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## HAINESPORT TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 14, 2023

6:30 P.M.

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of March 14, 2023 with instructions for internet access was included in a meeting notice sent to the Burlington County Times and Courier Post on January 4, 2023 and advertised in said newspapers on January 6, 2023, and January 10, 2023 respectively posted on the website and the bulletin board in the municipal building on January 4, 2023 and has remained continuously posted as required under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

### 1. **FLAG SALUTE**

2. **ROLL CALL** - present were Mayor Clauss, Committeeman Montgomery, Committeeman Levinson, Committeewoman Gilmore and Committeewoman Evans. Also present were Township Clerk/Administrator Paula Kosko and Attorney John Gillespie

### 3. **MINUTES**

#### A. **APPROVAL OF REGULAR COMMITTEE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

**Motion: Committeeman Levinson. Second: Committeewoman Evans. All yes.**

#### B. **APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

**Motion: Committeeman Montgomery. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.**

### 4. **REPORTS**

- A. **Tax Collector** – February 2023
- B. **Code Enforcement** – February 2023
- C. **Fire Official** – February 2023
- D. **Construction** – February 2023
- E. **Emergency Services Reports** – February 2023
- F. **NJSP In-Person Report** – February 2023

**SSgt. Antenucci**, NJSP – reported that they are dealing with the same issues with thefts from vehicles. He urged residents to use common sense about their valuables. They will be participating in Community Day and be present for the Easter Bunny's arrival. He wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

**Mrs. Gilmore** asked if we had received the EMS report. **Ms. Kosko** answered that we had not. She will reach out to them for their report.

**Motion: Committeewoman Gilmore. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.**

## **5. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION**

### **A. Notice of Farmland Preservation Program - Block 110, Lot 9 – Ark Road**

**Mr. Gillespie** explained that the County seeks property to include in the Farmland Preservation Program. It is a voluntary program. The role of the Governing Body is to say we support this or we do not support this. There is no contribution from the town required. If this moves forward, they will value the property as developable under underlying zoning. Then they will value the property as farmland and that's the value of the farmland preservation easement that they pay to the property owner. It stays preserved as farmland. **Mr. Montgomery** asked about 30 day time frame. **Mr. Gillespie** said we are within it now, but would not be by the April meeting. He directed the Governing Body to ask for a motion to either support or not support the preservation.

**Motion to support:**

**Motion: Committeeman Montgomery. Second: Committeewoman Gilmore. All yes.**

## **6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Agenda items only (Comments are limited to 5 minutes)**

**Debra Harris**, 7 Elsinore Drive – commented on item #9, Resolution 2023-50-3 Authorizing the Release of Hainesport Commerce Center Urban Renewal, LLC Performance Guaranty and Posting of Cash Guarantee for Outstanding Items. She said there are many LLCs named on the document and the membership of the LLCs should be checked for conflicts.

## **7. ORDINANCES**

### **A. ORDINANCE 2023-1 – To Provide For and Determine the Rate of Compensation of Officials and Employees (Public Hearing and Final Adoption)**

**Motion to Open Public Comment**

**Motion: Committeewoman Gilmore. Second: Committeewoman Evans. All yes.**

**Catherine McNelis**, 407 Bischoff Avenue– asked about the ranges for the salaries. She wanted to know how we would know individual salaries. **Mr. Gillespie** answered that the Ordinance establishes the ranges. There will be a Resolution next month with the individual salaries.

**Motion to Close Public Comment**

**Motion: Committeeman Levinson. Second: Committeeman Montgomery. All yes.**

**Motion: Committeeman Levinson. Second: Committeewoman Gilmore. All yes.**

- B. **ORDINANCE 2023-2** – To Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) (**Public Hearing and Final Adoption**)

**Motion to Open Public Comment**

**Motion: Committeewoman Evans. Second: Committeeman Montgomery. All yes.**

No comments.

**Motion to Close Public Comment**

**Motion: Committeewoman Evans. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.**

**Motion: Committeewoman Gilmore. Second: Committeewoman Evans. All yes.**

8. **CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS**

The items listed below are considered routine by the Township of Hainesport and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no formal discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, this item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

- A. **RESOLUTION 2023-47-3** – Acknowledge and Admit the Volunteer Members of the Hainesport Fire Company and Hainesport Emergency Squad

**Mr. Montgomery** commented that he was pleased to see all the volunteers - 25 firefighters, 12 fire/police, 19 emergency squad and 7 in training. We appreciate their service.

- B. **RESOLUTION 2023-48-3** – Supporting Participation in the Sustainable New Jersey Municipal Certification Program

- C. **RESOLUTION 2023-49-3** – Authorizing the Filing of a Recycling Tonnage Grant Application for the Year 2022

**Motion: Committeewoman Gilmore. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.**

9. **RESOLUTIONS**

- A. **RESOLUTION 2023-50-3** – Authorizing Release of Hainesport Commerce Center Urban Renewal, LLC Performance Guaranty and Posting of Cash Guarantee for Outstanding Items

**Motion: Committeewoman Gilmore. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.**

10. **BUSINESS**

- A. **Approval of Business Licenses** (See Attached)

**Motion: Committeeman Montgomery. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.**

## 11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (Comments are limited to 5 minutes)

**Catherine McNelis**, 407 Bischoff Avenue – expressed her frustrations with the Recreation Director and the Street Center Building. She said items of the Senior Citizens Group had been thrown away and they have lost their closet space to other groups. **Mayor Clauss** suggested a meeting with the Recreation Director and the Administrator to work things out.

