

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2018 MINUTES**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM, roll call held and a quorum established. Mayor Louis DiMare presided.

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

Roberta Brassard, Administrator/Clerk, Timothy Barlow, Chief of Police and Francis Linnus, Township Attorney were in attendance.

There were approximately fourteen members of the public in attendance.

**1. Open Public Meetings Statement**

Mayor DiMare opened the meeting by announcing that adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by posting a copy thereof on the Police/Administration Building bulletin board, transmitting a copy to the Hunterdon Review and the Hunterdon County Democrat, and filing with the Municipal Clerk, all on January 4, 2018.

**2. Flag Salute**

Those present stood and pledged allegiance to the American flag.

**3. Public Participation**

Sean Murray was present to request the use of temporary lighting at the Fairmount soccer fields from late September through mid November for evening soccer practices. He stated that the lights would be used from 6-8 PM, for 5 nights and would affect practices for over 140 youth. He noted that neighbors were contacted and there was no opposition heard from the residents, adding that if the Township received complaints, use of the lights would cease.. He added that there will be minimum impact and the generator running the lights emits "low noise".

Mr. Melick made a motion authorizing the use of temporary lighting at the Fairmount soccer fields as outlined in the letter from Mr. Murray (attached), seconded by Ms. Desiderio. The motion was approved. Ayes: Becker, Desiderio, DiMare, Melick, Voyce. Nays: None.

Debra Dillon was present to question the status of her complaint related to stormwater management and the damage to her property. Dr. Voyce noted that a meeting was held recently with the NJ Conservation Foundation (NJCF) and a follow up meeting will be scheduled to further review the area downstream of Mrs. Dillon's property.

In response to a question from Mrs. Dillon, Dr. Voyce stated that there is no subsequent meeting scheduled at the moment, but he will reach out to NJCF and advise Mrs. Dillon of the meeting date.

Mrs. Dillon thanked Dr. Voyce for his efforts, adding that the problem has been going on for many years and she did not want to see the work accomplished to date "languish."

**4. Actions to be taken**

- **Consent Agenda**

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Ms. Desiderio requested that the regular and executive session minutes of 08-14-18 be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

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

**RESOLUTION #114-2018**

**TO ACCEPT TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP'S LAND USE BOARD COMPREHENSIVE  
FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN ELEMENT OF THE MASTER PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, Tewksbury Township Land Use Board passed Resolution No. 18-12 on August 15, 2018, adopting the plan titled, "Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee desires to set forth its acceptance of the above stated Master Plan Amendment; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey that the Township Committee formally accepts Land Use Board Resolution 18-12 adopted August 15, 2018 setting forth the above named amendment to the Tewksbury Township Master Plan.

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Louis DiMare  
Mayor

**RESOLUTION #115-2018  
NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, suicide continues to be a serious but preventable public health problem that can have lasting harmful effects on individuals, families, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, nationally, suicide is the ninth leading cause of death overall and the third leading cause of death among Americans aged 5 to 14 and the second leading cause of death among Americans aged 15 to 24; and

**WHEREAS**, most recent data shows that in New Jersey suicide has decreased to 9.7 self-inflicted deaths per 100,000 people demonstrating that through education and public awareness, suicide rates can improve; and

**WHEREAS**, the best way to minimize risk of suicide is to learn about risk factors, recognize warning signs and take them seriously, and know how to respond to possibly save a life; and

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**WHEREAS**, National Alliance on Mental Illness – Hunterdon Chapter (NAMI Hunterdon) is proud to partner with Hunterdon County Stigma Free Task Force to end the bigotry against people afflicted with mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, local suicide prevention efforts including Hunterdon’s Stigma Free Task Force work to raise awareness, eliminate stigma, promote suicide prevention as a public health issue and increase help-seeking behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, effective prevention strategies are needed to promote awareness of suicide while also promoting prevention, resilience, and a commitment to social change; and

**WHEREAS**, NAMI Hunterdon invites all residents of Hunterdon County to become educated about suicide and participate in National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Township Committee does hereby recognize September 2018 as NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH throughout the Township of Tewksbury.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury calls upon our citizens to take the CureStigma test today to see if they are affected by stigma at CureStigma.org and pledge to be stigma free

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Louis DiMare  
Mayor

**RESOLUTION #116-2018**

**A RESOLUTION SETTING THE 2018 SALARY AND WAGES FOR AN EMPLOYEE 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 salary or wage to be paid to the certain employee of the Township of Tewksbury be, and the same are hereby determined and fixed, at the respective amount or rates for the time period as noted and until same is amended.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>SALARY</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS</b>		
Benjamin Quarne	Assistant Foreman	33.00/hour Effective 8/22/18

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Louis DiMare  
Mayor

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**RESOLUTION #117-2018**

**APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT  
WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE RESURFACING  
HOMESTEAD ROAD PROJECT**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2019-00015 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Tewksbury.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Tewksbury and that their signatures constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Certified as a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018.

