

**HARDING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021**  
**IN-PERSON ONLY**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION at 5:30 PM**  
**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA at 7:00 PM**  
**Kirby Hall, Blue Mill Road, New Vernon, New Jersey**

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**CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Mayor Jones**

*Mayor Jones called the October 18, 2021, meeting of the Township Committee to order at 5:32 pm.*

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**ADEQUATE NOTICE** of this October 18, 2021 meeting of the Harding Township Committee was sent to the Observer Tribune on September 14, 2021 and published in the Observer Tribune on September 16, 2021.

*Mayor Jones announced adequate notice of the October 18, 2021 meeting of the Harding Township Committee was published in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.*

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**ROLL CALL – Municipal Clerk**

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

*Mayor Jones asked for a roll call. Mrs. Sharp called the roll. Let the record show that all members of the Harding Township Committee are present.*

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**RESOLUTION TO RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Mayor Jones asked for a motion to recess into executive session. Upon a motion made by Township Committee Member Yates, seconded by Township Committee Member Platt, and with a roll call vote of all ayes, none opposed, the meeting recessed at 6:32 pm.*

**Resolution TC 21-173– Resolution to Recess into Executive Session**

**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 Sale – R. Goldsmith
2. Property Acquisitions – M. Roselli
3. PBA Contract – R. Falzarano
4. Affordable Housing L&T – R. Falzarano

**Personnel:**

1. 2022 Employee Salaries – R. Falzarano

**Vote on Resolution:**

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Chipperson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. DiTosto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	2nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	1 <sup>st</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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**RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION – Mayor Jones**

*Mayor Jones asked for a motion to reconvene into public session. Upon a motion made by Township Committee Member Platt and seconded by Township Committee Member DiTosto, and with a vote of all ayes, none opposed, the public meeting reconvened at 7:30 pm.*

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**ROLL CALL – Municipal Clerk**

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

*Mrs. Sharp called the roll. All Township Committee members were present. Let the record show there were about 18 members of the public present.*

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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Jones**

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

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**ADEQUATE NOTICE** of this meeting of the Harding Township Committee was given as follows: Notice was sent to the *DAILY RECORD* and the *OBSERVER TRIBUNE* on September 14, 2021, and published in the *OBSERVER TRIBUNE* on September 16, 2021; Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board in the Township Municipal Building on Blue Mill Road in Harding, NJ on September 14, 2021, and Notice was filed with the Municipal Clerk on September 14, 2021.

*Mayor Jones announced adequate notice of the October 18, 2021 Township Committee meeting was published in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.*

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**RESOLUTION TC 21-174 – RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Mayor Jones** asked Township Committee Member Yates to proceed with Resolution TC 21-174 listed on the Non-Consent agenda.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding that the minutes from the following meeting(s) are approved as prepared and shall be filed as a permanent record in the Municipal Clerk's office: **September 13, 2021**

**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 13, 2021**

*Mayor Jones asked for a motion to accept the Township Committee meeting minutes. Township Committee Member Yates made a motion, seconded by Township Committee Member Platt.*

**Mayor Jones** 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. Chipperson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. DiTosto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	1 <sup>st</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

**Glen Alpin** -- *Mayor Jones explained that on October 6, 2021, the Morris County Commissioners passed a resolution to accept the termination of the 30 year easement of Glen Alpin in favor of permanent easement. The resolution states at the time of sale, the Township must pay the County \$305,600 from the proceeds of the Glen Alpin property. Mayor Jones explained this was the last piece of the puzzle for the diversion/disposal of Glen Alpin. Now, the Township is conducting their due diligence for this property. A question was asked what can be done with the building. Mayor Jones commented that the property has been unencumbered so it can now be sold, leased or find a person to restore it. A discussion ensued.*

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**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**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/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.

**Mr. Steve Balog, resident** – *commented where 528 Van Beuren is. Mayor Jones responded when you come from Blue Mill Road you will go over the narrow bridge and 528 Van Beuren is the second lot on the right. This property is currently under contract with the Township of Harding and the property is about 8 acres and is part of the Great Brook Greenway.*

*With no further comments, Mayor Jones closed the public comment at 7:10 pm.*

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**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**



## **1. Fox & Coyote Ordinance – N. Platt**

**Township Committee Member Platt** -- read a prepared statement on the trapping ordinance which passed in 2018 with a vote of 5 to 0 and is scheduled to expire December 31, 2021. Mr. Platt asked Dr. DeVito, Manager, Science & Stewardship for the NJ Conservation Foundation to attend and provide a few brief remarks, as well as Dr. Joseph Cervone, and Mr. Hugh Symonds.

