

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG  
MEETING MINUTES

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

March 6, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Lopatcong Township Council was called to order by Mayor Wright. 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 Wright 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 Marinelli, Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright. Also, present were Attorney Cohen and Engineer Wisniewski.

Attorney Cohen summarized Executive Session Items one through four.

Council President Palitto asked for a motion to contract with Mark Forniciari as Building Inspector at \$45.00 per hour for up to four hours per week. Motion by Councilman Marinelli, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Marinelli, Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright.

NAYS: None

**Old Business:**

**Minutes** – Approve Executive and Regular Sessions for February 7, 2024. Motion by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Marinelli, Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright

NAYS: None

**Ordinance No. 24-03** – Second reading and public hearing to Adjust/Establish Wage Rates for Certain employees. Motion to hold a public hearing by Councilman McQuade, seconded by Council President Palitto. All in favor. No questions from the public. Motion to close the public hearing by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman Marinelli. All in favor.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03

SECOND NOTICE OF AN ORDINANCE

NOTICE is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, held on Wednesday, March 7, 2024 at the Municipal Building, 232 South Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, the following Ordinance was presented and passed on the final reading. The Ordinance was then ordered to be published according to law by title only.

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH/ADJUST THE SALARIES, RETAINERS AND WAGE RANGES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Said Ordinance may be read and inspected at any time at the Office of the Municipal Clerk, Lopatcong Township Municipal Building, 232 S. Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

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

AYES: Councilman Marinelli, Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright

NAYS: None

**Ordinance No. 24-04** – Second reading and public hearing Establish Yearly CAP Bank under the Local CAP Bank Law in preparation of annual Budget. Motion to hold a public hearing by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman Marinelli. All in favor. No questions from the public. Motion to close the public hearing by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman McQuade. All in favor.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 2024-04

#### SECOND NOTICE OF AN ORDINANCE

NOTICE is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at the Municipal Building, 232 South Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, the following Ordinance was presented and passed on the final reading. The Ordinance was then ordered to be published according to law by title only.

#### CALENDAR YEAR 2024

#### ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Said Ordinance may be read and inspected at any time at the Office of the Municipal Clerk, Lopatcong Township Municipal Building, 232 S. Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

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

AYES: Councilman Marinelli, Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright

NAYS: None

**Ordinance No. 24-05 – Tabled.** Vacation of Paper Street known as Block 95, Lot 18.01 to become part of adjacent lots. This matter is being referred to the Planning Board for their review and recommendation and will be put forth for second reading April 3, 2024.

#### New Business:

**Ordinance No. 24-06** – First reading to include provision of background check for members appointed to the Recreation Committee.

#### ORDINANCE 2024-06

#### ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 4 ENTITLED “BACKGROUND CHECKS, BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE MEMBERS” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG REGARDING BACKGROUND CHECKS

**WHEREAS**, The Township Council believes it is in the best interest of the Township to perform background checks for individuals who are members or applying to be members of Township boards, commissions, or committees.

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 4 entitled “Background Checks, Board, Commission or Committee Members” of the Code of the Township of Lopatcong are established as follows:

**§4-1 Authority to request background check; exemption; cost.**

A. The Township Administrator and/or Chief of Police are hereby authorized to require a criminal history background check of any person, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:48-1.4, for any governmental purpose, including but not limited to all current members and all applicants of any Township board, commission or committee in which the members are appointed by the Mayor or Township Council. All persons subject to the mandatory criminal history background checks under this article shall submit to being fingerprinted in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations. The Township Administrator and/or Chief of Police are authorized to exchange fingerprint data with and receive criminal history information from the State Bureau of Identification in the Division of State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Any person who has submitted to a criminal background check, upon request, shall be permitted to review the results of the check.

B. The Township, in its discretion, may charge any person required to submit to a criminal background check the actual cost paid to outside agencies for obtaining the criminal history or any percentage thereof.

**§4-2 Disqualification from service.**

A. A person will be automatically disqualified from serving as a volunteer of a Township board, commission or committee if that person refuses to submit to the mandatory criminal history background check required by this article.

B. A person may also be disqualified from serving as a volunteer of a Township board, commission or committee if that person’s criminal history background check reveal a record of conviction for any crime or disorderly person’s offense. Conduct in any other state which, if committed in New Jersey, would constitute a crime or disorderly person’s offense shall be considered a disqualifying offense.

C. If the criminal history background check results will result in the disqualification of a volunteer or applicant for any reason, such person shall be provided an opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the information contained therein. The person shall be afforded a reasonable period of time to correct their record and provide an amended record. Failure to do so within a reasonable period shall result in disqualification.

D. The Township Administrator is hereby designated as the person for an appeal that is brought forth by any person deemed disqualified as a result of a criminal history check. The person shall have 30 days from the receipt of the notice of disqualification to petition the Administrator for a review.

