# WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING April 21, 2021 Regular Meeting – 7:30 PM

#### CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

The regularly scheduled meeting of the West Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:30 PM. Present were Mayor Stephen Bergenfeld, Deputy Mayor James Cally, Committeemen John Dale, Gary Hoyer and Lucas Lyons along with Township Clerk Maria Andrews and Township Attorney Katrina Campbell.

Clerk Andrews announced that this meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was faxed to the Hunterdon County Democrat and Trenton Times on January 14, 2021, was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on that date and has remained continuously posted as required under the Statute. A copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Township Clerk.

## **AGENDA REVIEW BY TOWNSHIP CLERK**

Clerk Andrews noted there were no changes to the posted agenda.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The following announcements were made:

Kindly Turn Cell Phones Off During the Meeting

Mayor Bergenfeld also commented on the extensive tree trimming being done by JCP&L along Goat Hill Road, Lake View Road and Rock Road West. He noted approximately 72 dead trees have been removed and expressed gratitude for this matter finally being addressed.

# **PRESENTATION OF MINUTES**

A motion by Dale, seconded by Lyons to approve the Committee's 4/7/21 open and closed session minutes with no revisions noted was unanimously approved by voice vote.

## OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPICS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Bergenfeld opened the floor to public comment. Dave Beaumont of 205 Rock Road West commented that all of the trees which had been tagged on Rock Road have been removed but remarked what was cut was totally inconsistent. He suggested the Township try and get something in writing from JCP&L ensuring they will be back to finish the job properly. Mr. Beaumont thanked Mayor Bergenfeld for all of his efforts to pursue this matter thus far.

Hearing no other members of the public speak up, Mayor Bergenfeld closed the floor to public comment.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

# **Reports by Department Heads**

Fire Chief Ent asked about the status of the 40 ft. training container he requested be located in the Recycling Depot. Mayor Bergenfeld asked why the container couldn't be put in the Fire Department's parking lot next to the bus that is already there noting the Township is trying to keep the depot area cleaned up. Chief Ent indicated the school had donated the bus for training purposes and stated that it will likely be removed in the Fall because the department has utilized it for many drills.

John Cronce of 1423 Route 179 spoke up from the public and commented that he believed the Recycling Depot was the best place for the training container and asked the Committee why they would want such a thing located in the Station 1 residential area. He remarked it is no more of an eyesore than the existing dumpsters at the depot.

Deputy Mayor Cally asked how much use the container would get. Chief Ent stated training would likely occur 2 nights a month for about 2-3 hours with lights utilized from the fire trucks. He commented that there may be a few weekend training sessions as well.

Mayor Bergenfeld stated the Committee will need to speak with DPW Director Rollero to get additional clarification on this matter before they can make a decision on it.

OEM Director Harry Heller spoke up from the public and noted he is in the process of working with the County on updating the Hazardous Mitigation Plan and also stated the Township's Emergency Operating Plan will need to be signed off on at the next meeting.

# INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

# **Public Hearing: 2021 Municipal Budget**

Mayor Bergenfeld opened the floor to public comment on the 2021 Municipal Budget. Chief Ent inquired about the funding for his turnout gear and equipment repair reimbursement not being in the budget. CFO Carro commented that funds could be moved at the end of the year to cover these costs. Mr. Beaumont commented that the average increase to the taxpayer's will be approximately \$100 this year.

Hearing no other members of the public speak up, Mayor Bergenfeld closed the floor to public comment.

A motion by Hoyer, seconded by Cally to adopt the 2021 Municipal Budget was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes. Lyons: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

# Resolution #44-2021: Self Examination of 2021 Budget

# TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY RESOLUTION #44-2021

RE: Self Examination of Budget

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination, and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 thru 7.5 the Township of West Amwell has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the Township meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2021 budget year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell that the 2021 annual budget be examined in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification. The governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

- 1. That with reference to the following items, if applicable, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget.
  - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
  - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
  - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
  - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
  - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
  - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes.
- 2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at 40A:4-45.3 et seq. are fully met. (Complies with the "CAP" law).
- 3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.

- 4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
  - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate, and correctly stated;
  - b. Items of appropriations are properly set forth
- c. In itemization, form, arrangement, and content the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.
- 5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced, publicly advertised, and adopted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
- 6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Introduced by: James Cally

Seconded by: Gary Hoyer Approved: April 21, 2021

ATTEST

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC	Stephen Bergenfeld, Mayor

A motion by Cally, seconded by Hoyer to approve Resolution #44-2021 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes. Lyons: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

<u>Public Hearing</u>: Ordinance 05, 2021 – AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Mayor Bergenfeld read Ordinance 05, 2021 by title.

Attorney Campbell noted for the record that Ordinance 05, 2021 was amended to correct a typographical error.

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP Public Notice Ordinance 05, 2021

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY.

## SECTION 1

The following shall be the rate and ranges of compensation for the following officials and employees of the township for the year 2021.

Mayor	\$3809.00 Township
Committee	
Township Clerk	\$55,500.00 - \$80,000.00
Plus \$35.00/hr. for special & emergency meetings	
Registrar of Vital Statistics	\$2,500.00 - \$3,500.00
	<b>+=</b> ,===================================
Administrative Assistant	
	\$5,000.00 - \$65,000.00

	\$2,500.00 - \$4,500.00
Assessor	
Qualified Purchasing Agent	
Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer	
Certifying Officer for Pensions	
Assistant Treasurer	
Payroll Clerk	
Planning Board Secretary	\$12,000.00 - \$18,000.00
Plus \$200.00 for each special meeting	4
Deputy Planning Board Secretary	_
Board of Adjustment Secretary	\$7,500.00 - \$12,000.00
Plus \$200.00 each for special meeting	4
Deputy Board of Adjustment Secretary	
Board of Health Secretary	\$2,500.00 - \$4,500.00
Plus \$200.00 for each special & emergency meetings	
Dog Registrar	
Dog Census Takers	•
	\$325.00 mileage per district
Judge	\$11,850,00 - \$17,500,00
Court Administrator	
Court Administrator	943,000.00 - 380,000.00
Construction Code Official (West & East)	\$9,300.00 - \$31,000.00
Plumbing & Mechanical Sub-Code Official & Inspector	φο,ουσίου φο <u>υ</u> ,ουσίου
(West & East)	\$7 225 00 - \$25 750 00
Electric Sub-Code Official & Inspector (West & East)	
Building Sub-Code Official & Inspector (West & East)	
Fire Sub-Code Official & Inspector (West & East)	
Fire Official	
Zoning Officer	
Zonnig Onicei	\$3,130.00 - \$3,300.00
Municipal Housing Liaison/AA	\$4,500,00 - \$7,500,00
	1,500.00
Assistant Collector of Taxes	
Assistant Collector of Taxes	\$3,500.00 - \$10,000.00
Tax Collector	\$3,500.00 - \$10,000.00 \$15,500.00 - \$25,000.00
	\$3,500.00 - \$10,000.00 \$15,500.00 - \$25,000.00
Tax Collector	\$3,500.00 - \$10,000.00 \$15,500.00 - \$25,000.00 \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr
Tax Collector	\$3,500.00 - \$10,000.00 \$15,500.00 - \$25,000.00 \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$25.00 - \$35.00/hr per person
Tax Collector	\$3,500.00 - \$10,000.00 \$15,500.00 - \$25,000.00 \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$25.00 - \$35.00/hr per person
Tax Collector	\$3,500.00 - \$10,000.00 \$15,500.00 - \$25,000.00 \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$25.00 - \$35.00/hr per person \$13.50 - \$20.00/hr \$275.00 - \$500.00/month
Tax Collector	\$3,500.00 - \$10,000.00 \$15,500.00 - \$25,000.00 \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$25.00 - \$35.00/hr per person \$13.50 - \$20.00/hr \$275.00 - \$500.00/month \$12.50 - \$20.00/hr
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Tax Collector General Office Secretary/Clerk	\$3,500.00 - \$10,000.00 \$15,500.00 - \$25,000.00 \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$25.00 - \$35.00/hr per person \$13.50 - \$20.00/hr \$275.00 - \$500.00/month \$12.50 - \$20.00/hr \$5,000.00 - \$10,000.00 \$13.25 - \$19.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr
Tax Collector General Office Secretary/Clerk	\$3,500.00 - \$10,000.00 \$15,500.00 - \$25,000.00 \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$25.00 - \$35.00/hr per person \$13.50 - \$20.00/hr \$275.00 - \$500.00/month \$12.50 - \$20.00/hr \$5,000.00 - \$10,000.00 . \$13.25 - \$19.00/hr . \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr
Tax Collector General Office Secretary/Clerk	\$3,500.00 - \$10,000.00 \$15,500.00 - \$25,000.00 \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$25.00 - \$35.00/hr per person \$13.50 - \$20.00/hr \$275.00 - \$500.00/month \$12.50 - \$20.00/hr \$5,000.00 - \$10,000.00 \$13.25 - \$19.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr
Tax Collector  General Office Secretary/Clerk  Rabies Clinic – Secretarial  Open Space Secretary  Municipal Bldg. Custodian  Building Custodian (Police)  Recycling Depot Manager  Waste Security Officer  Assistant Waste Security Officer  Waste Security Laborer  Substitute Waste Security Laborers  Violations Clerk  Court Security Officer  Substitute MCO  Substitute Sub-Code Officials & Inspectors	\$3,500.00 - \$10,000.00 \$15,500.00 - \$25,000.00 \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$25.00 - \$35.00/hr per person \$13.50 - \$20.00/hr \$275.00 - \$500.00/month \$12.50 - \$20.00/hr \$5,000.00 - \$10,000.00 \$13.25 - \$19.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$25.00 per court session \$30.00 - \$45.00/hr \$29.50 - \$40.00/hr
Tax Collector	\$3,500.00 - \$10,000.00 \$15,500.00 - \$25,000.00 \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$25.00 - \$35.00/hr per person \$13.50 - \$20.00/hr \$275.00 - \$500.00/month \$12.50 - \$20.00/hr \$5,000.00 - \$10,000.00 .\$13.25 - \$19.00/hr .\$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$225.00 per court session \$30.00 - \$45.00/hr \$29.50 - \$40.00/hr
Tax Collector  General Office Secretary/Clerk  Rabies Clinic – Secretarial  Open Space Secretary  Municipal Bldg. Custodian  Building Custodian (Police)  Recycling Depot Manager  Waste Security Officer  Assistant Waste Security Officer  Waste Security Laborer  Substitute Waste Security Laborers  Violations Clerk  Court Security Officer  Substitute MCO  Substitute Sub-Code Officials & Inspectors	\$3,500.00 - \$10,000.00 \$15,500.00 - \$25,000.00 \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$25.00 - \$35.00/hr per person \$13.50 - \$20.00/hr \$275.00 - \$500.00/month \$12.50 - \$20.00/hr \$5,000.00 - \$10,000.00 . \$13.25 - \$19.00/hr . \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$18.00/hr \$12.50 - \$40.00/hr \$225.00 per court session \$30.00 - \$45.00/hr \$29.50 - \$40.00/hr \$15.00 - \$25.00/hr \$25,000.00 - \$55,000.00

Director of P.W. & Roads	\$30.00 - \$50.00/hr
Road Foreman	\$21.00 - \$30.00/hr
Grounds Maintenance Manager	\$38,500.00 - \$46,865.00
Road Class A (10 or more years of service)	\$19.00 - \$30.00/hr
Road Class B (5-10 years of service)	\$18.00 - \$28.00/hr
Road Class C (Less than 5 years of service)	. \$18.00 - \$26.00/hr
Road Laborer	\$12.50 - \$18.00/hr
Temporary Laborer	\$12.50 - \$18.00./hr
Summer DPW Workers	\$12.50 - \$18.00/hr
Police Administrative Secretary	\$15.00 - \$25.00/hr
Substitute Police Secretary	\$15.00 - \$20.00/hr
Part-time Officers	\$25.00 - \$35.00/hr
Part-time Officers Spec Duty	\$25.00 - \$35.00/hr
Police Matrons	\$15.00 - \$25.00/hr
with a minimum of 4 hours pay if called out between 9 p.m. and 6	6 a.m.

## SECTION II

Definitions and Benefits are outlined in the West Amwell Township Policy Manual adopted December 28, 2005 with amendments through April 23, 2014

#### SECTION III

All Ordinances and parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

#### **SECTION IV**

This Ordinance shall take effect after final adoption and publication according to the laws of the State of New Jersey.

