

**MINUTES
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**

Mayor Ewald called the Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham to order at 6:30 P.M.

Adequate Notice of this meeting of the Township Committee was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice was given to both *The Chatham Courier* and the *Morris County Daily Record* on January 8, 2021, June 11, 2021 and August 13, 2021; notice was posted on the front door and the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on January 8, 2021, June 11, 2021 and August 13, 2021; and notice was filed with the Township Clerk on January 8, 2021, June 11, 2021 and August 13, 2021.

Roll Call

Answering present to the roll call were Committeewoman Felice, Committeewoman Fondaco, Committeeman Hamilton, Deputy Mayor Abbott and Mayor Ewald.

Executive Session

**RESOLUTION 2021-P-18
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
CHATHAM IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
AUTHORIZING CONFERENCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE WITH THE
PUBLIC EXCLUDED**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 of the Open Public Meetings Act permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of the specified subject matter.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - a. Litigation – Township of Chatham v. Kronos Holdings LLC and SL Chatham II, LLC-Condensation Action Docket No. MRS-L-789-21
 - b. Potential Litigation
 - c. Personnel – Police Department
3. It is anticipated that the minutes on the subject matter of the Executive Session will be made public upon conclusion of the matter under discussion; and in any event, when appropriate pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-7 and 4-13.
4. The Committee will come back into Regular Session and may take further action.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Committeewoman Fondaco moved to adopt Resolution 2021-P-18 to enter Executive Session at 6:32 PM. Committeewoman Felice seconded the motion.

Roll call: Committeewoman Felice, Aye; Committeewoman Fondaco, Aye; Committeeman Hamilton, Aye; Deputy Mayor Abbott, Aye; Mayor Ewald, Aye.

The Township Committee returned to Public Session at 7:33 PM.

Mayor Ewald led the Flag Salute.

Approval of Agenda

Deputy Mayor Abbott moved to approve the Agenda. Committeewoman Fondaco seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mayor's Message & 9-11 Recognition

Mayor Ewald read the attached Mayor's Message and offered a Remembrance of the 9-11 Attacks. A moment of silence was held in honor of those lost due to the terrorist attacks on that day.

Reports

Committeewoman Felice reported that the 2021 Colony Pool Season was very successful, and membership rates were nearly double the 2019 rates. The Colony Advisory Committee wants to make a presentation of recommendations to the Township Committee.

Presentation – Chatham Township Fire Department Open House

Richard Gentles of the Chatham Township Fire Department commented on the recent sale of a fire truck to another fire department in Virginia. He also reported that a new brush truck has also been purchased. Mr. Gentles further reported on the Open House that will be held at the River Road Firehouse on October 9th from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM. He said that new volunteers are encouraged to join the Chatham Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Administrator Hoffmann commented on the sale of the fire truck and all the work done by the Chatham Township Fire Department to maintain the truck.

Reports

Committeeman Hamilton reported that the Borough is holding a 9-11 Remembrance Service at 7:30 PM on Saturday at the 9-11 Memorial by the Chatham Library. He also thanked Mayor Ewald for her comments regarding 9-11. Committeeman Hamilton further reported that the Business Advisory Committee is continuing to work on a Business Directory. He also encouraged businesses to sponsor the Fire Department's Open House.

Committeewoman Fondaco reported that the Historical Society is hosting a program about the Women of Chatham Township. The program will be held via Zoom on September 26 at 4:00 PM via Zoom. The Historical Society will have a Smithsonian Magazine Museum Open House titled *Experience America* on September 18th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Red Brick Schoolhouse. Committeewoman Fondaco further reported that electric vehicle charging stations are being installed soon, and the installation will be performed by DPW. Committeewoman Fondaco further reported that Dot Stillinger has stepped down as the Chair of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission, and the new Chair will be Maureen Kelly. Committeewoman Fondaco further noted that traffic safety concerns have been raised about Fairmount Avenue, and traffic studies will be conducted by the Police Department. Speeding enforcement has also been increased.

Mayor Ewald reported that the Madison-Chatham Coalition held a Legislative Regulatory Update regarding cannabis which was attended by both Mayor Ewald, Committeewoman Felice and Attorney Cruz. Mayor Ewald said that the event was helpful to address additional regulatory steps that municipalities can take. She further reported that the Municipal Alliance will be conducting a wellness initiative for residents over 60, which will be a 6-week program held at the Chatham Library. The Municipal Alliance is also hoping to have the HopeONE Van at the Fishawack Festival.

The Township Clerk reported that a Mail-In Ballot Drop Box has been installed by the front door of the Municipal Building. Mayor Ewald asked how often ballots are picked up. The Township Clerk said he believes that the frequency increases as it gets closer to Election Day. Deputy Mayor Abbott asked about security cameras. The Township Clerk stated that a camera has been installed. Committeeman Hamilton asked about costs. The Township Clerk indicated that the cost of the Drop Box was borne by the County and the security camera was paid for by the Township.

Engineer Ruschke addressed recent rainfall due to the remnants of Hurricane Ida. He addressed stormwater regulations and how drainage systems were affected, and stated that the design standards have changed since much of the Township's stormwater drainage system was built. Mayor Ewald asked who is responsible for drainage on County Roads. Engineer Ruschke said that the County is responsible for drainage there, and sometimes there is difficulty in finding somewhere to drain the water. Engineer Ruschke further reported that there was a failure of the

temporary sedimentation basin at the Dixiedale site, and a discharge of mud impacted Chatham Glen and made it way into the Passaic River. A notice of violation was issued.

Administrator Hoffmann reported that during Hurricane Ida the Township saw 6.5 inches of rain over 9 hours. He commented on the extra flow through the Water Treatment Plant during the storm. He stated that the system was able to handle the extra flow because pumps were replaced in 2020. Administrator Hoffmann also stated that there was not any overflow of sewage. He also noted that the Infiltration & Inflow Study is underway.

