

Approved: May 09, 2023

## MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

### MINUTES

APRIL 11, 2023

7:00 PM

#### OPENING STATEMENT

Mayor Zitone 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: Mr. Innella, Mr. Krumpfer, Mr. LeDonne, Mr. Merusi, and Mayor Zitone  
Also present were Deputy Municipal Clerk Dana Klinger and Municipal Attorney Robert Rossmeissl

Absent: None

#### PROPOSALS

Mayor Zitone stated that a request for proposals was published in the Sunday, March 12, 2023, edition of the Sunday New Jersey Herald and posted on the Township's website requesting proposals for the 2023 Spring Cleanup in the Township of Montague. Requests were also sent directly to Interstate Waste, Ayers Sanitation, Blue Diamond, GEATA, Jefferson Recycling, Cavalier, Waste Management, and Wingle Supply. The following proposals were received.

<u>Business Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Price</u>
Jefferson Recycling	22 Howard Blvd. Suite 204, Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856	March 21, 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>30-Yard Container Service - \$300 per pull, plus \$125 per ton tipping rate.</li><li>Truck and Driver for Disabled Residents \$175/hour plus \$125 per ton tipping rate</li><li>30 Yard Container for Tires - \$300, plus tire rates listed: Car tires - \$4.00 each, Truck tires w/out rims \$20.00 each, Tractor Tires w/rims \$120.00 each.</li></ol>
Wingle Supply Company Inc.	755 County Route 565, Augusta, NJ 07822	April 5, 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>30 Yard Container Service - \$400.00 per pull, plus \$25 Fuel Surcharge on each container, plus \$115 per ton tipping rate.</li><li>Truck and Driver unavailable (container service only \$400.00 per pull, plus \$25 Fuel Surcharge on each container, plus \$115 per ton tipping rate. DPW to Collect door-to-door)</li><li>30 Yard Container for Tires - \$400 plus \$25 Fuel Surcharge, plus \$345 per ton tipping rate.</li></ol>

After a review of the quotes, Mr. Merusi made a motion to award the 2023 Spring Cleanup Contract to Jefferson Recycling. Mr. Krumpfer seconded and Deputy Clerk Klinger then issued

this award of contract Resolution 2023-046 and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote. Mayor Zitone announced that SK Paper Shred will also be offering Paper Shredding Services on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> only from 12 PM to 3:00 PM. Brim Recycling will also be collecting any White Goods and Scrap Metal.

Mayor Zitone then amended the meeting agenda to include “Old Business - Vacant Seat Land Use Board Class IV Member Appointment.”

### **MINUTES**

Mr. Krumpfer made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2023; Mr. LeDonne seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

### **VOUCHERS**

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve the vouchers. Mr. Innella seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

### **ORDINANCES** (First Reading)

2023-04 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE AT CHAPTER 36, “FIRE CODE” TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES PURSUANT TO THIS CHAPTER

Attorney Rossmeissl stated that this Ordinance will allow for the Fire Prevention Officer to hold the issuance of a certificate of smoke detector, carbon monoxide alarm, and portable fire extinguisher compliance ("CSACMAPFEC") to any properties that have any open permits, outstanding inspections, and any violations of the Township Code until those items are resolved. Deputy Clerk Klinger added that the idea is to cut down on homes being sold with these open issues becoming the new owner’s issues. Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-04 upon first reading. Mr. Krumpfer seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2023-05 CALENDAR YEAR 2023 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Mr. Innella made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-05 upon first reading. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

### **ORDINANCES** (Second Reading)

*None*

### **RESOLUTIONS**

2023-039 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING MATTHEW J. KANSKY AS FIRE SUBCODE OFFICIAL FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM

Mr. Krumpfer made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-039. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2023-044 SELF-EXAMINATION OF BUDGET RESOLUTION

Mr. Innella made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-044. Mr. Krumpfer seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2023-045 INTRODUCTION OF THE 2023 LOCAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mayor Zitone commented that the Municipal Budget for Calendar Year 2023 will be \$3,052,139.08, and the Local Tax Levy will be \$1,556,990.51. This is an increase of 2.266 percent which equates to an increase on the average home of \$155,126, a \$14.87 increase. Mayor Zitone stated that the Committee was hoping to do a little better than this on the budget, but it just wasn’t in the cards, and this was with several cuts. The increase that the Township has endured with insurance, interest in the bond, inflation, unfunded mandates from the State, and finishing out projects in the Community Center. Mr. Krumpfer made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-045 upon introduction. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

