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HAINESPORT TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 13, 2023

6:30 P.M.

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of June 13, 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 MAY 9, 2023**

B. **APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2023**

Motion: Committeeman Montgomery. Second: Committeewoman Evans. Abstain: Mayor Clauss. All others yes.

4. **REPORTS**

A. **Tax Collector** – May 2023

B. **Code Enforcement** – May 2023

C. **Fire Official** – May 2023

D. **Construction** – May 2023

E. **Emergency Services Reports** – May 2023

Mrs. Gilmore asked if we were still missing the EMS Report. **Ms. Kosko** answered yes. We have not received their report at all this year.

F. **NJSP In-Person Report** – May 2023

SSgt. Antenucci said there was nothing major to report. The Troopers are dealing with the same issues with thefts from vehicles. Valuables should be locked up and not visible. Detectives are working on a burglary case at David Arlen Jewelers. **Mr. Montgomery** asked when the burglary took place. **SSgt. Antenucci** answered that it

happened a few weeks ago and the investigation is ongoing. The troopers enjoyed participating in Hainesport Wellness Day.

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

5. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

A. Burlco JIF Membership Renewal 2023 – 2025 by Paul Forlenza, Senior Program Administrator for Risk Program Administrators (RPM)

Mr. Forlenza reviewed the history of the JIF Fund and gave an update on areas of concern, such as cybercrime, COVID-19 long term effects, inflation and an increase in property claims due to more natural disasters. He noted that our three-year renewal is due in January. **Mr. Levinson** asked if there was a price increase from last year. Mr. Forlenza answered yes. In the past, we had typically 1 - 2% increases. This year, due to the issues listed above, we have a 14% increase. It is happening across the State. **Mrs. Evans** asked where Hainesport stood in the cyber risk category for training requirements. Mr. Forlenza said we are in the top tier, fully compliant. **Ms. Kosko** added that she will retroactively be asking the Governing Body to approve a \$15,000 Grant opportunity for cyber security funding tonight to help us with the new round of compliance. It is funded by the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Forlenza discussed the JIF annual report card showing loss ratio of all the JIF towns. Mr. Forlenza said Hainesport is doing a great job. **Mr. Montgomery** commented that we are significantly lower than the other towns. He asked if that could result in a lower bill. Mr. Forlenza said Hainesport will be re-evaluated this year and may see some savings based on those results. He thanked the Governing Body for allowing the use of the building for the JIF meetings.

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

David Berkowitz, 10 Applewood Court – asked for help with the abandoned house on his street. It has been abandoned for 7 years. It has become a safety issue. Teens break into it and party. The lawn is not maintained. A neighbor is interested in buying it, but it is still titled to the former owner. No one seems to know who is responsible for the property. The neighbors have had the police out, but do not know where to turn, or who to call. **Mayor Clauss** said he has visited the property. The grass has been cut by the township and a lien is on the property. Concerned neighbors can call him as Code Enforcement liaison, Irene Barry Code Enforcement Officer, Paula Kosko, or the police if needed. Mr. Berkowitz asked if there was anything the neighbors could do through legal action to expedite a resolution. **Mr. Gillespie** said that we are trying to find out who has responsibility for the property and if a settlement was made with a bank. We need to put pressure on the responsible party to manage the property and make this less of a nuisance.

8. ORDINANCES

A. **ORDINANCE 2023-5** – To Release, Vacate and Extinguish any and all Public Rights to a Portion of Maryland Avenue (**Public Hearing and Final Adoption**)

Motion to open public comment

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

No comments.

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

- B. **ORDINANCE 2023-6** – Amending Chapter 140 of the Code of the Township of Hainesport Entitled “Rental Property” to Establish Requirements for Lead-Based Paint Hazards (**First Reading and Introduction**) (**Public Hearing and Final Adoption July 11, 2023**)

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

Mr. Gillespie requested Resolution 2023-78-6 be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

9. **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 2023-78-6– (PULLED FROM CONSENT)**

B. **RESOLUTION 2023-79-6–** Confirming Rate of Pay for Seasonal Public Works Employee

C. **RESOLUTION 2023-80-6** – Authorizing Lien for Property Maintenance Expenses for Property Located at 6 Applewood Court

D. **RESOLUTION 2023-81-6** – Approving a Block Party of Stonehaven Lane

E. **RESOLUTION 2023-82-6** – Authorizing Amendment of Certain Portions of the Hainesport Township Employee Handbook - Section V. Compensation and Benefits, Subsection E. Medical, Prescription, Dental & Eye Glass Benefits

F. **RESOLUTION 2023-83-6** – Authorizing Issuance of Raffle License to the Ladies Fire/EMS Auxiliary

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

10. **RESOLUTIONS**

A. **RESOLUTION 2023-78-6–** Authorize Renewal of Liquor Licenses

Mr. Gillespie explained that one of the applicants is missing paperwork from the State. They turned it in, but it is not processed yet. If the paperwork is not on file for our next meeting, we will change their approval to an “ad-interim” temporary permit to extend it 30 days so it can be resolved. **Mrs. Evans** asked about two licenses she did not recognize. **Ms. Kosko** explained that one is a pocket license (not in a physical location) and the other one is for Bradford Estate.

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

B. **RESOLUTION 2023-84-6** – Approval to Submit a FY24 Municipal Aid Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for Pine Alley, Longfellow and Emerson Lanes Resurfacing Project

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

- C. **RESOLUTION 2023-85-6** – Authorizing Partial Payment to the Hainesport Volunteer Fire Company

Mr. Montgomery said he was happy to give them their first payment. **Mr. Levinson** said the Fire Company helped with the recent Pine Barrens fire. Their pump failed, so they need to repair it. They also have a \$6,000 repair on another fire truck to deal with. They are doing a great job, so we need to support them.

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

- D. **RESOLUTION 2023-76-5** – Declaring Certain Property along Route 38, Specifically Block 72.01, Lot 1 an Existing Mobile Home Park to be an “Area In Need Of Rehabilitation” within the Meaning and Intendment of the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 *et seq*

Mr. Gillespie reported that the Planning Board reviewed this resolution and recommended its adoption.

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

- E. **RESOLUTION 2023-86-6** – Authorizing Execution of Affordable Housing Settlement Agreement

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

11. BUSINESS

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

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

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

Robert Mode, 202 Lumberton Road – announced his candidacy for Township Committee. He has been a resident for 13 years. People have asked him why he is running. He was surprised to be approached by Debra Harris, Anna Evans and the Hainesport Democrats. He stated some of his beliefs. June is Pride month. It celebrates how far we have come as a society and how far we still have to go. June 14th is Flag Day. He believes the American flag can share a place in our hearts with the Pride flag. Our town is a haven in a rapidly growing area in South Jersey. But recently, we have succumbed to expanding commercial property. He is referring to the warehouses - enough of them. Many existing retail/commercial properties are vacant. On our stretch of Route 38 there are 10 unoccupied businesses. Where is the push to fill these spaces? He enjoyed Wellness Day and the spirit of community. He appreciates the attention to detail of the township professionals, including Ms. Kosko, Mr. Gillespie and Ms. Wicker. He also thanked Donna Casey and her team in Recreation and Public Works Foreman Joe Crain. In the past 6 weeks, they have put on events for Earth Day, Memorial Day and Wellness Day. He thanked the voters who came out for him.

Debra Harris, 7 Elsinore Drive – thanked Paula Kosko for giving her the upcoming updates to Chase Park. She also thanked Anna Evans and Joe Crain for touring conditions there. She meets for playdates with new families at the park. The basketball court is on the schedule for this year. The play equipment is outdated. It is moldy and dirty. The picnic tables and benches are dirty and disgusting. The handball courts are unusable for their purpose. She thanked the voters for coming out. She told the Committee some concerns residents have shared with her. There is concern about the increase in truck traffic on Lumberton Road, including noise and the weight on the train tracks. She again thanked Paula Kosko and the Township CFO for their sound fiscal management and recommendations to the Committee. The Republicans have controlled Township Committee and finances for 30 years. She questioned how long the Township carried its debt obligation before it was paid and what was the source of the debt obligation. She asked if it was from health insurance of prior Committee members, or the purchase of Creek Turn Park. If it was from the park, what happened to the Committee's plan to offset the debt by selling the Route 38 frontage for commercial development. Lastly, she asked if the Committee condones using Township resources in furthering political campaigns. She feels that politics are affecting some township events. She asked if it is ok for a Committee person to use an official government Facebook page to make posts promoting a campaign as well as other partisan campaigns and opinions. As to using Township social media, if the posts are not removed immediately, she will be filing a complaint with the Local Finance Board for violation of State ethics law.

Karen Tordy, 4 Easton Way – congratulated the Joint Land Use Board approval of Starchild School for toddlers. It will be a wonderful supplement for home school children as well. Also from the Land Use Board meeting, we are pleased that Lillo's will be staying. She commended Bruce MacLachlan for doing a great job of easing tensions during their application. She and Ken Montgomery enjoyed the Healthy Kids running event Sunday with 150 kids. She congratulated Donna Casey, all involved in EMS night and the Committee for Community Day and for all they have done. She also congratulated the 8th graders on their graduation.

13. COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Kosko acknowledged that the Volunteer Fire Company has turned in their Statement of Receipts & Disbursements Report. Through tonight's resolution, they will receive their first of 3 installment payments as we have done in the past. We have three Grants we wish to apply for – a \$15,000 cyber security Grant, a \$700 Lead Paint Grant and a \$15,000 Grant from the State Department of Agriculture to contract for spraying the spotted lantern flies. We did get approved for the \$25,000 stormwater assistance Grant. She asked for approval to apply for the three Grants.

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

14. COMMENTS FROM THE SOLICITOR

No comments.

15. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Committeewoman Evans – addressed some of the comments made by the public. It is

Pride month and 7% of Americans are LGBTQ+, which is approximately 400 Hainesport residents. She wished them a happy Pride month. Hainesport Chase Park has some fixes already in the works. The mulch is going to be replaced and there is a plan to replace the wood in the benches and picnic tables, but no plan for the play equipment at this time. In speaking to the County Commissioners, they have not shown any interest in helping with our county roads. She will keep trying. She acknowledged Kathy Newcomb for doing a great job with the Land Use Board application of Lillo's. Mrs. Evans was distressed that an alternate member voted and ran that meeting. She enjoyed Memorial Day and Wellness Day events. She ran the 5K in 32 minutes. She is excited that Thomas Dambo is coming to work on the Troll and that JSuites has opened up in town.

Committeeman Levinson – thanked everyone participating in Wellness Day. Donna Casey and the volunteers did a great job. He spoke to a new resident from Mt. Laurel who was so happy with the assistance and friendliness of the Hainesport Township employees. He said no one answered the phone in Mt. Laurel or got back to you. Hainesport is truly special.

Committeewoman Gilmore – thanked the State Police for attending Wellness Day. The kids went crazy for them. The Street Community Center looks really nice with its landscape refresh. It is National Dairy Month, which is close to her heart since she used to be a dairy farmer. The Farm Fair is coming up July 18th for those who want to get their farm fix. In the June issue of New Jersey League of Municipalities magazine, Hainesport was mentioned in an article about how to promote your town. It listed Hainesport as being known as a cozy hometown family community. She is very proud of our town. She wished her husband a Happy Anniversary.

Committeeman Montgomery – wished Leila & Bob a Happy Anniversary. Thomas Dambo is an international artist and he will be coming to town to create one of his trolls in our park. He thanked the administration and Tristan Sylk who have been working on this project for over two years. He attended the Healthy Kids running event Sunday. The EMTs and Fire Fighters gave out trophies to the kids. A lot of high school and middle school kids were there as volunteers, which was nice to see. He was happy to see an abandoned retail site taken over by JSuites. Congratulations to Sue Jacquette and the many entrepreneurs and women business owners that were there. The Committee attended the ribbon cutting ceremony and welcomed JSuites to Hainesport. Wellness Day was great with the EMTs, fire and police. Donna did a great job as always. For Memorial Day, the accusations being made against him, being made without knowing him are completely uncalled for. He is a public servant, not a politician. He is proud of the Hainesport 8th graders. He had four children go through the Hainesport School. He has lived here since 1996 and been a public servant in many ways for many years. He reminded everyone to display their flags for Flag Day tomorrow for our great country.

Mayor Clauss – thanked Donna Casey and everyone that participated in Wellness Day and the Memorial Day events. He had his daughter's wedding this month and it is National Dairy Month. He told the story of when he was young and bought a cow without his parents' permission. He named it Katie and eventually named his daughter after the cow. He enjoyed bringing his family from France to see the Township building and meet the staff.

Ms. Kosko added that our newsletter went out to all the residents. It was funded by sponsors and about \$700 from the taxpayers for postage. It has been a big hit. We will have another edition coming out this Fall. She thanked Tara Wicker and the staff for all their work and attention to detail.

16. BILL LIST

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

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. RESOLUTION 2023-87-6 – Resolution to Enter into Executive Session

1. Attorney/Client Privilege/Potential Litigation

Mr. Gillespie announced that no Executive Session would be needed.

18. ADJOURNMENT @ 7:52 P. M.

Motion: Committeeman Montgomery. 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
June 13, 2023
6:30 pm

The public may electronically submit questions or comments to pkosko@hainesporttownship.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.

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2. YouTube Live

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*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.