Administrator Hoffmann reported that the pet waste container that was donated by two Girl Scouts was vandalized. He further reported on the pending installation of lights at Nash Field. Administrator Hoffmann also recognized Steve Simonfay of Simonfay Landscaping for volunteering to maintain the Township's 9-11 Memorial.

Mayor Ewald provided information on the number of COVID cases and vaccination rates in Chatham Township.

Hearing of Citizens

The Township Clerk indicated that there were not any written comments received.

Mayor Ewald opened the Hearing of Citizens.

1. Sukhmani Dhanoa, Fairmount Avenue, addressed concerns about traffic safety on Fairmount Avenue near her home. She pointed out that the road narrows in the Township, and noted that the topography causes line-of-sight issues. Mrs. Dhanoa also said that there are bicyclists and pedestrians at danger on Fairmount Avenue. She also said that there was a hit-and-run incident in which her dog was recently killed. Mrs. Dhanoa asked that a traffic study be conducted.

Mayor Ewald said she will be interested to see the results of the Traffic Study. Committeeman Hamilton asked if Mrs. Dhanoa's doorbell security system shows who hit her dog. Mrs. Dhanoa said that the license plate was not visible.

2. Jessica Romeo, Pine Street, expressed her gratitude for all the volunteer efforts of Dot Stillinger during her time on the Environmental Commission.

Deputy Mayor Abbott also acknowledged Mrs. Stillinger's service on the Environmental Commission.

3. Animesh Mehta, Fairmount Avenue, addressed traffic issues on Fairmount Avenue. He stated that many motorists do not follow traffic laws and drive very fast. Mr. Mehta also commented on the intersection of Fairmount Avenue and Southern Boulevard, stating that it is impossible to cross as a pedestrian. He asked if anything can be done to make the intersection more pedestrian-friendly.

Committeewoman Felice asked about the traffic study being conducted. Committeewoman Fondaco said that the Police Department will conduct a four week study, and it will focus on the area where Mrs. Dhanoa's dog was killed. Additional speed limit signs will also be installed. Committeeman Hamilton opined that the study should consider the whole stretch of Fairmount Avenue from Southern Boulevard to River Road. He also stated that the intersection of Fairmount Avenue and River Road is also dangerous. Committeewoman Felice also commented on the traffic issues at the intersection of Fairmount Avenue and River Road. Administrator Hoffmann commented on how traffic studies are conducted and explained how traffic counts are analyzed. Committeewoman Felice commented on the difficulties making turns at both intersections. Deputy Mayor Abbott commented on the lack of a line of sight at the intersection of Fairmount Avenue and Southern Boulevard. She stated that the intersection should be further studied for improvements. Administrator Hoffmann stated that he will work with Engineer Ruschke and Chief Miller on this topic and will follow up with the County once a study has been conducted. The Township Clerk indicated that a traffic study was conducted at the intersection of Fairmount Avenue and Southern Boulevard a few years ago.

Seeing no further comment, Mayor Ewald closed the Hearing of Citizens.

Introduction of Ordinances

Ordinance 2021-19

ORDINANCE 2021-19 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM, COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE SECTION 30-78.1 TO PERMIT FIRE HOUSES AND EMERGENCY SQUAD BUILDINGS AS PRINCIPAL PERMITTED USES IN RESIDENTIAL ZONES

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham, County of Morris, State of New Jersey as follows:

Section 1. Amend § 30-78.1 Permitted Uses to include a new subsection as follows:

h. Fire houses and emergency squads, which may include sleeping quarters.

Section 2. Add new footnote 11 to Schedule 1 to read as follows:

11. Notwithstanding the requirements of Appendix I, Section 30-75.2 Schedule of Zoning Requirements, fire houses and emergency squad buildings may be erected or expanded on any lot of at least ½ acre, provided lot coverage does not exceed 60% and further provided that no front, side or rear yard is less than 10 feet.

Section 3. The Township Clerk is hereby directed to give notice at least ten (10) days prior to a hearing on the adoption of this Ordinance to the Morris County Planning Board and all other persons or entities entitled thereto pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-15, including to the Clerks of adjoining municipalities. The Township Clerk shall execute Affidavits of Proof of Service of the notices required by this Section, and shall keep the Affidavits on file along with the Proof of Publication of the notice of the required public hearing on the proposed change.

Section 4. After introduction, the Township Clerk is hereby directed to submit a copy of this Ordinance to the Planning Board of the Township of Chatham for its review in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-26 and N.J.S.A. 40:55D-64. The Planning Board is directed to make and transmit to the Township Committee, within thirty-five (35) days after referral, a report including identification of any provisions in this proposed Ordinance which are inconsistent with the Township's Master Plan and recommendations concerning any inconsistencies and any other matters as the Board may deem appropriate.

Section 5. Any article, section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or other provision of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Chatham inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 6. If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provision so adjudged, and the remainder of this Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

Section 7. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon: (i) adoption; (ii) publication in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey; and (iii) filing of the final form of adopted Ordinance by the Township Clerk with the Morris County Planning Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-16.

Administrator Hoffmann explained that the ordinance is a forward-looking ordinance. He stated that discussions have been held regarding storage of hazardous materials and decontamination areas. Administrator Hoffmann also stated that the ordinance will reduce the number of variances that the fire departments and Chatham Emergency Squad would need when making improvements to their buildings.

The Township Clerk indicated that the ordinance will need to be sent to the Planning Board for a Master Plan Consistency Review.

Committeeman Hamilton moved to introduce Ordinance 2021-19. Committeewoman Felice seconded the motion.

Roll call: Committeewoman Felice, Aye; Committeewoman Fondaco, Aye; Committeeman Hamilton, Aye; Deputy Mayor Abbott, Aye; Mayor Ewald, Aye.

Public Hearing on Ordinance 2021-19 will be scheduled for October 14, 2021.

