

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG
Special Council Meeting

4:30 pm

June 15, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Lopatcong Township Council was called to order by Mayor Mengucci. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building located at 232 S. Third St., Phillipsburg, New Jersey.

A Prayer was offered followed by the Oath of Allegiance.

Mayor Mengucci stated “adequate notice of this meeting has been provided indicating the time and place of the meeting in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 by advertising a Notice in The Star Ledger and The Express-Times and by posting a copy on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.”

Present – Councilman Belcaro, Councilman McQuade, Councilman Palitto, Council President Wright, Mayor Mengucci. Also, present was Attorney Campbell

Public Comment:

Lori Ciesla – Stated her thoughts regarding the replacement of the pool and that all options are put out there and how they would be paid for.

Business:

Ordinance No. 2022-07 – First reading of an Ordinance to place a non-binding referendum on the General Election Ballot in November for consideration whether to replace or remove the Lopatcong Municipal Pool. Council President Wright indicated that after the cost came in to remove the pool at \$2.2 million dollars to remove the pool and put a grass field in isn’t an option at this point. He noted that putting a pool in there is an investment in the park and he noted that out of all the pool options, he would select Option 4. Council President Wright suggested a color rendering of the whole park and what it would look like with all the improvements. The referendum does not provide the kind of information needed to inform the public. CFO Browne said there are general obligation refunding bonds that will be paid off in 2027. Those bonds were originally 5.6 million over a 10-year period. The payment was \$500,000.00 and could take the place of this payoff with the new additions to the park. Karen Raab indicated that in all of her years of doing real estate, the pool was one of the things that attracted people to Lopatcong Township over some of the neighboring townships and the pool was a position, absolute asset to resale and especially now people have come back to valuing it and using it especially since the gas prices have shot up. She hears that people are saying why can’t Lopatcong do what Palmer did, Nazareth, Forks as well. She felt it was a real asset to find a way to revitalize it and the whole park too.

Resolution No. 22-95 - Memorialize hire of Jennifer Carabelli as Tax Assessor for a four-year term beginning in July 2022.

R 22-95

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY MEMORIALIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF JENNIFER
CARABELLI AS A PART TIME TAX ASSESSOR

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby memorialize the appointment of Jennifer Carabelli as part-time Tax Assessor pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-146; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to statute N.J.S.A. 40A:9-148, Jennifer Carabelli shall hold his office for a term of 4 years from the first day of July next following his appointment (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2026); and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Carabelli has agreed to work two office hours per week: Friday 9:45 am to 11:45 pm, and Saturdays by appointment and to complete other business as necessary; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Carabelli shall be paid a salary of \$55,000 yearly pursuant to the Township Salary Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Carabelli shall adhere to the terms and conditions as outlined in the Township Employee Personnel and Policy Manual for a part-time salaried employee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby memorialize the hire of Jennifer Carabelli part-time as Tax Assessor for the terms detailed above.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion to adopt this resolution by Council President Wright, seconded by Councilman Belcaro.
Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman McQuade, Councilman Palitto, Council President Wright, Mayor Mengucci.

NAYS: None

Recreation Committee Appointments – Appoint both Stacey Behme and Karen Raab to the committee.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilman Palitto, seconded by Council President Wright. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC
Clerk/Administrator

James E. Mengucci
Mayor