E. A current volunteer or applicant

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 - 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 as required 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 March 6, 2024, 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 April 3, 2024 at 7:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the Township Council may hear this Ordinance, at the Municipal Building, 232 South Third Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Motion to adopt this Ordinance on first reading by Councilman Marinelli, seconded by Councilman McQuade. All in favor.

AYES: Councilman Marinelli, Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright

NAYS: None

### **Consent Agenda:**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Councilman Marinelli, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Marinelli, Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright

NAYS: None

R 24-61

## 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 fourteen on the Consent Agenda.

1. Mayor Wright – appointment to Planning Board – Correction - Robyn George to Class I – expiration 12/31/2026
2. Resolution – Governing Body appointment of Ben George to Zoning Board of Adjustment as Alternate No. 1 to expire 12/31/2025.
3. Resolution to freeze health benefit costs to 2023 rates for all full-time employees.
4. Resolution to award bid to Top Line Construction Corporation for the Jade Lane Improvement Project – Drainage Structure and Sidewalk Repairs in the amount of \$113,027.69.
5. Resolution to award bid for Upper Belvidere Road Transportation Alternatives Program Project to Top Line Construction in the amount of \$380,332.40
6. Resolution to award Traffic Planning and Design, Inc., the contract for Inspection Services for the Transportation Alternatives Grant Program in the amount of \$83,786.87.
7. Authorize membership for Brain C. Willis to Strykers Road Fire House No. 2 pursuant to recommendation of Fire Chief LaFord.
8. Resolution to authorize submission of Grant from the NJ Dept. of Community Affairs for Phase 1 of the Playground Improvements to the Lopatcong Park.
9. Resolution – Authorize Application for Safe and Secure Communities Program
10. Resolution Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate no. 2022-012 on Block 61, Lot 5 in the amount of \$6,805.76.
11. Resolution - Correct Tax Account for Block 85, Lot 5 in the amount of \$717.64.
12. Resolution - Correct Tax Account for Block 85.02, Lot 31 in the amount of \$125.00.

13. Resolution - Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2022-011 on Block 61, Lot 4 in the amount of \$7,228.75.
14. Resolution – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-002 on Block 61, Lot 3 in the amount of \$9,600.03, Premium \$7,400.00.

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, February 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

**Planning Board Appointment** – Correction to appointment of Robyn George to be Class I expiring 12/31/2026.

**Resolution No. 24-49** - Governing Body appointment of Ben George to Zoning Board of Adjustment as Alternate No. 1 to expire 12/31/2025.

R 24-49

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING  
**2024 Governing Body Appointments**

Zoning Board of Adjustment –

Ben George – Alternate No. 1 – Term Expires 12/31/2025

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby approve the appointments as listed.

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 the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

**Resolution No. 24-50** - Freeze health care benefits for employees at the 2023 rates.

R 24-50

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AUTHORIZE A FREEZE ON RATES CHARGED TO FULL-  
TIME EMPLOYEES ENROLLED IN THE NEW JERSEY STATE HEALTH BENEFITS  
PROGRAM TO REMAIN AT 2023 RATES

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey is the provider of Health Care Benefits to all enrolled full-time employees; and

WHEREAS, over the last few years the rise in costs to the Township as well as the individual employee enrolled in the plans have been significant; and

WHEREAS, the changeover in the number of full-time employees and plans selected have changed which caused the overall costs to drop.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey have reviewed this information and have authorized costs for the 2024 plans to remain at the 2023 rates for enrolled full-time employees.

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, March 6, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

**Resolution No. 24 –51** - Award Bid to Top Line Construction Corporation for the Jade Lane Improvement Project – Drainage Structure and Sidewalk Repairs in the amount of \$113,027.69.

R 24-51

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AWARD TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION JADE LANE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – DRAINAGE STRUCTURE AND SIDEWALK REPAIRS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$113,027.69

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong received and opened bids on February 15, 2024 for the Jade Lane Improvement Project – Drainage Structure and Sidewalk Repairs; and

WHEREAS, the low bid for the base bid for the project was submitted by Top Line Construction Corporation (“Top Line”) of Somerville, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the low bidder has been found to be qualified and the bid was found to be in compliance with the contract documents and technical specifications.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, at its meeting of March 6, 2024, that a contract be awarded to Top Line for the base bid in the amount of \$113,027.69.

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, February 7, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

**Resolution No. 24-52** – Award Bid for Upper Belvidere Road Transportation Alternatives Program Project to Top Line Construction in the amount of \$380,332.40.