All items listed within an asterisk (\*) 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.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 2023-040* | OUTSIDE LIEN REDEMPTION (BL 42, LT 14)       |
| 2023-041* | OUTSIDE LIEN REDEMPTION (BL 42, LT 15)       |
| 2023-042* | OUTSIDE LIEN REDEMPTION (BL 42, LT 14)       |
| 2023-043* | RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CANCELLATION OF TAXES |

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Montague Township Volunteer Fire Department – Applications for Blue Light Permits for Ashleigh Dickson, Alexander Dickson, and Timothy Lemin. Mr. LeDonne made a motion to this request for approval. Mr. Krumpfer seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Sussex County Board of Taxation – 2023 Final Equalization Table – Attorney Rossmeissl stated that out of the 24 municipalities in Sussex County, there are 16 other municipalities with a worse ratio than Montague, so if the County feels that Montague will have to do a reevaluation in the near future then almost everyone in Sussex County will have to do so soon. Attorney Rossmeissl stated that the Commissioners of the County Boards are usually amenable to hearing the Municipalities plead, so if the County is saying reevaluation is needed for 2025, then it can probably be pushed back a year or two. Mayor Zitone stated that the last reevaluation hasn't even been 10 years yet and this is very expensive.

Montague Little League – Application for Use of Facilities (Zitone Ballfield) – Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve this request. Mr. LeDonne seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous voice vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Grant Portal Platform and Project Support Contract Renewal (Millennium Strategies) – Mayor Zitone stated that the current agreement that the Township has with Millennium Strategies for Grant Services is set to expire. Millennium has provided the Township with a new agreement and proposal for these services. There will be a reduction in the portal subscription fee from \$650 per month to \$400 per month which will be billed on time, annually a \$3,000 savings). The hourly grant writing fee will increase from \$130 an hour to \$150 per hour which is only charged if the Township decides to apply for a grant with the help of Millennium's Grant Writers. Mr. Innella stated that this service has been tremendous already, keeping the Township in the loop on what grants are available. Mr. LeDonne further added that all you need is one successful grant award for this to pay for itself. Already the Township has received \$49,000 for the Fire Department. Mr. Krumpfer made a motion to approve the contract renewal agreement with Millennium Strategies. Mr. Innella seconded; Deputy Clerk Klinger then issued this approval Resolution 2023-047. The motion was then carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Vacant Properties (GP7 Lots) – Mr. Krumpfer said that based on the tight budget this year, it sounds like the Township may not be able to do as many Foreclosures as they previously expected. Mr. Krumpfer asked if there are properties that they already have foreclosed on that might be good options to auction at a Land Sale. Attorney Rossmeissl stated that at the last Land Sale Auction the Township auctioned off what they considered to be some of the most appealing properties that they own. The Deputy Clerk will speak with the Tax Assessor regarding the foreclosed properties and have him compile a working list of properties for the Committee to review for the next possible Land Sale Auction. Mayor Zitone then asked about In-Rem

Foreclosures. Attorney Rossmeissl replied saying as soon as the Township Committee would like to move forward and authorize another in-rem preceding they are good to go. Deputy Clerk Klinger will look into what the Committee authorized in this year's budget for in-rem foreclosures to determine how many properties they can foreclose on.

Vacant Seat Land Use Board Class IV Member Appointment – Mayor Zitone stated that this item was previously tabled at the last meeting. Mr. John Soracco recently submitted his resignation after many years of dedicated service, the Township Committee is looking to fill his unexpired position as a Land Use Board Class IV member. Mr. Merusi made a motion to make the following appointments to the Land Use Board: appointing Mark Utter as a regular member (to replace John Soracco's remaining term which will expire on 12/31/24), moving Bill Dickson up to Alt #1 which will expire on 12/31/24, and appoint Ms. Gene Crawford to Bill Dickson's unexpired term for Alt #2 which expires on 12/31/23. Mr. Krumpfer seconded the motion and the motion was carried with a unanimous voice vote.

### **REPORTS**

Construction Department – March 2023 - There were 11 permits issued for the month of March 2023 for a total collected of \$6,156.

Tax Collector – March 2023 – Current taxes collected for the month of March 2023 totaled \$113,183.54, the prior year's taxes collected \$28,085.91. Outside Liens totaled \$73,583.11, and Township Lien totaled \$11,973.13. Interest collected for the month of March totaled \$8,806.54, for a total collected for the month of March of \$235,632.23.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** (limited to three minutes per person)

Mr. Merusi made a motion to open it to the public. Mr. Innella seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous voice vote.

There being no comment from the public, Mr. LeDonne made a motion to close to the public. Mr. Krumpfer seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

### **ADJOURN**

Mr. Innella made a motion to adjourn at 7:28 PM. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted:

**DANA KLINGER, RMC**  
**DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK**