

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG
Council Meeting

6:30 PM Executive Session/7:30 pm Regular Session

November 2, 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 Warren County Zone and by posting a copy on the Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building.”

Present – Councilman Belcaro, Councilman McQuade, Councilman Palitto, Council President Wright (attended by telephone), Mayor Mengucci. Also, present were CFO Browne, Attorney Lavery and Engineer Sterbenz.

Proclamation – Happy 100th Birthday Proclamation presented to June D. Paese by Mayor Mengucci.

Public Comment –

Donna Schneider – 26 Meadowview – Ordinance 2022-10 and Wastewater Management – asked for explanation when it comes up.

John Betz – Brakeley Gardens – Explain the streets connected to 2022-11 when it comes up.

Old Business:

Minutes – Approve October 5, 2022 on motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

New Business:

Best Practices – CFO Browne indicated that every year at this time the State Div. of Local Government Services puts out an inventory of questions. The Township will be scored by the answers provided and total possible score this year was 36.5 – Lopatcong scored a 32 which is fine and the State aid will be provided to Lopatcong in full. There were many questions on lead-based inspections. The State requires a discussion at a public meeting.

Ordinance No. 2022-10 – First reading to amend and supplement Section 81-1 of Chapter 81 entitled and amending and supplementing Section 81-3 to Authorize Code Enforcement of Sections A through E of Section 81-1.

Ordinance 2022-10

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING SECTION 81-1 OF CHAPTER 81 ENTITLED “BRUSH, GRASS AND WEEDS” OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE TO IMPOSE HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS FOR GRASS AND OTHER VEGETATION AND AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING SECTION 81-

3 TO AUTHORIZE CODE ENFORCEMENT TO BE THE ENFORCING OFFICIAL FOR SUBSECTIONS A THROUGH E OF SECTION 81-1.

WHEREAS, the municipal council of the Township of Lopatcong, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey believes that the Chapter 81, entitled “Brush, Grass and Weeds” of the Township Code must be amended to impose height regulations regarding grass; and

WHEREAS, the Council further believes that Chapter 81 must be amended to authorize the Code Enforcement as the authorized officer to enforce Subsections A through E of the Chapter 81-1; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council believes that the such amendment is in the best interest of the Township.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY THAT CHAPTER 81 BE AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

Additions to this Chapter shall be designated by underlined text.

§ 81-1. Offending Matter to be Removed.

[. . .]

E. Prevent any growth of grass in excess of eight (8) inches in height or any growth of ragweed, poison ivy, poison sumac, and all other plant or vegetable growth that may affect the health and safety of the Township’s residents.

§ 81-3. Authorized Inspection Officers.

The Warren County Health Department will be the enforcing official of Subsections **A** and **C** of § **81-1**, and the Lopatcong Township Police Department will be the enforcing official of Subsections **A**, **B** and **D** of § **81-1**. Additionally, Code Enforcement will be the enforcing official of Subsections A through E of § 81-1.

SECTION 2.

Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder off this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 3:

Repealer. Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to their inconsistencies only.

SECTION 4:

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced to pass on first reading at a regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Lopatcong held on November 2, 2022, and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a regular meeting of the Township Council to be held on December 7, 2022 at 7:30 PM or as soon thereafter as the Township Council may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building located at 232 So. Third St, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion to adopt this Ordinance on first reading by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Ordinance No. 2022-11 – First reading to amend, revise and supplement Chapter 227 “Vehicles and Traffic”, including Section 20 “Vehicles Over Designated Weight Excluded from Certain Streets.”

ORDINANCE NO. 22-11

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 227 "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC", INCLUDING SECTION 20 "VEHICLES OVER DESIGNATED WEIGHT EXCLUDED FROM CERTAIN STREETS"

WHEREAS, Chapter 227 "Vehicles and Traffic" of the Code of the Township of Lopatcong contains various parking and traffic regulations; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to amend provisions relative to weight restrictions to improve upon enforcement options for the police department when motorists operating what are believed to be overweight vehicles are stopped; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that Section 20 "Vehicles Over Designated Weight Excluded from Certain Streets" in Chapter 227 be amended, revised and supplemented as follows:

SECTION 1

Section 227-20 shall be amended to read as follows:

§ 227-20 Vehicles over designated gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) excluded from certain streets.

