

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – January 15, 2024**

Mayor Mueller *calls the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.* announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

PRESENT: Mayor A. Mueller, Deputy Mayor V. Panico, Mr. J. Albanese, Mr. J. Heller, and Mr. J. Huelsebusch

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator R. Sheola, Deputy Clerk Lehberger, Attorney C. Corsini

ABSENT: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Clerk read the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION
EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 *et seq.*, the Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist and desires to authorize the exclusion of the public from the portion of the meeting in accordance with the act;

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

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the specified subject matter as set forth in the following Exhibit “A.”

EXHIBIT A

<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Basis Of Public Exclusion</u>	<u>Date Anticipated When Disclosed to Public</u>
Police.....	Personnel	Certain information at the discretion of Township Committee tonight.... other
Professional Services	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Holman Frenia Allison, PC (Municipal Auditors)</i> • <i>McManimon & Scotland (Bond Counsel)</i> • <i>Surenian, Edwards & Nolan LLC (Special Counsel)</i> • <i>Richard Cushing, Esq. / Gebhardt & Kiefer (Special Counsel)</i> • <i>Sharon A. Dragan, Esq. / Mason Griffin Pierson (Special Counsel)</i> • <i>Fisher & Phillips LLP (Labor Attorney)</i> • <i>Scott Mitzner, Esq. (Public Defender)</i> • <i>Anthony M. Rotunno, Esq. (Alternate Public Defender)</i> • <i>Finelli Consulting Engineers (Conflict Engineer)</i> • <i>Animal Control Solutions (Animal Control)</i> • <i>Burgis Associates (Conflict Township Planner)</i> • <i>Clarke♦Caton♦Hintz (Township Planners)</i> • <i>Point Consulting (Social Media Services)</i> • <i>JEC Computers, LLC (Computer and Printer Maintenance)</i> • <i>AEIS (Inspection Svcs. for Lake Cushetunk Dam)</i> • <i>Van Cleef Engineering (Township Engineer)</i> • <i>Brian Davis, Esq / Stephen Davis, Esq. (Municipal Prosecutor)</i> • <i>Phoenix Advisors (Smart Services)</i> • <i>Boswell Engineering (Conflict Engineer)</i> 		

- *Matthew Giacobbe / Clearly, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC*
- *Martin Allen, Esq. (Tax Appeal Attorney)*
- *Christopher Corsini, Esq. / Savo Schalk, et al. (Township Attorney)*

Verano, NJ, LLC (Block 14, Lot 49)..... Contract Negotiations “ “ “

Award of Demolition of Twp Contract Negotiations “ “ “
Properties (Block 28, Lot 1 / Raritan Township)

Executive Session Minutes..... Attorney-Client Privilege.....“ “ “
• December 18, 2023

Executive Session Minutes..... Attorney-Client Privilege.....“ “ “
• December 28, 2023

Executive Session Minutes..... Attorney-Client Privilege..... “ “ “
• October 16, 2023 (*Release for Redaction Only*)

Affordable Housing..... Potential Litigation..... “ “ “

It is anticipated at this time that the stated subject matter will be made public on or about the time set forth in Exhibit “A.”

2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Heller to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Mueller led those present in the *Salute to the Flag*.

Executive Session:

Personnel / Police

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Professional Services / Holman Frenia Allison PC (Township Auditor)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-16

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR MUNICIPAL AUDITOR SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Municipal Auditing Services through a fair and open process pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Holman Frenia Allison, PC has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide Municipal Auditor Services at an annual rate of \$42,000.00.

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer’s Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (*N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

Resolution #R-2024-16 cont'd:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Holman Frenia Allison, PC as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Nay
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Professional Services / McManimon, Scotland & Bauman (Bond Counsel Services)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-17

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR
BOND ATTORNEY SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Bond Attorney Services through a non-fair and open process pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, McManimon & Scotland, L.L.C. has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide Bond Attorney Services for rates as detailed in the contract for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/adopted budget.

WHEREAS, McManimon & Scotland, L.L.C. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that McManimon & Scotland, L.L.C. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Readington in the previous one (1) year, and that the contract will prohibit McManimon & Scotland, L.L.C. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer's Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (*N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with McManimon & Scotland, L.L.C. as described herein; and

Resolution #R-2024-17 cont'd:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service Contract including the rate schedule are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Professional Services / Surenian Edwards & Nolan (Special Counsel Affordable Housing)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-18

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR
SPECIAL LITIGATION COUNSEL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Special Litigation Counsel Services as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the term “non-fair and open contract,” for the purposes of the law, refers to a Professional Services Contract awarded to a contractor who has not made a political contribution as described in *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq.* or in *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-8, et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey R. Surenian, Esq., Surenian, Edwards and Nolan, LLC has submitted proposal indicating he will act as Special Litigation Counsel at the following rates: Attorney – \$200 per hour in addition to lower rates for supporting personnel; for the following matters:

Re: *Township of Readington Affordable Housing Obligations*

for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/adopted budget.

