

MINUTES OF WORK MEETING OF OCTOBER 12, 2022

The regular meeting of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee was held in the Municipal Building, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey on Wednesday, October 12, 2022 and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Keith 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 David Boynton, Committeeman Todd McPeek, Committeeman Robert Stock, Attorney Rich Beilin, and Municipal Clerk Donna Zilberfarb.

MINUTES:

- Minutes of August 17, 2022 regular session meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Stock. All were in favor. Mr. Boynton abstained.
- Minutes of August 31, 2022 special session meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. McPeek, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.

RESOLUTIONS:

#2022-81 RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE DESIGNATION OF THE DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA AS A NATIONAL PARK WITHOUT SPECIFIC DETAILS AS TO THE IMPACT TO THE WARREN COUNTY REGION WHEREAS, on January 23, 2022, the Warren County Board of County Commissioners passed a Resolution supporting the re-designation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area as a National Park and Preserve, in part, to support increased funding, recognition, maintenance, and services in the park with the implicit desire that all hunting, fishing, agriculture, hiking and other recreational activities continue and not be diminished in any way, and furthermore, that trapping be allowed in the re-designation, and WHEREAS, since that resolution was passed, organizations such as the Sierra Club, Penn Environment, Congressional Leaders, and the other National Organizations have expressed goals that are in opposition to the Commissioners explicit goals when passing a resolution of support, and WHEREAS, many groups have come out in opposition of the proposed re-designation including the Warren County Sportsman Federation, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, the Spruce Run Local Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the NJ Women in the Outdoors NWTF Chapter among other groups and Governmental Organizations; and WHEREAS, the failure of the Designation's Advocates to provide complete information or promote transparency on issues related to hunting, fishing, wildlife management, outdoor recreation, eminent domain, and other matters of importance to Warren County residents, as well as clarification as to the scope and effect of said designation on issues of interest to the residents of Warren County, including, but not limited to, the location, size and scope of the proposed preserved area, the fees charged and collected thereof, the activities allowed and disallowed thereon, including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing, wildlife management, and outdoor recreation, and the impact on public and private lands and interests therein; and WHEREAS, as a result of same, the Warren County Board of County Commissioners reconsidered its position and on April 13, 2022 passed a Resolution specifically opposing the re-designation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area as a National Park and Preserve for the reasons set forth above. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen, County of Warren State of New Jersey opposes the proposal advocated for by the New Jersey and Pennsylvania chapters of the Sierra Club and others, the effect of which would be to change the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to that of a National Park or Preserve until such time as the Mayor and Committee are presented with a formal plan and full, complete and satisfactory answers to any and all questions regarding the agricultural, economic, and environmental impacts of said designation, the sources of funding, any proposed fees and charges for said use, any and all plans for acquisition of public and private lands by eminent domain or other means, a map depicting the full and complete area of designation and any sub-designations thereof, and the impact said proposal and designation would have on hunting, fishing, wildlife management, and active and passive outdoor recreation and education activities generally and for residents of Warren County. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be served on United States Senator Menendez and United States Senator Booker, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the Delaware River Basin Commission, the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club, the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, the National

Lands Trust, Warren County Board of County Commissioners, and Warren Counties County Superintendent of Schools. This Resolution shall take effect immediately according to law. CERTIFICATION I, Donna Zilberfarb, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true, complete and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen at a meeting held on October 12, 2022. Donna Zilberfarb, RMC Motion was made with amendants to the correspondence section

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. Boynton			x			
Mr. McPeek	x		x			
Mr. Ramos			x			
Mr. Stock		x	x			
Mr. Stracco				x		

