

The Regular Meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell was called to order by Mayor Jenna Casper-Bloom at 7:00 PM on May 11, 2023.

Ms. Giliberti read the "Statement of Compliance" indicating the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mr. Michael Dendis, Mr. John Mills, Ms. Tara Ramsey, Mr. Dante DiPirro, Mayor Jenna Casper-Bloom

Absent: None

Also present were Township Attorney Frank Whittlesey and Municipal Clerk Linda Giliberti.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion of Mr. DiPirro, seconded by Mr. Mills and carried unanimously, it was moved to adopt Resolution 2023-77, as filed in the office of the Township Clerk, to enter executive session.

On motion of Mr. DiPirro, seconded by Mr. Mills and carried unanimously, it was moved to adjourn from executive session at 5:58 PM.

**REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED**

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 6:00 PM with Mayor Casper-Bloom, Mr. DiPirro, Mr. Mills, Ms. Ramsey, Mr. Dendis, Ms. Giliberti and Mr. Whittlesey present.

There were approximately 24 members of the public present.

**PUBLIC HEARING – COMCAST OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY II, LLC**

A motion made by Tara Ramsey, seconded by John Mills to open the meeting to the public for questions or comments on the Comcast application for renewal of municipal consent to construct and operate a cable TV system in the Township of East Amwell was unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Freda Routh** – Ms. Routh commented on Comcast's pricing due to lack of competition, the service received on the phone when calling for help and the issues with the lines themselves.

**Roger Reiter** – Mr. Reiter commented that he has been trying to get Comcast service for 2 years. His neighbors across the street have the service. A crew was sent out to install service at no charge, but discovered the line was not available on the corresponding pole. Crews were sent out twice, but had the "wrong truck". Eventually the line was run up the street, but not across to his service pole. After not hearing back for months, Mr. Reiter called back to inquire. A crew came out to assess and the Reiter's were then told that it would cost \$500 to run the line.

**Maryann Reiter** – Ms. Reiter stated that she does have Comcast, but their service fees are double to two-thirds more than other providers in New Jersey. She would like to know if the Township Committee could request bids from other providers.

**Phillip Paully** – Mr. Paully questioned why Comcast is the only provider in the area and why there isn't any competition.

**Linda Ranft** – Ms. Ranft stated that because her property is considered a flag lot, she was not able to get cable service although it was on the street. During the pandemic, she called Comcast about getting cable and it would have costed her between \$6,000 - \$9,000 to install. She now has wi-fi for \$51.00 per month from T-Mobile.

**Frances Gavigan** – Ms. Gavigan stated that for years, she was told that FIOS ran down her street, but they couldn't connect to her property. She was also told that there was not enough demand. She feels that a majority of people need to complain to the Board of Public Utilities in order to resolve the issues in the rural area.

Seeing there were no further comments, a motion made by Dante DiPirro, seconded by Tara Ramsey to close the meeting to the public regarding the Comcast application was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Mayor Casper-Bloom called for a brief recess at 6:35PM and the regular meeting reconvened at 6:58 PM.

Mayor Casper-Bloom invited everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Summer Playground will be taking place at East Amwell School from July 5 through August 2 from 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. East Amwell children who have completed Kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> grade are able to register. Please mail or bring in the registration form and Rules & Regulations signature page along with payment to the Municipal Clerk's Office here at the Municipal Building.
- The Plant Swap on Saturday, May 13, 2023 is from 9 AM – 11 AM at Clawson Park, rain or shine. Bring a plant, swap a plant.
- Voter registration deadline for the Primary Election is Tuesday, May 16, 2023.
- Amwell Valley Fire Company will be celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 20, 2023. Parade begins at 11:00 AM with festivities following at the fire house, 22 Route 579, Ringoes.
- Hunterdon County Utilities Authority will hold an Electronic Waste Collection on May 20, 2023 from 9 AM – 1 PM at the Hunterdon County Complex at 314 Route 12, Flemington. Contact 908-788-1351 for details.
- The Municipal Offices will be closed on Monday, May 29, 2023, in observance of Memorial Day.
- The East Amwell Township Parks and Recreation Committee will sponsor a Youth Music Festival on June 3, 2023 from 4-8 PM at Clawson Park. There will be a food truck & Kona Ice so bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the music of these talented young musicians.
- Hunterdon County will hold their Ident-a-Shred event at the Hunterdon County Complex at 314 Route 12, Flemington on June 3, 2023 from 8 AM until Noon or until the truck(s) are full. Please see the County Clerk's website for details.
- Primary Election Day will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 from 6 AM – 8 PM. All polling districts are located at the East Amwell Municipal Building.
- Early Voting for the Primary Election will be held Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> - Friday & Saturday 10 AM – 8 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 6 PM. Early Voting Locations are: Hunterdon County Library Meeting Room, 314 Route 12, Building 3, Flemington and the South County Fairground 4-H Building, 1207 Route 179, Lambertville.
- Residents are reminded that the Grit Yard, located at 4 John Ringo Road, is open for brush collection from 7 AM to 2 PM daily and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month from 8 AM-2 PM.

Residents are strongly encouraged to regularly check the East Amwell Township website for updates regarding the Township.

#### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC- AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

A motion made by Dante DiPirro, seconded by Tara Ramsey to open the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Tim Willey** – Mr. Willey stated that Emily Deadwyler has been appointed to the board due to Mr. Seramba's resignation. He thanked Mr. Seramba for his time and service. Mr. Willey congratulated Planning Board Administrator, Kristen Panos, for passing her tests and becoming certified. He commented that he, his Vice Chair and the entire Planning Board are looking forward to working with Ms. Deadwyler on the Planning Board. Mr. Willey, as Chair of the Planning Board, questioned why he had no input as to why Mr. Catenacci was elevated to the Alternate No. 1 position on the Planning Board and Ms. Pirrone was passed over. Mayor Casper-Bloom responded to that saying that is not how it works and that these appointments are Mayoral appointments.

**Rick Wolfe** – Mr. Wolfe commented that Mayor Casper-Bloom, Mr. Di Pirro and Mr. Dendis were elected because they ran based on a platform to protect the rural nature of East Amwell. He would expect them to live up to that expectation not only on the Township Committee, but also the Planning Board. They have no obligation to get Mr. Willey's input and he commended the Township Committee for appointing Mr. Catenacci. Mr. Wolfe continued to comment regarding our Comcast representative and suggested that the residents contact the people above him.

**Frances Gavigan** – Ms. Gavigan asked for clarification on Ordinance 23-06 and asked if it was for funding the road projects this year. She asked which roads were being repaired this year. Mayor Casper-Bloom advised Ms. Gavigan to call Mr. Silverthorn for a list of roads. Ms. Gavigan requested that the list be posted on the township website.

**Noel Wiggins** – Ms. Wiggins questioned the award of contract for Township Planner. Mr. DiPirro responded that this planner would help the Township Committee. She also asked about the grant application for the Department of Transportation and asked if there would be public bussing going through the town. Mayor Casper-Bloom explained that this resolution was being adopted to allow us to apply for a grant to possibly help us fund roads.

Seeing there were no comments from the public, a motion made by Dante DiPirro, seconded by John Mills to close the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### **April 13, 2023 Regular Session Minutes**

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Di Pirro and seconded by Tara Ramsey to approve the April 13, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes and were approved by voice vote with Mr. Dendis abstaining.

