



**TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL, MORRIS COUNTY, NJ  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, March 9, 2022  
7:30 PM OPEN SESSION, CLOSED SESSION 6:45 PM**

Clerk Phillips read the following statement:

**STATEMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICER**

*"In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting specifically, the time, date and public call in information were included in the meeting that was electronically sent to the Echoes Sentinel and posted on the Township Website. The agenda and public handouts for this meeting can be viewed online at [www.longhillnj.gov](http://www.longhillnj.gov). A public comment period will be held in the order it is listed on the meeting agenda.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

22-070 EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Attorney Client Privilege – Possible Vacation of Bungalow Terr/Old Forge Road
- Personnel – Salaries, DPW

**MOVED** by: Committeeman Rae of the Township Committee of Long Hill Township, that Resolution 22-070 is hereby approved. **SECONDED** by: Committeeman Lavender. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Committeeman Lavender; yes, Committee Rae; yes, Committeeman Verlezza; yes, Deputy Mayor Piserchia; yes, Mayor Dorsi; yes.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Mayor Dorsi **opened the public session** of the meeting at 7:33 pm.

All present recited the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

**ROLL CALL:** Committeeman Lavender, Committee Rae, Committeeman Verlezza, Deputy Mayor Piserchia and Mayor Dorsi. Also present were Attorney Pidgeon, Administrator Malool and Clerk Phillips.

- Craig Tuma, President Stirling Fire Company, spoke about selling the trucks that were going to be replaced and he would be receiving a figure by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Tuma also thanked the committee for coming to induction. Chief Naga came to aid to a choking victim. SL BR

Mayor Dorsi asked for a **Motion to Recess** for the Township Committee to hold the **Board of Health Meeting**, **MOVED:** Committeeman Lavender; **SECOND:** Committeeman Rae, **ROLL CALL:** All in favor

The Township Committee meeting resumed at 7:40pm

**ORDINANCE(S):**

**ORDINANCE 487-22 (FIRST READING / INTRODUCTION)**

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF NEW AND ADDITIONAL FIRE FIGHTING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$2,500,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,235,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING SUCH APPROPRIATION.**

The foregoing ordinance having been introduced and passed on first reading by the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill, in the County of Morris on Wednesday, March 3, 2022 will be

considered for final passage and adoption at a public hearing held at a meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 by a meeting when and where or at such time and place to which said meeting may be adjourned, all persons interested will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance. To obtain details of the meeting please refer to April 13, 2022, public agenda, or email [municipalclerk@longhillnj.gov](mailto:municipalclerk@longhillnj.gov).

**MOVED** by: Committeeman Lavender, that Ordinance 487-22 be introduced and passed on first reading. **SECONDED** by: Deputy Mayor Piserchia, **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Committeeman Lavender; yes, Committee Rae; abstain, Committeeman Verlezza; yes, Deputy Mayor Piserchia; yes, Mayor Dorsi; yes.

Ord 487-22 will be considered for final passage and adoption at a public hearing on Wednesday, April 13th

#### **CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution No. 22-071 – 22-082 are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be acted upon in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Committee member so requests. In this event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in the normal sequence of the Agenda.

22-071	APPROVAL AND RELEASE OF MINUTES
22-072	APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS
22-073	AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF ESCROWS
22-074	BANNER APPROVAL FOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE [STIRLING STREET FAIR]
22-075	AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT BLOCK PARTY- OAKS ROAD
22-076	REFUND FOR 2022 1st QUARTER DUPLICATE TAX PAYMENT
22-077	AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF MUNICIPAL LIEN - #21-00002
22-078	AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS FOR CLEAN COMMUNITIES DPW WORKER
22-079	DISTRICT WIDE REASSESSMENT FOR 2023 TAX YEAR
22-080	APPOINTING PROBATIONARY LABORER – KELLY
22-081	IN GRADE ADVANCEMENT – OFFICER DECLAN RAE
22-082	IN GRADE ADVANCEMENT – OFFICER DYLAN CROKER

**MOVED** by: Deputy Mayor Piserchia of the Township Committee of Long Hill Township, that Resolution 22-071 through 22-082; with Committeeman Rae abstaining from 22-081 and 22-082 are hereby approved. **SECONDED** by: Committeeman Lavender. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Committeeman Lavender; yes, Committee Rae; yes, Committeeman Verlezza; yes, Deputy Mayor Piserchia; yes, Mayor Dorsi; yes.

#### **LIAISON REPORTS:**

- **Committeeman Verlezza** gave police statistics and spoke about the new NJ State Passing Law.
- **Deputy Mayor Piserchia** spoke about the Challenge Grant from the Shade Tree Commission and spoke about the current tree ordinance.
- **Mayor Dorsi** congratulated Alec Meehan, Jack Remington, Ronnie Stein, Albert Pepe, Anthony Pepe, Tony Ritto and Joe Bartolotta for their awards at the Stirling Fire Induction and Award Ceremony.
- **Committeeman Lavender** gave update on recreation programs.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

- **Administrator Malool** gave an update about the lights at Kantor Park and Cross Hill Road project. Residents can pay with credit cards in construction and reminder to license your dog before April 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid summons.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

- **Allocating money for Emergency Vehicles each year** – Committeeman Rae followed up with the discussion from the last meeting regarding putting money aside for a future purchase of emergency vehicles. The Township Committee decided to continue the conversation during budget discussion.
- **Chimney Rock/FSHC** – Attorney Pidgeon spoke about receiving letters from the attorney representing Chimney Rock. Chimney Rock was proposing a 35-unit apartment complex with 15% affordable units. The Township Committee previously discussed and said they would consider in 2025. Attorney Pidgeon then reported receiving a letter from Fair Share Housing, Josh Bauers, who was urging the Township Committee to reconsider. The Township Committee, again, decided to ask them to come back in 2025.

#### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Welcome signs** – Committeeman Rae spoke about four ‘welcome signs’ being devoted to first responders. There was a discussion at a Beautification meeting to switch them to include sponsorships or include all first responders on one. A discussion ensued and the Township Committee asked Administrator Malool to reach out to the first responders to see if they are interested in keeping the sign or wouldn’t mind being taken down.
- **Donation** – Mayor Dorsi spoke about collecting donations for Ukraine and Town Hall will be sending blankets and water bottles.
- Committeeman Lavender and Chief Naga spoke about having a meeting with Morris County regarding the radio issue and reported that the Police Department will be moving back into the building next week.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Stirling Venison Dinner Saturday – March 26<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm
- Stirling Street Fair – Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00am
- Egg Hunt – April 9<sup>th</sup>
- Scavenger Hunt – April 8<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>
- High School Mary Poppins – Watchung Hills Regional High School – March 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** Remarks and Statements Pertaining to Any Matter -Comments and remarks will be limited to 3 Minutes

- **Frank Liberato** – spoke about sponsoring the three first responder ‘welcome signs.’ Mr. Liberato thanked everyone for their efforts regarding the radio and would like to see the current contract amended.
- **Mark DiGiovanni** – spoke about audits of contracts to make sure they align with the township needs.
- **Marylynn Schiavi – 63 Poplar Drive** - spoke about where the Township Committee is regarding the flood wall discussion. The Township Committee clarified.
- **Charles Arentowicz** – thanked everyone who was involved with updating the police radio system and asked the Township Committee to be more transparent.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Committeeman Rae and seconded by Committeeman Verlezza, and carried unanimously to adjourn into executive session with no further action at 9:23pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Megan Phillips*

Megan Phillips  
Approved: March 23, 2022

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION 22-070  
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, that the Township Committee of Long Hill Township meets in closed session to discuss the following matters:

- Attorney Client Privilege – Possible Vacation of Bungalow Terr/Old Forge Road
- Personnel – Salaries, DPW

\*\*\*\*\*

**ORDINANCE 487-22**  
**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF NEW AND ADDITIONAL FIRE FIGHTING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$2,500,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,235,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING SUCH APPROPRIATION.**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY** (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring), **AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. The improvement described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance is hereby authorized as a general improvement to be made or acquired by The Township of Long Hill, in the County of Morris, New Jersey. For the said improvement or purpose stated in said Section 3, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$2,500,000, said sum being inclusive of all appropriations heretofore made therefor and including the sum of \$265,000 as the down payment for said improvement or purpose required by law and now available therefor by virtue of provision in a previously adopted budget or budgets of the Township for down payment or for capital improvement purposes.