**Dr. Emile DeVito, NJ Conservation Foundation** – commented he has been working in the forest in New Jersey since the late 1970's. Mr. DeVito explained that the amount of black legged ticks, which are the ticks you get Lyme disease from, and deer ticks have exploded since the 70's. Some research has proven that if you can have medium sized predators that prey on these small mammals or just by having their presence their scent makes small mammals more cautious and spend less time roaming around outside of their safe havens and their tunnels underground, you are less likely to have the larval ticks spread so widely across the landscape. It is important to know while the large adult ticks feed on large mammals, such as deer, dogs, raccoons, and possums, the larval ticks the eggs drop to the ground and the larval ticks have to be picked up by small mammals. Here is where the small mammal, such as the mouse can transmit the Lyme disease bacterium into the tick. If you can reduce the amount of small mammals, you can reduce the chance of people coming in contact with these infected ticks and reduce the chance of getting Lyme disease. Anything you can do to have predators roaming around is helpful. It cannot eliminate the problem, but will be helpful. It is a good idea to have a good population of coyote and fox. Mr. DeVito mentioned that the grey fox is declining seriously. It cannot be placed on the threatened and endangered list because it is run by the NJ Fish & Game Council. A discussion ensued regarding the above and predators.

Township Committee Member Chippers – asked if Mr. DeVito knew why they do not allow trapping in the Great Swamp. Mr. DeVito responded it is a National Wildlife Refuge and their policy is to try and act like a reservoir for source populations of species.

**Township Committee Member Platt** -- commented that this ordinance only covers trapping, it does not mean that you cannot shoot or relocate problem animals that may go after a resident's poultry or livestock. This is not a ban on hunting fox and coyote, it is a ban on trapping which is indiscriminate, takes other mammals, and this ordinance is meant to protect mammals and predators so the incidents of Lyme disease can be reduced.

**Dr. Joseph Cervone, BOH Chair and resident** – commented he is a practicing doctor of internal medicine for over 30 years at the RW St. Barnabus Medical Center. Dr. Cervone mentioned he is on the faculty of Rutgers's NJ Medical School. Dr. Cervone would like to speak this evening on why we are concerned about this from a public health standpoint. Dr. Cervone's greatest concern as the Board of Health is that we are worried this is a public health issue. No one would advocate in this room that we should increase the population of mice in the Township. Vermin are disease carrying. The tick that is carried on these mice, carry more than one disease, which can cause significant illness. They can be treated, but some can carry lifelong debility. That one tick can carry several different illnesses. The Carey Institute, who has conducted some research on this, they isolated sometimes over 50 ticks feeding on one of these white footed mouse that carries the disease. It does not affect the health of the mouse, the mouse carries it around, continues to forage for food, and reproduce. They are out on the range and they can drop these ticks so they can be picked up by a human or deer. The more rodents there are, the more infected ticks there are. If the medium size predators are removed, the population of the mice will increase. If the Township allows the ordinance to lapse, there will be an increase in the mouse population and every one of the mice will carry a disease. As Dr. DeVito stated, the mere presence of these predators, reduces the activity of the population; they are not out foraging as much, not looking for food, they are remaining in their dens. There is a secondary affect to having a fox population.

**Hugh Symonds, Environmental Commission Chair** – *commented that the Environmental Commission worked on the 2018 Ordinance, had a discussion in September 2021, and in October 2021 had a long discussion amongst the EC members and with Mr. DeVito on the aspects of the ecosystem and the balances that we want to maintain. After that discussion, the Environmental Commission unanimously agreed on a resolution and Mr. Symonds read the resolution from the Environmental Commission in its entirety. A copy is appended to these minutes.*

*A lengthy discussion ensued between the following members of the public and the Township Committee Members: Dr. Joseph Cervone, Dr. Emile DeVito, Mr. Alf Newlin, Mr. Richard Clew, Mr. Gerry Scully, Dr. Nicole Lacz, Mr. Hugh Symonds, Mayor Jones, Township Committee Members: Platt, Yates, Chipperson, and DiTosto, and Mr. Roselli, Township Attorney. After that discussion it was recommended that Mr. Roselli review the current ordinance and draft an ordinance for introduction at the November 8, 2021 Township Committee meeting.*