#### SPECIAL DISCUSSIONS/PRESENTATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mayor Casper-Bloom acknowledged Planning Board Administrator, Kristen Panos. Kristen has completed her Rutgers classes and is now a Certified Planning Board Administrator. Mayor Casper-Bloom also acknowledged and thanked Patrick and Sharon Eckard for serving on the Amwell Valley Ambulance Corps and congratulated them on their retirement. She also congratulated Mr. Casella from the East Amwell Township School for winning Most Valuable Teacher of the Month sponsored by the NHL and asked everyone to now vote for him as Most Valuable Teacher of the Year. Mayor Casper-Bloom mentioned that the Township Committee will be presenting a proclamation to the Amwell Valley Fire Company for their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The fire company sent a letter requesting permission from the Township Committee to use the Municipal Building Lot, which was approved. The Mayor mentioned that there will be a dedication at the park in memory of former Township Clerk, Terri Stahl, and thanked Sweet Valley Farms for their generous donations of plants. Mayor Casper-Bloom turned the meeting over to Mr. DiPirro who read a Proclamation in Ms. Stahl's honor.

Mayor Casper-Bloom turned the meeting over to JCP&L representative, Amy Overman who provided a presentation on storm restoration, how East Amwell is served and the forestry schedule. Ms. Overman answered questions and concerns from the residents and promised to follow-up on other concerns and situations. Mayor Casper-Bloom thanked Ms. Overman for coming to give the presentation.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- APPOINTMENT OF EMILY DEADWYLER – CLASS IV PLANNING BOARD MEMBER

- APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD CATENACCI – ALTERNATE NO. 1 – PLANNING BOARD
- APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD CATENACCI – ALTERNATE NO. 1 – HISTORIC COMMITTEE

The appointments of Ms. Deadwyler and Mr. Catenacci were confirmed on motion of Mr. DiPirro, seconded by Mr. Dendis and unanimously approved by voice vote.

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-05 – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING**

Ordinance No. 23-05 was read by title by Ms. Giliberti “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 97 “LITTERING” SECTION 97-4 “ILLEGAL DUMPING” AND SECTION 97-11 “VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES” OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY”

EXPLANATION

Mayor Casper-Bloom explained that this ordinance amends the municipal code as read by Clerk Giliberti and will help to enforce that only acceptable items are being dropped off at the Grit Yard.

On motion of Mr. DiPirro, seconded by Mr. Dendis and carried unanimously, it was moved to amend Ordinance 23-05.

Mr. DiPirro explained that the few items in this ordinance that were amended since the ordinance was introduced were to protect the township. It enables the municipality to recover the cost of proper removal and disposal of material that may be illegally dumped.

PUBLIC HEARING

A motion made by Mr. Mills, seconded by Ms. Ramsey to open the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

There being no comments, on motion made by Mr. Di Pirro, seconded by Mr. Mills and carried unanimously, it was moved to close the Public Hearing.

A motion made by Mr. DiPirro, seconded by Mr. Mills and carried unanimously, it was moved to adopt amended Ordinance No. 23-05.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Dendis, Mills, Ramsey, Di Pirro, Casper-Bloom

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-06 – FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION**

Ordinance No. 23-06 was read by title by Ms. Giliberti “CAPITAL ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR VARIOUS 2023 CAPITAL PROJECTS AS GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$350,000 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND”

EXPLANATION

Mayor Casper-Bloom recommended removing the Salt Barn from this ordinance in the amount of \$25,000. She explained that this ordinance is part of our capital budget to provide for DPW Equipment, repairs to Welisewitz Road, upgrades to security camera and repairs to various township roads.

On motion of Mayor Casper-Bloom, seconded by Mr. DiPirro and carried unanimously, it was moved to amend Ordinance 23-06, resulting in removal of the Salt Barn.

A motion made by Mr. Mills, seconded by Ms. Ramsey and carried unanimously, it was moved to introduce Ordinance No. 23-06 with a Public Hearing date of June 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Dendis, Mills, Ramsey, Di Pirro, Casper-Bloom

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-07 – FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION**  
**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL PERSONNEL**  
**POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SECTION, BENEFITS**  
**SCHEDULE, SECTION FIVE, COMPENSATORY TIME**

This ordinance was tabled.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 2023-78      2023 SALARY INCREASES
- 2023-79      RESCIND RESOLUTION 2023-55 – STORMWATER  
MANAGEMENT SERVICES – FERRIERO ENGINEERING
- 2023-80      ACCEPTANCE OF MAINTENANCE BOND – RELEASE OF  
PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE – CAPITAL PAVING &  
CONTRACTING
- 2023-81      APPROVAL OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS PERMITS – AMWELL  
VALLEY FIRE COMPANY
- 2023-82      APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND  
EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE LOCAL  
TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS FUND
- 2023-83      AWARD OF CONTRACT – STORMWATER MANAGEMENT  
SERVICES – STORMWATER COMPLIANCE SOLUTIONS
- 2023-84      AWARD OF CONTRACT – TOWNSHIP PLANNER – DANIEL  
BLOCH OF COLLIERS ENGINEERING & DESIGN
- 2023-85      FINANCE - ESTABLISH CHANGE FUND FOR TOWNSHIP  
CLERK’S OFFICE
- 2023-86      FINANCE – ESTABLISH ESCROW ACCOUNT FOR SOIL  
WITNESSING FEES – NORTHFIELD BANK
- 2023-87      FINANCE – CHAPTER 159 – WELISEWITZ ROAD SECTION I  
GRANT
- 2023-88      FINANCE – CHAPTER 159 – WELISEWITZ ROAD SECTION II  
GRANT
- 2023-89      FINANCE - CHAPTER 159 – 2023 STORMWATER  
ASSISTANCE GRANT
- 2023-90      PERSONNEL – SUMMER PLAYGROUND DIRECTOR –  
ZENDEL
- 2023-91      RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUMMER HOURS FOR FULL-  
TIME OFFICE EMPLOYEES
- 2023-92      RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE BILLS AND CLAIMS
- 2023-93      TAX COLLECTOR – AUTHORIZATION OF ESTIMATED  
2023 TAX BILLS

Mr. DiPirro requested that two resolutions, 2023-78 and 2023-80 be removed from the consent agenda to discuss.

On motion of Ms. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Dendis and carried unanimously, it was moved to approve Resolution Nos. 2023-79, 2023-81 through 2023-93, as filed in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Recorded Vote

Aye: Dendis, Mills, Ramsey, DiPirro, Casper-Bloom  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Mr. DiPirro wanted to make sure that the Township Committee was in agreement that a mid-year performance review should be done for the staff. The Committee agreed.

Mr. DiPirro questioned why we were switching the financial assurance on this project. Clerk Giliberti explained that Capital Paving completed the Sandra Road Improvement project. Former Township Engineer, Bill Burr, has recommended the release of the performance bond and acceptance of the maintenance surety bond.

On motion of Mr. Dendis, seconded by Mr. Mills and carried unanimously, it was moved to approve Resolution Nos. 2023-78 and 2023-80, as filed in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Recorded Vote

Aye: Dendis, Mills, Ramsey, DiPirro, Casper-Bloom  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

**RESOLUTIONS**

- 2023-94 APPOINTMENT OF TAX CLERK – MERZ
- 2023-95 PERSONNEL - SALARY INCREASES – DIMINICK & DUCKWORTH
- 2023-96 TAX COLLECTOR – TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION – BLOCK 17/LOT 16.14
- 2023-97 TAX COLLECTOR - REFUND OF 2022-2023 TAX PAYMENTS DUE TO VETERAN EXEMPTION GRANTED ON BLOCK 17/ LOT 16.14

Resolution 2023- 94 – Mayor Casper-Bloom explained Amy Jo Merz has been helping in the tax office and this resolution is giving her an official title.

On motion of Ms. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Dendis and carried unanimously, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-94, as filed in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Dendis, Mills, Ramsey, DiPirro, Casper-Bloom  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Resolution 2023-95 – Mayor Casper-Bloom explained that this resolution authorizes salary increases for two of our DPW employees. These increases will put these employees more in-line with other towns and they were included in the budget.

On motion of Mr. Dendis, seconded by Ms. Ramsey and carried unanimously, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-95, as filed in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Dendis, Mills, Ramsey, DiPirro, Casper-Bloom  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Resolution 2023-96 – Mayor Casper-Bloom explained that this resolution is to grant a veteran’s exemption.

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Ms. Ramsey and carried unanimously, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-96, as filed in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Dendis, Mills, Ramsey, DiPirro, Casper-Bloom  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Resolution 2023-97 – Mayor Casper-Bloom explained that this resolution authorizes refunds for tax payments made to the township for this veteran after he was granted full disability by the state.

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Ms. Ramsey and carried unanimously, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-97, as filed in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Dendis, Mills, Ramsey, DiPirro, Casper-Bloom  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

Mayor Casper-Bloom stated that Resolution No. 2023-98 is being added to the agenda to hire Finance Assistant, Melani Mancheno for 10 hours per week at \$20 per hour with a 6-month probationary period.

On motion of Mr. Dendis, seconded by Mr. Mills and carried unanimously, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-98, as filed in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Dendis, Mills, Ramsey, DiPirro, Casper-Bloom  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

**NEW BUSINESS**

**OEM**

Mayor Casper-Bloom and Mr. Dendis had a meeting with Gary Myers, OEM Coordinator. Mr. Dendis commented that the state requires an Emergency Plan is for each municipality and they had a discussion with Mr. Myers to make sure everything was in place in case of an emergency.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**Bills of the Evening – May 11, 2023**

A motion made by John Mills, seconded by Michael Dendis to approve the bills of the evening was conducted by roll call vote:

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Dendis, Mills, Ramsey, DiPirro, Casper-Bloom  
Nay: XXX  
Abstain: XXX

**APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

A motion made by Dante DiPirro, seconded by Tara Ramsey to approve the Administrative Reports was unanimously approved by voice vote.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. ***NEW JERSEY LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES***
2. ***UNITED STATES***
3. ***STATE OF NEW JERSEY***  
SUSPECTED HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE DISCHARGE  
NOTIFICATION: NJDEP INCIDENT NOTIFICATION NUMBER: 23-04-26-1235-49

- 4. **HUNTERDON COUNTY**  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED SALE OF PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE HUNTERDON COUNTY TRANSFER STATION
- 5. **EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP**
- 6. **SURROUNDING MUNICIPALITIES**  
TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON – RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT – ENACTMENT OF S2186/A3677 PROHIBITING THE SALE, DISTRIBUTION OR PROPAGATION OF CERTAIN INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES WITHOUT PERMIT FROM DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
- 7. **MISCELLANEOUS**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC- (LIMITED TO 10 MINUTES PER PERSON)**

A motion made by Dante DiPirro, seconded by Michael Dendis to open the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Bob Kirchner** – Mr. Kirchner commented that he filed complaints with the Zoning Department regarding his next door neighbor who owns a landscaping business. Within a few months of taking ownership of this property, the new owner made many changes the property. There is also a lot of junk behind the barn-like building and he is putting millings near the stream.

**Rick Wolfe** – Mr. Wolfe stated that he also lives near the property that Mr. Kirchner spoke about. He is not impacted by the aesthetics the way Mr. Kirchner is. However, Mr. Wolfe is concerned that is this person is running a “chop-shop”, oil and other things might be going into the soil and eventually into the aquifer. Mr. Wolfe feels that it is not a good idea to have a shared service contract for Zoning with West Amwell. Mr. Wolfe recognized and complimented Jason Bloom for all his efforts with the Recycling Depot and for his work with the Color Run.

**Frances Gavigan** – Ms. Gavigan commented that it might be worthwhile to go elsewhere for a shared service contract for Zoning, look into getting our own Zoning Officer or try to work through the problems with West Amwell.

Seeing there were no further comments, a motion made by John Mills, seconded by Michael 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. DiPirro, seconded by Mr. Dendis to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m. was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Giliberti  
Linda Giliberti, RMC  
Township Clerk

6/8/2023  
Date Approved