Section 2. For the financing of said improvement or purpose and to meet the part of said \$2,500,000 appropriation not provided for by application hereunder of said down payment, negotiable bonds of the Township are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of \$2,235,000 pursuant to the Local Bond Law of New Jersey. In anticipation of the issuance of said bonds and to temporarily finance said improvement or purpose, negotiable notes of the Township in a principal amount not exceeding \$2,235,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to and within the limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

Section 3. (a) The improvement hereby authorized and purpose for the financing of which said obligations are to be issued is the acquisition, by purchase, of new and additional fire fighting equipment for the preservation of life and property in the Township, including one (1) ladder truck for use by the Millington Volunteer Fire Department and one (1) rescue vehicle and one (1) pumper truck for use by the Stirling Volunteer Fire Department, together with all equipment, appurtenances, accessories and attachments necessary therefor or incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the specifications therefor on file or to be filed in the office of the Township Clerk and hereby approved.

(b) The estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued for said purpose is \$2,235,000.

(c) The estimated cost of said purpose is \$2,500,000, the excess thereof over the said estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued therefor being the amount of the said \$265,000 down payment for said purpose.

Section 4. The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) The said purpose described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance is not a current expense and is a property or improvement which the Township may lawfully acquire or make as a general improvement, and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be specially assessed on property specially benefitted thereby.

(b) The period of usefulness of said purpose within the limitations of said Local Bond Law, according to the reasonable life thereof computed from the date of the said bonds authorized by this bond ordinance, is ten (10) years.

(c) The supplemental debt statement required by said Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the office of the Township Clerk and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey, and such statement shows that the gross debt of the Township as defined in said Local Bond Law is increased by the authorization of the bonds and notes provided for in this bond ordinance by \$2,235,000, and the said obligations authorized by this bond ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

(d) An aggregate amount not exceeding \$100,000 for interest on said obligations, costs of issuing said obligations and other items of expense listed in and permitted under section 40A:2-20 of said Local Bond Law may be included as part of the cost of said improvement and is included in the foregoing estimate thereof.

Section 5. All bond anticipation notes issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the chief financial officer, acting chief financial officer or treasurer of the Township (the "Chief Financial Officer"), provided that no note shall mature later than one year from its date. The notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer. The Chief Financial Officer shall determine all matters in connection with the notes issued pursuant to this bond ordinance, and the Chief Financial Officer's signature upon the notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. All notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. §40A:2-8. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the notes from time to time at not less than par at public or private sale and to deliver them to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price plus accrued interest from their dates to the dates of delivery thereof. The Chief Financial Officer is directed to report in writing to the governing body of the Township at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the notes pursuant to this bond ordinance is made. Such report must include the principal amount, interest rate and maturities of the notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

Section 6. The full faith and credit of the Township are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the said obligations authorized by this bond ordinance. Said obligations shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Township, and the Township shall be obligated to levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable property within the Township for the payment of said obligations and interest thereon without limitation of rate or amount.

Section 7. The capital budget or temporary capital budget of the Township is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing all detail of the amended capital budget or temporary capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, are on file with the Township Clerk and are available for public inspection.

Section 8. This bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by said Local Bond Law.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION 22-071  
APPROVAL AND RELEASE OF MINUTES**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill does hereby approve and release the Township Committee Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2022;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Committee hereby approves February 23, 2022 Executive Session Meeting Minutes as redacted by the Township Attorney.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION 22-072  
APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill does hereby approve the payment of the bills as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the bills list be appended to the official minutes.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION 22-073  
AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF ESCROWS**

**WHEREAS**, the Planning & Zoning Coordinator, Board Engineer, Board Attorney, Township Planner have certified that there are no outstanding invoices and have approved the release of the following escrows.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, that appropriate municipal officials be and are hereby authorized to release the following escrows plus any applicable interest as per N.J.S.A. 40:55D-53.1.

**Developer's performance Escrow**

Lin JM Corp/ Acct. 40108 \$3,666.00

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION 22-074  
BANNER APPROVAL FOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
[STIRLING STREET FAIR]**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey that by recommendation of the Township Clerk as per Ordinance 3-12.4 Temporary Sign, and based on the approval of the Morris County Freeholders and JCP&L that the Township Committee does hereby approve a banner to be hung across Valley Road, County Route 512 from April 11th to April 25th, 2022 for the Stirling Street Fair

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION 22-075  
AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT BLOCK PARTY- OAKS ROAD**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill does hereby approve the request for a block party for Oaks Road (south of Cross Hill to the intersection of Long Hill Rd) on Saturday, July 23, 2022, from 1:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., as noted in an email received on January 15, 2022.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Committee does hereby approve the request for the road closure(s) with the provision that barricades are obtained from the Department of Public Works.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION 22-076  
REFUND FOR 2022 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER DUPLICATE TAX PAYMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Lawrence Koep, made a duplicate payment of \$1,990.92 for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter taxes on BL13502 Lot 30, 365 Long Hill Rd.

