

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – October 7, 2024**

Deputy Mayor Panico *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: Deputy Mayor V. Panico, Mr. J. Albanese, Mr. J. Heller and Mr. J. Huelsebusch

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator R. Sheola, Municipal Clerk K. Parker, Attorney M. Flynn

ABSENT: Mayor A. Mueller

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, THERFORE, 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 Twp tonight shall remain confidential
Vital Statistics (Registrar)	Personnel	“ “ “
Museums	Personnel	“ “ “
Whitehouse Library	Personnel	“ “ “
Department of Public Works	Personnel	“ “ “
Whitehouse Fire Company (Insurance).....	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Local Union No. 469	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
PBA Grievance	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Whitehouse Library	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Executive Session Minutes.....	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	“ “ “
• September 16, 2024		
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 7:40 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Panico led those present in the *Salute to the Flag*.

Executive Session:

A **MOTION** was made by Deputy Mayor Panico to amend the executive session agenda to add *Contract Negotiations / Professional Services*, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Personnel / Police

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-162

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION***

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of public safety in Readington Township to hire police officers, and

WHEREAS, a recent retirement created a vacancy within the Readington Township Police Department, and

WHEREAS, Kevin Bereheiko, a recognized certified police officer by the New Jersey Police Training Commission, has succeeded a rigorous hiring process including interviews and examinations, and

WHEREAS, Director of Public Safety, James Curry and Township Administrator, Richard J. Sheola has recommended the hiring of Kevin Bereheiko; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Readington Township Committee agrees to hire Kevin Bereheiko as probationary police officer with the Readington Township Police Department.

A **MOTION** was made by Deputy Mayor 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
Deputy Mayor Panico	- Aye

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-163

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Readington Township Police Department to maintain sufficient supervision over subordinates, and

WHEREAS, a resignation created a patrol sergeant vacancy within the Readington Township Police Department, and

WHEREAS, an unsettled personnel matter has delayed the possibility of a promotional process; and

WHEREAS, Director of Public Safety, James Curry and Township Administrator, Richard J. Sheola has recommended the temporary assignment of Corporal James Ayotte as Acting Sergeant.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Readington Township Committee agrees to assign James Ayotte as acting sergeant with the Readington Township Police Department for an unspecified period of time, at probationary sergeants salary in accordance with the existing collective bargaining agreement.

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor 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
Deputy Mayor Panico	- Aye

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor Panico to approve the donation of assets on the auction list to support the national disaster aid, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-164

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING USE OF IDLE TOWNSHIP ASSETS FOR USE IN DISASTER
RELIEF OPERATIONS**

WHEREAS, on Hurricane Helene ravaged parts of North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia; and

WHEREAS several employees have indicated their desire to collect and deliver supplies to the areas affected by Hurricane Helene; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee, with the advice of the Township Administrator, has given approval for Township employees who may venture to the affected areas to bring and use idle assets in their mission; and

WHEREAS, any Township employee who travels to the affected areas with the intent to provide assistance or deliver supplies is doing so on their own accrued time and will not be covered under the Township Workers Compensation plan during such time; and

Resolution #2024-164 cont'd:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Readington Township to support the relief efforts and the Township employees who may venture forth.

A **MOTION** was made by Deputy Mayor 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
Deputy Mayor Panico	- Aye

Personnel / Vital Statistics (Registrar)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-165

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE LOCAL REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS AND DEPUTY REGISTRAR, FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON

WHEREAS, due to the retirement of Margaret Slutter, Certified Municipal Registrar, there is a vacancy for the Local Registrar position; and

WHEREAS, due to the retirement of Darlene Mitchell, Certified Municipal Registrar, there is a vacancy for the Alternate Deputy Registrar position; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 26:8 requires the appointment of a Local Registrar of Vital Statistics; and the appointment of a Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics; and

WHEREAS, the Deputy Municipal Registrar, Danielle Monaghan, Certified Municipal Registrar, has served the duties, tasks, and services for the residents be appointed to the position of Local Registrar; and

WHEREAS, due to the appointment of Danielle Monaghan, Certified Municipal Registrar, as Local Registrar there is a vacancy for the Deputy Registrar position; and

WHEREAS, Amanda Jessamine having received her Certification from the New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics makes her qualified to be appointed to the position of Deputy Registrar,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Readington Township to appoint Danielle Monaghan, CMR, for the Local Registrar position and Amanda Jessamine, CMR, for the Deputy Registrar position commencing on October 8, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics and Registry State Registrar.

A **MOTION** was made by Deputy Mayor 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
Deputy Mayor Panico	- Aye

Personnel / Museums

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-166

***RESOLUTION APPOINTING EMILY JERZEWSKI AS PROGRAM DIRECTOR WITH THE
READINGTON MUSEUM***

WHEREAS, the Readington Museum, due to a pending retirement, has a vacancy for a Program Director for the Readington Museums; and

WHEREAS, the position has been advertised and the vacancy was posted internally; and

WHEREAS, there were a number of applications and after interviews with the Museum Director and the Museum Advisory Committee and the Township Administrator; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Readington Township to hire Emily Jerzewski as Program Director contingent upon successful completion of the requisite pre-employment physical.

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor 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
Deputy Mayor Panico	- Aye

Personnel / Whitehouse Library

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor Panico to accept the resignation of Katherine Lencsak, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

Personnel / Department of Public Works

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-167

RESOLUTION APPOINTING LABORER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - OSET

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works – Roads has a vacancy for a Laborer position; and

WHEREAS, the Department has advertised and posted the vacancy internally; and

WHEREAS, there were a number of applications and after interviews with the Director of Public Works, Assistant Director of Public Works, and Township Administrator, it is the recommendation to hire Ryan Oset as Laborer 1 for the Department of Public Works in accordance with the contract in place at this time, effective October 21, 2024; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Readington Township to hire Ryan Oset as Laborer 1 for the Department of Public Works contingent upon successful completion of the requisite pre-employment physical.

A **MOTION** was made by Deputy Mayor 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
Deputy Mayor Panico	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Whitehouse Fire Company (Insurance)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-168

***RESOLUTION ENDORSING WHITEHOUSE FIRE TO JOIN THE PUBLIC ALLIANCE
INSURANCE COVERAGE FUND (PAICF)***

WHEREAS, the Whitehouse Fire Company provides Fire Protection and Suppression services for the greater Whitehouse and East Whitehouse areas along with assisting all other portions of the Township; and

WHEREAS, a review of their Liability Insurance coverage has determined a cost savings and an increase in coverage can be effected by migrating to the PAICF; and

WHEREAS, based on a review by the Township’s Risk Manager in conjunction with Whitehouse Fire Company, it is the recommendation of the Township Committee to permit Whitehouse Fire Company to migrate to the PAICF; and

WHEREAS, Whitehouse Fire will pay their proportional share of insurance if the billing is made to the Township; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Readington Township to endorse the migration of Whitehouse Fire to PAICF effective November 1, 2024 on a prorated basis.

A **MOTION** was made by Deputy Mayor 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
Deputy Mayor Panico	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Local Union No. 469

Deputy Mayor Panico stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / PBA Grievance

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-169

***RESOLUTION AMENDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH
PBA LOCAL 317***

WHEREAS, a clarification of language is necessary in a section of the above reference Agreement with respect to Supervisory Pay; and

Resolution #R-2024-169 cont'd:

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section M needed to be amended; and

WHEREAS, the language is corrected as follows:

Article XIII: - M *The senior officer, in the absence of both a corporal and sergeant in the patrol bureau, shall receive ten (\$10) dollars per tour, for three (3) consecutive hours within a 12 hour tour. A tour shall be defined as 0600 HRS to 1800 HRS and 1800 HRS to 0600 HRS. The “supervisor pay” shall not be earned if either a corporal or sergeant is present.*

Notwithstanding the foregoing, operational control shall continue to be dictated by the Rules and Regulations, Policies and Procedures and any written Directive in effect.

WHEREAS, these changes have been, through discussions between the PBA and Management, approved; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Readington Township to approve the changes as set forth above and incorporate them in to the existing PBA Patrol Officers Collective Bargaining Agreement.

A **MOTION** was made by Deputy Mayor 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
Deputy Mayor Panico	- Aye

Contract Negotiations / Whitehouse Library

Deputy Mayor Panico stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / September 16, 2024

A **MOTION** was made by Deputy Mayor Panico to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 16, 2024 for content only, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Potential Litigation / Affordable Housing

Deputy Mayor Panico stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Professional Services

Deputy Mayor Panico stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

SWEARING IN OF NEW PATROL OFFICER

Municipal Clerk Parker swore in Kevin Bereheiko as Probationary Patrolman.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Deputy Mayor Panico 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. Huelsebusch requested to remove *Item #4* from the Consent Agenda.