My signature and the Clerk's seal serve to acknowledge the above Resolution and constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approve the execution of the grant agreement as authorized by the Resolution above.

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Louis DiMare  
Mayor

**TOWNSHIP OF TEWKSBURY  
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION #118-2018**

**AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF CARPENTING AT THE  
TEWKSBURY MUNICIPAL BUILDING BY COMMERCIAL INTERIORS DIRECT INC. UNDER  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY CONTRACT #65**

**WHEREAS**, the carpeting at the Township municipal building was installed in 1997 and is currently in a worn and deteriorated condition; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Tewksbury is a member of the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) purchasing coop; and

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**WHEREAS**, ESCNJ co-op contract #65 was awarded to Commercial Interiors Direct, Inc. for the installation of carpeting for member government.

**WHEREAS**, the Township's Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) has determined that ESCNJ contract #65 is currently valid; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) has certified availability of funds.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon that it hereby authorizes the purchase and installation of carpeting at the municipal building in accordance with proposal 21130 from Commercial Interiors Direct, Inc (attached to and made part of this Resolution) under the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Contract #65.

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Louis DiMare  
Mayor

**PROCLAMATION**

**TOWNSHIP OF TEWKSBURY  
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**WHEREAS**, square dancing evolved from the various national and folk dances brought to America by the first settlers and the immigrants that followed; and

**WHEREAS**, providing recreational opportunities for Americans, square dancing promotes social interaction between people of differing backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, composed of basic moves called and performed in varied combinations, square dancing advances physical activity, mental well being, friendship and goodwill among participants and spectators; and

**WHEREAS**, square dancing continues to appeal to people of all ages, walks of life and backgrounds.

**NOW, THREERFORE**, I, Louis DiMare, Mayor of the Township of Tewksbury, do hereby proclaim September 2018 as SQUARE DANCE MONTH throughout the Township of Tewksbury and encourage all to celebrate this truly American recreational activity and the dancers who are helping to preserve this tradition for future generations.

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Louis DiMare  
Mayor

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**MISCELLANEOUS**

- Claims as submitted by the CFO 08/28/18 and 09/11/18
- Correspondence List
- Authorization to have Township Planner work on completion of Zoning Map amendment, to incorporate Highlands Preservation/Planning Areas and Land Use Capability Zones (\$3,600 allocated)
- Authorization to have Clerk/Adm sign letter re: Permit to Kill Wild Deer on Township owned property located on B 15 L 8.01 and farmed by the Sutton family

**ITEMS REMOVED FORM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Melick made a motion to adopt the regular and executive session minutes of 08-14-18, seconded by Mr. Becker. The motion was approved. Ayes: Becker, Melick, Voyce. Nays: None. Abstain: Desiderio, DiMare.

- Regular and E/S minutes of 08-14-18

**ADDITIONAL ITEM**

Mr. Melick made a motion to adopt the Proclamation entitled KNOCK OUT OPIOID ABUSE DAY, seconded by Ms. Desiderio. The motion was approved. Ayes: Becker, Desiderio, DiMare, Melick, Voyce. Nays: None.

**PROCLAMATION  
KNOCK OUT OPIOID ABUSE DAY  
OCTOBER 6, 2018**

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey is in the midst of a life-threatening opioid abuse epidemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey has designated October 6, 2018 as Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day – an initiative with a dual purpose: to educate families of the addictive qualities of opioid pain medicines and their link to heroin abuse rates in New Jersey, and communicate to physicians information on safer prescribing messages found in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for prescribing opioids, which include considering other therapies, setting realistic treatment goals with patients and discussing with patients the positives and negatives of opioids; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Senate and General Assembly jointly resolved that October 6 shall be permanently designated as Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day in New Jersey in order to raise awareness about the dangers of, and the link between, opioid abuse and heroin addiction and to educate health care providers, community leaders, state lawmakers and members of the public about the opioid abuse epidemic and its effects throughout the State of New Jersey and across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, Freedom House, Inc. supports initiatives designed to raise awareness about opioid abuse in New Jersey and take steps to prevent addiction;

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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that October 6, 2018 be recognized as Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day in the Township of Tewksbury, New Jersey.

