

The Reorganization Meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell was called to order by Township Clerk, Linda Giliberti at 7:00 PM on January 2, 2024.

Ms. Giliberti invited everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and read the "Statement of Compliance" indicating the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Ms. Casper-Bloom, Ms. Beverly Entin, Mr. Al Nardi, Mr. Michael Dendis, Mr. Dante Di Pirro

Also present was Township Attorney Frank Whittlesey.

There were approximately 35 members of the public present.

**OATH OF OFFICE OF TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN DULY ELECTED**

Ms. Beverly Entin was sworn into office by Ms. Giliberti, as duly elected Township Committee member, for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2026.

Mr. Alfred Nardi was sworn into office by Ms. Giliberti, as duly elected Township Committee member, for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2026.

**NOMINATION OF MAYOR**

On motion of Ms. Casper-Bloom, seconded by Mr. Dendis, Mr. DiPirro was selected as Mayor and sworn into office by the Honorable Brian McLaughlin for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2024.

**Recorded Vote:**

Aye: Casper Bloom, Entin, Nardi, Dendis, DiPirro

Nay: XXX

Abstain:XXX

**NOMINATION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

On motion of Ms Casper-Bloom, seconded by Mr. Nardi, Mr. Dendis was selected as Deputy Mayor and sworn into office by Clerk Giliberti for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2024.

**Recorded Vote:**

Aye: Casper Bloom, Entin, Nardi, Dendis, DiPirro

Nay: XXX

Abstain:XXX

**REMARKS BY MAYOR & TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mayor DiPirro commented that it is an honor to serve the residents of East Amwell. He stated that he is very proud of the work they have done over the past year. For this year, there are many things that he would like to accomplish. The first is keeping East Amwell rural. He is convinced that the majority of our community is strongly dedicated to keeping this town rural. Keeping it rural takes constant vigilance and constant action. In the past year, ordinances were reviewed and amended to remove loopholes that would allow development that is inconsistent with the town's character and vision. We are continuing to work on Farmland and Open Space Preservation. The second thing is staying tight on taxes. We were able to have a flat budget last year. We have a small staff and many volunteers on our boards and committees and it takes a group effort to not raise taxes if we don't have to. We were one of the few places in New Jersey who didn't raise taxes last year. The third over-arching theme is delivering good government. We will continue to invite residents to be involved, listen to our residents, and do our very best for all residents. Finally, we fostered public discourse in a civil manner. We encouraged everyone to have discussions about policy and not people and we will keep it that way. We all know that we get the most and we are at our best when we work together. It takes involvement of the community to keep our town rural and for us

to be the best town that we can be. Much of our work gets done by boards and commissions. To quote a few politicians of the past, John F. Kennedy said "Ask not what your country can do for you, but for what you can do for your country". George Herbert Walker Bush invited private individuals to be points of light to help others. Both of these comments are appropriate to us in our situation. Please consider what you can do for your town and how you can be a point of light. Consider volunteering for one of our boards and commissions. He thanked the public and asked everyone to get involved on a board or committee if they can.

Ms. Entin thanked her husband, Jeff, daughter, Amy and sons Jared and Kyle for all their support over the years. She thanked the community for voting for her.

Mr. Nardi thanked his wife, Julianne, for her support. He also thanked his kids, brother and cousins. He stated that he takes his oath of office very seriously and looks forward to serving the residents of East Amwell.

Ms. Casper-Bloom congratulated Ms. Entin and Mr. Nardi as the newest members of the Township Committee. She also congratulated Mr. DiPirro and Mr. Dendis on their nominations. She commented that they did a lot of good work in the past year and she knows that under their leadership, they will continue to do good work. Ms. Casper-Bloom thanked her husband, mom and girls for their support.

Mr. Dendis commented that it is humbling and an honor to be picked by his peers in this role and he thanked them for that. He thanked his family for their support. He said he is looking forward to Mr. DiPirro's leadership this year because he thinks he will do a good job.

