

MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

JULY 27, 2021

(Via GoToMeeting and In-Person)

7:00 PM

OPENING STATEMENT

Mayor Innella called the Montague Township Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. announcing that adequate notice has been provided to the New Jersey Herald and the Sunday New Jersey Herald for publication in which notice was given of the date, time, place and general agenda of the meeting according to the Open Public Meetings Act.

FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance commenced.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Ms. Crawford, Ms. Martin, Mr. Merusi, Mr. Zitone and Mayor Innella
Also present was Deputy Clerk Dana Klinger and Municipal Attorney.

Excused: None

MINUTES

Mr. Zitone made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2021. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with Ms. Crawford and Ms. Martin abstaining and Mr. Merusi, Mr. Zitone and Mayor Innella all voting yes.

RESOLUTIONS

2021-67 GRACE PERIOD FOR AUGUST 2021 TAX PAYMENT

Mayor Innella explained that the Township was waiting for the Certification of the Tax Rate from the County before they can print the Tax Bills, since the rate was received late the grace period for the August (3rd quarter) 2021 tax payment will be extended until August 17, 2021.

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-67. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2021-68 RESOLUTION APPROVING BID AMOUNTS FROM THE SALE OF
PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTIONED ON THE MUNICIBID WEBSITE

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-68. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

Montague Volunteer Fire Department – Membership Applications - Dylan Burghold and Diavante Corum – Ms. Crawford made a motion to approve both membership applications. Ms. Martin seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Robert Bagolmolny – Bike 4 Chai (B4C) – Requesting permission for fundraising cycling event Bike 4 Chai along River Road, New Road, New Mashipacong, Clove Road, and Deckertown Turnpike on Thursday, July 29, 2021 – Ms. Martin made a motion to grant permission for the cycling event. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Montague Township Tax Collector – Acknowledge Certification of Mailing of Tax Bills – The Committee acknowledged this correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS

DPW Equipment – Chipper – Mr. Merusi stated that he would like to spend up-to \$25,000 on a used chipper should one come up on Municibid. Currently the DPW borrows Branchville Township's Chipper in exchange for allowing them to use the Township of Montague's Sweeper. This has been a fine agreement, when it is planned, but when a storm comes unexpectedly or when there is down time in which the DPW could be cutting back some of the overgrowth on the right-of-way's they do not have anything.

DPW Building Security System – Deputy Clerk Klinger explained that since the Fire Department has moved their vehicles from the one section of the DPW Building there is no longer a security system on that side of the building. This is something that was budgeted for, the quote received is under the quote threshold and was provided by Abcode Security whom already does the security for the DPW Building. Mr. Zitone made a motion to approve the quotes for the security system and cameras from Abcode Security in the amount of \$2,560. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS

American Rescue Plan Update – Deputy Clerk Klinger commented that the Township of Montague has received funding from the American Rescue Plan through Loss of Revenue. The funds received for 2021 totaled \$190,915.44. This covers the first half of the funding that the Township is eligible for.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (limited to three minutes per person)

Ms. Crawford made a motion to open to the public. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

George Gelderman – Deerfield Lane – Mr. Gelderman asked the Township Committee for permission to place a few GeoCache’s around some of the Municipal properties. Geocaching is a treasure hunting game where you use a GPS to hide and seek containers with other participants in the activity. The Committee felt like this was a great idea and granted permission.

There being no further comment from the public, Ms. Crawford made a motion to close to the public. Ms. Martin seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Merusi made a motion to enter Executive Session. Ms. Crawford seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION 2021-69

WHEREAS the Township of Montague is authorized, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 to exclude the public from that portion of this meeting for purposes of discussing specific matters as permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12; and

WHEREAS the Township intends to discuss certain matters which are deemed confidential pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 in Executive Session; and

WHEREAS at this time the Township cannot determine the time when the discussions to be held in Executive Session will be made public but will disclose the minutes of the Executive Session when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Township Committee of the Township of Montague that this meeting shall be adjourned to an executive session (closed session) and the public will be excluded in order that the Committee may, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-13(a), discuss Personnel without taking action, and after reconvening this public meeting action may be taken and the Mayor or his designee will announce, if possible, the time when and the circumstances under which the discussion conducted in Executive Session will be disclosed to the public. This resolution is authorized and allowed by and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-13.

NOW THEREFORE, be it further resolved by the Township Committee that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-13(b) the time when and the circumstances under which the discussion conducted in closed session of the public body can be disclosed to the public is when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Ms. Crawford made a motion to close Executive Session. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Approved: August 10, 2021

Ms. Crawford made a motion to open to Regular Session. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Crawford made a motion to award performance bonuses to the Municipal Clerk, Deputy Clerk and the Assistant Clerk. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

ADJOURN

Ms. Crawford made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted:

**DANA KLINGER, RMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK**