

**MINUTES
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORKSHOP MEETING
MAY 9, 2023**

Mayor Felice called the Workshop Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham to order at 7:00 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, Committeeman Lois, Deputy Mayor Hamilton and Mayor Felice.

Executive Session

**RESOLUTION 2023-P-09
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 – COAH
 - b. Contract Negotiations – Shared 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-09 to enter Executive Session at 7:01 PM. Deputy Mayor Hamilton seconded the motion.

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

The Township Committee returned to Public Session at 7:31 PM.

Mayor Felice led the Flag Salute

Mayor's Statement

Mayor Felice reported that the Recreation Department will host a Kids Spring Festival on May 13th at 11:00 AM on Mountainview Field.

Approval of Agenda

Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to approve the Agenda. Committeewoman Ewald seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Hearing of Citizens

The Clerk indicated that no written comments were received.

Mayor Felice opened the Hearing of Citizens.

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

Reports

Environmental Commission

The Environmental Commission Annual Report for 2022 was presented by Chairwoman Jessica Romeo. Mrs. Romeo gave highlights from the Report. Mrs. Romeo discussed the efforts that led to Silver Status from Sustainable Jersey, and noted that there is not anyone currently on the Environmental Commission who has the bandwidth to handle the recertification process. Mrs. Romeo also discussed stormwater management. She further discussed various events in which the Environmental Commission participated during 2022. Styrofoam recycling and EV charger stations were also highlighted.

Deputy Mayor Hamilton asked if there are any vacancies on the Environmental Commission. Mrs. Romeo said that there is one open alternate position.

Committeewoman Ewald thanked the Environmental Commission for all of their projects.

Mrs. Romeo said that there has not been a Community Advisory Group meeting with the Great Swamp Watershed Association regarding the Rolling Knolls landfill.

Finance

Mr. Shehady noted that the Public Hearing and Final Adoption of the 2023 Budget are scheduled for the next meeting. He also noted four budget amendment resolutions for grants.

Committeeman Lois asked about the amount budgeted for natural gas, noting the collapse of natural gas as a commodity. Mrs. King explained how the costs were estimated based on figures at the beginning of the year. Mr. Shehady noted that energy auctions will be investigated for potential better rates.

Committeeman Lois asked about electricity costs. Mrs. King said the numbers changed to reflect additional bills for 2022 that were received.

Committeeman Lois asked about capital spending, and said he thinks the budget document has last year's numbers. Mrs. King said that the numbers represent the capital plan, and are not yet the capital budget.

Committeewoman Ewald said she received questions whether there would be an additional budget presentation. Mr. Shehady said he will make additional presentations if requested. He also noted the prior presentation can be viewed online. Committeewoman Ewald noted the budget presentation at the last meeting was comprehensive and it made sense to refer residents to that presentation and to reach out to the Administrator with questions.

Police Department

Mr. Shehady said that questions pertaining to the SLEO classification were dealt with in Executive Session.

Chief Miller addressed noise complaints regarding Cougar Field and music played over loudspeakers during warmups. Chief Miller said that the Noise Ordinance allows for certain exemptions by the Township Committee.

Mr. Shehady explained the different sections that are contained in the Noise Ordinance as adopted by the Board of Health. The Board of Health can amend the ordinance if needed. The

Township Committee can adopt a resolution to make the requested exemption. Consensus was for a resolution at the next meeting while simultaneously asking the Board of Health to codify the exemption.

Chief Miller requested amendments to the Township's towing fee ordinance to raise the fees. He noted that the current fees were set in 2005. Consensus was to entertain an ordinance to raise the fees.

Construction

Construction Official Jack Daniels reported that in the six weeks that he has been working in Chatham Township he has endeavored to identify areas where improvement is needed. He cited examples of areas where he has found room for improvement.

Mr. Daniels also addressed a violation on River Road in which re-grading and tree removal was done without any approvals. Mr. Ruschke commented on the violations as well, and there may be a need for an application to one of the land use boards.

Committeeman Choi asked about a PSE&G project that involved unauthorized road opening on Mohawk Drive.

Mr. Shehady commented on the renewal of the SDL program. He also noted that the Fire Subcode Inspector is resigning as he is preparing to retire, and a resolution will be on the next agenda to accept the resignation.

Engineering

Mr. Ruschke reported that four bids were received for the Lafayette Avenue Sidewalk Project. There is paperwork that needs to be submitted to the Civil Rights Department at the DOT for review. Mr. Ruschke discussed the bid approval process and projections for the award of a contract to the successful bidder. He said that construction should be quick once it is able to proceed.

Mr. Shehady said that the Linden Lane Easement was dealt with in Executive Session. Approval to bid for the Pine Street Improvement Project will be on the next agenda. Mr. Ruschke said that \$260,000 was awarded, which is for milling, paving and drainage work.

Mr. Shehady said that there are model ordinances for tree removal and salt storage. Mr. Ruschke said that the salt storage ordinance regulates storage on private property, and the model ordinance is from the DEP. Mr. Ruschke also addressed the DEP's model ordinance for tree removal, and noted that the NJ Society of Municipal Engineers is writing a letter opposing the model ordinance. He said that the Township's ordinance may be adequate, and said that the State's model ordinance focuses on tree replacement. Committeewoman Ewald said that the Environmental Commission wants to give input on the tree ordinance.

Clerk

Mr. LaConte said that a memorandum was distributed regarding the option to charge raffle license fees. He provided background on the fees, and said that in 2006 the Township Committee decided to not have a fee since all applicants are non-profits organizations. Mr. LaConte said that he felt that the option should be reviewed periodically. Deputy Mayor Hamilton asked how many raffle licenses are issued in a year. Mr. LaConte said it is usually 15 to 20. The consensus of the Township Committee was to not charge a fee.

Administrator

Mr. Shehady reported that a resolution will be on the agenda for the next meeting to authorize an auction of surplus equipment.

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 8:39 PM. Committeeman Lois seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Gregory J. LaConte
Municipal Clerk