ORDINANCE 2021-20
ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW
JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 3 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE
TOWNSHIP TITLED “POLICE REGULATIONS” TO A NEW SECTION 3-15 TITLED
“PLANTING, CULTIVATING OR GROWING OF BAMBOO AND/OR JAPANESE
KNOTWEED PLANTS”

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham, County of Morris, State of New Jersey as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 3 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township titled “Police Regulations” is hereby amended to add a new Section 3-15 titled “Planting, Cultivating or Growing of Bamboo and/or Japanese Knotweed Plants”

Section 2. Section 3-15.1 titled “Purpose” is added as follows:

§3-15.1 Purpose

This chapter is adopted to control the planting, cultivating or growing of bamboo and/or Japanese knotweed in the Township of Chatham; and to require barriers to prevent the spread of existing bamboo and/or Japanese knotweed into other areas of the Township.

Section 3. Section 3-15.2 titled Regulation of Planting, Growing or Cultivating of Bamboo and Japanese Knotweed is added as follows:

§3-15.2 Regulation of Planting, Growing or Cultivating of Bamboo and Japanese Knotweed

Subject to certain exemptions set forth in this chapter, no persons, or other property owners or tenants, shall plant, cultivate, or cause to grow any bamboo and/or Japanese knotweed on any lot or parcel of ground in the Township of Chatham, subject to the following exceptions:

- A. The root system of such bamboo plants and/or Japanese knotweed plants is entirely contained within an above-ground-level planter, barrel, or other vessel of such design, material, and location as to entirely prevent the spread of growth of the bamboo and/or Japanese knotweed plants' root system beyond the container in which it is planted; or
- B. The root system is contained within a properly constructed and maintained barrier system.
- C. Whether planted or growing in a container, as described herein, all bamboo plants and Japanese knotweed plants shall be located, trimmed and maintained so that no part of the plant shall be closer than 10 feet to any property line.

Section 4. Section 3-15.3 titled Exemptions is added as follows:

§3-15.3 Exemptions

This chapter shall not apply to any land owner or possessor who, prior to the effective date of this chapter, has planted or caused to grow any bamboo and/or Japanese knotweed on any property within the Township limits unless the Code Enforcement Official determines, on his own or upon complaint from any abutting or nearby property owner, that any portion of such bamboo and/or Japanese knotweed has been allowed to grow upon, extend roots across, or extend branches, stalks or leaves over any public way or any private property not owned by or in the possession of such land owner or any possessor of said land.

Section 5. Section 3.15.4 titled Complaint Notice, Order for Removal, Compliance is added as follows:

§3-15.4 Complaint Notice, Order for Removal, Compliance

Whenever a complaint is received by the Township regarding the encroachment of any bamboo plant, Japanese knotweed plant or root, or whenever the Township, on its own observations and inspections, determines that there is an encroachment of bamboo plants, Japanese knotweed plants or roots on to the property of another land owner, or tenant in possession of the property, or both, the Township shall cause notice to be served, which notice shall be substantially as follows:

- A. The notice shall be mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, properly addressed and with sufficient postage, and also by first-class mail. Notice by certified mail shall be deemed complete

on the date of personal delivery, or the date the certified mail is marked refused or unclaimed or otherwise undeliverable by the United States Post Office, when the first-class mail was not returned.

- B. The notice shall specify the nature of the violation.
- C. The notice shall state that the violation must be corrected within 30 days from the date of the received or returned mailing.
- D. The notice shall state specifically what must be done by the responsible party to correct the violation.

Section 6. Section 3.15.5 titled Violations & Penalties is added as follows:

§3-15.4 Violations & Penalties

- A. Any person determined by any court of competent jurisdiction to have violated this chapter shall be subject to pay a fine of not less than \$50 per day, nor more than \$125 per day, or each day the violation existed after the date for removal as set forth in the notice which was sent to violator, and received by the violator. Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate offense, for which an additional fine can be levied. The per-day fine will be in addition to a penalty for failure to comply with the Bamboo and/or Japanese Knotweed Ordinance. This fine can be up to the maximum penalty set by the State of New Jersey.
- B. If the violation is not remedied within the time set forth in the aforesaid notice, the Township is hereby authorized to remove or have removed any encroaching bamboo and/or Japanese knotweed and to take all reasonable steps to eradicate the regrowth of the bamboo and/or Japanese knotweed on the public rights-of-way, including sidewalks, and to restore such land to its normal condition, prior to such removal and eradication.
- C. The cost of the corrective action together with any civil penalties, legal fees and other costs shall be recoverable from the responsible party.

Section 7. Section 3-15.6 titled “Effective Date” is added as follows:

§3-15.6 Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect on January 1, 2022.

Administrator Hoffmann explained that the effect of this ordinance would be that if residents plant bamboo, it would have to remain contained on their property.

Committeewoman Felice stated that she heard the State is taking action to regulate bamboo, and suggested that the Township should wait until afterward to see what regulations the State adopt.

Attorney Cruz stated that the State’s legislation has been pending for several years. He also stated that if the legislation was going to be adopted, it would have to be adopted during the current session.

Deputy Mayor Abbott stated that both bamboo and Japanese knotweed are invasive species with deep roots that can crack foundations. She also compared the spread of bamboo and Japanese knotweed to moving a fence into a neighboring property.

Committeeman Hamilton said he has concerns about regulating plants and behavior. He also said that there are existing legal remedies to the concerns that residents have raised about bamboo spreading from one property to another. Committeeman Hamilton further said he would like to see what regulations the State may adopt.

Deputy Abbott asked if the existing legal remedy would be to sue their neighbor. Committeeman Hamilton said that filing a lawsuit would be friendlier than calling the police on one’s neighbor.

Committeewoman Felice said that the problem would be when the bamboo spreads onto a neighboring property, and agreed with Committeeman Hamilton that people would be liable if their plantings damage a neighboring property. Deputy Mayor Abbott spoke in support of the ordinance.