## **2. Best Practices – A. Fiore**

*Mr. Fiore reported that the Best Practice Inventory for 2021 is an annual assessment of each Municipality's compliance with various laws. It evaluates the implementation of fiscal operations of best practices. This inventory can be used to withhold State Aid from each Municipality depending on the results of the survey. There were 48 questions this year, 21 of which are not scored and are informational only. This year the minimum score to receive 100 percent of the aid was 15 and Harding Township scored a 22 out of a possible 23 points.*

*Township Committee Member Yates asked where the Township did not receive a score. Mr. Fiore responded -- on question #9 which is regarding the Township's Insurance Broker being procured through a competitive contract or sealed bid. The Township does it through contract. The second question was #27 which is "have public vehicle charging stations been installed on Municipal property. The Township has not as of yet. Each question was ½ point.*

*Mayor Jones thanked Mr. Fiore and commented that the inventory will be posted on the website if any resident is interested in reviewing it.*

## **3. Part-Time Employee Scheduling – R. Falzarano**

*Mr. Falzarano explained that the Township is preparing the Salary Ordinance, Salary schedule, and personnel manual all for the approval of the Township Committee. With this, the Township Committee has discussed regular scheduled hours for part-time personnel. Right now, the Township has two (2) employees that are part-time and the question is does the Township want to follow what has been done with other part-time personnel and establish work hours during regularly scheduled business hours at the Municipal Building.. The consensus of the Township Committee was yes. Mr. Falzarano will speak with both part-time employees and report back to the Township Committee.*

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**ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING: NONE**

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**ADD-ON RESOLUTIONS: NONE**

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**RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AND VOTE**



*Mrs. DiTosto asked for Resolution TC 21-179 to be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.*

*Mrs. DiTosto commented as she understands this resolution is to approve another \$100,000 to L&T to defray additional costs. Mrs. DiTosto stated she does not support this resolution giving L&T Affordable Housing Urban Renewal Corporation an additional \$100,000. A discussion ensued.*

**Resolution TC 21-179 – Resolution of the Township Committee Authorizing an Amendment to Contract for Sale of Real Estate and Contribution Agreement with L&T Affordable Housing Urban Renewal Corporation in Connection with the Construction of Four-Unit Affordable Housing Residence and Other Related Improvements to be Constructed at the Farm**

**WHEREAS**, on June 8, 2020, the Township of Harding (the “Township”) and L & T Affordable Housing Urban Renewal Corporation ( hereinafter “L & T”) entered into a Contract for Sale of Real Estate for the sale and purchase (the “Contract”) of Township property known as The Farm at Harding and located at 700 Woodland Avenue, Tax Block 2, Lot 16, in Harding, New Jersey (the “Property”), as authorized by Ordinance No. 15-2019 of the Township, which was duly adopted at a public meeting held on December 9, 2019, in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, a condition precedent to L&T’s obligation to close and accept title to the Property was that the Township was to make a financial contribution of Three Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$325,000.00) to L&T (the “Contribution”), in connection with the future construction of a building on the Property containing two affordable housing units that the Township was required to provide as part of its settlement with Fair Share Housing; and

**WHEREAS**, L&T received approval from the Harding Township Planning Board for the construction of a building containing four affordable housing units and a building to be used as an office for the management of the five (5) existing buildings and newly constructed building; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township and L & T memorialized the terms and conditions of disbursement of the Contribution in a certain Contribution Agreement dated as of November 30, 2020 (the “Contribution Agreement”), that included a payment schedule that reflected the terms and conditions of the \$325,000.00 financial contribution from the Township, which included five payments totaling \$325,000.00 in varying amounts to L & T upon it reaching certain conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the unexpected and unprecedented increase in the cost of building materials and other related items, L & T requested that the Township increase the contribution amount by an additional \$100,000.00, for a total financial contribution amount of \$425,000.00, with all other terms and conditions of the Contract that remain in effect post-closing and the Contribution Agreement, remaining in full force and effect; and

