

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 June 8, 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 Attorney Donald F. Scholl, Jr. and Municipal Clerk Linda Giliberti.

There were approximately 12 members of the public present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The East Amwell Municipal Building Summer Hours began on Tuesday, May 30, 2023. The municipal building will be open from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM Mondays through Thursdays, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM on Tuesday evenings and 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM on Fridays through Friday, September 8, 2023. Please check our website or call the office prior to coming to the Municipal Building to make sure who you need to see is in the office.
- East Amwell Board and Committee Members are reminded to notify their Secretaries/ Administrative Officers if they are going to miss meetings due to vacation or travel plans.
- Municipal Offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, 2023 in observance of Independence Day.
- East Amwell Recreation Committee's Friday Night in the Park will be held on Friday, July 14, 2023 at Clawson Park. Music Fest "The Sound of Summer Concert" will be held on July 29 from 4:30 p.m. until dusk. Admission is free.
- Residents are reminded that the Grit Yard, located at 4 John Ringo Road, is open for brush collection from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. daily and the first and third Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For further information, refer to the Township website at www.eastamwelltownship.com.

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

Mayor Casper-Bloom also announced that the painting of the lines in front of the library and the post office has been done. She also noted that Mr. Casella, teacher at East Amwell Township School won Most Valuable Teacher of the Month and then won Most Valuable Teacher of the Year in a contest sponsored by the NHL, winning a total of \$30,000 for East Amwell Township School.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC- AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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

Noel Wiggins – Ms. Wiggins had questions on Ordinance 23-08. Mayor Casper-Bloom asked Ms. Wiggins to hold her questions until the public hearing on that ordinance on July 13, 2023.

Frances Gavigan – Ms. Gavigan asked what Ordinance 23-08 was about. Mr. DiPirro explained that it was a property tax mechanism called PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) where the municipality would net more funds than if normal property taxes were paid.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 11, 2023 Executive & Regular Session Minutes

A motion was made by Tara Ramsey and seconded by John Mills to approve the May 11, 2023 Executive & Regular Meeting Minutes and were approved by voice vote.

SPECIAL DISCUSSIONS/PRESENTATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mayor Casper-Bloom acknowledged DPW Superintendent, Jason Silverthorn, for designing a garden and placing a bench in Clawson Park in memory of former Township Clerk, Terri Stahl. She also thanked Sweet Valley Farms for donating all the plants for the garden.

Mayor Casper-Bloom also acknowledged the Ringoes Village Advisory Committee for the flags which they placed in Ringoes Village for Memorial Day. She commented that the Committee is looking for more volunteers to place the flags around town for July 4th. She also thanked The Grange for making a donation for additional flags.

Mayor Casper-Bloom stated she will be performing her first marriage ceremony as Mayor next week and is happy to marry any couple that would like to come before her.

Mayor Casper-Bloom asked the Township Committee if they would be in favor of giving the employees off for the Juneteenth holiday. She commented that New Jersey passed it as a State holiday in September of 2020 and the Federal Government passed it in June of 2021 as June 19th. The committee agreed to add Resolution 2023-104 to tonight’s agenda to authorize Juneteenth as Township holiday.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

APPOINTMENT OF BEATRICE GOODING – RECYCLING COMMITTEE – UNEXPIRED TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2023

The appointment of Ms. Gooding was confirmed on motion of Ms. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Dendis and unanimously approved by voice vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-06 – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

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 \$325,000 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND”

EXPLANATION

Mayor Casper-Bloom 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.

PUBLIC HEARING

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

Frances Gavigan – Ms. Gavigan asked if the Township Committee could give a breakdown of how the money is being spent. Ms. Giliberti responded that the breakdown amounted to \$50,000 for DPW Equipment and Vehicles, \$150,000 for repairs to Welisewitz Road, \$25,000 in security camera upgrades and \$100,000 for repairs to various township roads.

Joanne Engleman – Ms. Engleman asked where the money for this ordinance came from. Mayor Casper-Bloom explained that the funds came from the Capital Improvement Fund which is part of the budget.

There being no further 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. Dendis and carried unanimously, it was moved to adopt Ordinance No. 23-06.

Recorded Vote:

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

ORDINANCE NO. 23-08 – FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION

Ordinance No. 23-08 was read by title by Ms. Giliberti “ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE TO ENTER INTO AND ADOPT THE FINANCIAL AGREEMENT, ACCEPTING THE APPLICATION FOR TAX EXEMPTION UNDER N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 ET SEQ., AUTHORIZING TAX EXEMPTION AND PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES IN CONNECTION WITH THE EAST AMWELL SENIOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND CONFIRMING THAT THE EAST AMWELL SENIOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT HELPS TO SATISFY A NEED FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE TOWNSHIP”

EXPLANATION

Mayor Casper-Bloom explained that this ordinance authorizes the township to enter into a financial agreement with Region Nine.

