor concluded his remarks by wishing everyone a healthy and Happy New Year.

Mayor Crilley asked all the newly appointed officials present to come forward and be sworn in by the Township Solicitor, Rocco Tedesco. At this time, Solicitor Rocco Tedesco swore in the 2023 appointments to the various Commissions, Boards & Committees. Mayor Crilley asked if there were any comments from the public. Nancy Ridgway of Irving Avenue congratulated Mayor Crilley and Deputy Mayor Daddario on their re-appointment and is looking forward to new accomplishments in 2024. With no other public comments, Chairman Crilley invited everyone to join the Committee for refreshments and fellowship at the Senior Center.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by Joseph Spoltore, to adjourn, unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Janeen Rossi, Deputy Township Clerk

Roy J. Spoltore, Township Clerk