

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG  
MEETING MINUTES  
6:30 PM Executive Session/7:30 pm Regular Session

May 1, 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 Belcaro, Councilman Marinelli, Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright. Also, present were Attorney Baldwin and Engineer Wisniewski.

Motion to return to Regular Session by Councilman Marinelli, seconded by Councilman McQuade.

Attorney Baldwin summarized Executive Session Items one through six.

Attorney Baldwin asked for a motion to send an Offer Letter for Employment for Purchasing Agent. Motion by Mayor Wright, seconded by Council President Palitto. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Attorney Baldwin asked for a motion to send an Offer Letter for Employment for a Deputy Municipal Clerk. Motion by Mayor Wright, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

Attorney Baldwin – asked for a motion to send an Offer Letter for Employment for Keyboarding Clerk. Motion by Mayor Wright, seconded by Council President Palitto. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

**Old Business:**

**Minutes** – Approve Executive and Regular Sessions for March 26 and April 3, 2024 on motion by Councilman McQuade, seconded by Councilman Marinelli. All in favor.

Motion by Councilman Marinelli, seconded by Councilman Belcaro to approve the minutes.

Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

**Ordinance No. 24-07** – Second reading and public hearing to Amend Chapter XIII of the Revised General Ordinances, Chapter 243 Zoning and Land Use Article XIII, General Regulations, Section 60(A)(1) to Permit Non-Intensifying Residential Expansion. Motion to

hold public hearing by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman Belcaro. All in favor. Richard Bruce asked for an explanation to the public as he heard it at the Planning Board meeting. Engineer Wisniewski explained the revisions. No other comments. Motion to close the public hearing by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman McQuade. All in favor.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-07**

**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, May 1, 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 AMEND CHAPTER XIII OF THE  
REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG,  
CHAPTER 243, ZONING AND LAND USE,  
ARTICLE XIII, GENERAL REGULATIONS, SECTION 60(A)(1) TO PERMIT NON-  
INTENSIFYING RESIDENTIAL EXPANSION**

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 Belcaro. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

**Ordinance No. 2024-08** – Second reading and public hearing to Establish Position of Purchasing Agent. Motion to hold a public hearing by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman McQuade. All in favor. No comments from the public. Motion to close the public hearing by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman McQuade. All in favor.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-08**

**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, May 1, 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 Mayor Wright, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

**Ordinance No. 2024-09** – Second reading and public hearing to Amend Chapter 35 entitled “Deputy Clerk” to remove Tenure. Motion to hold a public hearing by Councilman Belcaro, 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 Marinelli. All in favor.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-09**

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, May 1, 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 OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 35 SECTION 3, DEPUTY CLERK TERM OF OFFICE; TENURE, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG**

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 Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Councilman McQuade. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

**New Business:**

**Recreation Grant – Pickleball Courts** – Authorize to advertise the project for public bids.

Motion by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman Marinelli. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

**Temporary Trailers** – Discuss a change to the Ordinance to allow temporary trailers for certain circumstances. Following a discussion, the Township Attorney will prepare an ordinance for first reading.

**Ordinance No. 2024-10** – First reading to Amend, Revise and Supplement Chapter 172 to include schedule for Placement and Storage of Refuse Containers on Collection Day.

**TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG  
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
ORDINANCE NO. 2024-10**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF  
LOPATCONG, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND  
SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 172, REFUSE CONTAINERS AND DUMPSTERS, OF  
THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-1, the Township is authorized to establish ordinances to protect the health and welfare of the community at large; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council has recognized a hazard caused by refuse containers present on the street outside of the time for refuse pick up; and

**WHEREAS**, these refuse containers cause a hazard to automobiles in the roadway in which they are placed, issues stormwater management during storm events, as well as a possibility to interfere with neighboring property owners' use of their property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council believes such an amendment is in the best interest of the Township of Lopatcong.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren State of New Jersey as follows:

Section 1 - Chapter 172, Refuse Containers and Dumpsters is hereby amended as followed:

**§ 172-6 Storage and placement of refuse containers for collection.**

1. Storage. All receptacles containing solid waste or recyclables which are not being placed for collection or disposal shall be stored in such a manner as to minimize the potential negative impact upon the adjoining property owners reasonably

inconspicuous from adjacent streets. Receptacles should be stored indoors, in sheltered storage areas or, if kept outdoors, receptacles should be stored at the rear of each private dwelling not closer than 15 feet from the boundary line of the property or located in such other place as the owner, lessee, tenant, occupant or agent of the premises may be reasonably certain that the receptacles will not interfere with the health, safety and welfare of an adjoining owner.

