

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

Mayor Felice 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 Committeeman Choi, Committeewoman Ewald, Deputy Mayor Hamilton and Mayor Felice. Committeeman Lois arrived during Executive Session.

Executive Session

**RESOLUTION 2023-P-16
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. Potential Litigation: Rolling Knolls
 - b. Contract Negotiations – SLEO Agreement
 - c. Contract Negotiations – Shared Service Agreement with Madison
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.

Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to adopt Resolution 2023-P-14 to enter Executive Session at 6:31 PM. Committeeman Lois 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 at 7:35 PM.

Mayor Felice led the Flag Salute.

Mayor's Statement

Mayor Felice addressed the recent attacks by Hamas on Israel and the impacts of these events on the Chatham Jewish Community. Mayor Felice expressed her support for Israel's right to defend itself. She also expressed solidarity with the Jewish community.

Hearing of Citizens

The Clerk indicated that no written comments were received.

Mayor Felice opened the Hearing of Citizens.

1. Aditya Sethia, Fairmount Avenue, asked if there is anything that residents can do to help the Construction Department issue permits on a quicker basis. He noted that there may be staffing issues in the Department.

Mr. Shehady asked if he could meet with Mr. Sethia so that he could investigate his particular situation. He noted that there are statutory timelines that the Construction Department would need to meet regardless of staffing levels.

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

Presentation – Jersey Central Power & Light

Jolanta Maziarz, an External Affairs representative of JCP&L, gave a presentation about the Smart Meter Program through which legacy meters will be replaced over the next few years. Mrs. Maziarz explained what smart meters are and how they will benefit customers. Mrs. Maziarz noted that the contractor installing the meters is Wellington.

Deputy Mayor Hamilton asked if there is a notification requirement for the opt-out option. Mrs. Maziarz said that the information is on the website and all the communications about the program.

Committeeman Lois said that brochures were distributed by JCP&L. Mrs. Maziarz said that the project has been advertised for some time. She also commented again on the benefits of smart meters.

Committeewoman Ewald asked if the information will be mailed to residents who are signed up to get emails instead of regular mailings. Mrs. Maziarz said that she will check on that. Committeewoman Ewald asked if there are any other projects or improvements to be reported upon. Mrs. Maziarz stated that there is a transmission project that will go through the Township, and the lines are to be upgraded to minimize outages. Committeewoman asked if this project will improve capacity. Mrs. Maziarz said that this will improve transmission, and she commented on repairs to the system.

Committeeman Lois asked about upgrades to substations that serve the Township. Mrs. Maziarz commented on the upgrades that were made and will be made.

Committeeman Choi asked about vegetative management. Mrs. Maziarz said that many municipalities were not accepting of the vegetative management being done, however there has been less resistance since Hurricane Isaias.

Reports

Administration

Mr. Shehady said that at the next meeting there will be a resolution to accept the resignation of a staff member. A resolution to authorize advertisement of RFQs for professional services will also be considered.

Mr. Shehady provided background on the electricity auction. He said that the auction will be for municipal properties, and the Township may be able to save a couple thousand dollars by aggregating the generation of electricity. The plan will be to hold the auction the same day as a Township Committee meeting because the rates are usually only valid for a certain number of hours. The rate paid by the Township would default to the lower of the bidders rate or JCP&L's rate. Mr. Shehady said that the term will probably be 12 to 24 months.

Clerk

The Township Clerk reported that the Rabies Clinic will be held on November 4th from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM at the Public Works Garage. The voter registration deadline for the General

Election is October 17th. Early voting for the General Election will be held from October 28th to November 5th. The closest early voting location to the Township is in Madison.

Construction

Mr. Shehady reported that there is still a vacancy in the Fire Subcode Official position. The Acting Fire Subcode Official needs to be temporarily reappointed, and there may be a candidate to permanently fill the position.

Engineering

Mr. Shehady said that at a future workshop meeting there will be discussion of the Stormwater Control Ordinance.

Committeewoman Ewald asked about the Hillside Trail Project. Mr. Shehady said that the Phase II is to connect the trail to the Red Brick Schoolhouse.

Finance

Mr. Shehady said that there will be a budget amendment resolution for the COPS Grant.

Police

There will be a resolution at the next meeting to authorize bidding for the COPS project. The project may be awarded in December. There will be a resolution at the next meeting to approve the amendment to the SLEO Agreement. Mr. Shehady further reported that the purchase and trade in of firearms also will need to be approved by resolution.

Public Works

Mr. Shehady reported that there are capital funds for replacement of the roof on a storage shed at DPW, and a resolution is needed to approve the contract. A resolution will also be on the agenda to authorize filling an upcoming vacancy due to the retirement of a long-time employee. There is hope to have some overlap.

Deputy Mayor Hamilton asked if new employees come in at the bottom of the pay scale when senior staff members retire. Mr. Shehady said that it would depend on the qualifications of the person hired. He noted that the contract was renegotiated to have a hire starting pay, and those who have specialized skills or licenses can be hired at a higher rate.

Deputy Mayor Hamilton asked about the underground storage tank remediation. Mr. Shehady reported that testing was performed, and things are being monitored. He also noted that Special Counsel Carl Woodward is also performing research on this matter.

Hearing of Citizens

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

Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to adjourn at 8:29 PM. Committeeman Choi seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Gregory J. LaConte
Municipal Clerk