R 24-52

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AWARD BID FOR UPPER BELVIDERE ROAD TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM PROJECT TO TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$380,332.40

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong received and opened bids on May 3, 2023 for the Upper Belvidere Road (CR646) Transportation Alternatives Program Project; and

WHEREAS, the low bid for the base bid for the project was submitted by Vektor Corporation (“Vektor”) of Monroe, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, following a review of the bids by our office and the New Jersey Department of Transportation Division of Civil Rights, it was determined that the Bid submitted by Vektor was found to be non-responsive and not in conformance with the Contract DBE Goal; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation Division of Civil Rights has indicated that Vektor was therefore disqualified from the project and has recommended that the contract not be awarded to Vektor; and

WHEREAS, the second responsive low bid was submitted by Top Line Construction Corporation (“Top Line”) of Somerville, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation Division of Civil Rights has determined in their review that the bid submitted by Top Line was responsive and satisfies the Contract DBE Goal; and

WHEREAS, Top Line has been found to be qualified and the bid was found to be in compliance with the contract documents and technical specifications and the NJDOT has recommended the contract be awarded to Top Line.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, at its meeting of March 6, 2024, that a contract be awarded to Top Line for the base bid in the amount of \$380,332.40.

#### 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, March 6, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

**Resolution No. 24-53** – Award Traffic Planning and Design, Inc., the contract for Inspection Services for the Transportation Alternatives Grant Program in the amount of \$84,786.87.

R 24-53

#### RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OBSERVATION AND ADMINISTRATION SERVICES TO TRAFFIC PLANNING AND DESIGN FOR THE UPPER BELVIDERE ROAD SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong (“Township”) is the recipient of a Federal Aid Grant in the amount of \$439,338.50 for the Upper Belvidere Road Sidewalk Improvement Project; and

WHEREAS, the Township will be awarding a construction contract for the work to Top Line Construction Corporation (“Top Line”) at the March 6, 2024 Council Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the work being performed by Top Line is subject to inspection by the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township is responsible for providing full-time observation of the work being performed by Top Line in accordance with the grant agreement for the project; and

WHEREAS, the municipal engineer, who ordinarily would conduct such observations, is not permitted to perform observations on this project pursuant to the terms and provisions of the grant agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Township obtained proposals from two qualified firms to perform the required observations on the project; and

WHEREAS, the proposal submitted by Traffic Planning and Design, Inc., of Freehold, NJ was found to be the most responsive to the Township’s Request for Proposal for construction observation and administration services on the project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, Warren County, NJ that a contract in the amount of \$84,786.87 is being awarded to Traffic Planning and Design, Inc., of Freehold, NJ for construction observation and administration services on the Upper Belvidere Road Sidewalk Improvement Project.

#### 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, March 6, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

**Resolution No. 24-54** – Submission of grant from the NJDept. Of Community Affairs for Phase 1 of the Playground Improvements to the Lopatcong Park.

R 24-54

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO OBTAIN A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR PHASE 1 OF PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS AT LOPATCONG PARK

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$100,000 to carry out a project to begin Phase 1 of Playground Improvements at Lopatcong Park.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED,

- 1) That the Township of Lopatcong does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and
- 2) Recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the Township of Lopatcong and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the persons whose names, titles and signatures appear below are authorized to sign the application and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement and any other documents necessary in connection therewith:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
Margaret B. Dilts  
Clerk/Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
William Wright  
Mayor

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 the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

**Resolution No. 24-55** – Authorize Application for Safe and Secure Communities Program.

R 24-55

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM  
2024-2115  
RESOLUTION OF PARTICIPATION



A RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND  
PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong wishes to apply for funding of approximately \$22,575.00 with a match of \$201,281.49 for an approximate project total cost of \$223,856.49 for a project under the State of New Jersey and Secure Communities Grant Program, 24-2115 (Period 1/9/2024-1/8/2025); and

WHEREAS, the project is a joint effort between the Department of Law and Public Safety and the Township of Lopatcong Police Department for the purpose described in the application.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Lopatcong, Mayor and Council that

1. As a matter of public policy, the Township of Lopatcong wishes to participate to the fullest extent possible with the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of Attorney General.
2. The Attorney General will receive funds on behalf of the applicant.
3. The New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of Attorney General shall initiate allocations to each applicant as authorized.
4. The Township of Lopatcong, Non-Profit Organization, is authorized to accept and/or does accept the Subaward.

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, March 6, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

**Resolution No. 24-56** – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2022-012 on Block 61, Lot 5 in the amount of \$6,805.76.

