

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, held in the Municipal Complex at 7:00 PM on March 2, 2021.

CALL OF THE ROLL

Upon call of the roll, the following Committee members were recorded present: Mayor Shawn Lipani, Deputy Mayor Frank DelCore, Committeewoman Janine Erickson, and Committeeman Doug Tomson. Also in attendance were Township Administrator Anthony Ferrera, Township Clerk Pamela Borek and Township Attorney William Willard.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

MAYOR STATES

Mayor Lipani advised that in accordance of section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, of the Public Laws of 1975 that notice of this meeting was made by the posting on the bulletin board at the Hillsborough Township Municipal Complex and notifying the officially designated newspapers that this special meeting would take place at the Hillsborough Township Municipal Complex at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Lipani stated new business is the appointment of a Township Committee member to fill the unexpired term of Committeewoman Olivia Holmes. Three names have been provided to the Township committee by the Democratic Chair as is the process by statute: Mr. David Brook, Ms. Donetta Johnson, and Mr. Jeffrey Wright.

1. APPOINTMENT OF TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF OLIVIA HOLMES

Mayor Lipani asked for a nomination to fill the vacancy. Committeeman Tomson complimented Olivia Holmes for her service and nominated Jeffrey Wright Sr., Committeewoman Erickson seconded the nomination. Mayor Lipani declared the nominations closed. Upon a roll call Mayor Lipani, Committeeman Tomson, and Committeewoman Erickson voted yes. Deputy Mayor DelCore voted no. Mayor Lipani voted yes.

Ms. Borek announced that Assemblyman Roy Freiman would issue the Oath of Office virtually to Jeffrey Wright Sr. Assemblyman Roy Freiman administered the oath to Jeffrey Wright Sr.

CONSENT

1. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A VACCINATION CLINIC IN HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 public health crisis remains ongoing and vaccinations are currently being administered in New Jersey to address this public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hillsborough and Township of Montgomery are interested in collaborating to host a local vaccination clinic; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hillsborough is equipped to host such a vaccination clinic; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hillsborough has sent correspondence to the Somerset County Commissioners expressing such interest in hosting a local vaccination clinic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Hillsborough Township, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the Township of Hillsborough is interested in hosting a local vaccination clinic in collaboration with the Township of Montgomery and requests support from the Somerset County Commissioners in doing so. The Township Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Somerset County Commissioners and Somerset County Health Department.

Upon a motion by Committeeman Doug Tomson, seconded by Committeeman Jeffrey Wright Sr., resolution #1 of the consent agenda was unanimously approved upon the call of the roll.

Committeeman Tomson stated he does not believe Somerset county is adequately represented with vaccination sites.

Deputy Mayor DelCore stated in speaking with residents it has been hard to find a local vaccination site.

2. RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO ADVANCE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES AND ALL EDUCATORS ON THE COVID-19 VACCINATION ELIGIBILITY DESIGNATION

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has begun COVID-19 vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, at the onset of the release of vaccinations there were various eligibility criteria; and

WHEREAS, the State has made great strides in vaccinating our residents given the limited resources; and

WHEREAS, as the State of New Jersey continues through the re-opening phases, it is important to note that Hillsborough Township Municipal Employees have been working throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the Municipal Offices were open to the general public on July 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, advancing educators on the edibility list would facilitate the re-opening of schools to full-time, in person learning, and

WHEREAS, the Hillsborough Township Mayor and Township Committee are requesting the State of New Jersey to modify said eligibility criteria to advance Municipal employees as well as all Educators.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that all Municipal Employees and all Educators be advanced in the eligibility criteria for the COVID-19 vaccination.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that a copy of this resolution will be sent to Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Department of Health.

Upon a motion by Committeewoman Janine Erickson, seconded by Committeeman Doug Tomson, resolution #2 of the consent agenda was unanimously approved upon the call of the roll.

Committeeman Tomson stated Governor Murphy is opening up eligibility for the vaccine and should include municipal employees as essential employees as they have been on the frontlines since the outset.

Township Administrator Ferrera thanked the Mayor and Committee for putting this resolution on the agenda since the Municipal Building has been open to the public since the first week in July providing essential services and believes the employees should be included in the essential workers eligible to get the vaccine.

Steve Beatty, 2191 Arbour Way, Martinsville, a representative of the NJEA thanked Mr. Henry Goodhue and the Mayor and committee for recognizing the value of relationships with the Hillsborough Board of Education Association and the pressure the Township applied to the Governor to include teachers as essential workers for vaccine eligibility.

Mr. Henry Goodhue, President Hillsborough Education Association thanked the Mayor and Committee and hopes all the Municipal employees receive eligibility status and will lend his support in that effort. Mr. Goodhue also congratulated Mr. Wright on his appointment and thanked Olivia Holmes for her service

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW BUSINESS AND MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Committeeman Doug Tomson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Frank DelCore, the meeting duly adjourned at 7:20 pm. Said motion was unanimously carried upon voice vote.

Attested:



Pamela Borek
Township Clerk