Committeewoman Fondaco moved to introduce Ordinance 2021-20. Deputy Mayor Abbott seconded the motion.

Roll call: Committeewoman Felice, Nay; Committeewoman Fondaco, Aye; Committeeman Hamilton, Nay; Deputy Mayor Abbott, Aye; Mayor Ewald, Aye.

Public Hearing on Ordinance 2021-20 will be scheduled for September 23, 2021.

Ordinance 2021-21

ORDINANCE 2021-21

AN ORDINANCE RELEASING, EXTINGUISHING AND VACATING ALL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM'S RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST IN AND TO THAT UNIMPROVED SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT LOCATED ON 51 RUNNYMEDE ROAD, BLOCK 48.10, LOT 34 AS SHOWN ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM

WHEREAS, there exists in the Township of Chatham, Morris County, New Jersey, an unimproved sanitary sewer easement located on 51 Runnymede Road, Block 48.01, Lot 34, as shown on the Official Tax Map of the Township of Chatham ("Property"); and

WHEREAS, the owner of the Property requested that the unimproved sanitary sewer easement located on the Property be released, extinguished and vacated; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham determines that the unimproved sanitary sewer easement has not been utilized by the Township, is no longer needed for a public purpose and that the public interest will be better served by releasing, extinguishing and vacating the unimproved sanitary sewer easement; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:67-19 authorizes the Township to release, extinguish and vacate the rights of the public and the Township in the unimproved sanitary sewer easement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham, Morris County, New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to the authority vested in the Township Committee by N.J.S.A. 40:67-19, and subject to the conditions set forth below, the rights of the public and the Township to that unimproved sanitary sewer easement on the Property as highlighted in yellow on the attached "Boundary and Topographic Survey, Lot 34, Block 48.11, Township of Chatham, County of Morris, State of New Jersey" prepared by David J. Von Streenburg, PLS, dated June 8, 2021, are released, extinguished and vacated.

SECTION 2. The unimproved sanitary sewer easement being vacated shall revert to and remain a part of Block 48.10, Lot 34.

SECTION 3. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-13 defining public utilities and N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1, et seq. defining cable television companies, expressly reserved and excepted from this vacation are all the rights and privileges possessed by public utilities and cable television companies to maintain and repair their existing facilities adjacent to, over and under the unimproved sanitary sewer easement to be vacated.

SECTION 4. At least seven (7) days prior to the time fixed for the consideration of this Ordinance for final passage, a copy of this Ordinance, together with a notice of its introduction and the time and place when and where the Ordinance will be further considered for final passage, shall be mailed to every person whose land may be affected by this Ordinance so far as may be ascertained. Said notices shall be mailed by the Township Clerk in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40:49-6.

SECTION 5. The Township Clerk shall, within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Ordinance, record a copy of this Ordinance certified by the Clerk under the seal of the Township, to be a true copy thereof, together with proof of publication thereof, in the office of the Clerk of the County of Morris, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40:67-21.

SECTION 6. If any article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, said article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence shall be deemed severable.

SECTION 7. This Ordinance shall become effective upon the adoption and recording of this Ordinance with the Morris County Clerk's Office.

Engineer Ruschke explained that a resident asked if the Township would vacate an unused portion of a sewer easement. He said that he believes that the section of easement was probably created during the design process but was never utilized. Engineer Ruschke also stated that the Township does not have any need for the easement.

Committeeman Hamilton asked what it means for something to be unimproved. The Township Clerk explained that the section of easement exists on paper but has not been developed for any sewer lines.

Committeewoman Fondaco moved to introduce Ordinance 2021-21. Deputy Mayor Abbott seconded the motion.

Roll call: Committeewoman Felice, Aye; Committeewoman Fondaco, Aye; Committeeman Hamilton, Aye; Deputy Mayor Abbott, Aye; Mayor Ewald, Aye.

Public Hearing on Ordinance 2021-21 will be scheduled for September 23, 2021.

Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION 2021-226

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS, PAYROLLS, SCHOOL TAXES AND COUNTY TAXES**

BE IT RESOLVED that bills in the total amount of \$916,928.46 and the prior month's payroll of \$490,096.29 Current Fund, \$49,534.68 Sewer No. 1, \$11,345.15 Sewer No. 2, and \$27,898.67 Police Private Employment be paid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that taxes due to the School District of the Chathams, for the month of September 2021, in the amount of \$3,336,094.00 be paid.

RESOLUTION 2021-227

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
APPROVING MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham acknowledges receipt of and approves the minutes of the Township Committee meetings held on August 12, 2021 and August 25, 2021.

RESOLUTION 2021-228

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
APPROVING EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham acknowledges receipt of and approves Executive Session minutes of the Township Committee meeting held on August 12, 2021.

RESOLUTION 2021-229

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM, IN THE COUNTY OF
MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RELEASING DEVELOPER ESCROW ACCOUNT
AND/OR PERFORMANCE BOND BALANCES**

WHEREAS, developers are required to deposit monies with the Township for the purposes of offsetting Township professional costs to review plans or to inspect approved development and for the purpose of ensuring the satisfactory completion of public or private improvements; and

WHEREAS, these deposited monies, following all necessary withdrawals to cover Township expenses or costs, may be released upon satisfactory completion of work, receipt of review board decisions, or completion of guaranteed work, upon passage of a Township resolution authorizing such release.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham that the following guarantee amount or account balances, with interest adjustments as prescribed by state and local laws, may be released to the depositor of record:

NAME	<u>Project</u>	<u>A/C NUMBER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
T-Mobile Northeast LLC c/o Gregory D. Meese, ESQ Price, Meese, Shulman & D'Arminio, PC 50 Tice Boulevard, Suite 280 Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677	Pre-Application Green Acres Colony Pool & Esternay Park	7764128441	\$1,561.03

RESOLUTION 2021-230

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM, IN
THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REFUNDING OVERPAYMENT OF
TAXES**

