

**MINUTES OF THE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
UPPER DEERFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, HELD ON
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2024 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, Thomas Speranza and Joseph Spoltore, all being members of the Township Committee. Thomas Speranza arrived at 7:05 pm. Also, present were Rocco Tedesco, Solicitor; 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 Joseph Spoltore.

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

Dean Hawk of Merritt Avenue asked the duties of a Violation Clerk. The position is for the court offices and the individual handles all complaints filed by the police and residents. Thomas Speranza stated that the Township has recently written over 100 Violation Tickets for parking in the Fire Lanes at the shopping centers. Dean Hawk added that yards on Parsonage Road need to be cleaned up. Mayor Crilley stated that Code Enforcement has been made aware of the situation. Samuel Elwell, of Martin Drive requested that the volume of the microphones be increased in order to accommodate the hearing impaired.

There being no other public comments, James Crilley, Chairman called for the approval of minutes for the meeting of February 1, 2024. Scott Smith made a motion, second by Joseph Spoltore to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept the minutes as received, were unanimously approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

James Crilley, Chairman called for a public hearing on an ordinance entitled, Amending Chapter 218-6 of the Code of the Township of Upper Deerfield The Clerk read the proposed Ordinance by title. On motion of John Daddario, 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. Samuel Elwell of Martin Drive stated that at his last visit to a center in Vineland, there was no vehicles parked in the fire lane, suggesting that the Township look at Vineland's ordinances. John Daddario stated the fine for parking in the fire lane in Vineland is \$100.00, and that amount deters anyone from parking there. Nancy Ridgeway, Irving Avenue asked if any violators have been appealing these fines. Roy Spoltore, Township Administrator/Clerk stated they have the right to appear in Municipal Court to appeal the violation. Ms. Ridgeway believed that the individual could appeal to the County Construction Board of Appeals. There being no other public comments, on motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by Jospheh Spoltore, to close the public hearing and unanimously carried. On motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by Jospheh Spoltore to approve and adopt proposed ordinance, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT ORDINANCE

James Crilley, Chairman called for a for a public hearing on an ordinance entitled, Amending Chapter 396-40 of the Code of the Township of Upper Deerfield The Clerk read the proposed Ordinance by title. On motion of Joseph Spoltore, seconded by Thomas Speranza 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. There being no public comments, on motion of John Daddario, seconded by Scott Smith, to close the public hearing and unanimously carried. On motion of Jospeh Spoltore, seconded by Thomas Speranza to approve and adopt proposed ordinance, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT ORDINANCE

James Crilley, Chairman called for a for a public hearing on an ordinance entitled, Bond Ordinance Providing for the Purchase of a Ladder Fire Truck and Equipment in and by the Township of Upper Deerfield, in the County of Cumberland, New Jersey, Appropriating \$ 1,300,000.00 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,235,000.00 Bonds for Notes of the Township for Financing the Cost Thereof. The Clerk read the proposed Ordinance by title. On motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by John Daddario 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. Dallas Peterson of Shadow Brook Drive asked where this truck will be housed. John Daddario stated that the Ladder Fire Truck will be housed at Station 33. Bill Whelan of Park Drive asked what the useful life of the Ladder Fire Truck. Chad Ott, Public Works Supervisor responded that the useful life is 30 years. There being no other public comments, on motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by Joseph Spoltore, to close the public hearing and unanimously carried. On motion of John Daddario, seconded by Thomas Speranza to approve and adopt proposed ordinance, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT ORDINANCE

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution Appointing Violation Clerk- Escobar. 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.

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution Authorizing the Sale of Public Property On-Line Through an Auction Service-Govdeals. 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.

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution Small Cities Facilities Grant to Apply for the 2024 Local Recreation Improvement Grant Project at the Seabrook Recreation Complex. 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.