Vehicles over the gross vehicle weight rating are hereby excluded from the streets or parts of streets described except for the pickup and delivery of materials on such streets:

Name of Street	GVWR (tons)	Limits
Baltimore Street [Added 5-2-2012 by Ord. No. 2012-08]	4	Between Red School Lane and Strykers Road
Baltimore Street	4	Between South First Street and the Hillcrest Shopping Mall
Belview Road	4	From Belvidere Road to Strykers Road
Charles Road [Added 11-6-2002 by Ord. No. 2002-25]	4	Between Belvidere Road and Red School Lane
Cromwell Street	4	Between South First Street and the Hillcrest Shopping Mall

Name of Street	GVWR (tons)	Limits
Lows Hollow Road	4	From C.R. 519 to the intersection of Lows Hollow Road - Reservoir Road
Marble Hill Road	4	From the intersection of Marble Hill Road and River Road northeasterly to the Harmony Township boundary line
Richline Hill Road	4	From Reservoir Road to the Greenwich Township boundary line
Strykers Road	4	From Belview Road to N.J. Route 57

SECTION 2

Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 3

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Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion to adopt this Ordinance on first reading by Council President Wright, seconded by Councilman Palitto. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Resolution No. 22-179 - Tree Inventory Proposal – Award the grant contract to Davey Resource Group once all documentation has been submitted and finalized in order to proceed.

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AWARD CONTRACT TO DAVEY RESOURCE GROUP FOR TOWNSHIP WIDE TREE INVENTORY AND GIS APPLICATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey received a grant from the New Jersey Urban and Community Forestry Program (NJUCF) Stewardship Grant award in the amount of \$46,145.00; and

WHEREAS, the grant award of \$46,145.00 will be to implement the goals and objectives of the Township's Community Forestry Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Davey Resource Group is awarded the contract to perform a Township-wide Tree Inventory and GIS Application Project; and

WHEREAS, the contract award is in the amount of \$42,300.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey authorize Davey Resource Group to perform the Township-wide Tree Inventory and GIS Application Project in the amount of \$42,300.00.

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, November 2, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Motion to approve by Councilman Palitto, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:
AYES: : Councilman Belcaro, Councilman McQuade, Councilman Palitto, Council President Wright, Mayor Mengucci.
NAYS: None

Warren County Christmas Tree Contest – The County is holding a contest December 10th for the municipality to bring a tree to decorate to the Garrett D. Wall Park in Belvidere and then break it down on the 10th at the end of the day and place it in the municipality. There is a reimbursement of \$200.00.

Wastewater Management Plan – Authorize Engineer Sterbenz to work with the Highlands to update the plan. Engineer Sterbenz explained that the plan was adopted in 2012 and the documents need updating; specifically, every 10 years. Motion to authorize by Mayor Mengucci, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:
AYES: : Councilman Belcaro, Councilman McQuade, Councilman Palitto, Council President Wright, Mayor Mengucci.
NAYS: None

General Code Proposal for Codification Services – The Township Code was originally codified in 1992; it has been supplemented over 56 times since then. Over the years there could be inconsistencies, errors and outdated information so they have provided this proposal for an editorial legal analysis of our code to make sure everything is lined up the way it is supposed to be. The cost is \$6,480.00. Motion by Mayor Mengucci, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:
AYES: : Councilman Belcaro, Councilman McQuade, Councilman Palitto, Council President Wright, Mayor Mengucci.
NAYS: None

Letter of Intent – DPW Equipment – Brian Weeks, Road Superintendent explained that the company, 23 Auto Mall, would need a letter from the Township with the intention of purchasing two trucks so they can be placed in the production schedule. Motion to approve by Mayor Mengucci, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve Consent Agenda by Councilman Palitto, seconded by Mayor Mengucci. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Resolution No. 22-180 – Consent Agenda.

R 22-180

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING CONSENT AGENDA FOR COUNCIL’S
CONSIDERATION

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby approve and authorize a Consent Agenda to move routine items of business requiring no discussion; and

WHEREAS, there are listed Items one through twenty on the Consent Agenda.

1. Attorney/Client Privilege – Municipal Court
2. Attorney/Client Privilege – Tax Office
3. Contractual – Website/social media
4. Attorney/Client Privilege – Employee Health Insurance
5. Personnel – Part-Time Seasonal Employees
6. Personnel – Lead Evaluation Contractor
7. Attorney/Client Privilege – Comcast Franchise
8. Attorney/Client Privilege – Police Matter

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey approve and authorize this Consent Agenda to move routine items of business that require no discussion.

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, November 2, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 22-171 – Appoint Paul Lytwyn as Electrical Subcode Official per Civil Service Certification of Eligibles.