WHEREAS, an overpayment of property taxes has been made for the following properties; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended the refund of such overpayment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham that the following refunds be made:

BLOCK	LOT	NAME & ADDRESS	AMOUNT
39	42	Perrone, Michael D.& Tara M. 128 Candace Lane Chatham, NJ 07928	\$3,565.23 3 rd Quarter 2021
48.04	37	Sinha, Anupam & Veena 81 Southern Boulevard Chatham, NJ 07928	\$6,283.46 3 rd Quarter 2021
64.04	11.12	Gaertner, Frederick W. Jr 230 Riveredge Drive Chatham, NJ 07928	\$1,950.31 3 rd Quarter 2021

RESOLUTION 2021-231

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
RESCINDING CONDITIONAL OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT TO ALEXANDRA MORSE FOR
THE POSITION OF PATROLMAN IN THE CHATHAM TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2021 the Township Committee adopted Resolution 2021-219 to authorize a conditional offer of employment to Alexandra Morse as a Police Officer in the Chatham Township Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Morse subsequently accepted a job offer from another municipality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham that the conditional offer of employment extended to Alexandra Morse is hereby rescinded.

RESOLUTION 2021-232

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
AUTHORIZING CONDITIONAL OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT TO PATRICK R. DOWD FOR
THE POSITION OF PATROLMAN IN THE CHATHAM TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham that a conditional offer of employment is hereby extended to Patrick R. Dowd with an appointment date of Monday, November 1, 2021 pending his graduation from the Atlantic County Police Academy as well as successful completion of all required checks. The terms and conditions of employment shall be as found in the Collective Bargaining Agreement in effect between the Township of Chatham and PBA Local 170.

RESOLUTION 2021-233

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
DESIGNATING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND LIAISONS**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham that Township Committee assignments be made as follows:

Name of Advisory Committee/Board

Committee Members

Joint Municipal Court

Stacey Ewald & Ashley Felice

RESOLUTION 2021-234

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
APPROVING FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIPS**

WHEREAS, the Township of Chatham has designated the Green Village Volunteer Fire Department and the Chatham Township Volunteer Fire Department as the official fire companies for the Township; and

WHEREAS, members of both departments are eligible for membership in N.J. State Firemen's Association as provided by applicable law; and

WHEREAS, in order to become members of the association, the Township is required to certify that each applicant is an active member of the respective Fire Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham, County of Morris, State of New Jersey that the following named individual has been admitted to active membership in the respective department as approved by the Township Committee.

NAME

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Michael J. Coyne

Green Village Fire Department

RESOLUTION 2021-235
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
AUTHORIZING THE SOLICITATION OF SEALED BIDS FOR WET SLUDGE
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township of Chatham's current contract for the transportation of wet sludge from the Township of Chatham Water Pollution Control Plant to the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners expires on November 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, a bid document has been prepared for removal and transportation of wet sludge for the period December 1, 2021 through November 30, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, the bid documents include two optional one-year renewal periods from December 1, 2024 through November 30, 2025 and December 1, 2025 through November 30, 2026.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee authorizes the acceptance of sealed bids for the removal and transportation of wet sludge from the Township of Chatham Water Pollution Control Plant to the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, or similar facility.

RESOLUTION 2021-236
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
APPROVING UPDATE TO MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH CHIEF OF POLICE

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham that the updated Memorandum of Agreement between the Township of Chatham and Chief of Police Thomas A. Miller with an effective date of October 1, 2021 be is approved.

RESOLUTION 2021-237
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIPT OF A GRANT FROM THE NEW
JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, GRANT IDENTIFIER:
AQ22-042, FOR PURCHASE, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF 3 SEMACONNECT
CHARGING STATIONS

WHEREAS, The Township Committee of the Township of Chatham desires to further the public interest by obtaining a grant from the State of New Jersey in the amount of approximately \$24,000.00 to fund the following project: Purchase, installation, and maintenance of 3 SemaConnect dual port Level 2 charging stations to be installed at 553 Shunpike Road, 58 Meyersville Road, and 478 Southern Blvd, Chatham Township NJ 07928.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham that Township Administrator Robert Hoffmann is authorized as follows:

- a) To make application for such a grant; and
- b) If awarded, to execute a grant agreement with the State for a grant in an amount not less than \$0.00 and not more than \$24,000.00; and
- c) To execute any amendments thereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee authorizes and hereby agrees to match 0% of the Total Project Amount, in compliance with the match requirements of the agreement. The availability of the match for such purposes, whether cash, services, or property, is hereby certified. 0% of the match will be made up of in-kind services (if allowed by grant program requirements and the agreement).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham agrees to comply with all applicable Federal, State, and municipal laws, rules, and regulations in its performance pursuant to the agreement.

RESOLUTION 2021-238
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the Township of Chatham is the owner of certain surplus property which is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, these items were found by the Police Department or forfeited as a result of an arrest; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee are desirous of selling said surplus property in an "as is" condition without express or implied warranties.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham, Morris County, State of New Jersey, as follows:

- (1) The sale of the surplus property shall be conducted through GovDeals pursuant to State Contract A-83453/T2581 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the State Contract. The terms and conditions of the agreement entered into with GovDeals is available online at govdeals.com.
- (2) The sale will be conducted online and the address of the auction site is govdeals.com.

- (3) The sale is being conducted pursuant to Local Finance Notice 2008-9.
- (4) A list of the surplus property to be sold is as follows:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>VIN or MODEL No</u>
Sony Playstation 3	
Lot of Coins	

Committeewoman Felice moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Committeewoman Fondaco seconded the motion.

Roll call: Committeewoman Felice, Aye; Committeewoman Fondaco, Aye; Committeeman Hamilton, Aye; Deputy Mayor Abbott, Aye; Mayor Ewald, Aye.

Non-Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION 2021-239
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK TO SIGN A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY ARISING OUT OF A DISPUTE PERTAINING TO THE PSE&G 2018 VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, a dispute arose between the Township of Chatham and Public Service Electric and Gas Company regarding secondary notification to the Township of PSE&G's 2018 vegetative management program in the area between Fairmount Avenue and Sunset Drive, and Fairmount Avenue and Pembroke Road; and

WHEREAS, in order to resolve the dispute, PSE&G agreed to the following:

- a. Pay the Township of Chatham \$10,000.00 within thirty days of the Agreement being fully signed;
- b. Take corrective soil erosion measures for vegetation management programs;
- c. Perform vegetation management programs in compliance with State and Federal law;
- d. Where trees are removed, clean-up and seed the area;
- e. Maintain the swale in this area upon notice from the Township or adjoining residents; and

WHEREAS, by agreeing to the items in the prior WHEREAS clause, PSE&G is not admitting liability; and

WHEREAS, the Township and PSE&G agreed to the attached proposed Settlement Agreement, General Release, and Waiver of All Claims subject to review, approval and authorization by the Township Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, as follows:

- 1. That the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the attached Settlement Agreement, General Release and Waiver of All Claims.
- 2. That a copy of this Resolution and executed Settlement Agreement, General Release and Waiver of All Claims be tendered to Ana Murteria, Esq. at PSE&G.
- 3. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Committeewoman Fondaco asked if the \$10,000 to be received by the Township could be used for replanting of trees. Administrator Hoffmann stated that could be a use of the funds.

Committeeman Hamilton moved to adopt Resolution 2021-239. Committeewoman Fondaco seconded the motion.

Roll call: Committeewoman Felice, Aye; Committeewoman Fondaco, Aye; Committeeman Hamilton, Aye; Deputy Mayor Abbott, Aye; Mayor Ewald, Aye.

RESOLUTION 2021-240
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM ADOPTING RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, that the following Rules and Order of Business of the Township Committee are hereby adopted:

**RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS
OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

ARTICLE I.

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

The deliberations of the Township Committee shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

ARTICLE II.

Selection of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Section 1. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor shall be selected at the Reorganization Meeting.

Section 2. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor shall serve a term expiring on December 31st.

Section 3. The Annual Reorganization Meeting shall be chaired by the Township Clerk until such time that the Mayor has been selected by the Township Committee.

ARTICLE III.

Meetings.

Section 1. The Mayor shall preside at all meetings of the Township Committee. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor shall perform all the duties of the Mayor. The Mayor shall on all occasions preserve order and shall cause the arrest or removal of all persons who interrupt the proceedings of the Township Committee.

Section 2. The Mayor shall decide all questions of order subject to appeal to the Township Committee.

Section 3. Each member of the Township Committee, including the Mayor, shall have the right to make and second motions and nominations and to vote thereon.

Section 4. Regular meetings shall be held as scheduled at the annual organization meeting each year or as rescheduled by resolution adopted at a regular meeting.

Section 5. Special meetings shall be held as provided by Code of the Township of Chatham and applicable State law. Upon the filing of a proper call for a Special meeting, the Township Clerk shall give at least two (2) business days' notice thereof with a copy of the call to all members of the Township Committee by delivery to each member personally or to each member's residence. Copies of the notice shall be promptly released to the news media and posted in a prominent place in the Township Hall.

Section 6. Regular and Special meetings of the Township Committee shall be open to the public. A portion of all meetings shall be set aside for citizens to address the Township Committee on any matter of interest.

Section 7. All items of business on a consent agenda will be delivered to each member of the Township Committee at least 2 days prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered, unless circumstances do not permit advance delivery.

Section 8. No new business will be considered after 11 PM. Township Committee meetings will adjourn no later than 12 AM (midnight).

Section 9. The Township Committee may, by a majority vote of members then present, waive any section of the By-Laws in the public interest to be able to complete Township Committee business at a duly noticed Township Committee meeting.

Section 10. All Township Committee meetings will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act. (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.)

Section 11. Township Committee meetings will be broadcast over Zoom, Comcast and Fios as a convenience for the public. In the event that the broadcast is interrupted for any reason, the Township Committee meeting will continue as noticed.

ARTICLE IV.

Order of Business.

Section 1. The following shall be the normal order of business of all Regular meetings of the Township Committee:

1. Meeting called to order
2. Open Public Meetings Act announcement
3. Salute to flag
4. Moment of Silent Reflection (as necessary)
5. Roll Call
6. Review and acceptance of agenda
7. Special Recognition/Awards
8. Reports
9. Hearing of citizens
10. Public Hearing and final adoption of ordinances
11. Introduction of ordinances
12. Adoption of resolutions
13. Miscellaneous business
14. Hearing of Citizens
15. Closed session resolution; if applicable
16. Adjournment

Section 2. The final agenda shall be adopted as amended, if need be, by vote of the Township Committee at the start of each meeting.

Section 3. Hearing of Citizens

(a). During the first public portion on the Agenda, speakers may comment upon items that are not the subject of a separate public hearing scheduled for that meeting. Speakers may comment for up to five (5) minutes. Speakers may speak once and may not yield their time to another speaker.

(b). During public hearings, Section 3(a) will also apply.

(c). During the second public comment period, speakers may comment upon any topic for the good and general welfare of the Township of Chatham. Speakers may comment for up to five (5) minutes. Speakers may speak once and may not yield their time to another speaker.

(d). During all public portions, residents of the Township of Chatham will be called upon to speak before non-Township residents.

Section 4. Sub-Committee chairpersons and liaisons will provide short update reports to the Township Committee during the report section of meetings.

Section 5. The Chief of Police, Public Works Manager, Recreation Director and Township Administrator shall report on a quarterly basis to the Township Committee, during the report section of meetings.

ARTICLE V.

Committees and Boards.