1. * **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of meeting of September 16, 2024
2. * **Release of Consistency Review Escrow / Block 81, Lot 1 (Conifer)**
3. * **Resolution for a Temporary Closing of Tree Top Road During a Filming Event**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-170

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
 RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, a request has been received for the temporary closing of Tree Top Road in its entirety for the purpose of conducting a movie shoot; and

WHEREAS, the sporadic closures will be for the purpose of travel and parking; and

WHEREAS, signage, and/or police officers will be present during the road closure to assist with the detour; and

WHEREAS, residents of Tree Top Road will be able to travel on Tree Top Road during the closure; and

WHEREAS, Director of Public Safety, James Curry approves of the aforesaid request.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Readington Township Committee approve of the request to temporarily close Tree Top Road from October 1st, 2024 through November 8th, 2024.

4. * **New Jersey State Firefighter's Association Application for Membership (Temilolu Fashae)**
5. * **Payment of Bills** – (Complete bill list is on file in Clerk’s Office)

<u>Fund Description</u>	<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>Received Total</u>
GENERAL	3-01	\$ 825.00
GENERAL	4-01	\$ 4,151,595.47
SEWER UTILITY OP FUND	4-02	\$ 128,810.33
GENERAL	G-01	\$ 9,890.94
OTHER TRUST	X-03	\$ 23,317.74
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 225,441.96
2021 CAP IMPROVEMENTS	X-21	<u>\$ 6,089.99</u>
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$ 4,545,971.43

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor Panico to approve the Consent Agenda (*with the removal of item #4*), seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC for items listed on the agenda only

There were none.

PUBLIC HEARING

As it was after 7:45 p.m., ***A MOTION*** was made by Mr. Huelsebusch to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #13-2024 AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 21, LOT 4 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, HUNTERDON COUNTY FROM SOLIS

ORDINANCE #25-2024

Deputy Mayor Panico asked if there were any comments from the governing body.

Mr. Huelsebusch provided an overview of the ordinance acquiring the property.

Deputy Mayor Panico asked if there were any comments from the public.

There were no comments.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Huelsebusch to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #13-2024 AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 21, LOT 4 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, HUNTERDON COUNTY FROM SOLIS

ORDINANCE #25-2024

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

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

A MOTION was made by Mr. Huelsebusch to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON AMENDING ARTICLE II (DEFINITION OF TERMS) OF CHAPTER 148 (LAND DEVELOPMENT) TO REVISE CERTAIN DEFINITIONS RELATED TO THE TOWNSHIP'S SIGN REGULATIONS

Ordinance #27-2024

Deputy Mayor Panico asked if there were any comments from the governing body.

Mr. Heller expressed concerns about the verbiage regarding political signs.

Deputy Mayor Panico asked if there were any comments from the public.

Betty Ann Fort inquired about signs on private property versus public property.

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor Panico to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON AMENDING ARTICLE II (DEFINITION OF TERMS) OF CHAPTER 148 (LAND DEVELOPMENT) TO REVISE CERTAIN DEFINITIONS RELATED TO THE TOWNSHIP'S SIGN REGULATIONS

ORDINANCE #27-2024

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

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

A ***MOTION*** was made by Deputy Mayor Panico to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON AMENDING SECTION 148-116-10 (ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT) OF ARTICLE XII (SIGN REQUIREMENTS) OF CHAPTER 148 (LAND DEVELOPMENT) TO DELEGATE ENFORCEMENT POWER TO ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUALS

Ordinance #28-2024

Deputy Mayor Panico asked if there were any comments from the governing body.

There were none.

Deputy Mayor Panico asked if there were any comments from the public.

There were none.

A ***MOTION*** was made by Deputy Mayor Panico to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON AMENDING SECTION 148-116-10 (ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT) OF ARTICLE XII (SIGN REQUIREMENTS) OF CHAPTER 148 (LAND DEVELOPMENT) TO DELEGATE ENFORCEMENT POWER TO ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUALS

ORDINANCE #28-2024

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

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

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Huelsebusch to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS POLICE VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$280,100 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$240,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Ordinance #29-2024

Deputy Mayor Panico asked if there were any comments from the governing body.

Mr. Heller stated that he did not support the acquisition of a motorcycle.

Deputy Mayor Panico asked if there were any comments from the public.

There were none.