R 24-56

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE  
NO. 2022-012 ON BLOCK 61, LOT 5

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 15, 2022, a lien was sold on Block 61, Lot 5 also known as 857 US Highway Route 22 for delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-012 was sold to Arthur Frustaci; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2024, the Certificate No. 2022-012 has been satisfied in the amount of \$6,805.76.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024, that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$6,805.76 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2022-012 to:

Arthur Frustaci  
712 Rugby Road  
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, March 6, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

**Resolution No. 24-57** – Correct Tax Account for Block 85, Lot 5.

R 24-57

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO CORRECT THE TAX ACCOUNT FOR BLOCK 85, LOT 5

WHEREAS, the Tax Account for Block 85, Lot 5 has a balance due for the 2016 Tax Year; and

WHEREAS, it has been found that in 2016, the correction had been completed inaccurately and left a balance of \$717.64 on the account.

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 authorize the Township of Lopatcong Tax Collector to adjust the Tax Account of Block 85, Lot 5 in the amount of \$717.64.

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, March 6, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

**Resolution No. 24-58** – Correct Tax Account for Block 85.02, Lot 31.

R 24-58

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO CORRECT THE TAX ACCOUNT FOR BLOCK 85.02, LOT 31

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 12-31 authorized the correction of Block 85.02, Lot 31 for a County Appeal Judgement; and

WHEREAS, it has been found that in 2011, the correction had been completed inaccurately and left a balance of \$125.00 on the account.

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 authorize the Tax Collector to adjust the 2011 Tax Account of Block 85.02, Lot 31 in the amount of \$125.00.

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, March 6, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

**Resolution No. 24-59** – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-002 on Block 61, Lot 3 in the amount of \$9,600.03, Premium \$7,400.00.

R 24-59

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE  
NO. 2022-011 ON BLOCK 61, LOT 4

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 15, 2022, a lien was sold on Block 61, Lot 4 also known as 859 Memorial Parkway for delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2022-011 was sold to PROCAP 8 FBO Firsttrust Bank; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2024, the Certificate No. 2022-011 has been satisfied in the amount of \$7,228.75.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024, that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$7,228.75 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2022-011 to:

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, March 6, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

**Resolution No. 24-60** – Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-002 on Block 61, Lot 3 in the amount of \$9,600.03, Premium \$7,400.00.

R 24-60

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE  
NO. 2023-002 ON BLOCK 61, LOT 3

WHEREAS, at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 12, 2023, a lien was sold on Block 61, Lot 3 also known as 865 US Highway Route 22 for delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-002 was sold to Christiana T C/F CE1/Firsttrust; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2024 the Certificate No. 2023-002 has been satisfied in the amount of \$9,600.03, Premium \$7,400.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024, that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$9,600.03, Premium \$7,400.00 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2023-002 to:

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, March 6, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

**Council Reports:**

Councilman McQuade – No report

Councilman Marinelli – No report

Council President Palitto – Reported the Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month – rain date the 30<sup>th</sup> and the town cleanup in connection with Earth Day is scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Engineer Wisniewski – Updates on various projects – Top Line was awarded the bid for the Jade Lane Improvement Project which will be done this year. The Belvidere Road TAP Program will be starting this project as soon as school lets out. Phase two of Belview Road from Strykers Road to Rt. 519 will be bid in the next week or two. The Park Project concept plan and cost estimates have now been completed and the next step in the process is to secure the funding mechanisms for that. Also noted was Chapter 206 – Road Opening Permits is in the process of being revised and will be advanced once the Township Attorney has reviewed and approved the revisions.

Chief of Police Garcia – Provided a monthly traffic report.

Fire Chief LaFord – Informed the Council and public that the Fire Company was awarded a \$40,000.00 grant by the State of New Jersey Dept. of Community Affairs for structural firefighting gear. This is the second time a grant was awarded; last year \$9,000 for a gear washer.

**Department Reports** – Motion by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman McQuade. All in favor.

**Payment of Bills** – Motion to pay bills by Councilman McQuade, seconded by Councilman Marinelli. Roll call vote:  
AYES: Councilman Marinelli, Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright.  
NAYS: None

**Audience Participation:**

John Kecherson – 38 Jade Lane – Spoke about the Phillipsburg Mall Center Designation and then spoke of the Highlands Redevelopment Area Designation for the Phillipsburg Mall and proposed properties. He noted that the Highlands Council website states that Lopatcong has withdrawn the Center Designation request for the mall and the farmland behind the mall. Mr. Kecherson asked what are Lopatcong's plans now. Clerk Dilts suggested he contact the Highlands for further explanation as to their verbiage on their website.

Bob Bruce – 11 Harwich Road – Asked about the concept and cost of the park if it will continue to be discussed in public. Mayor Wright said as the project moves along it will be discussed in public. Engineer Wisniewski reported grant funding is being offered now for the play equipment, so the Township is applying for it.

John Betz – Brakeley Gardens – I hope the Lord in aggregate wit gets us through the next several/multiple years ahead for our country and does not meet an untold demise.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC  
Clerk/Administrator

William D. Wright  
Mayor