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Louis DiMare  
Mayor

**5. Ordinance Introduction**

Mr. Becker made a motion to introduce Ordinance #07-2018, seconded by Melick . The motion was approved. Ayes: Becker, Desiderio, DiMare, Melick, Voyce. Nays: None.

The Public Hearing will be held on 10-09-18 at a meeting convening at 7:30 PM in the Mountainville Meeting Hall.

**TOWNSHIP OF TEWKSBURY  
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON  
ORDINANCE NO. 08-2018**

**AN ORDINANCE TO DETERMINE AND FIX THE SALARIES OR WAGES TO BE PAID TO CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TEWKSBURY IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE TIMES OF PAYMENT THEREOF**

**6. Presentation/Discussion**

• **Ash tree decline**

Harold Wrede and George Cassa were present to discuss the most efficient method to notify the public of the problems related to the ash tree decline in the Township. Mr. Wrede noted issues related to tree trimming, disposal of affected trees, homeowners responsibilities and other matters of concern.

Mr. Cassa had specific comments related to JCP&L policies related to clearing and lock out zones. Mr. Melick added comments related to cutting procedures and the afore mentioned lock out zones.

Further discussion followed regarding how tree trimming was addressed (specifically on Sawmill Road) after Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

It was noted that JCP&L tree trimming crews may only be working in the Township one day weekly, although more aggressive cutting was being done in the summer.

Additional comments were made regarding resident notification related to tree trimming, permit requirements regarding the removal of trees and the marking of specific trees on certain Township roads.

Mr. Becker made a motion to have information posted on the Township website related to the matter as discussed pertaining ash tree damage and disease and associated information related to contact information for the education of Township residents. Seconded by Ms. Desiderio. The motion was approved. Ayes: Becker, Desiderio, DiMare, Melick, Voyce. Nays: None.

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**7. ReportsTownship Committee Comments**

Mr. Becker noted that a meeting was held with the finance subcommittee to determine the salary ranges for the salary Ordinance.

He noted that the matter of the DOT's request for a response to their letter related to the Johnson helistop will be discussed by Mr. Linnus.

Ms. Desiderio congratulated the members of the Student Council for coordinating a gathering at the Old Turnpike School in recognition of 9-11.

She added that Mr. Becker is doing further research into the installation of a projector in the meeting hall.

In response to a question from Ms. Desiderio, it was noted that the Pledge of Allegiance is recited before all municipal meetings.

Mr. Melick noted that the DPW is busy with road work. He added that he has heard some complaints from residents regarding tree removal and debris left on the side of roads. He added that JCP&L is actively trying to address the matter of ash tree removal and their work should be supported.

Dr. Voyce noted that a recent COAH subcommittee meeting was held that proved to be productive. He noted that additional meetings will be scheduled and the Land Use Administrator should be included in the meetings.

He added that the 9-11 gathering at OTS was moving and well coordinated.

- **Township Attorney**

Mr. Linnus noted the following items from his report.

- ✓ Working on proposed changes to the Personnel Policy
- ✓ Discussion with the Zoning Officer regarding questions related to medical marijuana distribution facilities
- ✓ Discussion with the Zoning Officer regarding past violations on a property located on 2 Boulder Hill Road
- ✓ Discussion with the Tax Assessor and the Engineer regarding the vacation of Center School Road and how to properly note on the new tax maps. Mr. Melick stated that he did not want to expend any funds related to the matter as the road is already designated as "abandoned"
- ✓ Ongoing work with tax appeals
- ✓ The recently conducted COAH subcommittee meeting
- ✓ Working with the Police Chief on personnel matters
- ✓ The BOE/DPW interlocal shared services agreement final draft has been submitted to the school's risk manager for review prior to adoption.

Mr. Linnus will discuss the following in Executive Session: Haddad, Antaki, Formisano.

Mr. Linnus noted that letter from the NJDOT regarding the Johnson helistop.

Chris Kennedy stated that Land Use Board's application regarding the Johnson helistop matter was a topic of much public concern and outcry and urged the Committee to reiterate their concerns with allowing the DOT to remove restrictions currently in place. Discussion followed

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regarding a letter that was sent to DOT by Mayor DiMare in 2013 and the need to have a similar letter sent reiterating the cares and concerns of the community.