A ***MOTION*** was made by Deputy Mayor Panico to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS POLICE VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$280,100 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$240,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

ORDINANCE #29-2024

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

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

A ***MOTION*** was made by Deputy Mayor Panico to instruct the Township Administrator to not authorize the purchase of the police motorcycle or bond for that amount unless directly instructed by the majority of the Township Committee, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

A ***MOTION*** was made by Deputy Mayor Panico to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

***ADDING CHAPTER 63 TO THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
CONCERNING LEAD-BASED PAINT INSPECTIONS***

Ordinance #30-2024

Deputy Mayor Panico asked if there were any comments from the governing body.

There were none.

Deputy Mayor Panico asked if there were any comments from the public.

There were none.

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor Panico to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

***ADDING CHAPTER 63 TO THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
CONCERNING LEAD-BASED PAINT INSPECTIONS***

ORDINANCE #30-2024

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor Panico to adopt this ordinance, seconded by Mr. Huselsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION

1. Letter dated September 17, 2024 from Donna Kukla, Township of Raritan, in the matter of ***An Ordinance of the Township of Raritan Amending Section 296-131 entitled "Schedule of Controls" of Chapter 196 entitled "Land Development" of the Code of the Township of Raritan to Establish a Prohibition on Shipping Containers throughout the Township.***
No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ***Request to Hold Annual Coin Toss Fund Raiser / Whitehouse Fire Company***

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor Panico to approve the Annual Coin Toss Fundraiser for Whitehouse Fire Company, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

2. ***Special Items of Revenue and Appropriations in the 2024 Budget Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Municipal Infrastructure Grant Program)***

Mr. Albanese expressed concerns regarding the process by which grants were being applied for. Mr. Albanese maintained that not all members of the Committee were involved in the decision-making process and that there should have been a more thorough discussion among the Committee members. Mr. Albanese indicated that there could be additional opportunities for the Township through the grant program that were not fully considered.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-171

***SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION
IN THE 2024 BUDGET
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87***

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington received the sum of \$65,000.00 from the grant as listed below and wishes to amend its 2024 budget to include that amount as revenues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of items of revenue in the budget of the year 2024 in the sum of \$65,000.00, which items are now available as a revenue from the following sources pursuant to the provision of statute:

Hunterdon County Municipal Infrastructure Grant	\$65,000.00
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$65,000.00 be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of the following:

Hunterdon County Municipal Infrastructure Grant	\$65,000.00
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A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor 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
Deputy Mayor Panico	- Aye

*The Clerk stated that **the MOTION failed.***

3. ***Special Items of Revenue and Appropriations in the 2024 Budget Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Community Energy Planning Grant)***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-172

***SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION
IN THE 2024 BUDGET
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87***

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington received the sum of \$10,000.00 from the grant as listed below and wishes to amend its 2024 budget to include that amount as revenues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of items of revenue in the budget of the year 2024 in the sum of \$10,000.00, which items are now available as a revenue from the following sources pursuant to the provision of statute:

Community Energy Planning Grant	\$10,000.00
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$10,000.00 be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of the following:

Community Energy Planning Grant	\$10,000.00
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A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor 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
Deputy Mayor Panico	- Aye

4. ***Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract for Extraordinary, Unspecifiable Services (Rehabilitation of Fire Pumping Apparatus)***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-173

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION***

WHEREAS,; the Three Bridges Fire Company has notified the Township Administrator/QPA of a need to rehabilitate a 2008 4 Guys/Spartan fire pumping apparatus; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has funded the necessary repair; and

Resolution #R-2024-173 cont'd:

WHEREAS, the Qualified Purchasing Agent has determined that detailed specifications for the rehabilitation work cannot be adequately prepared and determined due to the nature of the work; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Qualified Purchasing Agent to utilize the provisions of *N.J.S.A.40A:11-5(1)(a)(ii)*, known as the Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services provision; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Readington Township to approve a contract with Fire Line Equipment Company, 307 Twin Springs Court, New Holland, PA 17557 in the amount of \$120,022.00 per the proposal made part of this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 *et seq.*) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for “Extraordinary, Unspecifiable Services” without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection.

