HARDING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020 EXECUTIVE SESSION at 5:30 PM

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AT 7:30 PM

In-Person / GoToMeeting - Registration Form is on Township Website

If you cannot attend in person, please join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/666689757

You can also dial in using your phone.

(For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.)

United States: +1 (408) 650-3123

- One-touch: tel:+14086503123,,666689757#

Access Code: 666-689-757 **MEETING MINUTES**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER - Mayor Yates

Mayor Yates called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

ADEQUATE NOTICE of this Executive Session meeting of the Harding Township Committee was sent to the Observer Tribune on October 7, 2020 and published in the Observer Tribune on October 15, 2020.

Mayor Yates announced adequate notice of the October 19, 2020 meeting of the Harding Township Committee was published in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL – Municipal Clerk

Ms. DiTosto, Mr. Jones, Mr. Modi, Mr. Platt, Mr. Yates

Mrs. Sharp called the roll. All Township Committee members were present.

RESOLUTION TC 20-142 – Executive Session

RESOLUTION TO RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Yates asked for a motion to recess into Executive Session. Upon a motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Platt, and with a roll call vote of all ayes, none opposed, the meeting recessed into executive session at 5:31 pm.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Harding Township Committee that it shall adjourn into executive session to discuss the following subject matter(s) without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 10:4-12b; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the matter(s) discussed will be made known to the public at such time as appropriate action is taken on said matter(s), and when disclosure will not result in unwarranted invasion of individual privacy or prejudice to the best interests of the Township of Harding provided such disclosures will not violate Federal, State or local statutes and does not fall within the attorney-client privilege. The Township Committee will return to public session after this executive session.

Contracts:

- 1. Glen Alpin D. Modi / J. Hague
- 2. Property Acquisitions T. Jones / M. Roselli
- 3. Use of Facilities/Buildings Contracts C. Yates/N. Platt/R. Falzarano

4. PBA Negotiations – R. Falzarano

Attorney Client Privilege:

1. Potential Litigation – M. Roselli

Personnel:

1. 2021 Employee Salaries – R. Falzarano

Vote on Resoluti	on:				
	MOTION	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
		APPROVAL	APPROVAL		
Ms. DiTosto		\boxtimes			
Mr. Jones	1 st	\boxtimes			
Mr. Modi		\boxtimes			
Mr. Platt	2^{nd}	\boxtimes			
Mr. Yates		$\overline{\boxtimes}$			

A discussion ensued regarding the diversion/disposal, potential property acquisitions, Use of Facilities, potential litigation and the 2021 employee salary ordinance.

RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION – Mayor Yates

ROLL CALL – Municipal Clerk

Ms. DiTosto, Mr. Jones, Mr. Modi, Mr. Platt, Mr. Yates

Mrs. Sharp called the roll all members of the Township Committee were present in person. A total of 6 members of the public were present and 12 members of the public were on the GoToMeeting call.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Mayor Yates

Mayor Yates led members of the Township Committee and members of the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADEQUATE NOTICE of this meeting of the Harding Township Committee was given as follows: Due to the State of Emergence, Notice was sent to the *DAILY RECORD* and the *OBSERVER TRIBUNE* on September 29, 2020, and published in the OBSERVER TRIBUNE on October 8, 2020; Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board in the Township Municipal Building on Blue Mill Road in Harding, NJ on October 8, 2020, and Notice was filed with the Municipal Clerk on October 8, 2020.

Mayor Yates announced that adequate notice of this in person and GoToMeeting was published in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

RESOLUTIONS - (NON-CONSENT - REQUIRING SEPARATE ACTION)

Resolution TC 20-143 – Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Harding, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Honoring and Recognizing the Dedication and Accomplishment of Sergeant Michael Gromek

Mayor Yates asked Committee Member Modi to proceed with Resolution TC 20-143 listed on the Non-Consent agenda.

Committee Member Modi read Resolution TC 20-143 in its entirety.

WHEREAS, Harding Township Police Sergeant Michael Gromek graduated Cum Laude from Kean University in 2003 with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Gromek was inducted into the National Criminal Justice Honor Society, Alpha Phi Sigma; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Gromek has been a police officer with the Harding Township Police Department since 2004 and attained the rank of Sergeant in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Gromek took initiative to further his education; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Gromek graduated from Seton Hall University in 2019 with a Master's Degree in Police Graduate Studies with a GPA of 3.97; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Gromek was inducted into the International Honor Society in Education, Kappa Delta Pi.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Harding, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey honors and recognizes the dedication and accomplishment of Sergeant Michael Gromek in obtaining his Master's Degree for the betterment of himself and the Harding Township Police Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Township Committee extends their congratulations and appreciation for Sergeant Gromek's dedicated service to Harding Township.

NON-CONSENT AGENDA VOTE:

Mayor Yates asks Committee Member Modi to proceed with Resolution TC 20-143 listed on the Non-Consent agenda.

Committee Member Modi made a motion to approve the resolution placed on this evening's Non-Consent Agenda by consent of the Township Committee, seconded by Township Committee Member DiTosto.

Mayor Yates asked the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:

Vote on Resolution:

	MOTION	FOR Approval	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. DiTosto Mr. Jones Mr. Modi	2 nd				
Mr. Platt Mr. Yates	H	\boxtimes			

Mayor Yates presented on behalf of the Harding Township Committee a copy of an adopted Resolution to Sergeant Gromek and thanked him for his service and his hard work.

Chief Heller presented Sergeant Gromek on behalf of the Harding Township Police Department with a commendation for his achievement and dedication.

Sergeant Gromek thanked everyone, especially his wife.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. 112 Kitchell Road - Mr. D'Urso

Mr. D'Urso's discussion was moved to the November 9, 2020 meeting.

2. Best Practice Inventory – A. Fiore

Mr. Fiore reported that the Best Practice Inventory is an annual assessment of each Municipality's compliance with various laws. It evaluates the implementation of fiscal operations of best practices. This year there were 60 questions on the inventory, 20 core competencies, 9 best practices, and 31 unscored survey questions. This inventory can be used to withhold State Aid from each Municipality depending on the results of the survey. This year the minimum score to receive 100 percent of the aid was 16 and Harding Township scored a 23 out of a possible 24.5 points.

Mayor Yates thanked Mr. Fiore and commented that the inventory will be posted on the website if any resident is interested in reviewing it. Mayor Yates thanked Mr. Fiore and the staff who ensure the Township receives this high score.

3. Holiday Displays – N. DiTosto

Mrs. DiTosto explained two meetings ago, Rabbi Lubin came before the Township Committee and ask if the Township would consider or allow a menorah to be placed in town to signify the Jewish Holiday around the December timeframe. The Township Committee received Rabbi Lubin's request and informed him that it would be discussed amongst the committee. Mrs. DiTosto commented that his request should be discussed and asked the Township Attorney and the Township Administrator to discuss what the current state is for any Holiday celebration for any religion; what, if anything, does the Township Ordinance say; and are there any options going forward.

Mrs. DiTosto commented on the current status, Mr. Falzarano spoke with Mr. Toribio and the Township does light an evergreen tree in Bayne Park with lights and a star, which is something that celebrates Christmas. Mr. Roselli, Township Attorney, reported there is no ordinance. Basically, the courts have looked at this relative to a constitutional amendment issue. If a Township is going to have any type of display, it would have to be all faiths; i.e., menorah, crèche, secular aspects of Christmas like a snowman. This is what the courts have indicated for Municipalities who have displays. Mayor Yates commented Is a Christmas tree is consider a sectarian display or is it viewed generic and commented a plain lit tree does not trigger the requirement that sectarian displays be permitted. Mr. Roselli, commented that is his understanding, relative to what the courts say. Mr. Falzarano commented what about what is placed on the tree. Mr. Roselli commented it could be. If it is sectarian, then it can be considered that as opposed to just lights. Mr. Falzarano commented does the color of the lights have anything. Mr. Roselli commented not really. The symbolism is more important, not the lights. Mrs. DiTosto asked about the star. Mr. Roselli commented it could be considered sectarian, you would want to keep the tree neutral with lights. Mrs. DiTosto commented what does the Township Committee do going forward.

Mayor Yates asked if any member of the public would like to comment on this discussion.

John Kirby, 1 Shadowbrook Lane—commented that the Star of David is a six sided star versus a normal star of a Christmas tree. Mr. Kirby also provided his comment on blue lights and white lights.

Township Committee Member Platt -- commented that he would not be in support of having a Menorah on Municipal property. There is a Catholic Church and a Presbyterian Church that have property where they can place whatever decorations they would like. Mr. Platt commented that he would be in favor of removing the star on the evergreen, if there is one, and continue the way the Township is doing it right now.

Township Committee Member Modi – commented what the Township Committee is being asked to do. Mrs. DiTosto explained that Rabbi Lubin is requesting to place a Menorah in Town. Mr. Modi commented that his Rabbi Lubin's specific request. Mrs. DiTosto commented yes. Mr. Modi mentioned based on what Mr. Roselli stated, the Township is currently not doing any religious decorations. Mr. Roselli explained to his knowledge. A Christmas tree in itself does not mean an endorsement of a religion. Mr. Roselli commented a decorated tree could be perceived as an endorsement.

Township Committee Member Jones – commented that he understood Rabbi Lubin to say he would come out and setup the Menorah, take care of it, and facilitate its structure here on the property and this would open the property to anyone. Mrs. DiTosto explained Rabbi Lubin would be happy to facilitate it in anyway the Township wanted. It was left open to any possibility. Mr. Modi commented to the extent that the Township does not have any religious symbols currently, then this would be inconsistent with the Township's current practice.

Mayor Yates – reported that he received comments from several residents that were uniformly in the opinion that the Township should avoid sectarian symbols on public property. Mayor Yates agrees with this. Mr. Modi commented as long as the Township is being consistent. Mrs. DiTosto commented she is find with this. Is the tree in Bayne park lights only or lights and a star? Mr. Roselli explained he would keep it neutral with just lights. Mrs. DiTosto asked about the tree in the Municipal Building. Mr. Roselli explained again, keep it neutral. If there are ornaments on the Municipal tree as long as they are non-sectarian. The consensus of the Township Committee was to keep both trees neutral with just lights. Mrs. DiTosto asked Mr. Falzarano if he would follow-up with Rabbi Lubin.

4. Sand Spring Road Speed - D. Modi

Township Committee Member Modi – commented that over the years he has had discussions with his neighbors regarding the speed on Sand Spring Road. There have been discussions regarding if the speed limit which is currently 35 mph should be lowered. Mr. Modi is requesting today that the Township Committee consider bringing the speed limit down to 25 mph. Mr. Modi's understanding of the statue that applies to New Jersey has factors that should be reviewed in making a determination with regard to the speed on a Municipal Road or any road. Mr. Modi believes Sand Spring Road would support a 25 mph speed zone. Some of the factors are:

- 1. Residential density Sand Spring Road is complete with houses and driveways.
- 2. The presence or lack of sidewalks there are no sidewalks on Sand Spring Road other than on the bridge that goes over Rt. 287.
- 3. Prevalence of entry and exit ways for both business and commercial establishments there are some businesses on Sand Spring Road but it is predominately residential.
- 4. Whether school children walk adjacent to the street on their way to/from school children are not walking to and from school on Sand Spring Road, but it is a heavily school bused road and you will see children come on and off the bus at different times of the day. The high school has less stops on this road, but you will see the high schoolers walking on Sand Spring Road. This is also a heavy

- recreational road with people; running, walking their dogs, biking, and walking.
- 5. Proximity to recreational and park areas, schools, community residences, day care centers, etc. Sand Spring Road has multiple open space properties on it and the new walking trail around Bayne Park and the Municipal Complex and a crosswalk.

Mr. Modi commented – Sand Spring Road hits a lot of the New Jersey criteria that would justify a 25 mph speed limit. Mr. Modi explained that the future of the mapping software that is available, Harding is coming up on this software as a way to get around faster. As density changes, having a slower speed limit would potentially reduce or minimize traffic. For the above reasons, Mr. Modi explained he would like the Township Committee to consider lowering the speed limit to 25 mph on Sand Spring Road. If there is consensus, it would require an amendment to the Ordinance with an introduction in November and adoption in December.

A question was asked if a survey was done. Mr. Modi explained yes. Mr. Roselli asked that a copy of the survey be sent to him as it would be required for the ordinance. Mr. Roselli explained that the Township Committee can set speed limits by ordinance as longs as the requirements are met and a survey is conducted.

Mayor Yates commented – he agrees with everything Mr. Modi stated. One of the issues that is discussed with regard to other roads in town is the question of through traffic. Lower speed limits, not only do they enhance safety, but they help in managing traffic. Mayor Yates explained there has been an issue with residents trying to cross the road from the Municipal Trail due to cars coming at too high of a speed. Mr. Roselli commented would it be the entirety of the road. Mayor Yates explained yes. Chief Heller explained there are cautionary speed limits on this road, which are at very short periods of the roadway.

Township Committee Member DiTosto commented – she is not sure if she is necessarily in favor of the change. If the speed limit does become 25 mph, perhaps other roads might get busier with Glen Aplin being one of them. Mrs. DiTosto would be concerned with the unintended consequences of making Sand Spring Road 25 mph and the affect it would have on other streets. Maybe parts of the road where the crosswalk is located should be 25 mph but it should not be the entire way. The other streets in town and the affects should be considered. A discussion ensued regarding other streets in town. Mrs. DiTosto commented she is not in favor of the change.

Township Committee Member Platt commented – about an overage of five miles. A discussion regarding tickets ensued. Chief Heller explained if a person was doing 36 in a 35 mph zone, they technically could receive a ticket. It is at an officer's discretion. With regards to 25 mph it is essentially the same thing. A further discussion ensued.

Mayor Yates – commented that he would like Mr. Roselli to draft the ordinance for the Township Committee to review. Mr. Jones commented that maybe the public should see the survey which could be published on the website. Mr. Jones commented he is in favor of curbing the speed anywhere.

Mayor Yates asked if there were any members of the public that would like to be heard with regard to the speed limit on Sand Spring Road.

- 1. Louis Lanzerotti, Brook Drive commented that the Town has gone through this several times with regards to roads and at various times asked if everything should be 25 mph. One change that was made within the last decade and a half was Young's Road speed limit was dropped down to 25 mph by ordinance and that caused no issues at that time. Mr. Lanzerotti does not see any problem with the Town lowering the speed limit on a town road the Township has control over. Look at this very carefully, which you are, and know that there is precedence at lowering a speed limit on a road that requires it.
- 2. Abigale Gallo, Sand Spring Road commented that she is in support of lowering the speed limit so that we can take care of the children walking across the road and down the road. Mrs. Gallo explained she has two P 10-19-2020

small children and a dog and often tries to walk on Sand Spring Road which is very busy and people drive very fast.

- 3. Mary Prendergast, resident commented that she believes everyone has made very good points but agrees with Mrs. DiTosto. Maybe a compromise at 30 mph in places where the road is more user friendly. Looking at the survey would help. Mr. Jones commented by the Morris Animal Inn is the most egregious part of it. Mrs. DiTosto commented that there are children on Glen Alpin who walk as well and she would not want to do anything that would increase traffic in other parts of town. Mayor Yates asked what the speed limit on Glen Alpin is. Chief Heller explained it is 40 mph. Mr. Modi commented if you apply the statutes analysis on Glen Alpin Road versus Sand Spring Road, the result is different.
- 4. George Boyan, Millbrook Road commented he would recommend a more holistic approach. He agrees with everything that has been said but can think of about a half dozen other roads in town with the same criteria.
- 5. John Kirby, 1 Silverbrook commented he rides a bike on Sand Spring Road often, it is a mess, no sidewalks, there is a problem and should be reviewed carefully.

Township Committee Member DiTosto — commented if there was an accident report for Sand Spring Road. Chief Heller commented it is pretty low. Mr. Modi commented that there is nothing that prevents the Township from passing a resolution to the County requesting that Glen Alpin Road be examined. Mr. Modi agrees with Mr. Boyan, do a holistic approach and look at every street; what does the Township have control over and what does the Township not have control over. Mrs. DiTosto commented there is less control over a County road.

- 6. Eliana Modi, Sand Spring Road commented she holds her breath every time she sees a child riding their scooter on Sand Spring Road because someone is coming off Route 202 driving 50 mph. The road is dangerous. To Mrs. DiTosto's point, there has not been any accidents due to the parent are super vigilant and ensure their children are attended to. Mrs. Modi commented she walks this road every morning and there is a speed limit notification sign and very rarely are the drivers going 35 mph, they are going 45 mph. With all due respect to everyone, this is a residential neighborhood, with many houses, with many children, there are children who walk from Blackwell who try to go to Jenks Road, there are people who walk their dogs, people who are running, it is very dangerous. Mrs. Modi believes 25 mph is the right thing to do for Sand Spring Road.
- 7. Rita Chipperson, Fawn Hill Drive -- commented what is the analysis if a speed bump would slow the drivers down versus lowering the speed limit on the entire road. Mrs. Chipperson also commented what about equestrian traffic. Mr. Modi commented with regard to speed bumps, they are not an ideal deterrent due to snow plowing, ice, and maintenance of the road. Mr. Falzarano, Township Administrator explained speed bumps are problematic and they are not recommended for regularly traffic roads. Coming off of Route 202 and Route 287 is one of the more dense areas in town with a lot of traffic and pedestrian traffic. Mr. Jones commented he is not in favor of marking the road with horse crossing. Mr. Jones deferred to the Chief, is there a way to combat this. Mr. Jones believes it is much worse during the school year with the vehicles that are passing through. Chief Heller explained that the survey that we received basically has good speeds as far as 35 and 36 mph with some outliers, but to Mr. Jones point the survey was conducted during September of this year. There is not the traffic that is normal. The survey was conducted from September 10, 2020 through September 17, 2020; 85 percent of the vehicles were at 34, 35, 37, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41 mph. There was a 44 mph at midnight. For the most part, they were all the 34 - 37 mph range. Mayor Yates asked where the measuring strip was. Heller explained, it was at Jenks Road; Thursday/Friday--there were 1600 cars, Sat/Sun--1100; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday—1700, 1700, and 1700; Thursday-2000. Of these cars, 85 percent were at the speeds mentioned or below. A discussion ensued.
- 8. James Savage, Sand Spring Road This is an R3 zone which is a densely populated road. Mr. Savage explained he is a runner, a military reservist, enjoys running, but does not feel safe running on this road.

- 9. Thomas Gallo, Sand Spring Road commented on the statistics of the numbers of cars travelled this road and people obeying a reasonable speed limit, 15 percent of the travelers are travelling at 38 mph or more. It is difficult to take his children out for a walk as we do not feel safe.
- 10. *Michael Westhead, Sand Spring Road* commented that the traffic is so fast that you have to high tail it to get to Jenks and Blackwell. Harding Township is considered a cut through for travelers. If we can do anything to discourage this town wide, this would be helpful.
- 11. Cassie Savage, Sand Spring Road commented if we do nothing to change the speed on this road and something happens to a child, we need to take a look at what this town stands for. As a community, we need to look out for one another.

Mayor Yates commented as we bring this discussion to a conclusion, we should see an ordinance for the November meeting, send the traffic survey to the full Committee, and place it on the Township website. In November, the Township Committee will make a determination if the ordinance should be introduced. Mrs. DiTosto asked for professional analysis of the intent to consequences of dropping the speed and what it does to other roads in town. Mayor Yates commented who you would look to do this analysis. Mrs. DiTosto commented she does not know but there are other roads in Harding. Should look at all avenues.

Chief Heller -- commented that there are 8 houses at the top of Sand Spring Road and Route 202 at the top portion of Sand Spring which are actually Morris Township. With regard to a light, this would be NJDOT. If the speed limit is lowered, does this need to be discussed with Morris Township? Chief Heller commented this will come with enforcement as well; people have to be educated, learn, and they will have to comply with it. Mayor Yates asked Chief Heller to contact Morris Township on this. A discussion on all roads and the definition of the roads ensued. Mark Roselli commented heavily travelled roads.

Mrs. Chipperson, Fawn Hill Road -- commented that the houses are much closer on Sand Spring Road than they are on Glen Alpin and a child on Sand Spring can run out faster to the street than they would on Glen Alpin.

A further discussion ensued regarding an engineer's analysis and traffic enforcement.

5. Dickson's Mill Bridge - N. Platt

Township Committee Member Platt – commented that he has two projects that he would like to discuss briefly this evening which fall under the infrastructure and strategy planning committee.

Mr. Platt reported that the Dickson's Mill Bridge was discussed at last month's Township Committee meeting at great length. A follow-up meeting was held with County Officials on October 1, 2020. The issue is a 22 foot bridge versus a 26 foot bridge. Mr. Jones, Mr. Falzarano, and I met with the County Officials; Mr. Vitz, the Assistant Engineer, and a bridge builder. Mr. Platt wrote a letter prior meeting on October 1, 2020 to the Commissioner of NJDOT, and discussed in the letter the ASHTO standards on bridge designs for low volume bridges. In this meeting, we all agreed to safe/protect the rebuilding and reconstruction of the Dickson's Mill Bridge. Mr. Platt was gratified to hear the County Engineer agree that he would write a letter to the NJDOT Commissioner supporting Mr. Platt's letter to the Commissioner and that they should adopt the 2019 ASHTO standards on bridge design.

Mr. Platt commented that he would like his colleagues to agree that a future needs assessment of the Municipal Building should be conducted in terms of the needs of the Township Committee, Police Department, and Employees. This should not hold up construction of the locker room in the Police Headquarters. Mr. Platt commented that we are at a crossroads here and the option of taking the old library out as a meeting place or

functional room would be a big mistake. The Township should try to see if there are other places that we can meet the needs of the Police Department and conduct the people's business in Municipal Hall.

Mrs. DiTosto commented what are the next steps with the Municipal Building's revisions. Mr. Platt's recommendation is to higher an architect to conduct a future needs assessment; taking a look at all the square footage of the building to see what the future needs would be. Do we want an OEM dedicated facility, can the basement be reconfigured to have a meeting room down there, and do we give up the judge's chamber which is not so functional due to it being narrow. The old library is useful only as a meeting room. Mr. Platt recommends having a meeting with the Township Administrator and the Chief to discuss future needs. Mrs. DiTosto commented that last month a resolution was passed and the books in the old library went to the Kemmerer Library and what is the plan for the old library.

Mr. Falzarano explained the old library would be used for juveniles and domestic violence victims (which is required that there has to be a separate space). The locker room for the female officer downstairs (basement), that space was selected due to the proximity of the plumbing. Mr. Falzarano agrees with Mr. Platt that there should be a needs assessment conducted due to Harding Township has reached that phase given emergency management requirements and other issues involving the police regulatory concerns. There is a short term issue that needs to be address; the locker room and the replacement of the space that the locker room has taken over. Mr. Falzarano's thoughts is that a multi-use of the old library until the needs study can be completed. The multi-use would be placing a doorway in from the Police Department to the old library which would have a lock on the door so there is no entry to the Police Department. Mr. Falzarano is proposing a multi-use room for the old library at this point. If the Police are using the old library, the doorway can be secured and locked if there are juveniles or domestic violence victims. If the room is needed for a Township meeting, the door going to the Police Department would be locked. The doorway going from the Police Department to the old library is easy as it is a stud wall, not a brick bearing wall. Mrs. DiTosto commented that it is an interior door so there is no door going to the outside. Mrs. Falzarano commented correct. A discussion ensued.

Chief Heller commented he agrees with the needs assessment. The Police Department receives exemptions every year on the jail and holding cells due to when the facility was built. They are essentially unsafe but they are exempting the Township due to the time they were built. If we are to renovate, the Police Department is not in compliance. A juvenile facility is for a non-custodial juvenile; runaways. This is regulated by the Juvenile Justice Committee and the Police Department has to have a room so that it is not conducted in a jail cell or holding cell, they have to have an open room. The need for this, at this time, is definitely essential.

Mr. Falzarano commented that another issue which is coming due to the last storm in August of this year is regarding emergency management operations. As Mr. Platt mentioned, climate is changing somewhat, storms have been more frequent and more intense. The last storm with the power outages prompted Mr. Falzarano not only to report on this but to put forward suggestions for the facility as well, which will tie into an assessment of the facility. An area is needed, which can be multi-function, that is equipped for emergency management operations; phones, monitors, communication equipment, which will fit nicely into this needs assessment. The short term issue is the female locker room, having a facility for the juveniles and domestic violence victims. They cannot be brought into the main facility where the public is, they must come through the Police facility, and has to be secured. By placing a simple doorway, it is the best suggestion that can be offered this evening to bridge this gap the Township is having. Mr. Falzarano reported that the table in the old library will need to be changed. It is too big and not conducive for an interview with a juvenile or domestic violence victim. Chief Heller commented that the book shelves can remain but no movable objects should be in the room. If the books are returned, there is the possibility that a juvenile can take the books and use them as a weapon and throw them at a Police Officer. A discussion ensued regarding the return of the books and OEM. Mr. Modi commented that if Chief Heller says there are to be no removal objects in the old library, whatever the Chief says that is what should be done.

Mr. Falzarano reported that the Township received two RFP's for two architects to conduct the design of the ladies locker room which would include plumbing, electrical, and construction and also what the cost to cut the door in the old library. The needs assessment will be entirely separate as it will be a much larger project. If the Township Committee gives Mr. Falzarano authorization, he will put out an RFP for architects for pricing on the Municipal Building. Mr. Platt commented the RFP must be carefully written, the architect must be one that has worked on Municipal complexes. Mr. Jones commented that he would like to understand this needs assessment as it would encompass more than just an architect and how the needs will be addressed. Mr. Falzarano commented you are correct, but part of the needs assessment is being addressed with the new phone system being installed in the Municipal Building.

