

## MINUTES OF WORK MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

The regular meeting of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee was held virtual via zoom virtual meeting service, Township Municipal Building, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 and as called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor, Chris Stracco.

### 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, Township website and by e mailing notice to the New Jersey Herald and The Express-Times.

### FLAG SALUTE

### ROLL CALL:

Those present were: Mayor Chris Stracco, Deputy Mayor Keith Ramos, Committeeman David Boynton, Committeeman Todd McPeck, via zoom Attorney Rich Beilin, via zoom CFO Danette Dyer, and Municipal Clerk Donna Zilberfarb. Committeeman Frank Desiderio was absent.

### RESOLUTIONS:

**#2020-66 TOWNSHIP OF FRELINGHUYSEN, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF MAIL-IN-BALLOTS FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER, 2020** WHEREAS the State of New Jersey has a Secretary of State and County Clerks in each of the 21 counties whose duties include the administration and overseeing of elections; and WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey will be holding a General Election in November 2020; and WHEREAS, mail-in ballots were used exclusively in the Primary Election in July, 2020; and WHEREAS, by Executive Orders 177 and 179 the Governor directed that mail-in ballots be sent to all active registered voters with postage pre-paid response envelopes; and WHEREAS, the practice of exclusively using mail-in ballots to all registered voters caused concerns for voter fraud in mail-in elections and significant delays in counting ballots; and WHEREAS, the new Jersey Attorney General has already charged individuals with illegally collecting or processing ballots in an election which occurred in Paterson, New Jersey in 2020; and WHEREAS, the Attorney General's charges against individuals, including two winning City Council candidates, alleges that votes had been cast in the names of deceased individuals and residents who indicated they had not even received a vote by mail ballot; and WHEREAS, election officials in Paterson admitted that more than 3,000 mail-in ballots, or about 19% of those submitted, were disqualified; and WHEREAS, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey, the NAACP New Jersey State Conference and a disabled voter have filed complaints in the Federal District Court against New Jersey Secretary of State, Tahesha Way, alleging that the current law regarding the verification of "vote by mail" (VBM) ballots violates both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> amendments of the United States Constitution; and WHEREAS, statistics show that mail-in ballot rejections in 2018, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted in rejection of mail-in ballots totaling thousands statewide; and WHEREAS, the United States Election Assistance Commission's election administration and voting survey data set for the 2018 election found that 6,052 mail-in ballots were rejected for signature problems with 1,913 of those specifically because of nonmatching signatures; and WHEREAS, a *New York Post* article entitled "Confessions of a Voter Fraud: I was a Master at Fixing Mail-In Ballots," published on August 29, 2020, provided a frightening insight into a political operative in New Jersey who admitted to tampering with elections, including mail-in ballots, in New Jersey, for decades; and WHEREAS, well before the COVID-19 pandemic, New Jersey law permitted voting by mail for any reason, or no reason at all, allowing any voter, even remotely concerned about this or any other contagious disease the option to request a mail-in ballot thus enhancing voter choice; and WHEREAS, the public health reason for requiring mail-in ballots could easily have been accommodated by spreading in-person voting over several days prior to Election Day; and WHEREAS, it is possible, if not likely, that because of mail-in voting, the result of many elections won't be known for days, if not weeks, following Election Day; and WHEREAS, given today's technology the public expects that election results will be known, in most cases, the day following Election Day, and that the delay in knowing the result of elections, especially if uncertainty lingers for months, will cause irreparable harm to the election system in the State and potentially nationally if there is uncertainty in connection with the elections for Federal offices; and WHEREAS, a delay in obtaining the election results in connection with Federal elections especially could result in chaos in the stock and economic markets, resulting in economic uncertainty for residents of Frelinghuysen Township and the State at large; WHEREAS, the practice of harvesting of mail-in ballots known as "ballot harvesting" easily can