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution Amending the 2024 Temporary Budget of the Township of Upper Deerfield - 2. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of John Daddario, seconded by Thomas Speranza, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution Amending Professional Serve Contract to Mark Blauer-DBA/Blauer Associates. 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.

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution Payment of Bills in the amount of \$ 1,920,457.36. 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 from Cumberland Regional High School.

INSERT RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE REPORTS

John Daddario reported that resident William Whelan was elected as the chairperson of the Cumberland County Utilities Authority. Mr. Daddario congratulated Mr. Whelan and stated he will do a great job representing the Township and the Authority.

Scott Smith congratulated Mr. Whelan.

Joseph Spoltore congratulated Mr. Whelan. Registration for Little League and Soccer is taking place now. The Environmental Commission is preparing to plant seeds for the pollinating areas at the Munyon property.

Thomas Speranza congratulated Mr. Whelan and reported that there was a homicide in the Township, and an arrest has been made. The Sheriff's office intends to assist when possible, with the crossing of Highway 77 when the local school children are dismissed.

Mayor Crilley congratulated the newly elected Chairman, Bill Whelan and newly elected Deputy Chairman John Daddario. The premier of the Seabrook film – "The Paradox of Seabrook Farms" will be shown on March 16th at the Levoy Theatre in Millville. Mr. Crilley attended the CCIA Advisory Committee meeting, and the County Trash Hunt will be held on March 16th. The CDC reorganized and they continue to discuss animal sheltering.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Roy Spoltore, Administrator stated the Planning Board will be meeting February 26, 2024, to review an Ordinance that will amend the codes pertaining to Performance, Maintenance and Site and Safety Stabilization Bonds. The Planning Board will also be reviewing Ultra Clean's request for a 25,000 square foot expansion. As part of the purchase of the new fire truck, the Township needs to authorize the trade in of its 2011 KME Fire Truck at a price of \$ 175,000. James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Authorizing the Sale of the 2011 International KME Fire Truck to First Choice Fire Apparatus as a Trade-In for the Purchase of an E-One Typhoon HP75 Ladder Truck. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of John Daddario, seconded by Thomas Speranza, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Roy Spoltore, Administrator requested approval for continuing education credits for Patty Turkali, Court Administrator and Marion Higbee, Deputy Court Administrator in the amount of \$70.00 and for Dan Sutton to attend a State Regional Conference in the amount of \$650.00. On a motion of Scott Smith, seconded by Thomas Speranza, the request for continuing education credits was approved unanimously on a roll call

vote. A meeting will be held with S&P representatives to obtain a bond rating for the NJIB loan. The Auditor has reported that the Township surplus increased \$200,000 to \$3,500,000. Verizon has finally removed the old phone wire that are no longer in use at the Seabrook Water Tower location. The State Police informed us that they now have trained HLEO officers and that all dog complaints should be made to the State Police. The elected officials training is available online for the ACMJIF. Departmental reports for January are contained in this evening's packet.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Rocco Tedesco, Solicitor stated that recently animal cruelty laws were taken from the ASPCA and transferred to Humane Law Enforcement Officers (HLEO's). The suggestion is to refer all Cruelty Animal Cases to the State Police. A meeting was held with representatives from Sika Corporation regarding their development and their proposed modifications to the plan. They will be presenting their changes to the Redevelopment Entity and the Planning Board this spring, with the hope of beginning construction in July. Mr. Tedesco informed the Committee that litigation by an unnamed group known as Concerned Citizens of Upper Deerfield Township that sought immediate injunction to overturn Ordinance 856, which did not recognize Company 32 as a Volunteer Fire Company in 2024, was dismissed by the Superior Court. The Township prevailed on every count of the litigation but at added expense to the Township. The litigation was filed on December 21st and the court dismissed the case on Feb. 9th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Margrethe Jerspersen of Northville Road was happy the Township prevailed in the litigation. Nancy Ridgway of Irving Avenue asked how much the legal fees were. It was stated to be around \$10,000.

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