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill does hereby authorize the following refund due to an overpayment of \$1,990.92 on Block 13502 Lot 30, 365 Long Hill Rd., Gillette.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Tax Collector has verified payments received and the Finance director is hereby authorized to refund the amount of \$1,990.92 for the overpayment.

**Make check payable to:**  
Lawrence Koep  
365 Long Hill Rd.  
Gillette, NJ 07933

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION 22-077  
AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF MUNICIPAL LIEN - #21-00002**

**WHEREAS**, funds have been remitted by WESTLEY W PERRINE to redeem tax sale certificate #21-00002 for Block 11702 Lot 28, MERCER ST held by TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL, assessed in the name PERRINE, WESTLEY W and the Township Committee must approve the distribution of these funds.

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector has shown proof that the redemption calculation is correct, and all redemption monies have been received for redemption.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Committee of the Township of Long Hill, County of Morris, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the Certificate of Redemption of said lien

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION 22-078  
AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS FOR CLEAN COMMUNITIES DPW WORKER**

**WHEREAS**, Robert Phillips has worked as the Clean Communities employee for more than fourteen years;

**WHEREAS**, per the recommendation of Public Works Director Al Gallo, the Township would like Phillips to retain this position for 2022;

**WHEREAS**, Phillips employment would start April 1, 2022 and would consist of two days a week for a total of 14.5 hours per week at an hourly rate of \$18.00, an increase from \$16.00 hour, for 34 weeks, an increase from 30 weeks;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the certification of available funds by the Township Chief Financial Officer shall be attached to the original of this resolution and shall be maintained in the files of the Township Clerk.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION 22-079  
DISTRICT WIDE REASSESSMENT FOR 2023 TAX YEAR**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Long Hill intends to continue to implement a District Wide Reassessment program on an annual basis, and

**WHEREAS**, this approach will allow the Township to proactively adjust property values each year based upon market conditions which should also help to mitigate appeals being filed, and

**WHEREAS**, based upon the recommendation of Glen Sherman, our Tax Assessor, we feel it is in the Township's best interest to pursue a district wide reassessment for the 2023 Tax Year to appropriately adjust property values to better reflect market value.



**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Governing Body of the Township of Long Hill does hereby authorize Glen Sherman to petition the Morris County Tax Board to approve conducting a District Wide Reassessment for the 2023 Tax Year.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION 22-080  
APPOINTING PROBATIONARY LABORER – KELLY**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill, County of Morris, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Upon the advice and recommendation of Public Works Director Al Gallo, that Ryan Kelly be appointed as Truck Driver/Laborer Class 4.
2. This appointment shall be effective on March 14, 2022, at an hourly rate of \$18.75 and upon attainment of the CDL license with Class B endorsement the hourly rate will be \$21.50.
3. Mr. Kelly employment is contingent upon a satisfactory background check.
4. Mr. Kelly will be a member of the Long Hill Public Works Association and a copy of the Agreement shall be provided.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION 22-081  
IN GRADE ADVANCEMENT – OFFICER DECLAN RAE**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill, County of Morris, State of New Jersey upon the advice and recommendation of Police Chief Ahmed Naga, does hereby approve the grade advancement of Officer Declan Rae to Officer Grade XI, effective March 11, 2022 at an annual salary of \$54,275.00.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this advancement is consistent with the current PBA 322 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION 22-082  
IN GRADE ADVANCEMENT – OFFICER DYLAN CROKER**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill, County of Morris, State of New Jersey upon the advice and recommendation of Police Chief Ahmed Naga, does hereby approve the grade advancement of Officer Dylan Croker to Officer Grade XI, effective March 25, 2022 at an annual salary of \$54,275.00.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this advancement is consistent with the current PBA 322 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

\*\*\*\*\*