CERTIFICATION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS

X-22-013-001 ~ CAPITAL ACCOUNTS ~ \$120,022.00

A **MOTION** was made by Deputy Mayor 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
Deputy Mayor Panico	- Aye

5. **Resolution to Authorize the Purchase of Department of Public Works Pickup Truck with Utility Box via State Contract**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington wishes to proceed with acquisition of a F-250 or equivalent SuperCab with eight (8) foot box;

WHEREAS, a contract exists via the State of New Jersey Contract #23-FLEET-34922; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Finance Officer has certified the availability of funds for this contract in the accounts enumerated below; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington does hereby award the contract for the F-250 SuperCab with eight(8) foot box to Neilson Fleet, 31 Williams Parkway, Morristown, NJ 07936 per the State of New Jersey Contract #23-FLEET-34922 in the total amount of \$84,712.00

CERTIFICATION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS

4-02-850-212	\$57,517.00
4-02-850-217	\$27,195.00

A **MOTION** was made by Deputy Mayor Panico to table this resolution for further review and discussion, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

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

6. Resolution Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property

Mr. Huelsebusch requested clarification on the vehicles listed for the auction.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-174

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington is the owner of certain surplus property which is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington is desirous of selling said surplus property in an “as is” condition without express or implied warranties.

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

1. The sale of the surplus property shall be conducted through Municibid pursuant to State Contract #19-GNSV1-00696 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the State Contract. The terms and conditions of the agreement entered into with Municibid are available online at municibid.com and also available from the Township of Readington.
2. The sale will be conducted online, and the address of the auction site is municibid.com
3. The sale is being conducted pursuant to Local Finance Notice 2008-09.
4. A list of the surplus property to be sold is as follows:

Year of Equip	Make	Model	Serial # or VIN	Item description
2010	Dodge	Caravan	2D4RN4DE9AR165822	Minivan
2001	Mid Atlantic		5ANNA121X1R008388	Trailer

5. The surplus property as identified shall be sold in an “as-is” condition without express or implied warranties with the successful bidder required to execute a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement concerning use of said surplus property.
6. The Township of Readington reserves the right to accept or reject any bid submitted.

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor 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
 Deputy Mayor Panico - Aye

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Administrator Sheola reported on the results of the bond anticipation note sale as follows:

YEAR	BIDDER	AMOUNT	COUPON	PREMIUM	N.I.C.	N.I.C. IN \$
2023	TD Securities	\$3,892,000	4.5%	\$17,008.04	4.0168%	\$157,645.46
2024	BNY Mellon	\$5,102,000	4.25%	\$58,023.52	3.1096%	\$158,209.16

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Flynn stated that he had nothing further to report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer O'Brien reported that Pulaski Road from Shade Lane to Demott Drive will be milled and paved this week and PSE&G will also be paving portions, and the trenches will be repaired this week. Engineer O'Brien further reported that he will be sending a synopsis to the Township Administrator of the meeting with Readington Lebanon Sewer Authority (RLSA) regarding sewer flows and Inflow and Infiltration (I & I).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JOHN ALBANESE

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

JONATHAN HELLER

Mr. Heller applauded resident Susan Masinda for her efforts in actively engaging the DEP to try and determine the source of E-Coli issue in the streams. Mr. Heller continued that the Environmental Commission received approval for a prescribed burn that will occur over the next few weeks to eliminate the invasive species in the grasses.

JUERGEN HUELSEBUSCH

Mr. Huelsebusch reported on meeting updates with Traffic Safety, Agricultural Land, Open Space and Waterwatch as well as upcoming Open Space events.

VINCENT PANICO

Deputy Mayor Panico reported on the next meeting for Planning Board, discussion on the Route 22 corridor zoning and upcoming museum and recreation events. Deputy Mayor Panico added that he has been working with the Director of Public Safety on targeted enforcement along Main Street.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Betty Ann Fort suggested that residents be notified ahead of time of the controlled burns.

Jacqueline Hindle clarified that the Planning Board meeting will be Tuesday next week due to the Columbus Day holiday.

Kristina Garcia inquired about the chip seal process and advised of an issue with a grate at the pumping station on Old York Road, creating a potential hazard for bikers. Ms. Garcia also commented on enforcement of vehicles not stopping for school buses, traffic congestion on Main Street and the proposed zoning changes along Route 22.

Officer David Bodine spoke to the issue of vehicles passing school buses.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

Mr. Heller inquired as to the status of the roof replacement at Cold Brook School and Dart's Mill application for Historic Preservation.

As there was no further business, A ***MOTION*** was made by Deputy Mayor Panico at 9:00 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Submitted by:

Karin M Parker, *RMC*
Municipal Clerk