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Mayor Ramos – nothing to report
- Deputy Mayor Stracco explained
- Committeeman Boynton – nothing to report
- Committeeman McPeek – nothing to report
- Committeeman Stock discussed having the rabies clinic automated rather than paper and writing it all out. Ms. Zilberfarb reached out to the county but had not gotten an answer back. After discussion, Mr. Stock will look into further and let the committee know.
- Municipal Clerk Zilberfarb asked the committee if she could change her hours for Wednesdays for hours to work with the construction official. As of now she does not see Mr. Black and stated it is easier to be in office when he is. The hours would still stay the same for the town hall as Susan would start at 7:30. The town hall will be open until 5 pm on Wednesdays. The committee was in agreement with 9-5 on Wednesdays for the clerk hours. Ms. Zilberfarb will have the website updated to reflect those hours.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The Kerrs Corner and Silver Lake Road intersection was discussed by Mr. Ramos. He explained that he looked at with the dpw, oem and the town engineer, Paul Sterbenz and the State Police. The site distance was discussed and after investigating further, there are new over sized stop signs, reflective posts and stop ahead signs ordered. Denville line painting will paint “Stop Ahead” and move the stop line to meet the site distance of 454 feet. The dpw has cut back overgrown bushes etc. On the opposite side of Silver Lake Road there is an embankment and a property that has bushes and trees that would need to get trimmed and someone will reach out to the homeowner. Mr. Ramos did state that Phase I would seem to work the best and take care of the site distance issues. He did let the committee know that the county was not in favor of a 4 way stop at that intersection and the next phase would be rumble strips. Mr. Ramos would like to get this all completed as soon as possible and all committeepersons are in agreement moving forward.
- Mr. Ramos also spoke about speed signs and explained that the newer ones have cameras in them and that he has discussed with the State Police regarding placing in different areas within the township. He didn’t have an exact cost of the speed signs but an approximation of \$2,500 each. He also spoke with the Mayor of Hope and he thought there may be grants available and the state police could loan them out to the towns. Mr. Ramos would like to look into purchasing for the township. Roads he would like speed signs on would be Kerrs Corner, Ramsey and Allamuchy Road.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Sustainable Jersey – no one was in attendance.
- Appointment of Justin Stanley – Motion was made by Mr. Stracco to appoint Justin Stanley as a part time as needed in the dpw at \$25.00 per hour effective October 13, 2022, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.
- Salary for the Fire Chief – Motion was made by Mr. Stock for the salary of \$650.00 annual for the Fire Chief, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.
- Appointment of Alan DeCarolis – Motion was made by Mr. McPeek to appoint Alan DeCarolis to the Farmland Preservation Committee, seconded by Mr. Stracco. All were in favor.
- Resignation, Amanda Schmidt from the Land Use Board – Motion was made by Mr. Boynton to accept with regrets, seconded by Mr. McPeek. All were in favor.
- Appointment of Chris Partika – Motion was made by Mr. McPeek to appoint Chris Partika to the Recreation Committee, seconded by Mr. Boynton. All were in favor.
- Escrow Accounts for the Land Use Board – discussion was had for the land use board escrows that Mr. Stracco revised with the advice of Mr. Beilin and after looking at other towns Ordinances on fees. There was a discussion on how escrow balances are determined and collected. It was also discussed that professionals needed to send invoices in a timely manner, although there is no requirement for that. After discussion it was determined that the escrows would be raised and the first reading for amending the ordinance. Ms. Zilberfarb will let Mr. Beilin know to have ordinance ready for first reading for the regular meeting.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

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

- Alan DeCarolis, Heller Road, asked about the Wednesdays hours and Ms. Zilberfarb staying to meet with Paul? And asked if it was Mr. Sterbenz. Mr. Ramos explained that it was to be here for construction as the new construction official, Paul Black, has hours that time.
- Mr. DeCarolis let the committee know that the Sheriff's office has the speed signs and loan them out. Mr. Ramos explained that he would rather obtain a grant and purchase for the township.
- Mr. DeCarolis asked if there was going to be a fence put up at the dpw garage as he remembered there was monies set aside for that. Mr. Ramos explained that the materials have been ordered and are waiting for the materials to come in and to have zoning go out and look at set backs.
- Bennett Bean, Main Street, discussed the internet being connected and felt that was a great thing but discussed the trees that are either leaning on or about to fall on the power lines. He explained they are the ash trees and they are dead. He asked if the town had any plans to take care of those dead trees that are in the ROW and explained that the trees are getting worse. Mr. Ramos explained that this has been discussed numerous times with the ROW and that the township does not have the manpower to be able to cut back trees. He has discussed with JCP&L extensively and asked if he or anyone had any trees on or close to the power lines to take a photo and send them to him and he will discuss with the town representative for JCP&L. Mr. Bennett did ask if there was state money for ash trees. Mr. Ramos explained that no matter the kind of tree there will always be an issue. He stated that the outages have been less and believed that no town can get a head of the issue but has a good feeling with the reps we have.

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

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Ramos announced that his son had a baby boy, Asher Grey Ramos, and the committee congratulated Mr. Ramos on his first grandchild.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Stracco, seconded by Mr. McPeek to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Zilberfarb, RMC