**WHEREAS**, in light of this being an affordable housing project that is being constructed on behalf of Harding Township pursuant to the Township’s agreement of sale with L & T, the Township Committee has agreed to increase the contribution amount under the Contract to \$425,000.00 and to reflect the additional amount by increasing each of the five payments set forth in paragraph 1 of the Contribution Agreement by \$20,000.00, thereby amending each agreement in accordance with the terms hereof.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of Harding Township, Morris County, New Jersey, that the foregoing background recited above is incorporated herein by reference and the Township Committee does hereby agree to amend the Contract for Sale of Real Estate by increasing the financial contribution amount set forth in paragraph 13 (b) from \$325,000.00 to \$425,000.00 and to amend paragraph 1 of the Contribution Agreement by increasing each of the five payments required thereunder by \$20,000.00, as follows:

1. **Payment Schedule.** The Township shall pay, directly to L&T the following sums at the following times:

a.	Issuance of Building Permit by the Township of Harding:	\$	85,000.00
b.	At the time that work is 25% complete:	\$	85,000.00
c.	At the time that work is 50% complete:	\$	85,000.00
d.	At the time that work is 80% complete:	\$	133,750.00
e.	Issuance of final certificate of occupancy by Township	\$	36,250.00

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Contract for Sale of Real Estate and Contribution Agreement referenced herein shall be deemed amended in accordance with the terms of this Resolution.

*Township Committee Member Yates made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Township Committee Member Chipperson.*

**Mayor Jones** 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. Chipperson	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. DiTosto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	1 <sup>st</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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 21-175 THROUGH RESOLUTION TC 21-180 HAVE BEEN PLACED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**CONSENT AGENDA VOTE:**

**Mayor Jones** asked Township Committee Member DiTosto to proceed with the Resolutions listed on the Consent agenda. Resolutions TC 21-175 through TC 21-180. *Let the record show that Township Committee Member DiTosto asked for Resolution TC 21-179 to be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion.*



*Township Committee Member DiTosto made a motion to approve the resolutions placed on this evening's Consent Agenda by consent of the Township Committee, minus Resolution TC 21-179 which was removed for separate discussion. Seconded by Township Committee Member Yates.*

**Mayor Jones** 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. Chipperson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. DiTosto	1 <sup>st</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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**APPOINTMENTS: NONE**

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**CONTRACTS:**

**Resolution TC 21-175 – Resolution to Authorize an Increase Not to Exceed Amount From Co-Op Contract Vendor**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Harding, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40 A: 11-12a and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29(c), may by resolution and without advertising for bids, purchase any goods or services under the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program, the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council, Union County Cooperative Purchasing and the National Cooperative – WSCA-NASPO to purchase goods or services, the Somerset County Cooperative Pricing System and the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission Cooperative Pricing System for any State or County contracts entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the Treasury, the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council, the Somerset County Cooperative Pricing System and the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission Cooperative Pricing System as approved by TC Resolution #21-048; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Harding has to purchase additional asphalt and paving materials from Weldon Materials in the amount not to exceed \$40,000; and

**WHEREAS**, Weldon Materials has provided pricing through the Union County Cooperative Purchasing contract #UCCP-22-2020.

**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 of Harding authorizes the Purchasing Agent to purchase certain goods or services from Union County Cooperative Purchasing pursuant to all conditions of the individual State, Morris County, Somerset County and Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission Cooperative Pricing System Cooperative contracts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Governing Body of the Township of Harding pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.5(b), the certification of available funds, shall either certify the full maximum amount against the budget at the time the contract is awarded, or no contract amount shall be chargeable or certified until such time as the goods or services are ordered or



otherwise called for prior to placing the order, and a certification of availability of funds is made by the Chief Financial Officer; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the duration of the contracts between the Township of Harding and the Union County Cooperative Purchasing vendors shall be from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

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**FINANCE:**

**Resolution TC 21-176 – 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.

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**Resolution TC 21-177 – Resolution to Authorize an Increase to the Professional Services Contract for Plosia Cohen, LLC**

**WHEREAS**, at the September 13, 2021, Township Committee meeting, the Township Committee authorized \$5,000.00 for the services of Plosia Cohen, LLC under their professional services contract; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to increase the authorization for the services of Plosia Cohen LLC, under their professional services contract in the field of labor matters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer for the Township of Harding has certified that additional monies are available in the amount of \$10,000.00 from account number #01-2021-1155-0155-2-00000; and

**WHEREAS**, the total amount shall not exceed \$15,000.00.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey that the following contract is hereby awarded for the remainder of 2021:

Special Labor Counsel	Plosia Cohen, LLC	9/13/2021 to 12/31/2021
	Chester Woods Complex	Not to Exceed \$15,000.00
	385 Route 24, Suite 3G	01-2021-1155-0155-2-00000
	Chester, NJ 07930	

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all Township employees are hereby authorized and directed to take all action necessary and appropriate to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

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**Resolution TC 21-178 – Resolution to Authorize Long Hill Township as Signatory on Bank Account**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Harding has entered into a Shared Services Agreement for Municipal Court services with Long Hill Township Municipal Court commencing on January 1, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to authorize Ann Naylor, Long Hill Township Municipal Court Administrator as signatory on two Harding Township bank accounts (Bail & Magistrate).