Section 1. The Township Committee hereby creates four Standing Committees, each consisting of two (2) members of the Township Committee as follows:

1. Public Safety/Emergency Management
2. Administration/Finance
3. Public Works/Sewer Utilities
4. Communications

Note: The Township Administrator shall supervise all departments, attend all meetings of the Standing Committees and implement the policies adopted by the Township Committee. The Standing Committees are not authorized to exert any administrative control over the departments assigned.

Section 2. Except as otherwise required by State statute and the Code of the Township of Chatham, the Mayor shall appoint members to the various Township boards with the approval of the Township Committee.

Section 3. The Township Committee may appoint advisory committees for special purposes composed of no more than 2 Members of Township Committee and such other Administrative staff members and members of the general public as it deems necessary and appropriate.

Section 4. At the time of creation of an advisory committee, the Township Committee shall establish the duration of the advisory committee. No advisory committee shall take a position on behalf of the Township Committee without the Township Committee's approval.

Section 5 . A member of the Township Committee, appointed by the Committee, shall serve as liaison to the following Boards, Commissions and Community Groups and other Entities:

Mayor's Wellness Campaign
Board of Education
Environmental Commission
Senior Citizens Center/Senior Club of the Chathams
Municipal Alliance Committee
Chamber of Commerce
Fire and Rescue
Historical Society
Public Utilities
Affordable Housing Committee
Business Advisory Committee
Diversity Committee

Section 6. A member(s) of the Township Committee, appointed by the Committee, shall serve as a member of the following Boards and Committees:

Joint Recreation Advisory Committee
Joint Municipal Court Committee (2 members)
The Board of Health
The Board of Trustees of the Joint Library of the Chathams (Mayor or Mayor's designee)
Open Space Committee
Joint Community Garden

ARTICLE VI.

Ordinances.

Section 1. All proposed ordinances, supplements to and amendments of ordinances shall be presented in writing at a regular meeting, except in those instances when the Township Committee decides to act on an ordinance at a special meeting.

Section 2. Every ordinance duly passed by the Township Committee shall be recorded by the Township Clerk in the Township Ordinance Book, with a proper index. Each ordinance entered in the Ordinance Book shall be compared with the original and shall not be entered unless it is identical in content with such original. The Township Clerk shall enter at the foot of the ordinance the date it was passed and the number and page of the Minute Book containing the minutes of the meeting at which it was passed. Each ordinance entered in the Ordinance Book shall be signed by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor and the Township Clerk.

Section 3. The Township Ordinance Book is hereby established as the original permanent record of the Ordinances of the Township.

Section 4. All ordinances shall be introduced, considered, read, heard, adopted and published in accordance with applicable law and inserted in the correct place in the Code of the Township of Chatham.

ARTICLE VII.

Filings.

Section 1. The Township Committee shall file with the Township Clerk all ordinances, resolutions, reports, petitions, correspondence and other papers considered by or presented to the Township Committee.

ARTICLE VIII.

Minutes.

Section 1. The Township Clerk shall keep minutes of all Township Committee meetings as provided by law.

Section 2. Draft minutes for all meetings shall be delivered to the Township Committee Members no later than the Friday preceding the next regular meeting. Such minutes shall be clearly marked as a draft minutes.

Section 3. Minutes will be filed into the minute book and released to the public only by the Township Clerk and only after approval by the Township Committee.

Section 4. All open sessions of the regular and special meetings may be recorded.

Section 5. The recordings, if made, will be kept by the Township Clerk as required by law.

Section 6. The approved minutes shall become the official record of the meeting.

ARTICLE IX.

Newly Elected Township Committee Members

Section 1. Upon certification of election results, the Township Clerk shall begin sending newly elected Township Committee members the meeting agendas and supporting documentation.

Section 2. Upon certification of election results, newly elected Township Committee members shall be invited to attend Executive Sessions prior to swearing-in provided that the newly elected Township Committee Member agrees to be bound by confidentiality requirements.

ARTICLE X.

Code of Conduct.

Section 1. No member of the Township Committee, including the Mayor, can conduct business for, or on behalf of, the Township without express, specific approval of the Township Committee. This includes all correspondence, written or otherwise, negotiations, and the like.

Section 2. It is the responsibility of each Committee member to disclose to the Township Attorney any personal or private interest, directly or otherwise, in any question or measure proposed or pending before the Township Committee. The Township Attorney will determine whether a conflict of interest exists.

Section 3. A member of the Township Committee who has a conflict of interest on a particular matter shall neither vote on nor take part in discussion of same.

Section 4. A member of the Township Committee shall not use or disseminate confidential information acquired by or available to them for personal gain or for personal, non-Township business related reasons. Any member who is aware of a breach of confidentiality, is expected to bring forth that information to the appropriate officials in a timely manner.

ARTICLE XI.

Filling Vacancies

Section 1. Vacancies on the Township Committee will be filled in accordance with **40A:16-11** and all other relevant statutes.

Section 2. Upon receipt of the names of three nominees to fill a vacancy, the nominees will be invited to present candidate statements to the Township Committee at a regular or special Township Committee meeting in Public Session.

Section 3. The three nominees will also be invited to be interviewed by the Township Committee in Public Session.

Section 4. The Township Committee's discussion on the merits of the three nominees will be held in Public Session.

Section 5. Any formal action by the Township Committee to fill a vacancy will be taken in Public Session.

ARTICLE XII.

Township Administrator.

Section 1. The Township Administrator shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the Township, shall supervise all Departments, perform the duties of Township Administrator as specified in

the Code of the Township and shall be responsible to the Township Committee for the proper and efficient administration of Township affairs. The Township Administrator shall make reports to the Township Committee as requested.

Section 2. The Township Administrator and staff under his direction shall prepare the annual budget. In preparation for the budget process, all departments, including the volunteer Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Service, shall submit their goals and objectives along with short-term and long-term budget and capital requests in a format to be decided by the Township Administrator. Members of the Township Committee also shall submit their goals and objectives to the Township Administrator. The funding requests accepted by the Township Administrator shall be included in the budget along with the goals and objectives to create a planning document to be shared with the public. It shall be the responsibility of the Township Administrator and the Township Committee to provide a short-term and long-term capital plan that includes an assessment of all Township facilities, physical plants, land and infrastructure as part of the planning and budget process.