**MOTION TO CONFIRM TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS "A" & "B"**

The following Township Committee appointments were unanimously confirmed on motion of Mr. Nardi and seconded by Mr. Dendis:

- (A) RECYCLING COMMITTEE – BEATRICE GOODING, LEO ROMMEL
- (B) AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – BILL DU'FOSSE, CHRISTIAN MIRABITO, JOHN PEREHINYS, KIT CRISAFULLI

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Casper Bloom, Entin, Nardi, Dendis, DiPirro  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain:XXX

**MOTION TO CONFIRM MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS "A" THROUGH "F"**

The following Mayoral appointments were confirmed on motion of Mr. DiPirro and seconded by Mr. Dendis:

- (A) PLANNING BOARD – DANTE DIPIRRO – MAYOR, JAMAL KADRI – CLASS II – TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL (ALSO BEING APPOINTED TO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION) AL NARDI – CLASS III ELECTED OFFICIAL, MATTHEW KOHUT, CANDICE WIGGUM, RICHARD CATENACCI, MICHAEL MCGOVERN, MARY VAN HORN – CLASS IV MEMBERS, RICHARD STINSON – ALTERNATE #3
- (B) ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – BOB LURIE, GREGORY CHIACCHIO
- (C) FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – ERICA JOHANSON
- (D) PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE – NATHALIE NELSON
- (E) RINGOES VILLAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – KEVIN MCPHEETERS
- (F) TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS:

DANTE  
DI PIRRO

ANIMAL CONTROL  
PLANNING BOARD, CLASS I  
RINGOES VILLAGE (RVAC)

LEGAL (TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY)  
ZONING AND CONSTRUCTION

**MICHAEL DENDIS** HEALTH (BOARD OF HEALTH)  
ENVIRONMENTAL (RECYCLING COMM.)  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
TOWNSHIP ENGINEERING & STORMWATER  
MANAGEMENT  
RESCUE SQUAD AND FIRE COMPANY  
EAST AMWELL SCHOOL/HCRHS  
TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**JENNA CASPER-BLOOM** FINANCE  
ENVIRONMENTAL (ENVIRONMENTAL COMM'N)  
FARMLAND & OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMM.  
MUNICIPAL COURT  
SENIOR CITIZENS

**BEVERLY ENTIN** AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
AGRICULTURAL (ADVISORY COMMITTEE)  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION (COMMITTEE)  
CLAWSON HOUSE

**ALFRED NARDI** MUNICIPAL STAFF & MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
PARKS & RECREATION  
PLANNING BOARD, CLASS III  
SUMMER PLAYGROUND  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (OEM)

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Casper Bloom, Entin, Nardi, Dendis, DiPirro

Nay: XXX

Abstain:XXX

APPOINTEES PRESENT SWORN INTO OFFICE

Ms. Giliberti administered the Oath of Office to the appointees present to their respective positions on the Township's Boards and/or Committees and congratulated all of those sworn into office.

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions No. 2024-01 through 2024-33, as filed by the Township Clerk's Office, were unanimously adopted on motion of Ms. Entin and seconded by Ms. Casper-Bloom.

- 2024-01      CONSENT AGENDA
- 2024-02      MEETING SCHEDULE
- 2024-03      RECOGNITION OF 2024 TOWNSHIP HOLIDAYS
- 2024-04      RULES OF ORDER
- 2024-05      DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL TOWNSHIP NEWSPAPERS
- 2024-06      DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES
- 2024-07      AUTHORIZATION OF CANCELLATION OF PROPERTY TAX CREDITS AND DELINQUENCIES
- 2024-08      TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION FOR PERMANENT DEBT
- 2024-09      FEE FOR RETURNED CHECKS
- 2024-10      FIXING RATES OF INTEREST ON DELINQUENT TAXES