APPROVED BY TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE		
ATTEST:	Stephen Bergenfeld, Mayor	
Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC		

Mayor Bergenfeld opened the floor to public comment on Ordinance 05, 2021. Hearing no members of the public speak up, a motion was made by Cally and seconded by Hoyer to close the floor to public comment. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

A motion by Dale, seconded by Hoyer to adopt Ordinance 05, 2021 upon second reading was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Lyons: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

# **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. <u>Open Space:</u> John Cronce, Chairman of the Open Space Committee came forward and informed the Committee that the signage regarding dogs needing to be on leashes was put up. He also asked Attorney Campbell if she had reviewed the easement language on preserved properties with public access.

Attorney Campbell explained that preservation can be done in a number of ways and clarified that she did not see that the Township was under any obligation to post where public access is. She noted that if preservation was done by way of an Agricultural Subdivision at the Planning Board level, the Township holds the easement and enforces it, but is not under any obligation to annually monitor it. She commented that the Township always retains the right to inspect the easement as long as they provide the property owner with notification.

With regard to the Runkle property's "floating easement/exception area," Attorney Campbell indicated that since a buildable area was not actually delineated on the site plan, the resolution states that the property owner must go back to the Planning Board when they decide to build to get approval on the proposed construction area. Mayor Bergenfeld asked if an agricultural building can be built anywhere on the property. Attorney Campbell stated that in this specific case, no, because it is expressly stated in resolution (PB #11-2002) that they must go back to the Planning Board for approval.

- B. Environmental: No report given.
- C. Ag Advisory: No report given.
- D. Finance Committee: No report given.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Update: PennEast Status – It was noted for the record that no update was provided.

B. Update: Website Status – Rob Tomenchok of the Technology and Community Outreach Committee provided a 45 minutes presentation on the new website. The Committee thanked Mr. Tomenchok and the group for all of their hard work on getting the new website up and running.

#### **NEW BUSINESS/OTHER**

# Resolution #43-2021: Establishing 2021 Salary & Wages for Township Employees

Mayor Bergenfeld noted that DPW Director Rollero had requested consideration of a raise for Waste Security Officer Bob Gordon. It was noted for the record that the Committee approved the new hourly rate of \$17.00 effective 4/21/21.

#### **RESOLUTION # 43-2021**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell that the salaries and compensation for officials and employees shall be as follows for 2021:

	<u>Salary</u>
<u>Position</u>	Resolution
Mayor Bergenfeld	\$ 3,809.00
Township Committee members	\$ 3,194.00 / each
QPA – DeAngelis	\$ 4,213.00
Township Clerk Andrews	\$ 76,956.00
Registrar Andrews	\$ 3,329.00
Deputy Township Clerk Haberle	\$ 35,293.00
Deputy Registrar of VS Haberle	\$ 3,329.00
Escrow Clerk Haberle	\$ 3,997.00
Tax Assessor Gill	\$ 38,911.00
Tax Collector Brewi	\$ 20,011.00
CFO/Treasurer Carro	\$ 38,413.00
Certifying Officer for Pensions Carro	\$ 1,477.00
Assistant Treasurer Haberle	\$ 14,114.00
Payroll Clerk Haberle	\$ 3,505.00
Planning Board Secretary Andrews	\$ 16,930.00
Board of Adjustment Secretary Andrews	\$ 8,077.00
Board of Health Secretary Andrews	\$ 3,909.00
Dog Registrar Haberle	\$ 2,820.00
Municipal Housing Liaison/AA	\$ 6,319.00
Judge Taddeo	\$ 16,000.00 / per contract
Court Administrator Williamson	\$ 69,510.00
Violations Clerk	\$ 25.00/hour
Zoning Officer Latini	\$ 8,952.00
Construction Official Rosso	\$ 22,912.00
Plumbing & Mechanical Sub Code Official Rose	\$ 22,021.00