RESOLUTION TC 20-144 -- RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding that the minutes from the following meetings are approved as prepared and shall be filed as a permanent record in the Municipal Clerk's office: September 14, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding that the minutes from the following Executive Session meeting(s) are approved as prepared and shall be filed as a permanent record in the Municipal Clerk's office: **September 14, 2020.**

Mayor Yates asked for a motion to accept the Township Committee meeting minutes. A motion was made by Township Committee Member Modi and seconded by Township Committee Member Jones.

Mayor Yates asked the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:

Vote on Resolution:

Ms. DiTosto Mr. Jones Mr. Modi Mr. Platt Mr. Yates	MOTION 2 nd 1 st	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	
ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE – Mayor Yates There were no announcements, presentations, reports or correspondence.						
ADD-ON RESOLUTIONS: NONE						

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT TIME LIMIT

Hearing of citizens during the Public Comment section of the Agenda is an opportunity for any member of the public to be heard about issues which are and are not topics scheduled for Public Hearing tonight. To help facilitate an orderly meeting, and to permit all to be heard, speakers are asked to limit their comments to a reasonable length of time.

Mayor Yates asked if any member of the public wished to be heard.

1. John Kirby, 1 Shadowbrook Lane – commented on behalf of his neighbors and his parents regarding the recent tax assessments and the increase to the taxes, it was brought to his attention, that many people feel they are not receiving any answers to many questions and feel they are receiving the runaround. Mr. Kirby commented he is here this evening to see if there is any planning for a meeting for people who have concerns. For general consensus, they are mostly elderly and everyone is concerned. The majority of the residents, there taxes went up.

Mayor Yates reported as he indicated on the telephone today with one of your neighbors, Mr. DaSilva, there have been multiple meetings, our tax attorney and tax assessor were at the meetings, and the Township has answered questions for those who say they received the runaround is not accurate. Mr. Kirby commented due to the virus they could not attend as they are in their eighties. Mayor Yates explained these meetings were all previrus. There was a meeting that was scheduled in March 2020 with the Appraisal Company, but due to the virus and the Governor's Executive Orders, this was all shut down. Mayor Yates commented that the Township has been waiting for the lifting of the prohibition on public meetings to schedule another session with the Appraisal Company to come back and answer questions. The Appraisal Company has answered a lot of questions to date, as has our staff. Mayor Yates explained, this was discussed at multiple Township Committee meetings, letters went out, but if there are still lingering questions, we can certainly schedule something as soon as the Governor lifts the Executive Order on meetings, so our elderly residents and residents can come in person. Mr. Kirby thanked Mayor Yates for his affirmation of this.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

ORDINANCE #10-2020 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING AMENDING CHAPTER 7 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING, SPECIFICALLY §7-31 ENTITLED "POLICE DEPARTMENT"

Mayor Yates asked Township Committee Member Jones to read Ordinance TC #10-2020.

Township Committee Member Jones read Ordinance TC 10-2020 by title as follows

TOWNSHIP OF HARDING ORDINANCE #10-2020

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING AMENDING CHAPTER 7 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING, SPECIFICALLY §7-31 ENTITLED "POLICE DEPARTMENT"

Which said Ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at a regular Township Committee Meeting held on September 14, 2020.

Mayor Yates asked the Municipal Clerk to give a summary of the legal notice.

The Municipal Clerk States: Mrs. Sharp reported that a legal notice was sent for publication on September 14, 2020 to the Observer Tribune indicating that Ordinance #10-2020 was introduced and passed on first reading at the September 14, 2020 meeting and indicated that the second reading and public hearing were to be held on October 19, 2020 at 7:30 pm on or at any time thereafter for consideration of final adoption. Copies of this Ordinance were made available to the general public, posted on the Township website, and posted in accordance with the law.

Mayor Yates: The meeting is now open for public hearing on the Ordinance and any member of the public may be heard.

Mayor Yates: With no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

Township Committee Member Jones offered Ordinance #10-2020 and moved its adoption.

BE IT RESOLVED, that this Ordinance was read by title on second reading, after the public hearing at this meeting, be adopted and finally passed.

Township Committee Member DiTosto seconded the motion.

Mayor Yates asked the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:

Vote on Adoption:

	MOTION	FOR Approval	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. DiTosto Mr. Jones Mr. Modi Mr. Platt Mr. Yates	2 nd 1 st	AFFROVAL S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S			

ORDINANCE #11-2020 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AT 163 LEE'S HILL ROAD

Mayor Yates asked Township Committee Member Jones to read Ordinance TC #11-2020.

Township Committee Member Jones reads Ordinance TC #11-2020 by title as follows

TOWNSHIP OF HARDING ORDINANCE #11-2020

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AT 163 LEE'S HILL ROAD

Which said Ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at a regular Township Committee Meeting held on September 14, 2020.

Mayor Yates asked the Municipal Clerk to give a summary of the legal notice. P 10-19-2020

The Municipal Clerk States: Mrs. Sharp reported a legal notice was sent for publication on September 14, 2020 to the Observer Tribune indicating that Ordinance #11-2020 was introduced and passed on first reading at the September 14, 2020 meeting and indicated that the second reading and public hearing were to be held on October 19, 2020 at 7:30 pm on or at any time thereafter for consideration of final adoption. Copies of this Ordinance were made available to the general public, posted on the Township website, and posted in accordance with the law.