WHEREAS, Jeffrey R. Surenian, Esq., Surenian, Edwards and Nolan, LLC, has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Jeffrey R. Surenian, Esq. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Readington in the previous one (1) year, and that the contract will prohibit Jeffrey R. Surenian, Esq. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer’s Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (*N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

Resolution #R-2024-18 cont'd:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Jeffrey R. Surenian, Esq., Surenian, Edwards and Nolan, LLC, as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Professional Services / Richard Cushing, Esq./Gebhardt & Kiefer (Special Counsel)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-19

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR
SPECIAL LITIGATION COUNSEL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Special Litigation Counsel Services as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the term “non-fair and open contract,” for the purposes of the law, refers to a Professional Services Contract awarded to a contractor who has not made a political contribution as described in *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq.* or in *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-8, et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Gebhardt & Kiefer, PC has submitted a proposal indicating they will act as Special Litigation Counsel at the following rates:

1. Airport Matters
\$335 per hour for Partners
\$285 per hour for Associates
\$120 per hour for Paralegals
2. 388 Route 22 Holdings, LLC Readington Realty v. Twp of Readington
\$300 per hour for Attorney
\$250 per hour for Associates
3. New Matters – to be determined

Resolution #R-2024-19 cont'd:

for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/adopted budget.

WHEREAS, Gebhardt & Kiefer, PC, has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Gebhardt & Kiefer, PC has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Readington in the previous one (1) year, and that the contract will prohibit Gebhardt & Kiefer, PC from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer's Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Gebhardt & Kiefer, PC, as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Professional Services / Sharon Dragan, Esq./Mason Griffin Pierson (Special Counsel)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-20

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR
SPECIAL COUNSEL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Special Counsel Services as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, the term “non-fair and open contract,” for the purposes of the law, refers to a Professional Services Contract awarded to a contractor who has not made a political contribution as described in N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 *et seq.* or in N.J.S.A. 19:44A-8, *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

Resolution #R-2024-20 cont'd:

WHEREAS, Sharon A. Dragan, Esq. (Mason, Griffin & Pierson) has submitted a proposal indicating they will act as Special Counsel for real estate matters, including land acquisitions, open space and farmland preservation projects and related issues involving same, affordable housing matters and as well any other matters as may be requested by the Township at a rate of \$250.00 per hour for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/adopted budget.

WHEREAS, Sharon A. Dragan, Esq. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Sharon A. Dragan, Esq. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Readington in the previous one (1) year, and that the contract will prohibit Sharon A. Dragan, Esq. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer's Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Sharon A. Dragan, Esq., as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Professional Services / Fisher & Phillips LLP (Labor Attorney)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-21

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR
LABOR COUNSEL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Labor Counsel Services through a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Fisher & Phillips, LLP has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide Labor Counsel Services for rates as follows:

Resolution #R-2024-21 cont'd:

- Partner-Level Attorney - \$375.00 per hour.
- Senior Associate - \$295.00 per hour.

for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/adopted budget.

WHEREAS, Fisher & Phillips, LLP has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Fisher & Phillips, LLP has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Readington in the previous one (1) year, and that the contract will prohibit Fisher & Phillips, LLP from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer's Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Fisher & Phillips, LLP as described herein; and

Contract Negotiations / Professional Services / Scott Mitzner, Esq. (Public Defender)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-22

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR
MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Municipal Public Defender Services through a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Scott Mitzner, Esq. has submitted a proposal indicating he will provide Municipal Public Defender Services at a rate of \$120 per hour for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/adopted 2024 budget.

WHEREAS, Scott Mitzner, Esq. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Scott Mitzner, Esq. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Readington in the previous one (1) year, and that the contract will prohibit Scott Mitzner, Esq. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer's Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Scott Mitzner, Esq. as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

Resolution #R-2024-22 cont'd:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service Contract are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Professional Services Kuchinsky & Rotunno PC (Alternate Public Defender)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-23

TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR
ALTERNATE MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Alternate Municipal Public Defender Services as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the term “non-fair and open contract,” for the purposes of the law, refers to a Professional Services Contract awarded to a contractor who has not made a political contribution as described in *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq.* or in *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-8, et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Anthony M. Rotunno, Esq. of Kuchinsky and Rotunno, PC. has submitted a proposal indicating he will provide Alternate Municipal Public Defender Services at a rate of \$95 per hour; and

WHEREAS, Anthony M. Rotunno, Esq. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Anthony M. Rotunno, Esq. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Readington in the previous one (1) year, and that the contract will prohibit Anthony M. Rotunno, Esq. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer’s Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (*N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Anthony M. Rotunno, Esq. described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

Resolution #R-2024-23 cont'd:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service Contract are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Professional Services Finelli Consulting Engineers (Conflict Township Engineer)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-24

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL CONFLICT MUNICIPAL ENGINEER / INSPECTION SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire the services for a backup/conflict Professional Engineer on an as needed basis as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provision of *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5* and

WHEREAS, the term “non-fair and open contract,” for the purposes of the law, refers to a Professional Services Contract awarded to a contractor who has not made a political contribution as described in *N.J.S.A. 19.44A-20.5 et seq.* or in *N.J.S.A. 19.44a-8, et. seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Finelli Consulting Engineers, Inc., has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide Professional Engineering/Construction Inspection Services for rates as detailed in the contract for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/adopted budget.

WHEREAS, Finelli Consulting Engineers, Inc., has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Finelli Consulting Engineers, Inc., has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Readington in the previous one (1) year, and that the contract will prohibit Finelli Consulting Engineers, Inc., from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer’s Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (*N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Finelli Consulting Engineers, Inc., as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

Resolution #R-2024-24 cont'd:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service Contract including the rate schedule are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Animal Control Solutions (Animal Control Services)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-25

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Animal Control Services as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the term “non-fair and open contract,” for the purposes of the law, refers to a Professional Services Contract awarded to a contractor who has not made a political contribution as described in *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq.* or in *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-8, et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, Animal Control Solutions has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide Animal Control Services at an annual rate of \$38,124.00; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer’s Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (*N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Animal Control Solutions as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Burgis Associates Inc. (Conflict Township Planner)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-26

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL CONFLICT MUNICIPAL PLANNING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire the services for a conflict Professional Planner relating to Block 81, Lot 1 Redevelopment as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provision of *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5* and

WHEREAS, the term “non-fair and open contract,” for the purposes of the law, refers to a Professional Services Contract awarded to a contractor who has not made a political contribution as described in *N.J.S.A. 19.44A-20.5 et seq.* or in *N.J.S.A. 19.44a-8, et. seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Burgis Associates, Inc., has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide Professional Planning Services for rates as detailed in the contract for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

WHEREAS, Burgis Associates, Inc. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Burgis Associates, Inc., has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Readington in the previous one (1) year, and that the contract will prohibit Burgis Associates, Inc., from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer’s Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (*N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Burgis Associates, Inc., as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service Contract including the rate schedule are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye
Mr. Panico - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

Contract Negotiations / Clarke Caton Hintz. (Township Planner)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-27

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Professional Planning and Landscape Architectural Services through a fair and open process pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Clarke Caton Hintz has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide Professional Planning and Landscape Architectural Services for rates as detailed in the contract for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/adopted 2024 budget.

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer’s Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (*N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Clarke Caton Hintz as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service Contract including the rate schedule are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye
Mr. Panico - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

Contract Negotiations / Point Consulting (Social Media Services)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-28

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, there exists a need in the Township of Readington for Professional Services; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contract Law (*N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.*) requires that the Resolution hiring a professional for professional services without competitive bids must be publicly advertised.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington as follows:

1. That the following contract has been awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1) (a)* of the Local Public Contract Law because the services rendered or to be performed are by persons authorized by law to practice their profession:
 - Point Consulting LLC. to represent the Township as Social Media Management at a monthly rate of \$1,400.
2. Said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024.
3. Copies of this Professional Service Contract are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Nay
Mr. Heller	- Nay
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / JEC Computers (Computer and Printer Maintenance)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-29

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR
PROFESSIONAL COMPUTER AND PRINTER MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Professional Computer and Printer Maintenance Services through a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*; and

Resolution #R-2024-29 cont'd:

WHEREAS, JEC Computers, LLC has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide Professional Computer and Printer Maintenance Services at a rate of \$249.99 per month (\$2999.88 annually) and after two (2) *no charge* on-site visits, \$49.99 per visit plus \$99 per hour for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/adopted budget.

WHEREAS, JEC Computers, LLC, has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that JEC Computers, LLC has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Readington in the previous one (1) year, and that the contract will prohibit JEC Computers, LLC. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer's Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes entering into a contract with JEC Computers, LLC as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service Contract are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / AEIS (Inspection Services for Lake Cushetunk Dam)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-30

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE LAKE CUSHETUNK DAM

WHEREAS, there exists a need to acquire inspection services for the Lake Cushetunk Dam through a non-fair and open process pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44-A-205.; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, AEIS (Advanced Engineering & Inspection Services) has submitted a proposal indicating they will perform inspection services for the Lake Cushetunk Dam at a cost of \$19,200.00

WHEREAS, AEIS, has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that AEIS has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Readington in the previous one (1) year, and that the contract will prohibit AEIS from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

Resolution #R-2024-30 cont'd:

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer's Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with AEIS as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Van Cleef Engineering (Township Engineer)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-31

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL, ENGINEERING AND PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Professional Engineering and Professional Land Surveying Services through a fair and open contract pursuant to the provision of N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5 and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Van Cleef Engineering Associates, has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide Professional Engineering and Professional Land Surveying Services for rates as detailed in the contract for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/adopted budget.

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer's Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Van Cleef Engineering Associates as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

Resolution #R-2024-31 cont'd:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service Contract including the rate schedule are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Brian and Stephen Davis (Municipal Prosecutor)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-32

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT
FOR MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Municipal Prosecutor services through a fair and open process pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Brian Davis and Stephen Davis, Esq. (DiFrancesco, Bateman, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum, P.C.) has submitted a proposal indicating he will provide Municipal Prosecutor services for \$150 per hour for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/adopted budget.

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer's Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (*N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Brian and Stephen Davis, Esq. as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service Contract are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Phoenix Advisors (Smart Services)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-33

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR MUNICIPAL ADVISOR SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Municipal Advisor Services as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the term “non-fair and open contract,” for the purposes of the law, refers to a Professional Services Contract awarded to a contractor who has not made a political contribution as described in *N.J.S.A. 19.44A-20.5 et seq.* or in *N.J.S.A. 19.44a-8, et. seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Phoenix Advisors has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide Municipal Advisor Services for rates as detailed in the contract for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/adopted budget.

WHEREAS, Phoenix Advisors has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Phoenix Advisors has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Readington in the previous one (1) year, and that the contract will prohibit Phoenix Advisors from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer’s Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (*N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Phoenix Advisors as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service Contract including the rate schedule are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Boswell Engineering (Conflict Engineer)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-34

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL CONFLICT MUNICIPAL ENGINEER / INSPECTION SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire the services for a backup/conflict Professional Engineer on an as needed basis as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provision of *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5* and

WHEREAS, the term “non-fair and open contract,” for the purposes of the law, refers to a Professional Services Contract awarded to a contractor who has not made a political contribution as described in *N.J.S.A. 19.44A-20.5 et seq.* or in *N.J.S.A. 19.44a-8, et. seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Boswell Engineering, Inc., has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide Professional Engineering/Construction Inspection Services for rates as detailed in the contract for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/adopted budget.

WHEREAS, Boswell Engineering, Inc., has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Boswell Engineering, Inc., has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Readington in the previous one (1) year, and that the contract will prohibit Boswell Engineering from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer’s Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (*N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Boswell Engineering, as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service Contract including the rate schedule are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Matthew Giacobbe/Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs LLC (Labor Attorney)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-35

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR
LABOR COUNSEL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Labor Counsel Services through a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Matthew J. Giacobbe, Esq. of Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri Jacobs, LLC has submitted a proposal indicating they will act as Special Litigation Counsel at the following rates:

*\$175 per hour for All Attorneys
\$90 per hour for Paralegals and Law Clerks*

for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/adopted budget.

WHEREAS, Matthew J. Giacobbe, Esq., has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Matthew J. Giacobbe, Esq. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Readington in the previous one (1) year, and that the contract will prohibit Matthew J. Giacobbe, Esq. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer's Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Matthew J. Giacobbe, Esq. of Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri Jacobs, LLC as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire when the matter is resolved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Martin Allen, Esq/ DiFrancesco, Bateman, et al (Tax Attorney)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-36

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR
TAX ATTORNEY/BANKRUPTCY SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Tax Attorney/Bankruptcy Services through a fair and open process pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Martin Allen, Esq. (DiFrancesco, Bateman, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum, P.C.) has submitted a proposal indicating he will provide Tax Attorney/Bankruptcy Services at a rate of \$185 per hour (on a month to month basis) for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/adopted 2024 budget.

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer’s Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (*N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Martin Allen, Esq. as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service Contract are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Christopher Corsini, Esq/ Savo Schalk, et al (Township Attorney)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-37

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR
TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY**

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Township Attorney Services through a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Corsini, Esq. has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide Township Attorney Services for rates as follows:

- Partner-Level Attorney - \$175.00 per hour.
- Senior Associate - \$145.00 per hour.
- Paralegal - \$45.00 per hour.

in an amount not to exceed \$175,824.00 unless specifically authorized by the Township

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer's Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (*N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Christopher Corsini, Esq. as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service Contract are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Mr. Heller noted that the firm of Holman Frenia and Allison PC was a contributor to one of the Township Committee member's campaign.

Contract Negotiations / Verano, NJ, LLC (Block 14, Lot 49)

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Award of Demolition of Township Properties (Block 28, Lot 1 / Raritan Township)

#R-2024-38

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION***

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has purchased property known as 24 River Road, Raritan Township pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq; and

WHEREAS, Readington Township advertised on December 22, 2023 for the demolition of the structure on the property with bids returnable on January 4, 2024; and

WHEREAS, in response to the advertisement, there were six (6) qualified bidders per the Bid Tabulation sheet (attached); and

WHEREAS, after review by the Township Administrator/QPA and Township Attorney, it has been determined the lowest three qualified bidders are:

Frank Galbraith & Son	\$42,600.00
IBN Construction	\$49,000.00
Nela Carpentry & Masonry	\$51,000.00

WHEREAS, the County of Hunterdon has committed up to \$50,000.00 towards the demolition and decommissioning of the property; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington does hereby award the contract for the demolition of 24 River Road, Raritan, New Jersey to Frank Galbraith & Son based on their lowest qualified bid of \$42,600.00 contingent upon the Chief Financial Officers certification of available funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution and contract for this award shall be forwarded to the Township Administrator, the County Administrator of Hunterdon County and the various non-governmental partners as may be necessary.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / December 18, 2023

A MOTION was made by Mr. Panico to approve the Executive Session Minutes of December 18, 2023, for content only, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / December 28, 2023

A MOTION was made by Mr. Panico to approve the Executive Session Minutes of December 28, 2023, for content only, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Attorney Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / October 16, 2023 (Release for Redaction Only)

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to approve the release of the Executive Session Minutes of October 16, 2023, for redaction only, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Potential Litigation / Affordable Housing

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

The following matter was added to the executive session agenda:

Attorney-Client Privilege / Attorney-Client Privilege

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Mueller read the following statement:

All items listed with an asterisk "" are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a committee member or citizen requests, in which event the item will be removed from the General Order of Business and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.*

Mr. Heller requested the removal of *Item # 4 and the December 18, 2023 Minutes* from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Panico requested the removal of *Item # 3* from the Consent Agenda.

1. * **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of meetings of December 28, 2023 and January 2, 2024
2. * **Sewer Overpayments**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

READINGTON TOWNSHIP

HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there exist several sewer overpayments from 2021 and 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Sewer Collector desires to apply the following overpayments to the amounts due for 2024 prior to the printing and mailing of the sewer bills:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
4	44	\$ 80.00
21.01	101	70.00
21.07	29	70.00
30.01	13	22.67
95	12.288	315.07

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington that the Sewer Collector is hereby authorized to apply the above-referenced 2021 and 2023 sewer overpayments to 2024 sewer fees receivable.

3. * *Tax Overpayments*

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

READINGTON TOWNSHIP
HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there exist several tax overpayments from 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector desires to apply the following 2023 overpayments to the amounts due for 2024 property taxes receivable:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>QUAL</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1.01	1.13		\$ 2,717.00
13	32		1,881.53
14	29.28		4,019.94
14	50	Q0060	94.89
15	4	Q0082	34.24
20	25.02		27.80
34	36.018		250.00
34	36.283		1,899.00
36	5		4,789.33
42	8.14		2,742.00
43	29	Q0205	175.03
46	6		7,166.04
46	10.23		2,589.86
48	26.51		250.00
51.03	2		11,275.71
55	1.18		4,235.61
55	22		2,332.59
60	16.01		1,923.48
63	1		81.87
69	13.25		250.70
70	27.17		249.40
82	1	Q0565	311.78
93	85		30.15
94	11	Q0581	123.05
95	12.109		17.94
95	12.297		1,187.70
95	12.332		107.37

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to apply the above-referenced 2023 property tax overpayments to 2024 property taxes receivable.

4. * *Application for Blue Light Permits*

John Apgar
 Nicholas Graber

5. * **Resolution to Authorize Change in Custodian Petty Cash Fund**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-39

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CHANGE IN CUSTODIAN PETTY CASH FUND

WHEREAS, Richard Sheola, former Chief Financial Officer, was the custodian of the Finance Petty Cash Fund, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A 40:5-21, the Township of Readington is changing custodians to Donna Mollineaux, current interim Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, Donna Mollineaux is bonded in the amount of \$50,000 under the Public Alliance Insurance Coverage Fund Joint Insurance Fund and \$950,000 under the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund (MEL).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon hereby authorizes such action and two copies of this resolution be filed with the Division of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approval.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Panico to approve the Consent Agenda (*with the removal of Items # 3 & # 4 and the December 18, 2023 minutes*), seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of meeting of December 18, 2023

A MOTION was made by Mr. Albanese to approve the December 18, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Panico and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Abstain (since he was not present at the meeting)
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC for items listed on the agenda only

Christina Albrecht requested the rates for the professional service contracts for the Township Auditor, Social Media Services, Township Attorney, and Interim CFO.

Jacqueline Hindle requested that the rates for all the professional contracts be made available to the public. She also noted the correct pronunciation for Attorney Dragan's name.

CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION

1. Notice of Public Hearing from Adam Garcia, Esq. on behalf of QuickChek Corporation in the matter of *An Application made by QuickChek Corporation for issuance of a certificate certifying that the use of the Property and/or the structure on Property existed before the adoption of the ordinance which rendered the use or structure nonconforming to permit the continued residential use within existing structure.* No action taken.

2. Letter dated December 29, 2023 from PSE&G in the matter of the *Petition of Public Service Electric and Gas Company for Approval of an Increase in Electric and Gas Rates and for Changes in the Tariffs for Electric and Gas Service and for Changes in Depreciation Rates and Other Appropriate Relief*. No action taken.
3. Notice of Public Hearing from Hunterdon County Planning Board regarding the *Growth Management Plan*. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ***An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #29-2023 Authorizing the Acquisition of Certain Real Property Known as a Portion of Block 13, Lot 24 in the Township of Readington***

The following ordinance was offered for introduction:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #29-2023 AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS A PORTION OF BLOCK 13, LOT 24 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON

Ordinance #01-2024

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington that the following amendments shall be made to Ordinance #29-2023 entitled "An Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Certain Real Property Known as a Portion of Block 13, Lot 24 in the Township of Readington" adopted on December 4, 2023: (portions underlined thus represent new language; portions marked ~~thus~~ indicate deletions):

WHEREAS, there exists certain real property known as Block 13, Lot 24 on the official tax map of in the Township of Readington, Hunterdon County, consisting of approximately 7.18 +/- acres containing open space which is adjacent to other publicly preserved lands owned by the Township of Readington; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington (hereinafter the "Township") has determined that there is a beneficial public interest in acquiring a 6+/- acre portion of Block 13, Lot 24 consisting of vacant land adjacent to Township-owned land (hereinafter the "Property"), after division, for open space, conservation, passive recreation and/or other public purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Township is authorized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 et seq. to acquire the Property for public purposes; and

WHEREAS, funding for the proposed purchase and costs thereof is available from the Township's Open Space Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of negotiating a timely and mutually acceptable voluntary transaction between the Township and the owner of the Property, it is and has been the policy of the Township to negotiate with the owner of the Property on the basis of fair market value; and

WHEREAS, the purchase shall be made subject to and in accordance with the conditions set forth in the Contract of Sale on file with the Township Clerk's Office, and any agreed-upon amendments thereto, for a negotiated estimated price of \$25,000.00 per acre, subject to any adjustments as a result of an accurate survey, and appraisal, plus approximately ~~\$12,000~~ \$28,000 for soft costs, for an estimated total of ~~\$162,000.00~~ \$178,000.00.

WHEREAS, the transaction is subject to a satisfactory deed for the Property being submitted to the Township at closing of title on the Property.

Ordinance #01-2024 cont'd:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington in the County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section One. For the reasons set forth above, Township Committee hereby authorizes the purchase of a 6+/- acre portion of Block 13, Lot 24 on the official tax map of the Township of Readington owned by Telleri for an estimated purchase price of \$25,000 per acre, plus soft costs, for an estimated total of ~~\$162,000.00~~ \$178,000.00, conditioned on the successful division of Block 13, Lot 24, the fulfillment of the terms of the Contract and any amendments thereto. Funding for the purchase is authorized from the Township's Open Space Trust Fund. The Township is authorized to accept and record the Sellers' deed with the Office of the Hunterdon County Clerk following the closing of title on the Property.

Section Two. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Administrator and Township Clerk of the Township and Township Attorney are hereby authorized and directed to take all reasonable, necessary and lawful steps including execution of any and all necessary documents, toward the negotiated acquisition of said Property, in the manner and subject to the terms and conditions specified above, and are further authorized and directed to make the aforesaid payment to the owner(s) of the Property.

Section Three. All ordinances or parts of ordinances deemed to be inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section Four. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon final adoption and publication in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey.

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Albanese to introduce this ordinance, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

The Public Hearing was scheduled for February 5, 2024 at 7:45 p.m.