A motion made by Mr. Dendis, seconded by Ms. Ramsey and carried unanimously, it was moved to introduce Ordinance No. 23-08 with a Public Hearing date of July 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Recorded Vote:

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- 2023-99 2023-2024 ABC LICENSE RENEWALS
- 2023-100 PERSONNEL – HIRING OF SUMMER PLAYGROUND DIRECTOR - CIVALE
- 2023-101 RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE BILLS AND CLAIMS

On motion of Mr. DiPirro, seconded by Ms. Ramsey and carried unanimously, it was moved to approve Resolution Nos. 2023-99 through 2023-101, as filed in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Recorded Vote

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

RESOLUTIONS

- 2023-102 RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT
- 2023-103 RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 2023-32 FOR COMPUTER & IT SERVICES AMENDING CONTRACT TO TRIFLEX IT SOLUTIONS, LLC
- 2023-104 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING JUNETEENTH AS A TOWNSHIP HOLIDAY

Resolution 2023-102 – Mayor Casper-Bloom explained that our Risk Management Consultant, Tom Narolewski, has left Assured Partners and joined the Barclay Insurance Group. This resolution allows us to keep Mr. Narolewski as our consultant.

On motion of Ms. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Mills and carried unanimously, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-102, as filed in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Recorded Vote

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

Resolution 2023-103 – Mayor Casper-Bloom explained that our computer support company has changed ownership and the name of their company. This resolution allows us to continue the contract adopted at our reorganization meeting with the new owners.

On motion of Mr. DiPirro, seconded by Mr. Dendis and carried unanimously, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-103, as filed in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Recorded Vote

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

Resolution 2023-104 – A discussion ensued earlier regarding adding Juneteenth to the township holiday schedule. The Township Committee was supported this decision and adopted this resolution authorizing Juneteenth as a township holiday and as a result, the municipal offices will be closed on Monday, June 19, 2023. This holiday will also be added to the holiday reorganization resolution and the policy and personnel manual.

On motion of Mr. Dendis, seconded by Mr. Mills and carried unanimously, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-104, as filed in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Recorded Vote

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

NEW BUSINESS

INSERTS FOR TAX BILL MAILING 2023 - REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

Mayor Casper-Bloom asked the Township Committee if there were any questions on the inserts going out with the tax bill mailing. Mr. Dendis inquired about the timing of the Grit Yard hours. Mayor Casper-Bloom confirmed that the hours are 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. The Township Committee approved all inserts.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Bills of the Evening –June 8, 2023

A motion made by Michael Dendis, seconded by Tara Ramsey 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 Michael Dendis, seconded by Dante DiPirro 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*
 NJ DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – PAVEMENT
 PRESERVATION PROJECT – CHIP SEAL COURSE – TYPE 1 – ROUTE
 31 TO ROUTE 202
- 4. *HUNTERDON COUNTY*
- 5. *EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP*
- 6. *SURROUNDING MUNICIPALITIES*
- 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.

Frances Gavigan – Ms. Gavigan inquired about the status of 20% copay with our insurance company for the Ridge lawsuit and asked if it was still in negotiation or if it was agreed upon. Mr. Scholl stated that he understood that this was still in litigation and could not be discussed in public session at this time.

Noel Wiggins – Ms. Wiggins thanked everyone for expressing their excitement while the flags were being put up in Ringoes Village for Memorial Day. There were horns beeping, hooting and hollering and people waving and saying thank you. She said it was a great feeling. She also mentioned that she has a video on from the Amwell Valley Fire Company’s parade and she would be glad to share it with everyone. Mayor Casper-Bloom thanked everyone for putting up the flags.

Bob Kirchner – Mr. Kirchner stated that he was at the last Township Committee meeting and spoke about an issue with his neighbor. He asked if anyone knew the details of the zoning violation and fine. He asked if he was entitled to feedback from the Zoning Officer regarding the status of this issue. Mr. DiPirro said he didn’t know the status of this issue at the present time and he would follow up with the Zoning Officer.

Frances Gavigan – In reference to Mr. Kirchner’s comment, Ms. Gavigan stated that there is a requirement under New Jersey Law that states that anyone operating a junkyard in New Jersey must apply for a permit with the local municipality.

Seeing there were no further comments, a motion made by Dante DiPirro, 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. Mills to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Giliberti
Linda Giliberti, RMC
Township Clerk

7/13/2023
Date Approved