

Approved: February 13, 2024.

MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

**JANUARY 23, 2024
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 Municipal Clerk Dana Klinger and Attorney Rossmeissl

Mayor Zitone amended the Agenda to add the Firehouse/Community Center under Old Business.

MINUTES

Mr. Merusi made a motion to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2023. Mr. Krumpfer seconded, and the motion was carried with all eyes on the roll call vote except for Mr. Innella who abstained.

Mr. Krumpfer made a motion to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2024. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

ORDINANCES (First Reading)

None

ORDINANCES (Second Reading)

None

RESOLUTIONS

2024-024 APPOINTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR AND DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-024 appointing David Coss as Emergency Management Coordinator for a 3-year term and Jesse Brace-Revak as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator with a term to run concurrently with the Emergency Management Coordinator's appointment. Mr. LeDonne seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2024-025 AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE PROVISION OF CERTIFIED RECYCLING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO CERTIFY AND SUBMIT THE 2023 RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORT TO NJDEP

Mr. Innella made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-025. Mr. Krumpfer seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

Harold E. Pellow & Associates – FY2024 NJDOT Grant for Resurfacing New Road Section I – Mayor Zitone stated that the FY2024 NJDOT Trust Fund Grants awards were sent out and all municipalities received funds, but they were cut down from what was asked for. The Township applied for \$217,484 in funding but only received \$174,196. The Committee will discuss at their budget meeting, whether to add additional funds to this to make up the difference or only use the \$174,196, which would put us shorter on Section I. Municipal Clerk Klinger affirmed that for the last few years we have not been getting the full grant, and she would let Mr. Pellow know the Committee would be discussing this.

Approved: February 13, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

Grants Opportunity – T-Mobile – Hometown Grants Program FY24 and State of NJ – FY2024 Local Recreation Improvement Grant – Municipal Clerk Klinger advised that there are two grant options available that the Township could apply for a Walking Path at the Municipal Building grounds. Millenium Strategies, the Township Grant Writers recommended going for the DCA grant because it is only for the State of New Jersey, while the T-Mobile Hometown Grant is a national grant, they feel like we have a better chance with DCA. Municipal Clerk Klinger added that both grant applications would be at a maximum of 15 hours or a maximum of \$2,250 for Millenium to write either grant. Municipal Clerk Klinger confirmed for Mr. Krumpfer that neither grant required matching, but if we put some money up, there might be a better chance of getting the grant. Municipal Clerk Klinger advised Mr. Krumpfer against applying for both grants, and Millenium suggested not doing them simultaneously because the T-Mobile Grant operates on a cycle throughout the year, therefore if the Township does not get the DCA grant, they can try for the T-Mobile grant. Mr. Innella then made a motion to go forward with the DCA Grant for the walking path through Millenium for \$2,250. Mr. LeDonne seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous roll call vote. Municipal Clerk Klinger then issued this approval as Resolution 2024-026.

OLD BUSINESS

Land Use Board 2024 Vacant Appointments – Mayor Zitone appointed Danielle Conklin as a Class IV Member for the unexpired term that expires 12/31/2024, and he appointed Tasha DeGeorge as Alternate #2 for the two-year appointment that expires 12/31/2025. He advised that Sharon Yarosz would contact them to let them know when the meetings are and get them sworn in. Clerk Klinger requested Ms. Conklin's email address; she already has Ms. DeGeorge's.

Firehouse/Community Center – Mayor Zitone said that EM Electric just finished installing the CO2 Detectors at the Firehouse/Community Center and is awaiting inspection from the DCA, which should be within the next few weeks. Mayor Zitone stated that the next item required for the full Certificate of Occupancy would be to get the Sprinkler System out to bid. Municipal Clerk Klinger will have the request for bids placed in the Sunday, January 28, 2024, edition of the New Jersey Herald, as well as in various other professional publications online and so on. The bid opening will be 30 days after the publication and is set for Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

REPORTS

Sussex County Sheriff's Office – Montague Township Supplemental Patrol Summary (April 2023-November 2023) – Mayor Zitone stated that the Sheriff's Office had 130 hours of patrol service, patrolled 1,520 miles, there were 46 summonses were issued, 113 written warnings, 32 verbal warnings, and 182 traffic stops, they also assisted the NJ State Police with 8 calls. Municipal Clerk Klinger asked the Committee if they wanted to keep the same terms as last year for the 2024 contract. The Committee agreed they would like to renew the contract with the same terms once the formal agreement is drafted Municipal Clerk Klinger will draft a Resolution for formal approval.

Municipal Occupancy Tax Distribution (STRs) – January 2024 – Mayor Zitone stated that the Township Collected \$192.09 for January for the Municipal Occupancy Tax which is collected from Short-Term Rentals within the Township.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (limited to three minutes per person)

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Krumpfer made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-022 to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Innella seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION 2024-022

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

Approved: February 13, 2024.

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 and Attorney-Client Privilege without taking action, and after reconvening this public meeting action may be taken and the Mayor or her 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.

Mr. Innella made a motion to close the Executive Session. Mr. Krumpfer seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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

ADJOURN

Mr. Merusi made a motion to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. Mr. Krumpfer seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted:

DANA KLINGER, RMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK