

## MINUTES OF BUDGET/WORK MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2023

The regular meeting of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee was held in the Municipal Building, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Ramos.

### SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT:

Under the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by posting notice on the Township bulletin board and by e mailing notice to the New Jersey Herald and The Express-Times.

### ROLL CALL:

Those present were: Mayor Keith Ramos, Deputy Mayor Chris Stracco, Committeeman Boynton, Committeeman Robert Stock, Auditor Anthony Ardito, CFO Ashley Wilson and Municipal Clerk Donna Zilberfarb.

### MINUTES:

- Minutes of January 18, 2023 regular session meeting were approved as amended on a motion by Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Stock. All were in favor.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Mayor Ramos – nothing to report
- Deputy Mayor Stracco – nothing to report
- Committeeman Boynton – nothing to report
- Committeeman McPeck – absent
- Committeeman Stock – nothing to report
- Committeeman Stracco – nothing to report
- Municipal Clerk Zilberfarb – nothing to report

### OLD BUSINESS:

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Motion was made by Mr. Stock to accept Desaray Ramsey's resignation from the Environmental Commission with regrets, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.
- Motion was made by Mr. Stracco to appoint Kristin Shipps as a Blirstown resident member to the Municipal Alliance, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.
- Paul MacNamara of the Blirstown Ambulance Corps handed to all present information for the squad which included call numbers for 2022. He explained call volume lower due to covid and no longer making forest manor calls. He also discussed EMT's prior to covid and they had 34 EMT's and now they have 17 EMT's with 30 active members. Mr. MacNamara explained the issues with obtaining volunteers and how helpful it was for the recruiting as it added about 10 new members. Mr. Ramos offered to put on the website again for trying to obtain volunteers for them. Mr. MacNamara thanked the committee for all the support over the years and said they are good with the \$6,000.00 donation that they normally get and that next year they may ask for less. Mr. Ramos thanked him for presenting to the committee.
- Mike Drislane of the Allamuchy Green Ambulance Squad handed an updated sheet to all members present explaining call volume, donations and future anticipation. He explained the squad and also mentioned that they do not bill like Blirstown Ambulance Corp does. He discussed all items they were anticipating to purchase this year. Mr. Ramos asked about any shortfalls and Mr. Drislane explained that they worked through covid and didn't have any. He did ask if there was any extra increase that could be given this year and that they are grateful for what they receive each year. After discussion, Mr. Ramos explained the budget process and challenges and that the town is still going through the process and anticipate to increase this year and once the budget is settled he will let them know. Mr. Drislane thanked the committee and again let them know how much the squad appreciated what they have been given. Mr. Ramos thanked him for presenting to the committee.
- The 2023 budget was discussed and the Auditor, Anthony Ardito explained that the budget looked good and that there was still \$30,000 outstanding to be put toward the levy cap, which was at .9% at the present time. He discussed surplus and inflation. As the budget is now, there would be a minor increase of \$9.00 per assessed house of \$325,000. He recommended utilizing more of the levy cap which would make that number go up a bit but keep the levy cap. The Committee members were in favor of his recommendations moving forward.

### OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Motion was made by Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Stock limiting it to 20 minutes to open meeting to the public. All were in favor. Spoke were:

- Loren Greco, Greendell Road, asked Mr. Drislane how much the new ambulance cost. Mr. Drislane told him \$230,000.00. Mr. Greco also asked if they sold the other ambulance and Mr.

Drislane explained the procedure and that he believed the one that will be for sale is the one owned by Allamuchy.

- John Jesperson, Muller Road, discussed if the property on Route 94 that is for sale by auction, now being rezoned to ROM, asked if there was a buyer already. Mr. Ramos explained that the property will be auctioned on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February and doesn't know who the buyer is and will not know until after the auction takes place. Mr. Jesperson asked if there were any further details that could be provided and Mr. Ramos explained that there are none at this time.

Motion was made by Mr. Stracco, seconded by Mr. Boynton to close to the public. All were in favor.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Stracco, seconded by Mr. Stock to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Zilberfarb, RMC