

# **HAINESPORT TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**September 22, 2021  
4:30 P.M.**

This special meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notice of the meeting was sent to the Burlington County Times and Courier Post on September 16 and September 17, 2021 respectively and advertised in the Burlington County Times newspaper on September 19, 2021. In addition, copies of the notice was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, municipal website and filed in the office of the Municipal Clerk on September 17, 2021. Notices on the bulletin board have remained continuously posted. Proper notice has been given, and the Municipal Clerk is directed to include this statement in the minutes of the meeting.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

- 3. ROLL CALL** - present were Mayor Gilmore, Committeeman Levinson (by phone), Committeeman Clauss and Committeeman Montgomery. Also present were Township Clerk/Administrator Paula Kosko and Attorney John Gillespie. Committeeman MacLachlan arrived at 5:05 pm.

- 4. DISCUSSION** – Request from Hainesport Industrial Railroad to modify its operating hours on Saturdays and Sundays for 45 days as a result of NJDEP's request for assistance in the removal of debris generated by Hurricane Ida (only). No more than 250 tons per day will be removed from Lambertville and Gibbsboro areas during this 45-day period by a national debris removal company that has been contracted by New Jersey municipalities in those areas that continue to have difficulty in removing Ida-generated debris.

**Ms. Kosko** was contacted by the Hainesport Industrial Railroad (HIRR) to seek approval to modify operating hours in their current Township agreement to accommodate NJDEP's request. A lot of municipalities are struggling to get rid of large amounts of debris from the hurricane. DEP would like to extend the railroad's weekend hours as listed in their current permit from Saturday 8 am to 12 pm to 7 am to 5 pm and add Sunday hours from 7 am to 5 pm for a period of 45 days. While DEP has stated they only need an administrative approval, she and Mr. Gillespie wanted the Governing Body to provide a directive in how to proceed. Karen Murray, Esq. representing HIRR is in attendance to answer questions. Jerome Sheehan, Director of Solid Waste for Burlington County could not make our meeting, but spoke with Ms. Kosko last week as to the seriousness of the situation in Lambertville, Hillsboro and Gibbsboro. He explained to her that the combination of the hurricane and the driver shortage has made it very difficult to get rid of this debris.

Ms. Kosko added that there are only two municipalities that have NJDEP-authorized temporary debris management facilities in Burlington County. **Mr. Levinson** asked if other municipalities would be getting this designation. Ms. Kosko responded that she did not know, but it would not be in time to help this situation. This designation began with Hurricane Sandy. It is a cumbersome application process with the DEP and not easy to obtain.

**Ms. Murray** answered many questions from the Committee. A national hauler and State Contract holder Ashbritt would be bringing in the debris and possibly other local haulers. **Mr. Montgomery** confirmed with Ms. Murray that the waste would consist of construction debris and appliances. She said most of the waste would be wall board and roofing material. **Mr. Clauss** raised concern about the extra noise and activity affecting the neighbors on the weekends. Ms. Murray said she does not anticipate a lot of Sunday drop offs. She said the trucks hold 100 yd. of waste, so it would only amount to an extra 10-12 trucks a day. On a typical day the HIRR receives about 200 trucks. **Mayor Gilmore** asked how and when the debris will exit the railroad station. Ms. Murray explained that the train cars get loaded in their building. They are loaded each day. Each railcar holds 100 tons, so this additional debris will not majorly increase the amount of rail cars. They are then picked up during the week and on Saturdays. She is not sure if any pickups would occur on Sundays, or if it would wait until Monday. Mr. Montgomery asked if we could adjust the hours they are requesting so residents would not have the extra noise so early on the weekends. Ms. Murray answered that the haulers have to be able to make a certain amount of trips back and forth to make it worth it.

**Mr. Gillespie** asked if the HIRR was receiving waste from the storm now during the week and is it 13 and 13C waste. Ms. Murray said yes, class 13 and 13C construction debris are the only types of waste coming in. He asked how is HIRR paid for this. Ms. Murray explained that the disposal fee is paid by Ashbritt. He asked if there is funding from FEMA or the State and she responded not to HIRR. **Ms. Kosko** added the towns could be requesting funding. He asked if there would be a proposal for a revision to the \$.50/ton paid to the Township and Ms. Murray said no. Mr. Gillespie summarized that the Committee would be deciding if they choose not to enforce paragraph 5 in their Settlement Agreement with HIRR restricting hours of operation for 45 days. They could also agree to alternative hours. NJDEP could override the Committee's decision. Ms. Kosko asked when the 45 days would start. Ms. Murray said when the Township sends an email of acceptance to the DEP and when they give final authorization.

Some Committee members expressed concern about the overseeing the haulers and type of waste. Ms. Murray assured them that only the 13 and 13C waste are permitted per the DEP agreement and that no oversight would be necessary. The Committee decided to approve the request for 45 days with the adjusted hours of 8 am to 5 pm on both Saturdays and Sundays.

**Motion: Committeeman Montgomery. Second: Committeeman MacLachlan. No: Committeeman Clauss. All others yes.**

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

**Don Platt**, Chief of Hainesport EMS Department gave a status report for the department. He said they have had some hard times and lost volunteers. Some could not renew their certifications due to COVID shutdowns. They hired a consultant to help attract more people and retain members. They now have 6 certified EMTs and 9 new applicants that are starting training. The consultant runs a hybrid class given 2 days a week and every Saturday for two months. **Mr. MacLachlan** asked if the new people would be available during the day. Mr. Platt said there are one or two. Our calls get dispatched with other townships such as Lumberton and Mt. Holly so there has been no delay in care. He thanked the Committee for their support.

**6. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A. RESOLUTION 2021-121-9 – Resolution to Enter into Executive Session**

**1. Pending Litigation**

**Motion: Committeeman MacLachlan. Second: Committeeman Clauss. All yes.**

**Motion to re-enter Open Session**

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

**7. ADJOURNMENT @ 6:19 P. M.**

**Motion: Committeeman Clauss. Second: Committeeman MacLachlan. All yes.**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Paula L. Kosko*

Administrator/Municipal Clerk

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

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### **2. YouTube Live**

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

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