

**MINUTES OF THE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
UPPER DEERFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, HELD ON
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 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, 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. Joseph Spoltore was unable to attend.

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 Thomas Speranza.

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

There being no comments, John Daddario, Chairman called for the approval of minutes for the meeting of April 3, 2025. James Crilley made a motion, second by Thomas Speranza, to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept the minutes as received, which were unanimously approved by a voice vote.

John Daddario, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Authorizing the Reading of the 2025 Municipal Budget and 2025 Utility Budget. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On the motion of William Whelan, seconded by Thomas Speranza to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 4-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

John Daddario, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Confirming Compliance with NJAC 5:30-7, Conducting Local Examination of 2025 Annual Municipal Budget Township of Upper Deerfield, County of Cumberland. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by James Crilley to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 4-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

John Daddario, Chairman called for a public hearing on the 2025 Municipal Budget and 2025 Utility Budget. On a motion of James Crilley, seconded by William Whelan, to open the public hearing and unanimously carried. Auditor Mike Garcia from the firm Ford Scott Associates presented an overview of the proposed 2025 budget. Mr. Garcia stated the budget is in compliance with state regulations. He noted that the Cap law, loss of state aid, increases in state aid, pension and utilities made the creation of the budget difficult. With all those obstacles, the budget still shows there will not be an increase in the local government tax for 2025. Mr. Garcia added that the budget is \$27,000 below the CAP and \$197,000 below the spending increase. Nancy Ridgeway, Township resident asked if there were any savings by closing the Fire House. Chairman Daddario said there are significant savings in capital expenditures as well as annual operating expenses. There being no further public comments on the motion of William Whelan, seconded by Thomas Speranza, to close the public hearing and unanimously carried.

John Daddario, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Adoption of the 2025 Municipal Budget and 2025 Utility Budget. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by William Whelan, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 4-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

John Daddario, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Authorizing Tonnage Grant Application to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of James Crilley, seconded by Thomas Speranza, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 4-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

John Daddario, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87- Recreation Improvement Grant. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by William Whelan, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 4-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

John Daddario, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87- Transportation Trust Grant. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by William Whelan, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 4-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

John Daddario, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87- Recycling Tonnage Grant. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of James Crilley, seconded by Thomas Speranza, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 4-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

John Daddario, Chairman called for a resolution Payment of Bills in the amount of \$ 1,696,494.30 The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by William Whelan, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 4-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

William Whelan stated that the Cumberland County Utility Authority had its pre bid meeting for the expansion of the pre-school construction project at the school. Bids are due in May and they hope to begin construction in June.

Deputy Mayor Crilley stated that Community Day is April 26, 2025. The Cumberland Development Corporation had a representative from Atlantic City Electric at their meeting. The increase in Electric Production will affect future billing, prices may increase 25%.

Thomas Speranza met with the State Police commander at the Bridgeton barracks, and it is relatively quiet. He hopes to get a quarterly report from the state police. The Sherriff's Traffic Enforcement Department has been diligently enforcing motor vehicle violations.

Mayor Daddario stated that Little review of League Opening Day was rained out twice and they began playing games without an opening day.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Roy Spoltore stated that Brian Slaugh from Clark Caton Hintz will begin working on developing the Affordable Housing plan will look at utilizing a combination of Countryside credits, previous Sanctuary development units, additional senior units and gut rehab units. Mr. Slaugh will present the Plan to the Planning Board and Township Committee in June. The street paving on W. Dawson, Acorn, Oak Hill and Colonial is nearing completion. Community Day is Sat April 26, 2025. The Newsletters are printed and will be distributed on Tuesday April 22, 2025. The JIF's elected official training is available online till April 30th. The County Planning Board presented their review of Township Planning documents and the state plans as part of the cross acceptance process to the Planning Board. Music in the Park is scheduled for August 2nd with music by Whiskey Sunset. Brian Murphy is working on the bid packet to remove the old Seabrook Water Tower. Departmental and treasurers reports for March were in this evenings packet.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Rocco Tedesco, Solicitor, stated that the School Project Bond Financing closed on April 9, 2025. The Housing Element and Fair Share Plan for the Round 4 Affordable Housing prospective need and present need has to filed with the state by June 30, 2025. Lassonde Pappas is moving forward, and negotiations are beginning for the Long-Term Tax Exemption. The Redevelopment Agreement is close to being completed, Lassonde has filed the application, and they can begin site work. Bristol Pond Development is working on the railroad crossing for the water line.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dean Hawk, Township resident recommended looking into solar energy for the township buildings with the electric rate increases. With no further public comments and no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Thomas Speranza, seconded by William Whelan to adjourn the meeting, and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Janeen Rossi, Deputy Township Clerk

Roy J. Spoltore, Township Clerk