

Approved: January 10, 2023

## **MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING**

### **MINUTES JANUARY 03, 2023**

#### **OPENING STATEMENT**

Montague Township Deputy Clerk Dana Klinger 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**

Deputy Clerk Dana Klinger read the Statement of Determination of the Board of County Canvassers for the General Election held on November 8, 2022, naming Richard E. Innella to the Township Committee for a three-year term. The Statement of Determination was certified by, Kathryn Matteson, 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 21, 2022.

Deputy Clerk Klinger then administered the Oath of Office to Richard E. Innella.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Deputy Clerk Klinger called the roll of the 2023 Committee. Present were Richard Innella, Joseph Krumpfer, James LeDonne, Fred Merusi and George Zitone.

Deputy Clerk Klinger opened the floor for Committee nominations for position of Mayor for the year 2023. Mr. Merusi nominated George Zitone as Mayor of the Township of Montague for a one-year term. Mr. Krumpfer seconded. There were no other nominations for Mayor, the nomination then carried with Mr. Innella, Mr. Krumpfer, Mr. LeDonne, and Mr. Merusi all voting yes and Mr. Zitone abstaining.

Deputy Clerk Klinger then administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Zitone and he took his seat at the dais.

#### **FLAG SALUTE**

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

Mayor Zitone requested nominations for Deputy Mayor. Mr. Krumpfer nominated James LeDonne as the Deputy Mayor for a one-year term, and Mr. Innella seconded. There were no other nominations for Deputy Mayor, the nomination then carried with Mr. Innella, Mr. Krumpfer, Mr. Merusi, and Mayor Zitone all voting yes, and Mr. LeDonne abstaining. Deputy Clerk Klinger then administered the Oath of Office to Deputy Mayor LeDonne.

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

2023-001 ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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

**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

**Township Architect** – Charles Schaffer Associates, LLC, Newton, NJ

Mr. Merusi motioned to approve the foregoing professional appointments for the year 2023. Mr. Innella seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

#### **ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS**

**Treasurer** – Chief Financial Officer

**911 Coordinator** – Dave Coss

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**Fire Prevention Officer** - Matt Kansky

**Fire Marshall** – Matt Kansky

**NIMS Coordinator** – Ryan Riegel

**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*)

**BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES**

**LAND USE BOARD MEMBERS**

Class I: Mayor – one-year term.  
Designee in Mayor’s Absence – one-year term – Joseph Krumpfer  
(*term expires 12/31/2023*)

Class II: One Employee of the Municipality – one-year term appointed by Mayor  
George Hutnick (*term expires 12/31/2023*)

Class III: One Member of the Governing Body appointed by the Governing Body – one-year term – James LeDonne (*term expires 12/31/2023*)

Class IV: One Citizen appointed by the Mayor on recommendations from the Township Committee four-year term – Glen Plotsky (*term expires 12/31/2026*)

Class IV: One Citizen appointed by the Mayor on recommendations from the Township Committee Alternate #1 – 2-year term – Mark Utter (*term expires 12/31/2024*)

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

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Fred Merusi – Three-year term (*expires 12/31/2025*)

James LeDonne – Three-year term (*expires 12/31/2025*)

Patricia Benson – Three-year term (*expires 12/31/2025*)

Tasha DeGeorge – Three-year term (*expires 12/31/2025*)

Kathy Snyder – Three-year term (*expires 12/31/2025*)

Maureen Kaman – Alternate #2 – one-year term (*expires 12/31/2023*)

Mr. Merusi motioned to approve all the above-listed appointments to the Recreation Committee and to table the appointment of Alternate #1 to the Recreation Committee. Mr. LeDonne seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

<b>Administration</b>	Chair:	George Zitone
	Co-Chair:	James LeDonne
<b>Health &amp; Welfare</b>	Chair:	James LeDonne
	Co-Chair	Fred Merusi
<b>Public Works</b>	Chair:	Fred Merusi
	Co-Chair	Richard Innella
<b>Finance</b>	Chair:	Joseph Krumpfer
	Co-Chair	George Zitone
<b>Public Safety</b>	Chair:	Richard Innella
	Co-Chair	Joseph Krumpfer

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

All items listed under the ‘Approval of Consent Agenda’ below are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Township Committee and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Committee member so requests, in which case the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.

**12. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – RESOLUTIONS**

The Mayor will request a motion to approve the Consent Agenda

2023-02	ADOPTING TEMPORARY BUDGET
2023-03	OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES/AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES
2023-04	AUTHORIZATION FOR TOWNSHIP TAX ASSESSOR AND TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY TO DEFEND APPEALS
2023-05	MEMBERS IN THE STATEWIDE INSURANCE FUND
2023-06	FIXING THE RATE OF INTEREST AND PENALTIES ON DELINQUENT TAXES
2023-07	DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS
2023-08	TIME AND PLACE FOR 2023 REGULAR MEETINGS AND HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
2023-09	TIME AND PLACE FOR 2023 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS
2023-10	RESOLUTION APPOINTING PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER (PACO) FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve all Consent Agenda items. Mr. LeDonne seconded and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

Barbara Holstein – Hemlock Hill – Ms. Holstein stated that the rumor around town is that the

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Tri-State Mall property has either been sold or has a potential buyer. The speculation is that this buyer is interested in possibly building multi-unit housing. Ms. Holstein stated that the Montague School simply cannot house any more children. They are already in the talks of having to put in more extensions for the Pre-School to keep the K-8 within the walls of the school. Ms. Holstein stated that when she lived in Florida one of the things that were done there was if a developer was coming in, they were required to build a school and/or put an addition on to an existing school. Ms. Holstein strongly urged the Committee to keep in mind that any multi-unit housing that has been promised to be “senior housing” can result in what happened in Newton. They eventually open the housing up to families or whomever and we have seen this time and time again across the State and it is inundating the school systems. Ms. Holstein then asked about how appointments to the Land Use Board are handled, does the Township Committee conduct interviews or is there an advertisement? Mayor Zitone replied saying that the members are appointed by the Township Committee or are reappointed if the member has expressed interest in staying on the board. Ms. Holstein stated that in Hardyston Township they conduct public interviews for their Land Use Board and then determine the appointments. Ms. Holstein felt that if the Township conducted the appointments similarly to Hardyston, then the Township could get some new fresh faces in some of the Committee bodies that represent the public.

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

#### **SET BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULE**

After some brief discussion, Mayor Zitone informed those in attendance that the first Budget Meeting will be scheduled for February 02, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

#### **ADJOURN**

Mr. Krumpfer motioned to adjourn at 7:19 PM. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

**DANA KLINGER, RMC**  
**Deputy Municipal Clerk**