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Committee of the Township of Harding, County of Morris, State of New Jersey authorizes Ann Naylor, Court Administrator of the Long Hill Township Municipal Court to be signatory on Harding Township's two bank accounts.

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**MISCELLANEOUS:**

**Resolution TC 21-180 – Approval of Best Practice Inventory 2021**

**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 2021 Best Practice Inventory as prepared and certified by the Municipal Clerk, Lisa A. Sharp and the Chief Financial Officer.

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**ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING**

**ORDINANCE #12-2021 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY FROM CATHERINE B. APPLETON**

**Mayor Jones** asked Township Committee Member Yates to introduce Ordinance #12-2021. *Let the record show that Mrs. DiTosto recused herself from this ordinance.*

*Township Committee Member Yates introduced Ordinance #12-2021 by title as follows:*

**HARDING TOWNSHIP  
ORDINANCE #12-2021**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING, COUNTY OF  
MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF  
CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY FROM CATHERINE B. APPLETON**

*Township Committee Member Yates read:*

**WHEREAS**, the above ordinance was introduced and read by title at this Township Committee meeting held on October 18, 2021.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that at the Township Committee meeting to be held on November 8, 2021 at 7:00 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 Yates offered Ordinance #12-2021 and moved its introduction, seconded by Township Committee Platt.*

**Mayor Jones** 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. Chipperson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. DiTosto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	1 <sup>st</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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*Let the record show that Mrs. DiTosto returned to the meeting at 9:52 pm. Due to timing constraints, the Township Committee will not adjourn into Executive Session.*

**RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Resolution TC 21-181– Resolution to Adjourn into Executive Session**

**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 not return to public session after this Executive Session.

**Attorney Client Privilege:**

1. James Plosia

**Vote on Resolution:** *DID NOT GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION*

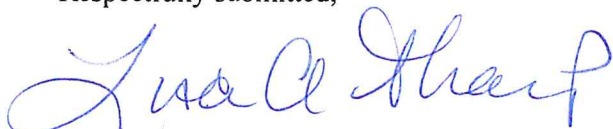
	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Chipperson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. DiTosto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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**ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Jones**

With no further comments or business, Mayor Jones asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion made by Township Committee Member Yates, seconded by Township Committee Member Platt, and with a vote of all ayes, none opposed, the meeting adjourned at 9:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lisa A. Sharp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and last name "Sharp" clearly legible.

Lisa A. Sharp  
Municipal Clerk



Thank you Mayor.

Let me run through the facts relating to the trapping ordinance that was passed by a vote of 5 to 0 in 2018 and is scheduled to expire December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year.

- 1) Much of what I will be reviewing with your tonight was thoroughly examined in 2018 when 4 of the members of the Committee tonight voted for it.
- 2) Tonight the focus will be on making this ordinance perpetual so every 3 years we do not have to renew it. I have asked Dr. Emile DeVito, the Manager of Science and Stewardship for the New Jersey Conservation Foundation to provide some brief remarks and answer any questions. Dr. DeVito has helped us over the last decade on matters associated with our out of control deer population and issues relating to our flora and fauna.
- 3) Like we did in 2018 we gathered as much scientific and medical data as we could from both the state and county. We also reached out to researchers that have done studies locally for data that would be relevant to Harding Township's unique location being located next to a 7,800 acre National Wildlife Preserve and not sandwiched between other towns with major highways and throughfares that would automatically cordon off the migration of wildlife to our residential neighborhoods. Interstate 287 provides a barrier to much of Harding from critter's living in the 1,500 acre Jockey Hollow Park preserve.
- 4) We will also be hearing from Joe Cervone, MD who specializes in internal medicine at Saint Barnabas Medical Center and is the Chairman of Harding's Board of Health and Hugh Symonds, the Chairman of the Environmental Committee where this topic has been thoroughly discuss.
- 5) I also want to mention, that in the 12 years I have sat up here I do not remember an ordinance where two of our Committees (The Board of Health and the Environmental Committee) have passed a Resolution by a unanimous vote requesting the Township Committee approve this ordinance. That should carry a great deal of weight since these are Committees this Governing body appointed from a pool of well qualified volunteers to specifically review best practices on keeping our residents safe and living in a healthy environment. This ordinance you will see does that and more.