**Kent Pipes**, 35 Mt. Laurel Road – commented on the Planning Board meeting application of Beacon of Hope. He said it deeply disturbed him. **Mayor Clauss** checked with Mr. Gillespie that it was ok to hear the comment in case of an appeal with the Land Use Board. **Mr. Gillespie** said it was allowed. He compared it to when he went before the Board years ago for a property in Hainesport and was denied. The Planners he used are now the Township's Planners. They were on his side at the time. Now they on the Township's side for this application. Mr. Pipes said he detects bias and bigotry in the Land Use Board. He stated that three of the Board members live on the same street as the former Mayor. He said they got on the Board through "white privilege". He said everybody in town should be represented. We do not have diversity in this town. Hainesport is 93% white and very few people are poor. For Pastor Darlene to come in seeking to serve the general population of Burlington County and find the bigotry of the Board and hear the groans and comments from the audience, he is ashamed to say he lives in Hainesport. If the Board votes her application down, the courts will overturn it in a heartbeat. He said he is a Liberal Democrat. He thought there would never be a Democrat on the Counsel, but he's glad to see we have one. He encouraged the Committee to help make Hainesport a place for all of us.

**Debra Harris**, 7 Elsinore Drive – felt she was misquoted in the February minutes regarding Wawa. She also commented on her time allowed to speak at the previous meeting. She announced the Hainesport School PTO fundraiser Basket Raffle will be March 25<sup>th</sup> and invited everyone to come and support the school.

**Catherine McNelis**, 407 Bischoff Avenue – asked why the Senior Citizen meetings were not in the Township Calendar. **Mayor Clauss** said that could be discussed in the meeting with the Administrator and Recreation Director.

**Bruce MacLachlan**, 33 Easton Way (online) – took issue with Kent Pipes' characterization of the Planning Board. They have had both Republicans and Democrats serve on the Board over the years. People have to apply and send a letter in order to be considered. To act like the Municipality randomly picks members is not an accurate characterization. He encouraged anyone who would like to be on the Planning Board to write a letter to the Mayor and Committee requesting an appointment.

**Ed Maroney**, 122 Mt. Laurel Road – thanked the past Committee for being responsible with the budget and tax dollars. Our surrounding towns are drowning in millions of dollars of debt. Hainesport is free from debt. This keeps our taxes down and money in our pockets.

## 12. COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

**Ms. Kosko** announced that NJDEP revised their Municipal Stormwater permitting requirements and re-designated 101 towns to Tier A permitting program. Hainesport

was already a Tier 1 and is eligible for a \$25,000 Grant to offset costs we will be facing with the new regulations. We have a couple years to meet some of the requirements. Some examples of changes we will need to make are have our streets swept three times a year and updating our stormwater maps and best practices. She thanked Janice Ludden from the Environmental Commission for reminding her about the Grant opportunity. **Mayor Clauss** asked if it would cover the cost of compliance. Ms. Kosko answered no, but it will help cover the costs.

She reminded the community of the variety of ways residents are able to watch our meetings. They can be watched live or recorded on YouTube, through links on the website on the Committee page under “Committee Meeting Videos”, the GoToMeeting platform or in person. The majority of towns have discontinued their online meeting option since Covid restrictions have been lifted. We keep those options open to increase transparency and participation. If there is ever a question about what was said at a meeting, anyone can always go back and click on those video links. As Administrator, it is her job to make sure accurate, factual information is conveyed. Open or unanswered questions or manufactured narratives will be addressed and corrected moving forward.

She congratulated John Gillespie on being named Vice Chair of Virtua Health Foundation Board of Trustees in the South Jersey Business magazine. It was in the “Top Women to Watch” edition.

### 13. COMMENTS FROM THE SOLICITOR

**Mr. Gillespie** corrected Ms. Harris for the record, that Resolution 2023-50-3 only mentions one LLC. He addressed Mr. Pipes comments about the Joint Land Use Board Planner being on his side or the Township’s side. The Planner does not take sides. They review Master Plans and Ordinances and offer their opinions with regard to planning issues. They are bound by a Code of Ethics. He will not comment on audience comments. He was not there and people can come to their own conclusions. He wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick’s Day.

### 14. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

**Committeewoman Evans** – reported that she continued to attend Commissioners meetings. They are putting in for a Green Acres Grant to improve Long Bridge Park. She also attended the NJLM seminar on budgeting for elected officials. She is holding office hours at the Municipal Building from 2 – 4 pm on Tuesdays. She enjoyed the Hainesport School talent show. She addressed the comments of Mr. Pipes and Mr. MacLachlan concerning the diversity of the Joint Land Use Board. It is not so much being Republican or Democrat, but more diversity in the representation of districts is needed. Hopefully we can address this going forward. We need to let people know when there are vacancies coming up so they can apply. She wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick’s Day.

