

**MINUTES OF THE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
UPPER DEERFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, HELD ON
THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING,
HIGHWAY 77, SEABROOK, NEW JERSEY, PURSUANT TO NOTICE**

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Daddario, 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. Daddario instructed those present how to exit the room in an emergency.

Invocation was given by Deputy Mayor Crilley and the flag salute was led by Joseph Spoltore.

At this time John Daddario, Chairman opened the meeting for public comment.

With no public comments, John Daddario, Chairman called for the approval of minutes for the meeting of March 6, 2025. Thomas Speranza 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 voice vote.

John Daddario, Chairman called for a public hearing on an ordinance entitled Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14). The Clerk read the proposed Ordinance by title. On motion of William Whelan, 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 the motion of James Crilley, seconded by Joseph Spoltore, to close the public hearing and unanimously carried. On motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by William Whelan, to approve and adopt proposed ordinance, with a recorded roll call vote of 5-0.

INSERT ORDINANCE

John Daddario, Chairman called for a resolution Introduction of 2025 Municipal Budget and 2025 Utility Budget. The Clerk read the resolution by title. Mayor Daddario stated that the budget does not have an increase in the local tax rate and thanked the staff for their work in preparing the budget. On motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by William Whelan, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

John Daddario, Chairman called for a resolution Amending Certification of Construction Office Salaries the Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of James Crilley, seconded by Thomas Speranza, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

John Daddario, Chairman called for a resolution Authorizing Coin Drop for Upper Deerfield Township Fire Company #3. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Thomas Speranza seconded by William Whelan, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

John Daddario, Chairman called for a resolution Approval Settlement of Fourth Round Affordable Housing Present Need and Prospective Need Numbers. The Clerk read the resolution by title. Rocco Tedesco, Solicitor, stated he along with Brian Slaugh, Consulting Planner of the firm Clarke Canton Hintz, P.C., Roy Spoltore, Township Administrator/ Clerk and Deputy Mayor Crilley attended a virtual appeal conference about the Affordable Housing Plan. The Challenges filed by NJBA and FSHC sought to compel the Township to accept the estimated Present Need obligation of 31 units and Prospective Need obligations of 118 units as calculated by the New Jersey Department of Community affairs. At a future Settlement Conference held on March 13, 2025, it was proposed that the determination of the Township's Present and Prospective Needs be settled at a Present Need obligation of 31 units and a Prospective Need obligation of 95 units. Fair Share Housing has agreed with the settlement and the NJBA was not in attendance but had verbally told FSHC to settle the obligation. Solicitor Tedesco suggested the committee accept the settlement agreement. On motion of William Whelan seconded by Joseph Spoltore, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

John Daddario, Chairman called for a resolution Approval of Change Order #4 for the Contract to TKT Construction Inc. to Construct the Replacement of the Seabrook Water Tower- Project No. 0163004-002 Through funding Providing by the New Jersey Water Bank. The Clerk read the resolution by title. Mayor Daddario suggested keeping a piece of the water tower as a historical memento for the Seabrook Education Cultural Center. Solicitor Tedesco stated that the bonding counsel at Archer Griner asked him to submit an opinion letter for the NJEIT closing but that his involvement with the project has been limited. On motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by William Whelan, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

John Daddario, Chairman called for a resolution Approval of Change Order #1 for the Contract to Paving Plus LLC. For the Reconstruction of West Dawson Drive and Acorn Drive. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of William Whelan, seconded by Joseph Spoltore, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

John Daddario, Chairman called for a resolution Approval of Change Order #1 for the Contract to Paving Plus LLC. For the Reconstruction of Colonial Terrace and Oak Hill Drive. 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.

INSERT RESOLUTION

John Daddario, Chairman called for a resolution Payment of Bills in the amount of \$1,764,851.03 The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of William Whelan, seconded by Thomas Speranza, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote with Joseph Spoltore abstaining from Payment to Cumberland Regional.

INSERT RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

William Whelan stated that work has begun at the CCUA for Phase 1 of the improvements and are now applying for Phase 2 with planning beginning on Phase 3. The first 3 phases are using funding from IBANK grants.

Deputy Mayor Crilley stated that business visits will begin early next week which will include the newest establishments in Upper Deerfield. Community Day will be April 26, 2025, 10 am to 4 pm. Join us for a day of family fun and activities.

Joseph Spoltore stated that the Planning Board gave conditional Final Site Plan Approval for Lassonde Pappas to construct its new production facilities in the Township.

Thomas Speranza stated that because of public concerns from Pindale Drive residents at the last meeting, law enforcement was informed of speeding vehicles on the road and a few citations were written.

Mayor Daddario stated April 12th, is opening day for Little League and Deputy Mayor Jim Crilley will be throwing out the first pitch. Mayor Daddario asked Chad Ott, Public Works Supervisor to place signs to prohibit driving on the walk paths. He also suggested the committee review the costs for constructing Pickle Ball Courts beyond the Veterans Memorial. Sunset Lake Park is being utilized.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Roy Spoltore stated the annual newsletter is close to completion. The Love Lane Tower NJEIT application has received a rating of 317, the higher the number the better the rating. Monthly Departmental Reports for February 2025 are in the packets.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Rocco Tedesco, Solicitor, stated that the Bristol Ponds Project has been restarted with negotiations of the rail crossing agreements. In addition, county approval requires road widening easements. Mr. Tedesco reported that Lassonde Pappas needs to get soil conservation approval, submit the site and safety stabilization bond and submit an application a long-term tax exemption before disturbing any soil for their new warehouse. The Skeba project developer stated there is state legislation that would require a certificate from DCA before new warehousing could be constructed. The solicitor stated that a township resident voiced concern over trimming of a heritage tree along a county right of way. The Township Ordinance does not prevent trimming only prevents the trees from being removed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dean Hawk asked the committee to define the term Affordable Housing. Rocco Tedesco, Solicitor stated that Affordable Housing is a term made for housing available to low- and moderate-income families. With no further public comments and no further business to come before the Committee, on the motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by Joseph Spoltore to adjourn the meeting, and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Janeen Rossi, Deputy Township Clerk

Roy J. Spoltore, Township Clerk