

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 25, 2014 MINUTES**

The Tewksbury Township Committee met in a work session on the above date at the Municipal Building, Mountainville, NJ.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM, roll call held and a quorum established. Mayor Shaun Van Doren presided.

Other officials in attendance were Township Committee members Dana Desiderio, Louis DiMare, Peter Melick and William Voyce.

Jesse Landon, Township Administrator and Roberta Brassard, Municipal Clerk were in attendance.

There were approximately six members of the public in attendance.

1. Open Public Meetings Statement

The Open Public Meetings Statement was read by Mayor Van Doren.

2. Flag Salute

Those present stood and pledged allegiance to the American flag.

3. Executive Session

At 7:15 PM Mr. Melick moved adoption of the following Resolution, seconded by Ms. Desiderio. The motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, DiMare, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None.

**RESOLUTION #36A-2014
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE TEWKSBURY
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 and 10:4-12 that the Tewksbury Township Committee hold a closed session to discuss Personnel.

It is expected that the discussion undertaken in closed session can be made public at the time official action is taken.

Shaun Van Doren
Mayor

4. Reconvened

The meeting reconvened at 7:25 PM.

5. Public Participation

Nancy Held noted that the court ruled on the Township's motion regarding being party to the lawsuit related to the Johnson helistop.

6. Actions to be taken

- **Consent Agenda**

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Mayor Van Doren requested that Resolution #38-2014 be included on the Consent Agenda. Mr. DiMare requested that the minutes of 2-11-14 be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

Dr. Voyce moved adoption of the Consent Agenda as amended, seconded by Ms. Desiderio. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, DiMare, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None.

RESOLUTION #37-2014

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
FISCAL GRANT CYCLE JULY 2014-JUNE 2019
FORM 1B**

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Hunterdon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon , State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Committee does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Voorhees Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2014 in the amount of:

DEDR	22,852
Cash Match	5,713
In-Kind	17,139

2. The Township Committee acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Shaun Van Doren
Mayor

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RESOLUTION #38-2014

**A RESOLUTION SETTING THE 2014 SALARIES AND WAGES FOR OFFICERS AND
EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TEWKSBURY**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the following salary and wage for the employee so stated is hereby set for the year 2014.

PUBLIC WORKS		
Trevor Hartrum	Public Works Employee	\$15.00/hour Effective 03-10-14

Shaun Van Doren
Mayor

MISCELLANEOUS

- Claims as submitted by the CFO
- Authorization to have Mayor sign F & D for 5-10-14 50/50 raffle – American’s Grow-a-Row
- Authorization to have Mayor sign F & D for 5-10-14 basket raffle – American’s Grow-a-Row
- Authorization to have Clerk sign SA permit for 5-10-14 America’s Grow-a-Row event

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

Corrections were made to the regular session minutes of 02-11-14 related to attendance.

Dr. Voyce moved to adopt the regular session minutes of 02-11-14 with corrections, seconded by Mr. Melick. The motion was approved. Ayes: Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None. Abstain: Desiderio, DiMare

Dr. Voyce moved to adopt the executive session minutes of 02-11-14, seconded by Mr. Melick. The motion was approved. Ayes: Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None. Abstain: Desiderio, DiMare.

- Regular and e/s minutes of 2-11-14

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Melick made a motion to approve the following appointments, seconded by Dr. Voyce. The motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, DiMare, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None.

Barbara Todd	Scenic Roads & Bridges Commission	Alternate #2	2 year term through 12-31-15
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Louisa Sargent	Equestrian Committee	Regular	3 year term through 12-31-16
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Mr. Melick made a motion to approve the following appointment, seconded by Dr. Voyce. The motion was approved. Ayes: DiMare, Melick, Van Doren, Voyce. Nays: None. Abstain: Desiderio.

Brittany Desiderio	Equestrian Committee	Alternate #1	2 year term through 12-31-15
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7. Work Session Topics

➤ **Vacation of Flint Hill Road**

Mayor Van Doren noted that a request came in last year from a member of the Johnson family regarding taking over ownership and control of Flint Hill Road. He wanted to be certain that the Committee was in agreement with this action prior to introducing an Ordinance.

Mr. Landon noted that the Johnson's submitted \$2000.00 into an escrow account for engineering work. He added that he spoke with the County regarding culverts and bridges, and area fire and rescue squads regarding the matter and they did not have any concerns with having the property owner take over control of the dead end road. He noted that Public Works spends between \$6000.00 and \$10,000.00 annually for road maintenance of Flint Hill Road.

Mayor Van Doren outlined his concerns with the proposal- namely that the action would create land locked parcels and any future development would require the applicant to go to the Land Use Board for a variance as the action (to vacate) created the hardship.

Discussion followed regarding future owners of the property(s) and how to structure the language of the Ordinance and deeds.

Mr. DiMare expressed concern with the request, adding that he felt it contrary to what most people would want.

Ms. Desiderio noted that the condition of the dirt road is not up to the standards that the Johnsons prefer, and they feel that they can maintain it better as a private road.

It was additionally noted that the Johnsons may be requesting this action so that they have more privacy.

Mr. DiMare stated that he was uncomfortable making a decision at the moment as the helistop matter is still active litigation and he could not understand why the applicant would want to take over ownership of a Township owned and maintained road.

In response to Ms. Held's statement that one of the property owners on Flint Hill Road was not a Johnson, Mr. Landon stated that he would look into it and advise the Township Attorney of his findings.

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Further comments were heard regarding the possible creation of a homeowners' association and necessary language to be included in the proposed Ordinance relative to an easement.

It was the consensus of the Committee to have the Ordinance presented for introduction at the 03-11-14 meeting pending discussion with the Township Attorney and Engineer.

➤ **Township-owned Athletic Field Use**

Mayor Van Doren stated that he has witnessed unauthorized use of the Fairmount North ballfields on Sunday mornings and expressed his concern that the fields were being torn up. He noted that the parking area was not plowed so further use could not occur, adding that the parking area could not be chained as it would restrict access to the Green Acres trail area. Discussion followed regarding the individuals who might be using the fields and possible alternate locations for play.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the Police Department should be made aware of the situation and monitor the site on Sunday mornings and issue summonses if necessary.

8. Township Committee Comments

Ms. Desiderio noted that the HC Planning Board 2014 Award Nominations are open through 03-31-14. The event is scheduled for 09-29-14.

Mr. Melick noted that salt is still in short supply, and questioned the condition of the DPW vehicles.

Dr. Voyce noted several accidents due to the weather.

Mayor Van Doren noted the following matters.

- A letter he received from HART commending the DPW for their work done on roads during the recent storms. He requested that the letter be copied to Hayden Hull.
- He outlined the key points from the Governor's 2014 budget address.
- The letter that was received from the Raritan Headwaters Association regarding Highlands grant funds was sent prematurely prior to all information being received. It was recommended to hold any action until further direction is given.
- In response to a question from Mr. DiMare, Mayor Van Doren stated that he has not yet sent the letter regarding Home Rule to NJ Legislators. He added that he has received no response from the letter sent to the FCC regarding cell towers.

In response to a question from Mr. DiMare, Ms. Held stated that she is disappointed with the work being done by the Township Attorney regarding the Township joining in the Friends' motion pertaining to the Johnson helistop. She noted that the work was not shown to the Friends' attorney prior to filing, adding that the Friends had hoped that the two attorneys would have worked more collaboratively. She added that the Friends have not received a recent statement of cost incurred. Mr. Landon stated that he would speak with Mr. Selvaggi regarding this matter.

Mr. Melick left the meeting at this time.

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The following conversation dealt with a letter received from the Environmental Commission regarding contacting the property owner on whose property a PSE&G tower is located with regard to co-locating the cellular infrastructure, as opposed to building a new tower on a different site in Oldwick.

Mr. Landon noted that he spoke with Dan Bernstein, Land Use Board attorney regarding the matter. Mayor Van Doren stated that he did not feel it appropriate for the Township Committee to insert themselves and intervene with the LUB application, adding that the Committee could make comment when the matter concludes.

Mr. DiMare questioned if the utility or the property owner should be contacted directly, adding that he could call PSE&G counsel directly to determine if the tower in question was on a utility or private easement.

Mayor Van Doren reiterated that the Committee should not offer comment on the matter and that the letter should be forwarded to the LUB with this message firmly conveyed.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Roberta A. Brassard
Municipal Clerk