Section 3. Professional services. In order to maintain transparency and the efficient use of professional services, the Township Administrator shall conduct a Request for Qualifications/Proposals every three years, on a staggered basis, for all professional services.

Section 4. It is intended that the Township Committee shall act in all matters as a body. Members of the Township Committee shall not seek individually to influence the official acts of the Township Administrator or any other officer or to interfere in any way with the performance by such officers of their duties.

The Township Clerk explained that the change in the ordinance is the addition of a new Section XI pertaining to the filling of vacancies. He stated that it formalizes the public process used earlier this year.

Deputy Mayor Abbott moved to adopt Resolution 2021-240. Committeewoman Fondaco seconded the motion.

Roll call: Committeewoman Felice, Aye; Committeewoman Fondaco, Aye; Committeeman Hamilton, Aye; Deputy Mayor Abbott, Aye; Mayor Ewald, Aye.

Hearing of Citizens

Mayor Ewald opened the Hearing of Citizens.

Seeing no public comment, Mayor Ewald closed the Hearing of Citizens.

Committeeman Hamilton moved to adjourn at 9:09 PM. Committeewoman Fondaco seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Gregory J. LaConte
Municipal Clerk

9-11 Recognition and Mayor's Message – September 9, 2021

This Saturday, September 11, 2021, marks twenty years since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and on the Pentagon. Most adults remember exactly where they were when they heard the news of the attacks. I was on maternity leave, 9 months pregnant with my son. I heard the news of the first plane on Washington Street while driving home from my daughter's day school. At the time, the broadcasters didn't know how big the plane was and they didn't know if the crash was intentional. Before I made it home, they announced a second plane hit the south tower. It was clear it was a commercial airline. It was clear our country was under attack. Like many of you who were back home in NJ, what followed was a mad scramble of trying to locate family and friends who worked in or commuted through the World Trade Center, managing frantic calls from extended family, dealing with limited phone service, prayers for those trapped in the towers, calls to help the stranded figure out how to get home. And sadly, for many, there was the waiting. The cars marked at the train station served as an ominous reminder of the devastation for our Chatham families.

We are bound together as a family in our memory of this horrific day in our nation's history and in our heartache for those who perished.

At 8:46 AM, the north tower was attacked. At 9:03AM, the south tower. 9:37, the Pentagon. At 9:59AM, the South Tower collapsed. At 10:03, hijackers crashed flight 93 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. At 10:28 the north tower collapsed.

In the course of 108 minutes, our lives were changed forever. 2,977 were killed; thousands more were injured. Our Chatham family lost 13 that day, 7 from the Township and 6 from the Borough. We will never forget them:

Donald L. Adams
Dennis Buckley
Paul S. Gilbey
Gary R. Haag
Anthony P. Infante Jr.
Robin B. Larkey
Christian H. Maltby
Philip W. Mastrandrea
Peter Moutos
Thomas Strada
Kenneth J. Swenson
William R. Tieste
Peter M. West

I'd like to ask everyone to take a moment of silence to honor their memory, to honor the first responders and others lost on September 11, 2001 and those lost in the aftermath of the cleanup.

In the worst of humanity, we find the best of humanity. Hate and violence were behind the attacks, but it's care and compassion that sustained us. Our residents stepped up to support those who lost family. Americans across the country helped with the rescue and recovery. The world prayed for us. We were one nation, brought together by tragedy, caring for each other without regard for race, religion, sexual orientation or political affiliation. Too often these days, we find ourselves divided. I hope in those moments of division, we can put life in perspective and remember that we accomplish more together if we lead with care and compassion.

I hope you will join me on Saturday evening for the Chathams 9-11 memorial service. It will begin at 6:45PM at the south side of the Chatham train station. We will walk to the memorial honoring first responders at Reasoner Park and then to the memorial at the library. The library service will be held at 7:30PM.

Mayor's Message

Last Wednesday night, New Jersey was hit with Tropical Storm Ida. Sadly, there were several deaths across the State; many experienced devastating flooding and our friends in south Jersey dealt with tornado damage. In Chatham Township, our fire department helped pump water out of a dozen basements. Southern Blvd and Green Village Rd had short term closures, and the bridges on Central Ave and Bridge Ave were also closed due to flooding. Both reopened on Tuesday. Our sewage treatment plant also took on excess water. All in all, compared to how others fared, we were quite fortunate in the Township. I want to thank our police and fire departments for being out in force during the storm to help our residents. The Morris County Office of Emergency Management will be collecting information to determine eligibility for FEMA support. We will share updates as we receive them.

Our developer for the 522 Southern Blvd affordable housing complex applied for 9% tax credits on August 31. We won't know whether we'll receive an award until November but our application and submitted tie breaker were highly competitive and we're cautiously optimistic.

The Planning Board will have a site visit on Saturday morning. Our Planning Board attorney has provided site visit parameters to ensure due process for both the applicant and the objectors. The sole purpose of the site visit is for the Board members to view the site and to understand the location of key structures. There will be minimal discussion during the visit and that discussion will be focused on the location of the proposed development. Facts obtained by Planning Board members at the site visit should be put on the record if relied upon for decision making so that the applicant or objectors may have the opportunity to refute. The Board members will not be permitted to engage in discussions with interested parties, their attorneys or the public concerning the merit or lack of merit of the project. The Township Committee will not answer any questions this evening about the site visit. Those questions should be directed to the Planning Board attorney, Steve Warner. He will be at the onsite visit on Saturday.

And finally, I want to wish a Happy Rosh Hashanah to my Jewish family, friends and neighbors, and as the holiest day in the Jewish year approaches, Yom Kippur, I wish you a meaningful fast and a blessed year.