R 22-171

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING PERMENANT APPOINTMENT TO PETER
LYTWYN AS ELECTRICAL SUBCODE OFFICIAL

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby permanently appoint Peter Lytwyn to the position of Electrical Subcode Official; and

WHEREAS, Peter Lytwyn has been certified through the process of the New Jersey Civil Service Commission Certificate of Eligibles.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby authorize the permanent appointment of Peter Lytwyn.

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, November 2, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 22-172 – Transfer Appropriations of the 2022 Budget in the amount of \$63,300.00.

R 22-172

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS OF
THE 2022 LOPATCONG TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUDGET DURING THE LAST TWO
MONTHS OF THE YEAR AS PER N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58

WHEREAS, it has become necessary to expend an amount in excess of the respective items appropriated in the 2022 Lopatcong Township Municipal Operating Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as per N.J.S.A. 4-58 that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong authorize the Chief Financial Officer to make the following appropriation transfers:

CURRENT FUND:

FROM:

TO:

Zoning Officer OE	\$ 10,000.00	Tax Assessor S&W	\$ 5,000.00
Bldg& Grounds S&W	\$ 10,000.00	Rent Level Bd S&W	\$ 500.00
Prosecutor S&W	\$ 10,600.00	Planning Board S&W	\$ 1,000.00
Pool OE	\$ 3,000.00	Blds& Grounds OE	\$ 5,000.00
Telephone	\$ 7,200.00	Zoning Board of Adjustment S&W	\$ 2,000.00
Mun Court S&W	\$ 5,000.00	Gasoline	\$ 13,000.00
Tax Assessor OE	\$ 5,000.00	Mun Court OE	\$ 8,300.00
Legal OE	\$ 10,000.00	Liability Insurance	\$ 11,000.00
Parks & Playgrd OE	\$ 2,500.00	Engineering OE	\$ 10,000.00
		Planning Board OE	\$ 7,500.00

Total	\$63,300.00	Total	\$ 63,300.00

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk for the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, November 2, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 22-173 – Approve Phillipsburg School District fireworks for November 23rd, 2022.

R 22-173

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN SUPPORT OF A FIREWORKS CELEBRATION LOCATED AT PHILLIPSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey received a request from the Phillipsburg School District to support a fireworks celebration to be held on Wednesday, November 23, 2022; and

WHEREAS, this celebration will take place at Phillipsburg High School located at 1 Stateliner Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, Celebration Fireworks must obtain a permit as required by the Lopatcong Fire Subcode Official.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RSOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby approve the fireworks celebration upon obtaining permits from the Lopatcong Township Fire Subcode Official.

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, November 23, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 22-174 – Approve Item of Revenue in the 2022 Budget in the amount of \$46,145.00 – 2022 Community Forestry Program.

R 22-174

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEM OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government

Services may approve the insertion of any special of revenue in the budget of any county and municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, county of Warren and State of New Jersey hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2022.

In the sum of \$46,145.00 – NJ Department of Environmental Protection

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$46,145.00 – 2022 Community Forestry Program

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, November 2, 2022

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 22-175 – Cancel Municipal Finance Balance in the amount of \$10.00

R 22-175

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO CANCEL MUNICIPAL FINANCE BALANCES

WHEREAS, there appears on the records of the Municipal Finance Office old outstanding checks; and

WHEREAS, the following outstanding checks have been investigated and should be cancelled.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the following outstanding checks be and hereby be cancelled.

DEVELOPER'S ESCROW TRUST FUND ACCOUNT CHECK NO.

5433 Dated September 2021

\$10.00

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, November 23, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 22-176 – Authorize refund of tax overpayment for Block 133, Lot 35 in the amount of \$1,207.63.

R 22-176

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO ISSUE A REFUND FOR A TAX OVERPAYMENT FOR BLOCK 133, LOT 35

WHEREAS, Block 133, Lot 35 qualified as tax exempt (disabled veteran) on August 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has adjusted the tax account to refund \$1,207.63, cancel taxes for the 4th quarter of 2022 and the 1st and 2nd quarter of 2023; and

WHEREAS, the homeowner for the property overpaid the 3rd quarter 2022 payment in the amount of \$2,090.12 on August 16, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong hereby authorizes a refund in the amount of \$1,207.63 to: Michael & Paige Blakely, 20 Byron Drive, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865.

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, November 23, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Resolution No. 22-177 – Authorize cancellation of small balances on tax liens.

R 22-177

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING CANCELLATION OF SMALL BALANCES ON TAX LIENS

Certificate No.	Address	Amount	Reason
2022-032	662 Honeybrook Circle	(\$6.53)	Cancellation
2020-004	214 Beers Street	(\$0.08)	Cancellation
2020-047	52 Limerick Lane	(\$1.00)	Cancellation

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council, Lopatcong Township, County of Warren and State of New Jersey hereby authorizes the cancellation of overpayments in the amount of (\$7.61).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the CFO and Tax Collector for their records.

