

## **MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP REORGANIZATION MEETING**

### **MINUTES January 5, 2021**

#### **OPENING STATEMENT**

Montague Township Clerk Eileen DeFabiis called the session to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Public Laws of 1975, Chapter 231, and had been duly advertised and certified by the Clerk.

#### **STATEMENT OF DETERMINATION – OATH OF OFFICE**

Clerk DeFabiis read the Statement of Determination of the Board of County Canvassers for the Election held on November 3, 2020 naming George Zitone and Fred Merusi to the Township Committee for three-year terms each. The Statement of Determination was certified by Timothy McCabe, Chairperson of the Board of County Canvassers and attested by Jeffery M. Parrott, Sussex County Clerk and Clerk of the Board of County Canvassers on November 23, 2020.

Clerk DeFabiis then administered the Oath of Offices to Mr. Zitone and Mr. Merusi.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Clerk DeFabiis called the roll of the 2021 Committee. Present were Gene Crawford, Richard Innella, Toni-Lu Martin, Fred Merusi, and George Zitone.

Clerk DeFabiis opened the floor for Committee nominations for position of Mayor for year 2021. Ms. Crawford nominated Richard Innella as Mayor of the Township of Montague for a one-year term. Mr. Merusi seconded, and as there were no other nominations for Mayor, the nomination then carried with a unanimous roll call vote. Clerk DeFabiis then administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Innella and he took his seat at the dais.

#### **FLAG SALUTE**

Mayor Innella asked all present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Innella requested nominations for Deputy Mayor. Ms. Crawford nominated Toni-Lu Martin for a one-year term. Mr. Merusi seconded, and as there were no other nominations for Deputy Mayor, the nomination then carried with a unanimous roll call vote. Clerk DeFabiis then administered the Oath of Office to Deputy Mayor Martin.

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

2020-01 ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

**Township Attorney** – Robert J. Rossmeyssl, Esq. from the firm Dorsey & Semrau, LLC

**Bond Counsel** – John Draikiwicz, Esq. from the firm of Gibbons PC, Newark, NJ

**Township Engineer/ Planner** – Harold E. Pellow & Associates, Augusta, NJ

**Township Auditor/Accountant** – Nissivoccia & Co., LLP, Mount Arlington, NJ

Ms. Martin motioned to approve the foregoing professional appointments for year 2021. Ms. Crawford seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

#### **ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS**

**Treasurer** – Chief Financial Officer

**911 Coordinator** – Dave Coss

**Fire Prevention Officer** - Matt Kansky

**Fire Marshall** – Matt Kansky

**NIMS Coordinator** – Ryan Riegel

Approved: January 12, 2021

**Tax Search Officer** – Tax Collector

**Solid Waste/Recycling/Clean Communities Coordinator** – Dana Klinger

**Township Historian** – Maureen Kaman

**Housing Officer** – Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer

**Constable** – Terry Snyder

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENTS**

Dave Coss – Emergency Management Coordinator (term expires 12/31/23)

Jesse Brace-Revak – Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator (no term, appointed by the Emergency Management Coordinator with approval of the Mayor)

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve the appointment of Dave Coss as Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES**

**LAND USE BOARD MEMBERS**

Class I: Mayor – one-year term.

Designee in Mayor’s Absence – one-year term – Gene Crawford  
(term expires 12/31/2021)

Class II: One Employee of the Municipality – one-year term appointed by Mayor  
Bryan Leeper (term expires 12/31/2021)

Class III: One Member of the Governing Body appointed by the Governing Body – one-year term – Fred Merusi (term expires 12/31/2021)

Class IV: One Citizen appointed by the Mayor on recommendations from the Township Committee four-year term – John Soracco (term expires 12/31/2024)

Class IV: One Citizen appointed by the Mayor on recommendations from the Township Committee four-year term – James LeDonne (term expires 12/31/24)

Class IV: One Citizen appointed by the Mayor on recommendations from the Township Committee Alternate #1 – 2-year term – Joseph Cooper (term expires 12/31/2022)

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve the appointments to the Land Use Board. Ms. Crawford seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Fred Merusi – Filling three-year unexpired term of Richard Innella (expires 12/31/2022)

Toni-Lu Martin – Filling three-year unexpired term of Gene Crawford (expires 12/31/2022)

Patricia Benson – Three-year term (expires 12/31/2021)

Tasha DeGeorge – Three-year term (expires 12/31/2021)

Kathy Snyder – Three-year term (expires 12/31/2021)

Brenda Willis – Alternate #1 – one-year term (expires 12/31/2021)

Rhodi Teufert – Alternate #2 – one-year term (expires 12/31/2021)

Mr. Merusi motioned to table the appointments to the Recreation Committee. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

**ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

<b>Administration</b>	Chair:	Richard Innella
	Co-Chair:	Gene Crawford
<b>Health &amp; Welfare</b>	Chair:	Toni-Lu Martin
	Co-Chair	Fred Merusi
<b>Public Works</b>	Chair:	Fred Merusi
	Co-Chair	George Zitone
<b>Finance</b>	Chair:	George Zitone
	Co-Chair	Toni-Lu Martin
<b>Public Safety</b>	Chair:	Gene Crawford
	Co-Chair	Richard Innella

**CONSENT AGENDA - RESOLUTIONS**

2020-02	ADOPTING TEMPORARY BUDGET
2020-03	OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES/AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES
2020-04	AUTHORIZATION FOR TOWNSHIP TAX ASSESSOR AND TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY TO DEFEND APPEALS
2020-05	MEMBERS IN THE STATEWIDE INSURANCE FUND
2020-06	FIXING THE RATE OF INTEREST AND PENALTIES ON DELINQUENT TAXES
2020-07	DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS
2020-08	TIME AND PLACE FOR 2020 REGULAR MEETINGS AND HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
2020-09	TIME AND PLACE FOR 2020 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS

Ms. Martin motioned to approve the foregoing Consent Agenda, Resolutions 2021-02 through 2021-09. Ms. Crawford seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Merusi motioned to open to the public. Ms. Martin seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

Jody Case Kennedy inquired about Montague Township’s Animal Control Officer as Wantage Township did not renew a contract for 2021. Mayor Innella informed her that Montague is in the process of obtaining a new Animal Control Office and we will provide her with the name as soon as we have a contract.

There being no comments from the public, Ms. Crawford motioned to close to the public. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

**SET BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULE**

Mayor Innella informed those in attendance that a Budget Meeting is being scheduled for January 28, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Zitone motioned to adjourn. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

**EILEEN DEFABIIS, RMC**  
**Municipal Clerk**