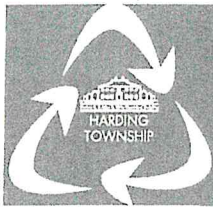
- 6) Lastly, this is an ordinance specifically banning the trapping of these important predatory animals for reasons of public health. A nuisance or problem animal can still be shot. This ban does not create a hardship to any farmer or poultry owner. We set up a weblink in 2018 that provided livestock owners plans for enclosures that will protect livestock. Wild animals still have not evolved to the point where they can open a door or chew through wire.

Dr. Tammy Windfielder, a Drew University Ecologist who said that accuracy of any recent studies would be affected by this being an acorn year. Since mice reproduce at remarkable rates a few months can make a difference if the food supply is at a full time high. We have enough evidence already that we have an enormous population of white footed mice without having to do the study when we know the numbers are going to be uncommonly high.

The evidence proving that a fox and coyote has a dramatic impact on the incidents of Lyme Disease is not anecdotal. It is a fact and there no research I have been able to uncover that disputes the role these predators play in reducing the chances of a mouse infected with the Lyme bacterium from coming into contact with a tick. Whether it is by actually feeding on them or keeping them in their dens by their mere presence in our community. Either way, Lyme disease is preventable. We should do whatever possible to reduce the chances of anyone who lives or visits our town from coming down with this sometimes lifetime debilitating disease.

Nicolas Platt





# Harding Township Environmental Commission



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION RESOLUTION ON ANIMAL TRAPPING

REFERENCE: REGULAR Meeting Oct. 6, 2021

Whereas, there is significant scientific evidence showing that so-called keystone predators play an essential, top-down role in maintaining a healthy balance in an ecology both by consuming herbivore or rodent prey and by altering prey behavior resulting in the beneficial control and distribution of large numbers of prey species. The white footed mouse a carrier of ticks is a common prey species.

Whereas, New Jersey ecologists have noted that Coyotes play “an important ecological role in New Jersey by partially filling the niche [1]” created by the extirpation of gray wolves, formerly one of the keystone predators in New Jersey. Coyotes “prey upon small mammals (i.e. rodents and rabbits), helping to suppress populations in both agricultural and residential settings.” (ibid).

Whereas, the Environmental Commission heard from Dr. Emile DeVito, a respected New Jersey professional ecologist who is very familiar with

Harding ecology and who substantiated in detail and with examples that:

1) Coyotes do at a minimum partially play the role of a keystone predator in Harding, and 2) both Coyotes and Fox play an important and beneficial predator role in Harding's ecosystem.

Whereas, during his presentation Dr. DeVito noted that there has been a significant increase in the white footed mouse population and attributed this increase to the decrease in the predator population. Therefore, supporting the coyote and fox population is a step toward restoring a balanced ecosystem with a lower rodent population and a corresponding reduced risk of lyme disease in human and animal populations.

Whereas, the Harding Township Environmental Commission had discussion and factfinding over the course of two monthly meetings and voted at the Oct. 6, 2021 regular Meeting with no dissents to support the current ban on trapping in the Township.

Now, therefore be it resolved by the Harding Township Environmental Commission to pass on the to the Harding Township Committee that the ordinance prohibiting animal trapping within the Township, with limited exceptions be made permanent. The facts behind this resolution are as follows.

1) Keystone predators play a critical role in a healthy ecology. In New Jersey, Fox and coyotes comprise a keystone predator position not filled by other species. Rodents, including white footed mouse, are a common prey of these predators.



2) Rodents are a source of infectious bacteria transmitted by ticks causing lyme disease in humans. Reduction in the overpopulation of rodents is a benefit to public health over the long term.

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/e367/>

### Members Present Oct. 6, 2021:

Hugh Symonds, Chair

James Novotny, Vice Chair

Kate Barry

Richard Clew

Alf Newlin

### Excused:

Brenda Catalanello

William Seifert

### Absent:

Christina Juliano

Lisa Welsh