Electric Sub Code Official Buchanan Building Sub Code Official Rosso Fire Sub Code Official Langon Fire Official Langon	\$ 25,744.00 \$ 27,968.00 \$ 11,456.00 \$ 6,588.00			
Substitute Electric Sub-Code & Inspectors (Petto & Steele)	\$ 35.79 / hour			
Construction/Zoning Office Mgr Brewi	\$ 51,198.00			
Assistant Collector of Taxes	\$ vacant			
Police Administrative Secretary Currie	\$ 21.06 / hour			
Open Space Secretary	\$ 18.04 / hour			
Rabies Clinic Secretarial Haberle & Andrews	\$ 27.53 / hour / each			
Recycling Depot Manager Carom	\$ 5,665.00			
Waste Security Officer Gordon	\$ 17.00 / hour			
Waste Security Laborer Womack	\$ 15.45 / hour			
Waste Security Laborer Cardona	\$ 15.80 / hour			
Grounds Maintenance Mgr. Carom	\$ 40,943.00			
Custodian/Municipal Bldg.	\$ 350.00 / monthly per contract			
Dir. Of Public Works & Roads Rollero	\$ 38.54 / hour			
Road Foreman – Cronce	\$ 22.06 / hour			
Road Class A – Pearson	\$ 23.60 / hour			
Road Class C – Gabel	\$ 19.93 / hour			
Road Class C – Janyszeski	\$ 19.93 / hour			
Road Laborer Venettone	\$ 16.84 / hour			
Road Class C – Carom	\$ 25.75 / hourly over 40 hours			
Node class of care.	\$ 25.757 Houri, 616. 16 Hours			
Summer DPW Worker TBD	\$/hour			
Temporary DPW Worker TBD	\$/hour			
Part-time Officer Gibney	\$ 26.92 / hour			
Part-time Officer Venettone	\$ 26.92 / hour			
Part-time Officer TBD	\$/hour			
Police Matron	\$ 20.00/hour			
(min. 4 hrs pay if call out between 9 p.m. & 6 a.r	n.)			
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall	be retro-active to January 1, 2021.			
I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Committee at their regular meeting held April 21, 2	Resolution adopted by the West Amwell Township 2021.			
Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC				

A motion by Cally, seconded by Dale approving Resolution #43-2021 as amended was approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Lyons: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

Resolution #47-2021: Municipalities in NJ Requesting JCP&L Improve Overall Service

RESOLUTION REQUESTING MUNICIPALITIES IN NEW JERSEY TO JOIN TOGETHER IN A CONSORTIUM OF MUNICIPALITIES TO HELP IMPROVE JCP&L OVERALL SERVICES

#### Resolution #47-2021

WHEREAS, West Amwell Township as well as hundreds of municipalities across the State of New Jersey, were without power ranging from hours to multiple days as a result of Tropical Storm Isaias, which struck the State on Tuesday, August 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Tropical Storm Isaias caused devastation across the State in the form of downed power lines and trees, flooding, road closures, as well as disruption to transportation infrastructure and hubs; and

WHEREAS, the weather forecasts ahead of Tropical Storm Isaias, as well as communications from the State of New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, warned of the coming storm and the damage that it could inflict upon the State and that all utility companies should be prepared; and

WHEREAS, it is clear to the Township Committee and residents of the Township that the infrastructure that JCP&L was charged to maintain – utility poles, transformer substations and wiring, often failed, demonstrating that the utility was unprepared for Tropical Storm Isaias despite the claim that the infrastructure had been upgraded; and

WHEREAS the Township Committee finds that JCP&L failed to provide service in the length of time it took to restore the Township to full power; and

WHEREAS, considering the burden the loss of electricity has caused Township residents, the Township Committee is requesting other municipalities within New Jersey to join together in a Consortium of Municipalities along with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and JCP&L, to discuss the issues and concerns over the years with JCP&L and to help improve their overall services and to develop solutions with timelines and milestones in an effort to rectify these issues in a timely fashion.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell is requesting all municipalities to join in this effort to bring resolution to the issues we have all experienced in the past with a coordinated effort to exact positive change.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to BPU President Joseph L. Fiodaliso, the Board of Public Utilities Commission, JCP&L, Legislators representing this Legislative District and all municipalities in the State of New Jersey.

# **Certification**

I, Maria Andrews, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true copy of the resolution adopted by the Township Committee at their regular meeting on April 21, 2021.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

A motion by Hoyer, seconded by Cally approving Resolution #47-2021 was unanimously approved by roll call vote

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Lyons: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

## **Discussion: Status of Office COVID Protocol**

Deputy Mayor Cally explained that he and OEM Director Heller reviewed the Proclamation for the State of Emergency, the message from then Mayor Cally and the COVID-19 Workplace Safety Standards and updated them accordingly.