Mayor Yates opened the public meeting at 9:05 and mentioned any member of the public may be heard.

- 1. Louis Lanzerotti, 6 Brook Drive N. commented that he supports this purchase of this property, it is a wise thing to do, and in the context to this location is a future benefit to Harding residents.
- 2. Vincent DaSilva, 2 Forest Hill Drive commented why the Township is purchasing this property. What is the purpose of keeping it and having it? Township Committee Member Jones reported this is a five acre parcel that sits along Lee's Hill Road, along Primrose Brook. The property will provide direct access to the Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge. It will be another point of access for the Great Swamp. The Great Swamp acquired the 88 acres that is adjacent to this which was preserved in the late 1980's as a mitigation for Prudential Insurance. The Township met with the Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge, there is a trail called the White Oak Trail which will extend into the 88 acres, then extend out to Lee's Hill Road. Mr. DaSilva commented why the Township is getting in the real estate business, we already own a lot of property in town. Mr. DaSilva commented he has to pay more taxes because the Township wants to go into the Real Estate business. Why doesn't the State buy it? Township Committee Member Platt explained because there were several referendums over the years The referendums passed that asked Harding residents whether they believed in Open Space. overwhelmingly. A lively discussion ensued. Mr. DaSilva commented he objects to the open space and does not believe the Township should purchase this property, and maybe the open space tax should be reduced.
- 3. Chris Allyn, Lake Trail W. commented is the expense for this property coming from Open Space Trust Fund. Mayor Yates reported it is coming from the Open Space Trust.
- 4. Louis Lanzerotti, 6 Brook Drive N. commented that we have a five acre piece of vacant property that we hold in Harding for some time because Mr. Lanzerotti likes to support open space and likes to support private ownership of open space. The taxes on the property doubled due to the reassessment and Mr. Lanzerotti is still in favor of the purchase of this property.

Township Committee Member DiTosto -- commented on the house. At the moment the Township takes possession of the property, the house will be demolished. Mr. Falzarano reported that is correct. Mrs. DiTosto commented what assurances are there when the Township takes possession of the property that there is nothing standing in the way that will prevent the demolition of the house. Mr. Roselli, Township Attorney, commented it will be the Township's property, it is not historic, there is nothing known that would preclude the Township from demolition of the house. Township Committee Member Jones commented that the deed that is being prepared for this transaction will have no mention of the structures other than they will be removed. Mr. Roselli commented from the

information that the Township has right now, there is nothing that would prevent the house from being demolished.

Mayor Yates closed the public hearing at 9:16 pm.

Township Committee Member Jones: I offer Ordinance #11-2020 and move its adoption.

BE IT RESOLVED, that this Ordinance was read by title on second reading, after the public hearing at this meeting, be adopted and finally passed.

Township Committee Member Platt seconded the motion.

Mayor Yates asks the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call:

Vote on Adoption:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. DiTosto Mr. Jones Mr. Modi Mr. Platt Mr. Yates	1 st 2 nd				

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AND VOTE: NONE

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items are considered to be routine by the Harding Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Township Committee Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.

RESOLUTIONS TC 20-145 THROUGH RESOLUTION TC 20-151 HAVE BEEN PLACED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE:

Mayor Yates asked Committee Member Jones to proceed with the Resolutions listed on the Consent agenda. Resolutions TC 20-145 through TC 20-151.

Committee Member Jones made a motion to approve the resolutions placed on this evening's Consent Agenda by consent of the Township Committee. Seconded by Township Committee Member Platt.

Mayor Yates asked the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:

Vote on Resolution:

P 10-19-2020

	MOTION	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. DiTosto Mr. Jones Mr. Modi Mr. Platt Mr. Yates	1 st 2 nd	APPROVAL S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S	APPROVAL		

CONTRACTS:

Resolution TC 20-145 – Resolution to Award A Contract for Animal Control Services Between Animal Control Solutions LLC and The Township of Harding

WHEREAS, the Township of Harding has a need to award a contract for Animal Control Services commencing on January 1, 2021, and ending on January 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Township is permitted to acquire such services through a "non-fair and open" process (as defined by N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4), meaning that the award is made by the Township Committee in its judgment of which provider will best serve the interests of the citizens of Harding, and not by a "fair and open" process (as defined by N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4) such as awarding to the lowest bidder; and

WHEREAS, the cost of this contract is not anticipated to exceed \$17,500.00, as certified in writing by the Township Purchasing Agent; and

WHEREAS, Animal Control Solutions, 2 Marshall Drive, Flemington, New Jersey 08822 has submitted a proposal and the Board of Health accepted this proposal at their September 10, 2020 regular meeting; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Health accepted the proposal for a two year period, plus one, one-year extension at the same price and terms and conditions as the original contract; and

WHEREAS, the annual contract amount is not to exceed \$9,600.00 in 2021, \$9,600.00 in 2022, and \$9,600.00 in 2023; and

WHEREAS, Animal Control Solutions, LLC has completed and submitted the required Business Entity Disclosure Certification; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose and a Certificate of Availability has been filed by the Chief Financial Officer with the Municipal Clerk in accordance with the Local Budget Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-57 and N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.2.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Animal Control Solutions, LLC, pursuant to the filed proposal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this contract will be published as required by law within ten days of the passage of this Resolution.