- 2024-11      FIXING PENALTY ON DELINQUENT TAXES NOT PAID BY YEAR END
- 2024-12      AUTHORIZATION TO HOLD ANNUAL TAX SALE
- 2024-13      FILING OF CORRECTIVE TAX APPEALS
- 2024-14      INVESTMENT OF IDLE FUNDS AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS
- 2024-15      AUTHORIZATION OF SIGNATURES ON TOWNSHIP BANK ACCOUNTS
- 2024-16      TREASURER AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE CERTAIN CHECKS
- 2024-17      AUTHORIZATION OF PETTY CASH FUNDS
- 2024-18      2024 TEMPORARY BUDGET
- 2024-19      ADOPTION OF CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN
- 2024-20      GRANTING AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL OF CERTAIN PURCHASES THROUGH NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACTS AND/OR PURCHASING COOPERATIVES FOR THE YEAR 2024
- 2024-21      APPOINTMENT OF TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY
- 2024-22      APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF HEALTH ATTORNEY
- 2024-23      APPOINTMENT OF QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT
- 2024-24      APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING COUNSEL
- 2024-25      APPOINTMENT OF TOWNSHIP AUDITOR
- 2024-26      APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR
- 2024-27      APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR
- 2024-28      APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC DEFENDER
- 2024-29      APPOINTMENT OF BOND COUNSEL
- 2024-30      APPOINTMENT OF RISK MANAGER/BROKER OF RECORD
- 2024-31      APPOINTMENT OF TAX ATTORNEY
- 2024-32      APPOINTMENT OF COMPUTER SUPPORT I.T. SERVICES
- 2024-33      APPOINTMENT OF SOIL TEST WITNESSING SERVICES

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Casper Bloom, Entin, Nardi, Dendis, DiPirro

Nay: XXX

Abstain:XXX

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. DiPirro opened the meeting to the public.

**Linda Ranft** – Ms. Ranft commented that there was an error on one of tonight’s resolutions. Ms. Giliberti apologized for the error and said she would correct it. She also questioned one of the other resolutions. Ms. Ranft commented that although East Amwell’s taxes were flat last year, Hunterdon County raised taxes. She wanted to know if there was anything that the Township Committee or Mr. Dendis, as the liaison to the schools, could do to raise questions regarding the school budget. She also commented that not only is East Amwell rural, it is a farming community and she believes that new people coming to the area need to understand that. She stated that she will no longer be able to attend the Township Committee meetings due to a conflict, but she does watch them on YouTube and cannot hear public comments if the public does not come up to the microphone. She thanked the Township Committee for their work last year.

Ms. Casper-Bloom referred Ms. Ranft to Dee Kellogg, our representative on the Board of Education, if she had questions on the budget.

Mayor DiPirro clarified that when he speaks about keeping East Amwell rural, farming is a big part of that and it all goes together.

**Frances Gavigan** – Ms. Gavigan echoed Ms. Ranft’s thoughts and aspirations. She suspects that the tax increases came through the schools and that we don’t have much control over their budget. She thanked the Township Committee for the job they did last year and for the year to come.

**Rick Wolfe** – Mr. Wolfe congratulated Ms. Entin and Mr. Nardi. He commented that he feels that the rural nature of East Amwell Township will be protected by this Township Committee. He complimented Ms. Casper-Bloom, Mr. DiPirro and Mr. Dendis on a job well done last year. He complimented Ms. Casper-Bloom as the 2023 Mayor and hopes she considers running again. Mr. Wolfe shared that in 1999, a small group of people in East Amwell, against a significant amount of opposition from a well-funded group, both local and national, passed an ordinance that was essentially responsible for keeping East Amwell rural. This year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of this ordinance and he thinks the Township Committee should do something to honor that group. Les Hamilton would be able to help identify the people of the group. Mr. Wolfe and his wife, Kathy, would be glad to help. He wished the Township Committee all the best in 2024.

A motion made by Mr. Nardi, seconded by Mr. Dendis to close the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion made by Mr. Di Pirro, seconded by Ms. Ramsey to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Giliberti, RMC  
Township Clerk

Approved: 2/8/2024