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, November 23, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Simone/Collins – Lopatcong Park – Authorize payment for work completed on the Lopatcong Park Project in the amount of \$8,364.78.

Jessamine Construction Project – Authorize return of escrow in the amount of \$5,000.00 to Annual Jessamine as recommended by Engineer Sterbenz.

Delaware Park Engine Co. Membership – Approve membership for Kassym Domoni and Krystle Rush as recommended by Fire Chief LaFord.

Resolution 22-178 – Federal Aid Highway Projects – Adopt Procedure for Administration and Inspection of Federal Aid Highway Projects.

R 22-178

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO ADOPT TOWNSHIP “PROCEDURE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND INSPECTION OF FEDERAL AID HIGHWAY PROJECTS”

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) provides opportunities for Local Public Agencies (LPA), such as the Township of Lopatcong, to receive Federal Aid Highway Program (FAHP or federal aid) funds through New Jersey Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong is presently the recipient of federal aid funds through a project awarded under the SRTS and TAP grant programs for the Upper Belvidere Road Sidewalk Improvement Project TAP 0646(302); and

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong, as an LPA, is responsible for administering federal aid funded projects in compliance with all federal aid requirements established by the FHWA; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation, through its Stewardship Agreement with FHWA, is responsible for ensuring that the Township of Lopatcong is adequately staffed and suitably equipped to undertake federal aid projects and ensure that federal requirements are met; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong, as required by the New Jersey Department of Transportation, has developed a Policy outlining the required procedures for the Administration of Federally Funded Transportation Projects administered through the New Jersey Department of Transportation dated September 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED, on this 2nd day of November 2022, by the Township of Lopatcong, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Township of Lopatcong adopts the policy entitled “Township of Lopatcong” Procedure for Administration and Inspection of Federal Aid Highway Projects”, dated September 2022.

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, November 2, 2022.

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC

Council Reports:

Councilman McQuade – No report.

Councilman Belcaro – No report.

Councilman Palitto – Reported that he held a Recreation Meeting and talked about putting more information on the Township website.

Mayor Mengucci – Asked to authorize the Clerk to advertise for staffing needs. On motion by Councilman Belcaro, second by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Council President Wright – No report.

Clerk Dilts – Asked Council for authorization for the website contract as necessary. Mayor Mengucci made a motion seconded by Councilman Belcaro. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Engineer Sterbenz – Noted the DOT should take action on the grant application this month for the second phase of the Belview Road work.

Chief of Police Garcia – Aqua New Jersey has contracted with a company to replace water lines in Delaware Park; 1800 residents throughout the Township will have them replaced. Chief provided an update on the signage on the county roads that he spoke to the County Administrator over the past couple of weeks and they are moving forward. Traffic enforcement has been ramped up in and around the middle school.

Department Reports – Motion by Councilman Palitto, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. All in favor.

Payment of Bills – Motion by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Mayor Mengucci. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Audience Participation:

Donna Schneider – 26 Meadowview Drive – Asked if the final approval given to Bridge for the warehouse by the Planning Board was the last step in the process. After the resolution is adopted at the next meeting, they will have completed their application process Attorney Lavery informed everyone. Other conditions may have to be met. Asked about Berry Plastics and what was going on there. Engineer Sterbenz did address this that they have been operating as permitted by approvals granted in their resolution. Asked about the Redevelopment Plan – and noted her opinions. She inquired about Jake Brake signs.

John Betz – Brakeley Garden – Asked about the Rent Leveling Board Meeting – Rent Control Ordinance.

Judy Liptak – 48 Kyle Drive – Read a statement about conditions in the Township.

Harvey Walters – S. Third St. – Asked if Council knew how many warehouses were proposed in Lopatcong at this time and where.

John Kecherson – Talked about the P’burg Mall and the plans for properties as he understood them.

Cara Selacki – 63 Beers Street – Commented on what she was hearing at the meeting and stated that not all people are ignorant and lack of answers – can communicate wrong doing.

Robert Bruce – 11 Harwich Rd. – Asphalt plant smells – would like to file a complaint. Enforcing traffic on Strykers Road. Asked about a warehouse on the farmland behind the mall if not zoned for that. Asked if there were plans for the other lots along the 22 corridors.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mayor Mengucci, seconded by Councilman McQuade. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC
Clerk/Administrator

James E. Mengucci
Mayor