FINANCE:

Resolution TC 20-146-Bill List

WHEREAS, vouchers for payment have been submitted to the Township Committee by various municipal departments.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding that all vouchers approved by the Finance Chairman be paid subject to the certification of the availability of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.

Resolution TC 20-147 – Alcohol Beverage Control License

WHEREAS, the applicant for Alcoholic Beverage Control License set forth below has been duly investigated; and

WHEREAS, the Harding Township Committee is satisfied that all the rules and regulations of the Alcoholic Beverage Law, Title 33, Chapter 1 of the Revised Statutes of New Jersey, 1937, as amended and supplemented, including P.L. 1970, Ch. 77, have been duly complied with.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, that the Harding Township Committee hereby agrees to issue to the following applicant, the following permanent license under the aforesaid State Statutes for the following annual fee, said license to commence *July 1, 2020*, and to expire at midnight on *June 30, 2021* upon clearance of the fee to the Harding Township Treasurer's Account.

PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE:

Applicant:

KA LEE Enterprises LLC
T/A Market Tavern
Plenary Retail Consumption License
No. 1413-33-001-010

ADDRESS:

995Mount Kemble Avenue Morristown, NJ FEE:

\$2,500.00

Resolution TC 20-148 – Approval of Best Practice Inventory 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey that the Township Committee, having reviewed the contents in a public meeting, hereby approves of the completed CY 2020 Best Practice Inventory as prepared and certified by the Municipal Clerk, Lisa A. Sharp and the Chief Financial Officer.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Resolution TC 20-149 - Resolution to Adopt the 2020 Morris County Mitigation Plan

WHEREAS, all jurisdictions within Morris County have exposure to hazards that increase the risk to life, property, environment, and the County and local economy; and

WHEREAS; pro-active mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property; and

WHEREAS, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) established new requirements for pre and post disaster hazard mitigation programs; and

WHEREAS; a coalition of Morris County municipalities with like planning objectives has been formed to pool resources and create consistent mitigation strategies within Morris County; and

WHEREAS, the coalition has completed a planning process that engages the public, assesses the risk and vulnerability to the impacts of natural hazards, develops a mitigation strategy consistent with a set of uniform goals and objectives, and creates a plan for implementing, evaluating and revising this strategy;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Harding:

- 1) Adopts in its entirety, the 2020 Morris County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (the "Plan") as the jurisdiction's Hazard Mitigation Plan and resolves to execute the actions identified in the Plan that pertain to this jurisdiction.
- 2) Will use the adopted and approved portions of the Plan to guide pre- and post-disaster mitigation of the hazards identified.
- 3) Will coordinate the strategies identified in the Plan with other planning programs and mechanisms under its jurisdictional authority.
- 4) Will continue its support of the Mitigation Planning Committee as described within the Plan.
- 5) Will help to promote and support the mitigation successes of all participants in this Plan.
- 6) Will incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of government and partner operations.
- 7) Will provide an update of the Plan in conjunction with the County no less than every five years.

PERSONNEL:

Resolution TC 20-150 – Resolution to Accept the Resignation of D.G.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding accepts the resignation of D.G. effective December 31, 2020.

Resolution TC 20-151 - Appointment of a Department of Public Works Laborer/Driver

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey that effective November 2, 2020, Nicholas Papa, is hereby appointed as a full time Public Works Laborer/Driver for the Department of Public Works. The probationary salary is \$38,000.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, upon completion of the probationary period of six months, the annual salary will be \$40,000.00.

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE #12-2020 – "AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARY RANGES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING INTHE COUNTY OF MORRIS AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY"

Mayor Yates asked Township Committee Member Modi to introduce Ordinance TC #12-2020.

Township Committee Member Modi introduces Ordinance TC #12-2020 by title as follows:

TOWNSHIP OF HARDING ORDINANCE 12-2020

"AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARY RANGES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING INTHE COUNTY OF MORRIS AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY"

Township Committee Member Modi explained the purpose of the Ordinance and moves for introduction on first reading. Mr. Modi explained that this ordinance set the salary ranges for all employee titles for 2021. Mr. Falzarano commented the ordinance sets the salary ranges for all employees, it does not set the salaries of the employees, this will be done after the second reading of the ordinance by resolution.

Township Committee Member Modi read:

WHEREAS, the above ordinance was introduced and read by title at this Township Committee meeting held on October 19, 2020.

BE IT RESOLVED, that at the Township Committee meeting to be held on November 9, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. prevailing time, at the Kirby Municipal Building, the Township Committee will further consider this ordinance for a second reading, public hearing, and final passage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk is hereby requested to publish the proper notice thereof, including this ordinance, post the ordinance, and make copies available to members of the general public.

Township Committee Member Modi offered Ordinance #12-2020 and moved its introduction.

Township Committee Member DiTosto seconded the motion.

Mayor Yates asked the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:

Vote on Introduction:

	MOTION	FOR Approval	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. DiTosto Mr. Jones Mr. Modi Mr. Platt Mr. Yates	2 nd 1 st				

ADJOURNMENT - Mr. Yates

Mayor Yates made a motion to adjourn and with all members in unanimous agreement, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Sharp Municipal Clerk