result in fraud, and every member of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee warrants and agrees not to engage in such practices in connection with any election; and **WHEREAS**, some voters have expressed an opinion of wishing to “wait” until Election Day to cast their ballot electronically for the candidate of their choice to fully assess the latest information available; and **WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen, Warren County are gravely concerned that the exclusive mail-in ballot “experiment” has been difficult at best and during the Primary Election cycle representing a small fraction of the ballots to be cast when compared to the upcoming General Election; and **WHEREAS**, even as this Township Committee considers the within resolution, the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey is bringing at least four (4) separate actions to modify the dates to “certify” the Primary Election results due to the fact that the votes cannot be counted in a timely manner; and **WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen, Warren County do not believe that voting “experiments” should be conducted when selecting the individuals to lead political parties, local governments, Boards of Education, county governments, state government or the federal government; and **WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen, Warren County feel strongly that voter “choice” should refer to “how” to vote, not just “who” to vote for in a given election cycle, **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen, Warren County oppose the exclusive use of mail-in balloting in the General Election in November, 2020 and in all future elections. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen, Warren County urges the Secretary of State and County Clerks to utilize in person voting in conjunction with mail-in balloting in the General Election of November, 2020 and in all future elections. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk forward a certified true copy of this resolution to the New Jersey Secretary of State; the Governor of the State of New Jersey; the President of the New Jersey State Senate; the Speaker of the General Assembly; the Warren County Legislative Delegation, the New Jersey Association of Counties and all other Boards of Chosen Freeholder. **CERTIFICATION** I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen, County of Warren, State of New Jersey on September 9, 2020.

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. Boynton		X	X			
Mr. Desiderio						X
Mr. McPeek	X		X			
Mr. Ramos			X			
Mr. Stracco			X			

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Salt shed – Held to regular meeting, September 19, 2020
- Energy Coop – Hold until October 2020
- The employee handbook updates and changes were discussed.
  - Some of the changes were specifying who’s responsibility certain reporting of jobs/tasks were
  - Employee evaluations were discussed and Mr. Beilin will forward copies of the MEL and other evaluations to the clerk.
  - Newly hired employees will be evaluated at 3 months, 6 months and annually. All other employees will be evaluated annually.
  - Resignation policy was changed to at least 4 weeks in advance.
  - Attendance policy for all hourly employees will have the hours of 7:00 am to 3:30 pm with 2 breaks and no paid lunch.
  - Holiday time will be clarified more with paid and unpaid time off.
  - Vacation/Sick/Personal/Bereavement time will be clarified after 3 days calling out a doctors note will be needed.
  - New employees will receive 5 pto days after 6 months of employment and the accrual of those days will be clarified. If new hired employee calls out sick/personal day they will not be paid during the first 6 months of employment.
  - The maximum amount of pto days for all new employees will be 25 days
  - Unused time will be limited to 5 days for roll over each year. All rollover days must be used by June 30<sup>th</sup> each year.
  - The Health Insurance was changed to follow the state guidelines, which is 60 days new employees are eligible for medical benefits. It will be clarified that benefits run Jan-Dec and need to reword rate changes.
  - Accidental Death and Dismemberment was discussed and Ms. Zilberfarb will ask the insurance company if we have this for the township.
  - Retirement policy will be updated to reflect the new plan for new hires, DCRP.
  - Workers Compensation will be updated to reflect no accrument of pto time if out on workers comp.

- Employment applications will be revised and Mr. Beilin will forward some templates to the clerk.
- Background checks will be revised and Mr. Beilin is looking into this
- Initial employment period will reflect that the period is 6 months.
- Classes taken by employees will be clarified with after 6 months of taking classes, if the employee leaves employment those costs will be paid back to the town.

Mr. Beilin will make the changes and have a handbook ready for adoption for the October meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Mr. Stracco explained that there were 2 bus drivers that have asked to utilize the parking lot in the back to park their bus. One overnight and the other during the daytime. Mr. Ramos explained that this topic has already been discussed and that the committee has not changed since that discussion and reminded everyone that legal counsel had advised against it at the prior discussion. Mr. Boynton agreed and felt it was a liability issue and do it once and we will always be doing it. After a brief discussion it was decided to not allow parking for the buses. Mr. Stracco will reach out to the drivers.

**OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:**

Motion was made by Mr. McPeek, seconded by Mr. Boynton to open meeting to the public limited to 20 minutes with 3 minutes per member of the public. All were in favor. Spoke were:

Mr. Connor asked when meetings could start back up for the other committees and be in person and asked what are they waiting for. Mr. Stracco will revoke the executive order for committees and allow meetings of the smaller committees to meet while meeting all guidelines. (wearing masks, 6 feet apart etc).

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Ramos to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Zilberfarb, RMC