- An Ordinance to Provide for the Acceptance of a Portion of Block 42, Lots 9 and 10, Commonly Known as Wyckoff Road in the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey from Robert P. Kiever and Grace C. Kiever, for Public Roadway Purposes***

The following ordinance was offered for introduction:

TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PORTION OF BLOCK 42, LOTS 9 AND 10, COMMONLY KNOWN AS WYCKOFF ROAD IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY FROM ROBERT P. KIEVER, JR. AND GRACE C. KIEVER, FOR PUBLIC ROADWAY PURPOSES

Ordinance #02-2024

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, as follows:

Ordinance #02-2024 cont'd

Section 1. The Township of Readington does hereby accept, for public roadway purposes, the dedication of a portion of Block 42, Lots 9 and 10, commonly known as Wyckoff Road, in the Township of Readington from the property owners Robert P. Kiever, Jr. and Grace C. Kiever, husband and wife, as more particularly set forth in the metes and bounds description set forth within the Deed of Dedication which is on file in the office of the Readington Township Clerk at the municipal building, 509 Route 523, Whitehouse Station and may be inspected during regular business hours by calling the Municipal Clerk for an appointment at (908) 534- 4051.

Section 2. The Township acknowledges receipt of the aforementioned Deed of Dedication conveying the aforementioned portion of Block 42, Lots 9 and 10 to the Township, together with an executed Affidavit of Title.

Section 3. The above-described roadway is being acquired pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-3, 4 and 5, et seq. If the provision of any article, section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision, or clause of this Ordinance shall be judged invalid by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such Order or Judgment shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of any such article, section, subsection, paragraph, or clause and, to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

Section 4. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final adoption and publication according to law and upon recording the Deed of Dedication and this Ordinance in the Hunterdon County Clerk's Office.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Panico to introduce this ordinance, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

The Public Hearing was scheduled for February 5, 2024 at 7:45 p.m.

3. ***An Ordinance Amending Chapter 148 of the Land Use Ordinance of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey Pertaining to Performance and Maintenance Guarantees***

This Committee discussed tabling the ordinance for further clarification.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Panico to table this ordinance pending further clarification, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

4. ***Application for Non-Township Sponsored Special Event Application / Readington Brewery Food Truck Events***

A MOTION was made by Mr. Panico to approve the special event permit application, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

5. **Annual 2024 Sewer Rate - Memorandum from Michael Balogh, Tax Collector**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-40

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has advised of the need for a rate increase in the annual Sewer Rents; and

WHEREAS, the last adjustment to the Sewer Rent was in 2019; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Township Committee, upon the recommendation of the Township Administrator and the Tax Collector, hereby increases the 2024 Sewer Rents Rate to \$480.00 per year.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye
Mr. Panico - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

6. **Request from Raritan Headwaters for Contribution to host 34th Annual Stream Cleanup Day**

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese to approve the \$1,000 contribution to Raritan Headwaters, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye
Mr. Panico - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

7. **Resolution to Amend 2024 Appointments (Municipal Recycling Coordinator)**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-41

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following *amended* appointments are made for the year 2024:

2024 APPOINTMENTS

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>APPOINTMENT</u>	<u>TERM/YEARS</u>
------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

MUNICIPAL RECYCLING COORDINATOR	AMANDA PALITCHKA	ONE YEAR
---------------------------------------	------------------------	----------

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

- Mr. Albanese -Aye
- Mr. Heller - Aye
- Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye
- Mr. Panico - Aye
- Mayor Mueller - Aye

8. **Resolution to Authorize Budget Appropriation Transfers**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-42

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, certain transfers of funds for various 2023 budget appropriations are necessary to cover anticipated expenditures; and

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58* provides for transfer of appropriations with an excess over and above the amount deemed necessary to fulfil their purposes to those appropriations deemed to be insufficient; and

WHEREAS, the appropriations subject to fund transfers hereby are not within those restricted by *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58* for transfer purposes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington that the Chief Financial Officer shall and is hereby authorized to make transfers between appropriation accounts of the 2023 Municipal Budget as follows:

Current Fund	FROM	TO
Finance S&W	9,000.00	
Snow Removal	44,000.00	
Police S&W	40,000.00	
Road Division OE	22,000.00	
Finance OE		9,000.00
Administration OE		4,500.00
Water OE		500.00
Electric OE		6,000.00
Recycling & Solid Waste		95,000.00
TOTAL	\$115,000.00	\$115,000.00
Sewer Utility		
Sewer S&W	5,000.00	
Sewer OE		5,000.00
TOTAL	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Panico and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

- Mr. Albanese -Aye
- Mr. Heller - Aye
- Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye
- Mr. Panico - Aye
- Mayor Mueller - Aye

9. * *Application for Blue Light Permits*

John Apgar
Nicholas Graber

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

10. * *Resolution to Authorize Change in Custodian Petty Cash Fund*

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

11. *Resolution Appointing Donna Mollineaux as Interim Chief Financial Officer*

Mr. Panico requested to recognize the appointment of Donna Mollineaux as the Interim CFO.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-43
TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Richard Sheola was appointed Interim Chief Financial Officer on September 27, 2023 and he is willing to relinquish those duties as Chief Financial Officer effective January 2, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Donna Mollineaux has the necessary qualifications to be appointed Interim Part-time Chief Financial Officer; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Township Committee appoints Donna Mollineaux, CMFO as Interim Part-time Chief Financial Officer for Readington Township effective January 2, 2024.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