Tax Collector/Construction Office Manager Brewi spoke up from the public and asked if employees are still required to fill out the daily health screening form. She commented that the Township's on-line questionnaire is outdated because it doesn't address vaccination status. Attorney Campbell remarked that inquiring about an employee's vaccination status may be a violation of the Hippa regulations. Deputy Mayor Cally indicated he would review the questionnaire and get back to the Committee with any proposed changes.

It was noted for the record that the Committee took no issue with the changes made to the other 3 documents.

Mayor Bergenfeld commented that he would like a "Thank You" letter sent to Jose Ortiz from First Energy/JCP&L for the outstanding coverage he has provided the Township with and for his assistance on

getting all of the recent tree trimming done. It was noted for the record that the Committee was in support of the letter being sent to Mr. Ortiz.

#### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Bergenfeld opened the floor to public comment. Dave Beaumont spoke up thanking the Committee for allowing the website presentation to go over the allotted 15 minutes and also recognized Heidi Tomenchok, Rob Tomenchok, Bob Birmingham and Harry Heller for all of their hard work in getting the site up and running. Additionally, Mr. Beaumont commented that he will be stepping back from the Technology/Community Outreach Committee and expressed that he has enjoyed working with everyone. He wished the group well and remarked that it was time for outreach efforts to move forward without him. Committeeman Hoyer thanked Mr. Beaumont for all of his dedicated years of service.

Hearing no other members of the public speak up, Mayor Bergenfeld closed the floor to public comment.

#### **OTHER**

# Resolution #46-2021: Closed Session - Personnel/Contracts - Litigation/Affordable Housing

#### Resolution #46-2021

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee of West Amwell Township, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

- 1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter.
- 2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows: Mt. Laurel Litigation, personnel, contracts and subjects falling under Attorney-Client privilege.
- 3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public when the matter has been resolved.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.		
	Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC	

A motion by Hoyer, seconded by Lyons to approve Resolution #46-2021 and enter into Closed Session was unanimously approved by voice vote.

A motion by Cally, seconded by Dale to return to Open Session was unanimously approved by voice vote.

It was noted for the record that the Committee was in Closed Session from 9:34 PM – 11:38 PM.

Upon returning to open session, the following actions were taken:

A motion was made by Hoyer and seconded by Dale authorizing Clerk Andrews to send Joanna Mustafa an offer of employment letter for the CFO position. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Lyons: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

A motion was made by Cally and seconded by Hoyer to accept the deed(s) from George Arnett. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Lyons: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

A motion was made by Cally and seconded by Hoyer to approve Resolution #45-2021 to hire Special Counsel. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Lyons: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING A NON-FAIR

AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES TO CLEARY, GIACOBBE, ALFIERI, JACOBS, LLC.
Resolution #45-2021

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey do hereby authorize a Non-Fair and Open Contract for professional services to the law firm of Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC with offices at 169 Ramapo Valley Road, UL 105, Oakland, NJ 07436 pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20-4 or 20.5; and

WHEREAS, the attorneys of Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC will serve as Special Counsel in connection with the Township's participation in the South Hunterdon Regional School District and related matters. The terms of this agreement shall reflect an hourly billing rate of \$165.00 for services provided, and

WHEREAS, as per <u>N.J.S.A</u>. 40A:4-57and <u>N.J.A.C.</u>: 34-5.1 the Chief Financial Officer does hereby certify funds are available and encumbered; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is one year and may be extended as approved by the Governing Body; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell shall appoint the law firm of Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC as Special Counsel to the Township of West Amwell serve in connection with the Township's participation in the South Hunterdon Regional School District and related matters at an hourly rate of \$165.

## **CERTIFICATION**

I, Maria Andrews, Municipal Clerk of the Township of West Amwell, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Committee at a meeting held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021.

Maria	Andrews	<b>Township</b>	Clerk	RMC

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

## Treasurer - Bill List: 4/21/21

A motion by Bergenfeld, seconded by Cally to approve the 4/21/21 bill list was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Lyons: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

It was noted for the record that the Committee ordered the correspondence listed on the agenda to be filed.

# **ADJOURNMENT**

May	or Berg	enfeld	adiour	ned the	meeting	at 11:45	PM.
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Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

Approved: