

Minutes of the October 13, 2023 Special Township Committee Meeting of the Township of Hillsborough, in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, held in the Municipal Complex at 8:30 AM on October 13, 2023.

CALL OF THE ROLL

Upon call of the roll, the following Committee members were recorded present: Mayor Shawn Lipani, Deputy Mayor Robert Britting, Jr., Committeeman John Ciccarelli, Committeeman James Ruh, Jr. and Committeeman Doug Tomson. Also in attendance were Township Administrator Anthony Ferrera, Township Clerk Sarah Brake and Township Attorney William Willard.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

MAYOR STATES

Mayor Lipani advised that in accordance with 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 meeting would take place at the Hillsborough Township Municipal Complex at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, October 13, 2023.

CONSENT

1. RESOLUTION TERMINATING THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLSBOROUGH'S PARTICIPATION UNDER THE STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM INCLUDING MEDICAL AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN COVERAGE FOR ALL ACTIVE AND RETIRED EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, the Township of Hillsborough, Employer Location Number 001600, hereby resolves to terminate its participation in the State Health Benefits Program (including Medical and Prescription Drug Plan Coverage) ("Program"), thereby cancelling coverage provided by the State Health Benefits Plan (N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.25 et seq.) for all its active and retired employees; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hillsborough shall notify all active employees of the date of their termination of coverage under the Program; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hillsborough understands the New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits will notify all retired employees of the cancellation of their coverage; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hillsborough understands all COBRA participants will be notified by the New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits and advised to contact the Township of Hillsborough concerning a possible alternative medical and prescription drug coverage plan; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hillsborough understands that this Resolution shall take effect the first of the month following a 60 day period beginning with the receipt of this Resolution by the State Health Benefits Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that: (1) the Township of Hillsborough hereby terminates its participation in the State Health Benefits Program (including Medical and Prescription Drug Plan Coverage) thereby canceling coverage provided by the State Health Benefits Plan (N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.25 et seq.) for all its active and retired employees, and (2) the Township Administrator and Clerk are authorized to complete and execute all documents required to effectuate said cancellation and termination.

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLSBOROUGH TO JOIN THE

SOUTHERN SKYLAND REGIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE FUND

WHEREAS, a number of public entities in the State of New Jersey have joined together to form the Southern Skyland Regional Health Insurance Fund ("Fund") as permitted by N.J.S.A. 11:15-3, N.J.S.A. 17:1-8.1, and N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Fund was approved to become operational by the Departments of Insurance and Community Affairs and has been operational since that date; and

WHEREAS, the statutes and regulations governing the creation and operation of a joint insurance fund, contain certain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough ("Local Unit") has determined that membership in the Fund is in the best interest of the Local Unit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED to the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the Local Unit hereby agrees as follows: (1) to become a member of the Fund for the period outlined in the Local Unit's Indemnity and Trust Agreements; (2) to participate in the Medical and Prescription Drug Plan coverages; (3) to adopt and approve the Fund's Bylaws; (4) to execute an application for membership and any accompanying certifications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Local Unit is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the Fund as required by the Fund's Bylaws, and to deliver these documents to the Fund's Executive Director with the express reservation that these documents shall become effective only upon: (1) approval of the Local Unit by the Fund; (2) receipt from the Local Unit of a Resolution accepting assessment; and (3) approval by the New Jersey Department of Insurance and Department of Community Affairs.

Mayor Lipani stated that the Township of Hillsborough, after careful due diligence and analysis, has determined the Township is best served by joining a Health Insurance Fund (HIF) for our medical and prescription benefits as part of the Employee Health Benefits Program. Like the JIF that provides property and casualty coverages for the Township, the HIF is also a coalition of public entities that have come together to partially self-insure Employee Health Benefits. The HIF system is comprised of nine (9) that provides Employee Health Benefits for over 308 public entities, statewide. Each HIF has an elected Executive Committee, elected by the membership to operate the Fund. The HIF system is second only in size to the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP). For Hillsborough, the move to the HIF, equates to over a \$172,000 savings, shared with the employees while providing: equal to or better coverage, savings to both the employee and the employer, plan design flexibility, budget stability, claim appeal process, and overall control of the destiny of the plan.

Upon a motion by Committeeman Doug Tomson, seconded by Committeeman Jim Ruh, the consent agenda was unanimously approved upon the call of the roll.

Township Administrator Ferrera thanked Frank Covelli, Renee Gear, and Human Resources Manager Harriet Fenster Gude for their help in effectuating this change.

Frank Covelli thanked the Township and looks forward to working with Hillsborough.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW BUSINESS AND MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Township Clerk Sarah Brake stated the following. The Township Committee welcomes input from the public.

Please state your name and address and please spell your name for the record. You will be given one three minute allotment for your comments. Please understand that this public forum is not structured as a question and answer session. Comments are to be addressed to the Mayor. Again, please keep your comments to three minutes. Thank you.

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Committeeman Jim Ruh, seconded by Committeeman John Ciccarelli, the meeting duly adjourned at 8:43 pm. Said motion was unanimously carried upon voice vote.

Attested:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Brake', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sarah Brake
Township Clerk