12. *Resolution of the Township of Readington Authorizing Certain Statutory Payments of Claims and Other Claims Regular in Nature*

Mr. Heller stated that he was not in favor of bills being paid without the approval of the Township Committee, further adding that a bill list was not submitted for this meeting for review. Administrator Sheola explained that this was a recommendation by the interim Chief Financial Officer to allow checks to be issued in between meetings.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CERTAIN STATUTORY PAYMENTS OF CLAIMS AND OTHER CLAIMS REGULAR IN NATURE

WHEREAS, all claims of payment by the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, are required to be first submitted to the Township of Readington Committee for consideration before payment, and

WHEREAS, due to the nature of certain claims and timing of the particular meeting involved, certain claims should be paid when presented which are statutory and regular in nature, rather than held for the next Committee meeting of the Township of Readington due to the nature of said claims.

Resolution cont'd:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, as follows:

- 1) The Township of Readington does hereby approve the payment between meetings of the following encumbered claims for payment, when the same are presented to the Township of Readington Committee and Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Readington.
 - a) Township of Readington payroll obligations
 - b) Township of Readington required payments to the Board of Education
 - c) Required County tax payments to the County Treasurer
 - d) Banks for investment purposes, internal transfers, and debt service obligations
 - e) State of New Jersey – Application Fees
 - f) Permit Fees
 - g) DEP Fees
 - h) License Fees
 - i) State Surcharges
 - j) Marriage License Fees
 - k) Rabies Control Fees
 - l) Miscellaneous disbursements approved by specific resolutions
 - m) Reissue of lost or mutilated checks after stop payment has been enforced
 - n) Ten percent (10%) Bid Bond Returns (Clerk's office)
 - o) Certain emergencies at only the discretion of the Township of Readington Mayor or Administrator by the Mayor's designation
 - p) Payments necessary to all vendors that require compliance with the 2006 Prompt Payment Law, Chapter 96, whereby the Township of Readington shall pay the bill not more than 30 calendar days after the billing date to avoid billable late charges.
 - q) Postage and "Express Mail" Services
- 2) The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized and directed to prepare the proper vouchers for payment of the above recited accounts when same is properly presented to him/her for payment, and thereafter said claim shall be transcribed on the next scheduled Bill list to be approved by the Township of Readington Committee.
- 3) A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Readington.

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Panico to table this resolution for further discussion with the finance department, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Sheola requested consideration from the Committee to amend the 2024 holiday schedule to replace election day with July 5th as a holiday.

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Panico to amend the holiday schedule for 2024, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Administrator Sheola announced the retirement of Corporal Patrick Carr, wishing him the best in his retirement.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Corsini stated that he had nothing further to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JOHN ALBANESE

Mr. Albanese reported that he made initial contacts with the libraries and municipal court as their Committee liaison.

JONATHAN HELLER

Mr. Heller reported that the annual Raritan Headwaters stream cleanup will be on April 20th. Mr. Heller further added that the Environmental Commission purchased additional trees for their annual tree giveaway with a date to be determined.

JUERGEN HUELSEBUSCH

Mr. Huelsebusch stated that he had nothing further to report.

VINCENT PANICO

Mr. Panico stated that he had nothing further to report.

ADAM MUELLER

Mayor Mueller reported that they are currently working on the budget process and plan to make it as public as possible. Mayor Mueller reported that the Department of Public Works is preparing for the upcoming storm.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Sharon Becker expressed her disappointment for not being reappointed to the Recreation Committee this year and the lack of communication stating that it was very disturbing after her many years of service to see the new members that were appointed.

Jacqueline Hindle spoke to the need to collaborate with Branchburg Township regarding the Solberg Airport Master Plan and requested that the Committee ensure that all residents are kept informed.

Andrew Saad requested that information not be publicized that is not confirmed to be factual regarding Solberg Airport to avoid further lawsuits.

Christina Albrecht questioned why the Committee meeting was moved to a Federal holiday and questioned if there were any additional costs associated with this.

Bill Quinn spoke to his work on the Recreation Committee and his lack of reappointment this year. Mr. Quinn stated that it was very inappropriate and disrespectful for long time dedicated volunteers to be treated this way and commented that he will remember how he was treated when asked for a vote in a future election.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

There were none.

As there was no further business, *A MOTION* was made by Mr. Panico at 8:30 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Submitted by:

Ann Marie Lehberger, *RMC*
Deputy Municipal Clerk