**Committeeman Levinson** – reported that of the 40 municipalities in Burlington County, Hainesport has the 35<sup>th</sup> lowest taxes. The other towns that beat us have a high concentration of businesses and a small amount of residents. He hopes we continue to gain more businesses to generate revenue for our town. If Hainesport’s expenses begin to exceed its revenue, we must do one of three things - reduce services, increase taxes, or the one he votes for, bring in more taxable businesses.

**Committeewoman Gilmore** – thanked everyone for coming. She is excited about our new budget and that we are debt free in 2023. It is a great achievement and she hopes we can stay that way. She listed some upcoming events:

3/23 Senior Citizens meeting Fire Safety for Home - the Sheriff's Department and Township Fire Official George Myers will present.

4/1 Easter Bunny arrives on the fire truck.

4/22 Earth Day – event for all ages from 8 am – 12 pm at the Municipal Park.

We will also be working on a recycling project with the school starting in September. We will be collecting plastic wrap to recycle and produce a “buddy bench” for the school. More information to come.

**Committeeman Montgomery** – said he is happy about the Farmland Preservation Program and the number of volunteers for the fire and emergency squads. He also attended the Hainesport School talent show and has many good memories of the event with his daughters. He thanked Bruce Levinson for letting us know we are in the top five for lowest taxes in the County. It is great that we have no debt and it was nice to have one of the citizens mention that. He thanked the staff for all their work in making that happen. He encouraged everyone to get ready for the June 5<sup>th</sup> 5K run. He pointed out his shamrock tie and wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

**Mayor Clauss** – thanked everyone for coming out. He thanked SSgt. Antenucci for his report and advice on how to stay safe. He announced with regret the passing of Chief George Curry of the Hainesport Fire Company. The Chief served the town from the 1960's to the 1990's and had been Chief from 1971 through 1985. Please keep your thoughts with the Fire Department.

## 15. **BILL LIST**

**Ms. Kosko** requested PO#23-00155 for \$395 be added to the Bill List. It is the highway occupancy permit needed for Laurel Ridge Road because it abuts Route 38. The NJDOT Grant Fund is being used for resurfacing of Pulaski, Fenimore and Laurel Ridge Roads.

**Motion to add PO#23-00155**

**Motion: Committeeman Levinson. Second: Committeewoman Evans. All yes.**

### **Bill List Vote**

**Mr. Montgomery** commented over \$1.1 million dollars of taxes goes to the schools. The percentage paid to the Municipality is very small.

**Motion: Committeewoman Gilmore. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.**

## 16. **ADJOURNMENT @ 7:25 P. M.**

**Motion: Committeewoman Evans. Second: Committeeman Levinson. All yes.**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Paula L. Kosko*

Administrator/Municipal Clerk

**OFFICIAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA**

**Township Committee Meeting**  
**March 14, 2023**  
**6:30 pm**

The public may electronically submit questions or comments to [pkosko@hainestownship.com](mailto:pkosko@hainestownship.com) or in written letter form to the Clerk's Office at the Municipal Building (can drop in Tax Payment Drop Box as well) no later than 4pm the Monday prior to the Committee Meeting. Name, address and phone or email must be included. Previously submitted questions or public comment shall be read aloud and addressed during the public meeting. Duplicated written questions or comments may be summarized and shall be done consistently.

To eliminate background noise so that all meeting participants can hear, please mute your microphone and remain in listening mode only. The Clerk will place all remote attendees on this platform on mute as well. During public comment period(s), the Clerk will unmute all remote participants. If you do not have a question or comment, please manually re-mute your microphone. The Clerk will manage the remote users for public comments. All remote users must state their name and address at the beginning of his/her public comment.

Should a member of the public that is using the GoToMeeting platform become disruptive, that person will be kept on mute and warned that continued disruption may result in being prevented from speaking or removed from the remote meeting. If time permits, the disruptive individual shall be allowed to speak after all other members of the public have been given the opportunity to speak.

## **Remote Access Instructions**

### **1. GoToMeeting**

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

<https://meet.goto.com/Hainesport/march142023townshipcommittee>

**You can also dial in using your phone.**

United States: [+1 \(571\) 317-3122](tel:+15713173122)

**Access Code:** 694-864-781

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### **2. YouTube Live**

Tonight's meeting will also be available for live viewing on Hainesport Township's **YouTube Live** channel:

Search on YouTube – Township of Hainesport Live Stream

\*Public questions or comments will not be responded to on YouTube Live. Please use the GoToMeeting platform for all remote communication.

The governing body requests that **questions or comments on agenda items be directed to the Administrator/Municipal Clerk by 4pm on the Tuesday of the meeting**. All questions and comments will be considered by the Township Committee and entered into the official minutes of the meeting.

Individuals calling into the phone number or accessing from a computer will be able to fully participate in the meeting. However, all persons calling in will be asked to place their phones on mute unless speaking and being recognized to speak during a Public Hearing or Comments from the Public. A non-public dial in number will be used if executive session is required.