Ms. Desiderio made a motion authorizing Mayor DiMare to send a letter to the DOT regarding the concerns of the Township residents related to the request for removing certain licensing restrictions pertaining to the Johnson helistop, seconded by Dr. Voyce. The motion was approved. Ayes: Desiderio, DiMare, Voyce. Nays: Melick. Abstain: Becker.

- **Township Administrator**

Ms. Brassard noted the following items from her report.

- ✓ Final decision regarding requests from employees DeMaris, DuHamel, Goodchild, Obiedzinski (Rice Notices have been sent and received)

Mrs. Goodchild and Mrs. Obiedzinski will speak to the Committee in executive session.

- ✓ Jeff Anderson would like to know if you would like to arrange an area at the upcoming Harvest Festival for a “meet and greet”.

No member of the Committee stated that they would be able to attend.

- ✓ Tom Anderson has submitted a letter (attached) to be sent to Township Commercial Farm Owners per the direction of the NJDCA regarding inspections

In response to a question from Mr. Melick, Ms. Brassard stated that the letter from the State would be included with his letter to commercial farm owners.

- ✓ Draft changes to the Personnel Policy were distributed at the August meeting. Please review and advise if you would like to incorporate into the existing Policy.

These will be brought to the Committee for approval at the 10-09-18 meeting.

**APPOINTMENT**

Mr. Melick made a motion to appoint Sherry Schultz to complete an unexpired three year term as a regular member of the Equestrian Committee through 12-31-18, seconded by Ms. Desiderio. The motion was approved. Ayes: Becker, Desiderio, DiMare, Melick, Voyce. Nays: None.

Sherry Schultz	Equestrian Committee	Regular Member	To complete unexpired 3 year term through 12-31-18
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- **Chief of Police**

Chief Barlow noted the following items.

- ✓ The 9-11 event held at OTS was very well coordinated.
- ✓ A recently conducted equine emergency drill was held at Mane Stream and three Township officers were in attendance. He added that this will be incorporated into the PD field training.
- ✓ Reverse 911 was utilized recently to locate a missing person.
- ✓ A recent accident by Ambest Road was noted. The person involved has since been released from hospital care.
- ✓ The two new officers are close to finishing their officer training and will soon be able to ride solo.

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- ✓ Deer hunting has commenced in the Township- 37 applications were received and 2 were denied bring in \$1580.00 into the general fund.
- ✓ He attended a Freeholder meeting recently at which fire and rescue communications was discussed.
- ✓ He will speak with the Committee in Executive Session regarding personnel matters.

**8. Executive Session**

At 8:45 PM Mr. Melick moved adoption of the following Resolution, seconded by Mr. Melick. The motion was approved. Ayes: Becker, Desiderio, DiMare, Melick, Voyce. Nays: None.

**RESOLUTION #119-2018**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION  
OF THE TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury is subject to certain requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, provides that an Executive Session, not open to the public, may be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by Resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary for the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury to discuss in a session not open to the public certain matters relating to the item or items authorized by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b and designated below:

- 1) Affordable housing/litigation
- 2) Attorney/Client Privilege
- 3) Personnel matters

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, assembled in public session on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018, that an Executive Session closed to the public shall be held on September 11, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mountainville Meeting Hall, 60 Water Street, Lebanon, New Jersey, for the discussion of matters relating to the specific item(s) designated above.

It is anticipated that the deliberations conducted in closed session may be disclosed to the public at the time official action is taken and upon the determination of the Township Committee that the public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality.

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Louis DiMare  
Mayor

**9. Reconvened**

The meeting reconvened at 11:15 PM.

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Mr. Becker made a motion authorizing the Township Attorney to draft a release and to compensate Mrs. Goodchild \$8000.00 for compensation for additional duties performed, seconded by Mr. Melick. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. Ayes: Becker, Desiderio, DiMare, Melick, Voyce. Nays: None.

Authorization was given to have the Township Attorney respond to the attorney for Antaki and Haddad as discussed in executive session.

It was the consensus of the Committee to have the Comcast Franchise Agreement Ordinance on the 10-09-19 agenda for a term of 10 years.

It was stated that a meeting needs to be scheduled with the finance subcommittee to meet with Mrs. Obiedzinski regarding her request for additional hours.

Authorization was given for Chief Barlow to contact Michael Frace with an offer of employment with the Police department.

**10. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 PM.

Roberta A. Brassard  
Administrator/Clerk