2. Placement. No container shall be placed for collection prior to 7 pm the evening before the scheduled collection day, nor shall containers remain at the roadside later than 7:00 pm the day they are collected.

### **§ 172-6 Violations and penalties**

Any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500.

#### 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 for first reading at a meeting of the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey to be held on Wednesday May 1, 2024 and will be considered for adoption upon second and final reading at a regular Township meeting to be held at 7:30 pm or shortly thereafter on Wednesday June 5, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

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

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

NAYS: None

**NJ DOT Grant Application** – Council discussed submitting an application for the 2024/25 aid. Engineer Wisniewski will prepare the application.

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion by Council President Palitto, seconded by Councilman Marinelli to adopt Resolution to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

R 24-74

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 twelve on the Consent Agenda.

1. Resolution in Support of Senate No. 725 concerning unlawful occupancy of dwellings and Supplementing Title 2C of the New Jersey State Statutes.
2. Resolution authorizing Sewer Credit on Block 85.03, Lot 7 in the amount of \$292.33.
3. Resolution authorizing redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2020-023 on Block 86.04, Lot 9 in the amount of \$9,895.55, Premium \$1,000.00.
4. Resolution authorizing Colliers Engineering & Design to perform design work on the Industrial Connector Road Project.
5. Veterans Park Gazebo Gutters – award quote to Alan Kunsman in the amount of \$3,450.00.
6. Resolution approving Temporary Municipal Budget in the amount of \$42,498.00.
7. Authorize Ad for Plumbing Subcode Official on the League of Municipalities website.
8. Approve application for April K. Bartlack to the Delaware Park Engine Co. No. 1 as recommended by Fire Chief LaFord.
9. Hold Harmless Agreement – 223 Beers St. and DPW property.
10. Authorize quote from TruGreen for spraying in the spring and fall in the amount of \$8,166.00.
11. Resolution authorizing a Shared Service with the Town of Phillipsburg for Plumbing subcode/Inspector services.
12. Authorize Titan Mobile Shredding to provide shredding of paper on-site monthly for a fee of \$90.00.

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, April 3, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

**Resolution No. 24-75** – Support of Senate Bill No. 725 concerning Unlawful Occupancy of Dwellings and Supplementing Title 2C of the New Jersey State Statutes.

R 24-75

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL S-725 CONCERNING  
UNLAWFUL OCCUPANCY OF DWELLINGS AND SUPPLEMENTING TITLE 2C OF THE  
NEW JERSEY STATUTES OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the occupancy of a dwelling without the permission of the property owner, also known as “squatting” is an increasing occurrence throughout the State of New Jersey and the Country; and

WHEREAS, persons engaging in squatting often do so with the express intention of depriving the lawful property owners of the use and possession of their own property for as long as possible, with the express knowledge that squatting is not a criminal offense, thus requiring a property owner to undertake expensive, time-consuming civil litigation to recover their property, which said litigation can be subject to delay tactics including, but not limited to, bankruptcy applications, resulting in squatters successfully depriving lawful owners of the use and benefit of their own property for extended periods of time; and

WHEREAS, Senators Steinhardt, Testa and Politian have introduced and are sponsoring Senate Bill No. S-725, which said legislation would establish squatting in various contexts as criminal offenses and crimes of the fourth degree, thus permitting property owners to avail themselves of filing criminal complaints with local law enforcement that can be duly investigated, and when appropriate, permit police officers to arrest and remove persons found to be engaged in said criminal squatting activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, New Jersey that it hereby adopts this Resolution to memorialize its support for Senate Bill No. 725 and certified copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded by the Township clerk to the Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the Town’s elected Representatives in the State Legislature and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

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, May 1, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

**Resolution No. 24-76** - Authorize redemption of Tax Sale Certificate no. 2020-023 on Block 86.04, Lot 9 in the amount of \$9,895.55, Premium \$1,000.00.

R 24-76

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE  
NO. 2020-023 OLN BLOCK 86.04, LOT 9

WHEREAS, at the Township Municipal Tax Sale held on December 29, 2020, a lien was sold on Block 86.04, Lot 9 also known as 38 Meadowview Drive for delinquent sewer; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate No. 2020-023 was sold to PRO CAP 8 FBO Firsttrust Bank; and

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2024, the Certificate No. 2020-023 has been satisfied in the amount of \$9,895.55, Premium \$1,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 2024, that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$8,895.55, Premium \$1,000.00 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 2020-023 to:

Pro Cap 8 FBO Firstrust Bank  
P.O. Box 774  
Fort Washington, PA 19034-0774

#### 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, May 1, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

**Resolution No. 24-77** - Authorize Sewer Credit on Block 85.03, Lot 7 in the amount of \$292.33.

R 24-77

#### RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING SEWER CREDIT ON BLOCK 85.03, LOT 7 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$292.33

WHEREAS, resident of 22 Dinah Drive, Block 85.03, Lot 7 explained that his home had an underground pipe leak resulting in higher water usage that had progressed throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter billing of 2024; and

WHEREAS, the resident appeared before the Sewer Appeal Board presenting all documentation as proof; and

WHEREAS the Sewer Appeal Board agreed the sewer bill should be credited for 26,500 gallons resulting in a credit of \$292.33.

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 agree and grant the credit of \$292.33 to the resident of 22 Dinah Drive, Block 85.03, Lot 7.

#### 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, May 1, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

**Resolution No. 24-78** - Authorize Colliers Engineering & Design to perform design work on the Industrial Connector Road Project.

R 24-78

#### RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING COLLIERS ENGINEERING & DESIGN



**TO PERFORM DESIGN WORK ON THE INDUSTRIAL CONNECTOR ROAD  
PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, Strykers Road is an inter-municipal collector roadway within Lopatcong Township that handles a high traffic volume; and

**WHEREAS**, the portion of Strykers Road south of Route 57 is used by motorists to travel between Route 57 and Route 22; and

**WHEREAS**, the portion of Strykers Road south of Route 57 is being used extensively by trucks; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of Strykers Road south of Route 57 by motorists including trucks has impacted the intersections of Route 519 and Strykers Road and Route 22 and Route 519; and

**WHEREAS**, the intersection of Route 22 and County 519 had the second highest number of crashes for a particular County roadway location in the 2021 calendar year per the Warren County Road System Traffic Crash Data and Road Safety Assessment Report for the 2021 calendar year prepared and issued by the Warren County Engineering Department in August 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, it would be in the interest of Lopatcong Township and other local government agencies including the County if traffic could be directed to Route 22 via another route to avoid Route 519; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township seeks to design and construct an industrial connector road between Strykers Road and Route 22 to reduce congestion on Route 519 particularly at the Route 22 – Route 519 intersection; and

**WHEREAS**, the industrial connector road is proposed to utilize a portion of an existing industrial roadway and meet at the Route 22 – Rand Boulevard signalized intersection, which was recently constructed;

**WHEREAS**, the Township filed a grant application with the NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT) in May 2023 to obtain monies to design the industrial connector road; and

**WHEREAS**, the grant application was in the amount of 1.3 million dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, the NJDOT awarded a grant to the Township in the amount of 1.3 million dollars from the 2023 Local Transportation Project Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, the NJDOT issued correspondence to the Township on February 6, 2024 summarizing the funding award and clarifying the requirements to use the funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township would like to commence work on the design of the industrial connector road project in accordance with an April 12, 2023 proposal submitted by Colliers Engineering & Design in the amount of \$1,181,300.00;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, Warren County, NJ that Colliers Engineering & Design is authorized to commence design work in accordance with the terms and provisions of its April 12, 2023 proposal and the terms and provisions of the contract between the Township of Lopatcong and Colliers Engineering & Design for municipal engineering services.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that after the April 12, 2023 contract is executed by the Mayor and Township Clerk, Colliers Engineering & Design shall post the signed proposal on the NJDOT's PMRS grant management system to allow for the Township to submit monthly requests for withdrawals against the grant funding as the design process progresses.

## CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, RMC, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, Warren County, NJ, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by Lopatcong Township Council at its meeting on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC  
Township Clerk/Administrator

**Veterans Pavilion** – Award Quote to Alan Kunsman in the amount of \$3,450.00 to install gutters on the pavilion.

**Resolution No. 24-79** - Approve Temporary Municipal Budget in the amount of \$24,498.00.

R 24-79

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPROVING TEMPORARY MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR THE  
YEAR 2024

**Plumbing Subcode Official** – Authorize to advertise for the position on the League of Municipalities website.

**Delaware Park Engine Co., No. 1** - Approve application for April K. Bartlack as recommended by Fire Chief LaFord.

**Hold Harmless Agreement** – Authorize between the resident of 223 Beers Street and the DPW property.

**TruGreen Spraying** – Award quote for spraying in the spring and fall in the amount of \$8,166.00.

**Shared Service Agreement** – Authorize a Shared Service Agreement with the Town of Phillipsburg for Plumbing Subcode/Inspector services.

**Titan Mobile Shredding** – Authorize Titan Mobil Shredding to provide service to the Township Municipal Building at a cost of \$90.00 per month.

### **Council Reports:**

Councilman McQuade – Noted that the Rent Leveling Board Meeting has been changed to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May. Encouraged the residents of Brakeley Gardens to come forward with issues they interpret as violations of the Ordinance.

Councilman Belcaro – No report

Councilman Marinelli – No report

Council President Palitto – Thank everyone who participated in the Earth Day cleanup. Special Thanks to Robyn George for organizing the event.

Mayor Wright – Mentioned that he is receiving phone calls from Brakeley Garden tenants having no hot water. Calls were made to the DCA and Assemblyman DiMaio to assist with rectifying the situation as well as the Township's Construction Office and Warren County Health Dept. Noted

that he had a call from a person wanting to walk their dog off leash in the park. There are no dogs allowed in the park.

Engineer Wisniewski – Provided an update on the projects that are ongoing; two road projects and one sidewalk project. Authorization was given from NJDOT to enter into the construction phase and work with contractors for projects – Jade Lane Improvements Project, Belview Road Improvements Phase II and Upper Belvidere Road Sidewalk Project. Plans are being prepared now for the Pickleball Courts under last year’s Recreation Grant. The bid advertisement is scheduled for the end of the month. On the overall Park Improvement Project, the Concept Plan has been finalized, the Architectural Plan has been finalized with the various structures and next steps are the Bonding for funding the project along with an application being submitted with Congressman Kean’s Office for grant funding.

Chief of Police Garcia – Presented his monthly Traffic Report – 161 traffic stops; 43% of those were traffic summons and 36% of those were tractor trailer drivers. With regard to the OEM Office, work is continuing on the Fox Farm Road Project caused by a devastating storm which happened back in July that took out a lot of infrastructure on Fox Farm Road. We are waiting for an award of funds to assist with the project from FEMA.

Fire Chief LaFord – The Fire Dept. last month responded to 26 calls. The average response time was 7 minutes, average duration was 27 minutes. For the year to date, we responded to 80 calls same time period last year was 67 calls; and increase of 19% from last year.

Emergency Squad Report – In April, Phillipsburg Emergency Squad ran 448 calls of which 116 were in Lopatcong Township which makes up about 26% of the call volume.

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

**Payment of Bills** – On motion by Councilman McQuade, seconded by Councilman Marinelli. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

### **Public Comment:**

Bob Bruce – 11 Harwich Road – He presumed resolution support Senate Bill No. 725 concerning unlawful occupancy of dwellings, etc. is what might commonly be thought of as a squatter law and putting some teeth behind enforcement noted a good idea and thanked Council. Received his answer on Recreation Grant and thanked Engineer Wisniewski for explaining and the also thanked him for the explanation of the temporary trailers. Confirmed the funds received for the connector road are being used for the design work Colliers is doing on the Industrial Road. Asked to confirm Public Comment at the beginning of meeting is no longer and requested an explanation as to the benefit.

Jen Herr - 356 Liberty Road – Noted a traffic issue on Liberty Road. Rt. 57 to 519 is 40 MPH. Kids and new homes, it is just not right – looking for the Police to provide suggestions.

Dawn Paulis – Brakeley Gardens – Here about the water problems. The lived without water from April 11 to April 21. Not a sole showed up to the fix the hot water. Attorney Baldwin will reach out to the DCA to see what can be done.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC  
Clerk/Administrator

William D. Wright  
Mayor