

**MINUTES
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORKSHOP MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2023**

The Mayor called the Workshop 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 4, 2023; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on January 4, 2023; and notice was filed with the Township Clerk on January 4, 2023.

Roll Call

Answering present to the roll call were Committeewoman Ewald, Deputy Mayor Hamilton and Mayor Felice. Committeeman Choi arrived late. Committeeman Lois was absent.

Executive Session

**RESOLUTION 2023-P-01
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. Personnel
 - b. Contract negotiations: Shared Service Agreements
 - c. Contract negotiations: Professional Services
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 Ewald moved to adopt Resolution 2023-P-01 to enter Executive Session at 6:32 PM. Deputy Mayor Hamilton seconded the motion.

Roll call: Committeeman Choi, Absent; Committeewoman Ewald, Aye; Committeeman Lois, Absent; Deputy Mayor Hamilton, Aye; Mayor Felice, Aye.

The Township Committee returned to Public Session at 7:38 PM.

Mayor Felice led the Flag Salute

Mayor Felice offered condolences to Committeeman Lois who had a loss in his family.

Roll Call

Answering present to the roll call were Committeeman Choi, Committeewoman Ewald, Deputy Mayor Hamilton and Mayor Felice. Committeeman Lois was absent.

Hearing of Citizens

Mayor Felice opened the Hearing of Citizens.

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

Mayor Felice noted that Township Committee meetings are being broadcast on Verizon Fios 2126.

Mayoral Appointments

Mayor Felice announced the following appointments:

Planning Board – Nick Nikolopoulos; J. Michael Neibert

CTEC – Cara Feeser, Amy Mason, Lisa McHugh, Sally O’Neill, Celeste Fondaco (Alt. 2)

Mayor Felice also noted that Doug Pitney and Katherine Fowler both agreed to serve on the Board of Health, and a resolution is required for those appointments. There are also two remaining spots available on the Board of Health.

Reports

Engineering

Engineer Ruschke reported that an additional Morris County Trails Grant was received. He further reported that it appears as though the SRTS Grant for Lafayette Avenue sidewalks may be able to go out to bid soon.

Committeewoman Ewald asked about the public hearing on the SRTS Grant. Engineer Ruschke said there were not many comments, and any concerns were addressed.

A proposal from Fennelly Environmental Associates for a remedial action project was addressed. Administrator Shehady provided background on the proposal, and said that the project is funded by a bond ordinance adopted in 2022. Engineer Ruschke also gave background on the groundwater contamination at the DPW facility that the project would seek to remediate. He also said that efforts are being made to stay in compliance and avoid fines from the dep. He noted that the original leak was about 30 years ago. Attorney King suggested that a claim should be put into the insurance that the Township had at the time.

Finance

CFO Debbie King reported that revenues in the Current Fund have exceeded what was anticipated. Regarding expenditures, 94% of the current fund and 81% of the sewer utility fund have been used. Mrs. King reported that a resolution will be on the January 24th Agenda for cancellation of unexpended balances in the Capital Fund, which will free up some funds that could be reappropriated for down payment on the BAN sale.

Mrs. King further noted the need for some budget transfers. She also noted that the Cap Bank Ordinance will be considered at an upcoming Township Committee meeting.

Police

Administrator Shehady reported that an ordinance for a no-parking zone on Southern Boulevard will be presented at an upcoming meeting. He said that Chief Miller ran the concept past the County and there was not any objection.

Administrator Shehady noted that Chief Miller is attending the FBI National Academy, and the two Lieutenants are sharing the Officer In Charge duties.

Public Works

Administrator Shehady commended DPW for being proactive at addressing issues. He also noted their efforts in helping move furniture and filing cabinets as offices are moved.

Tax Appeal

Administrator Shehady said a resolution is necessary to approve a tax appeal settlement, and he provided some background on the settlement. . The matter will be discussed further in Executive Session as there were still some questions from the Committee.

Administration

Administrator Shehady explained a request to authorize membership in the Morris County Co-op. He also commented on an upcoming resolution for an online auction via GovDeals, as there are old phones and two vehicles to be auctioned.

Administrator Shehady also commented on plans to install a new phone system. He is also investigating installing a booster for cellular signals in the building.

Administrator Shehady further addressed a feasibility study for potential uses of the empty space in the Municipal Building.

Hearing of Citizens

Mayor Felice opened the Hearing of Citizens.

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

Executive Session II

**RESOLUTION 2023-P-02
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: Tax Appeal
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 will not take further action.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to adopt Resolution 2023-P-02 to enter Executive Session at 8:27 PM. Committeewoman Ewald seconded the motion.

Roll call: Committeeman Choi, Aye; Committeewoman Ewald, Aye; Committeeman Lois, Absent; Deputy Mayor Hamilton, Aye; Mayor Felice, Aye.

The Township Committee returned to Public Session, and Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to adjourn at 8:40 PM. Committeewoman Ewald seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Gregory J. LaConte
Municipal Clerk