**TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG**

**PLANNING BOARD**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**7:00 pm**

July 24, 2024

Chairman Samson called the Planning Board Meeting to order.

A Prayer was offered for former Chairman Garrett VanVliet followed by the Oath of Allegiance

Chairman Samson 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: Members Coyle, Melendez, Palitto, Caughy, George, Vice-Chairwoman DiLeo, Chairman Samson. Also present was Engineer Wisniewski, Planner Ritter and Attorney Bryce.

**Old Business:**

**Minutes – June 26, 2024 –** Motion by Member Palitto, seconded by Member Coyle. Roll call vote:

AYES: Members Coyle, Melendez, Palitto, Caughy, George, Vice-Chair Woman DiLeo, Chairman Samson, Alternate Weeks.

NAYS: None

**Resolution –** Approve Site Plan and Variances for Double J – Key City Diner. Motion to approve the Resolution by Member Coyle, seconded by Member Caughy. Roll call vote:

AYES: Members Coyle, Palitto, Caughy, George, Chairman Samson

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Melendez, Vice-Chairwoman DiLeo, Alternate-Brian Weeks

**New Business:**

**Lopatcong School District – Board of Education –** Courtesy review of plan of Lopat Drop Off Loop Road.

Matthew and Anthony Gianforcaro, of Gianforcaro Architects, Engineers &

Planners, appeared on behalf of the Board of Education as did Israel Marmolejos, the

Superintendent of the Lopatcong Township School District, all of whom were sworn.

Mr. Gianforcaro testified that the Board of Education is seeking to improve

an existing semi-improved walking path originating from the parking lot of the school to

Strykers Road so as to create a drive aisle that will alleviate traffic on site during pick-up and

drop-off hours and in an attempt to alleviate traffic backups that currently exist on Strykers Road

during such times. The proposed drive aisle will expand the existing walkway and add an

additional sidewalk and the Board of Education is proposing an additional catch basin for

stormwater management to discharge the stormwater into an existing basin. During discussion it was indicated that the drive aisle would allow for a double que one-way entrance into the school for pick-up and drop-off. The Board discussed the safety of the sidewalk and adjacent athletic fields from roadway traffic and suggested appropriate buffering. Mr. Gianforcaro indicated that the Board of Education would consider installing an 8-inch curb and speed mitigation devices on the road and further indicated that the sidewalk would be approximately 5 feet wide with a cartway width of 13 feet and the roadway would be gated during non-pick-up and drop-off times.

Mr. Gianforcaro noted that approximately 5,000 square feet of disturbance will be occasioned by the project which is less than a major stormwater management trigger. Superintendent Marmolejos commented that he has been working with the Police Chief to address the traffic issues on Strykers Road and that this appears to be the most sensible and logical path forward from an economic standpoint and there will be available funding through a safe school grant and that the project undertaken will be in coordination with the Township itself. The Board Engineer has made other certain recommendations relating to the design of the proposed loop road. The Planning Board determined the project is consistent with the Master Plan of the Township of

Lopatcong and recommends that the project be performed with the engineering revisions and

safety suggestions as provided to the Board of Education in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-

31. On motion by Vice-Chairwoman DiLeo, seconded by Member Melendez. Roll call vote:

AYES: Members Coyle, Melendez, Palitto, Caughy, George, Vice-Chairwoman DiLeo, Chairman Samson, Alternate, Brian Weeks.

NAYS: None

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Member Weeks, seconded by Member Caughy. All in favor.