

**NORTH HANOVER TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING /BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
February 23, 2021, 6:00 P.M.**

**VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Dial In: 1-855-774-8852; Access Code 7589919790
OR
IN PERSON LIMITED TO THE FIRST 13 REGISTERED
TO REGISTER EMAIL: CLERK@NORTHHANOVERTWP.COM**

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE: Led by Mayor Doyle

ROLL CALL: Mayor Doyle
Deputy Mayor DeBaecke
Committeeman Forsyth
Committeeman Kocubinski
Committeeman O'Donnell

Absent: None

Also Present: Township Clerk Picariello and Township Attorney Roselli

SUNSHINE STATEMENT:“The provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met. Notice of this meeting has been transmitted by email to the Courier Post, Burlington County Times and The Trenton Times as well as given to those having requested same and posted on the Township bulletin board located in the foyer of the municipal building”.

PUBLIC COMMENT AS IT RELATES TO AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Doyle opened the meeting to the public. There were no public comments this evening.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT

Proposed By: Deputy Mayor DeBaecke
Seconded By: Committeeman O'Donnell

DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR JANUARY 2021

- a. Tax Collector
- b. Construction, Zoning & Mobile Homes
- c. North Hanover Court
- d. Jacobstown Volunteer Fire Company
- e. Police Department
- f. Buildings/Grounds Supervisor

COMMITTEE	MOTION	2ND	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Deputy Mayor DeBaecke	X		X			
Committeeman Forsyth			X			
Committeeman Kocubinski		X	X			
Committeeman O'Donnell			X			
Mayor Doyle			X			

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

- February 4, 2021 – Regular Meeting

COMMITTEE	MOTION	2ND	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Deputy Mayor DeBaecke	X		X			
Committeeman Forsyth		X	X			
Committeeman Kocubinski			X			
Committeeman O'Donnell			X			
Mayor Doyle			X			

- February 4, 2021 – Executive Session

COMMITTEE	MOTION	2ND	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Deputy Mayor DeBaecke	X		X			
Committeeman Forsyth		X	X			
Committeeman Kocubinski			X			
Committeeman O'Donnell			X			
Mayor Doyle			X			

BILLS AND CLAIMS FOR APPROVAL

COMMITTEE	MOTION	2ND	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Deputy Mayor DeBaecke			X			
Committeeman Forsyth		X	X			
Committeeman Kocubinski			X			
Committeeman O'Donnell	X		X			
Mayor Doyle			X			

CONSENT AGENDA DEFINED:

All Resolutions listed on today’s consent agenda are to be considered as one vote by Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.

NONE

NON-CONSENT AGENDA

2021-46 Resolution in Support of H.R. 946 – the Stop the Attack Local Taxpayers Act

**RESOLUTION 2021-46
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HANOVER
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON**

Resolution in Support of H.R. 946 – The Stop the Attack Local Taxpayers Act

WHEREAS, each provision of the Federal Tax Code, which is incredibly complex, was enacted for a reason. While some of those reasons may no longer serve the public’s interest, others remain fair and effective tools that promote the general welfare; and

WHEREAS, the deduction for state and local taxes (SALT) has been a feature of the tax code for more than 100 years. In 1913, the first federal income tax form allowed taxpayers to deduct state and local taxes, one of only six deductions allowed at the time; and

WHEREAS, a federal tax reform law passed in 2017 capped the deductibility of state and local taxes at \$10,000 forcing double taxation for residents that pay in excess of that amount, as well as harm to states and communities that rely on tax payments that support public services which benefit all citizens, such as K-12 schools, law enforcement and public safety, transportation and infrastructure, and vital community and public health services; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey 9th District Congressman Bill Pascrell has introduced H.R. 946 the Stop the Attack on Local Taxpayers (SALT) Act, which eliminates the \$10,000 cap on property tax deduction and retroactively removes the cap; and

WHEREAS, taxpayers in all 50 states benefit from the SALT deduction that is claimed by taxpayers of all income levels; and

WHEREAS, the deduction is especially important for middle-income homeowners, as fifty percent of the deductions claimed by taxpayers making \$50,000 to \$100,000 are for property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the SALT deduction does not unfairly benefit taxpayers in high tax states. To the contrary, low tax states are generally more dependent on the federal government, receiving more in federal funding than they pay in federal taxes. According to one study, New Jersey, New York, and Illinois are among the states that receive less than \$1 from the federal government for every \$1 paid in federal taxes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Township of North Hanover, supports the full tax deductibility outlined in H.R. 946 and urges all

members of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation as well as all members of congress to support the SALT Act, with voice and vote, to restore the fair and reasonable SALT deductibility provision from the Federal Tax Code; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Congressman Andy Kim, Senators Booker and Menendez, President Joe Biden and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

COMMITTEE	MOTION	2ND	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Deputy Mayor DeBaecke	X		X			
Committeeman Forsyth		X	X			
Committeeman Kocubinski			X			
Committeeman O'Donnell			X			
Mayor Doyle			X			

DISCUSSION

- Summer Camp 2021 – Director Zirilli gave an overview, with safety protocols, concerning this year’s program. There was discussion regarding the Governor’s executive orders and the Township Committee determined to allow 20 Children and to utilize the entire Bowers Building. Township Committee reviewed additional safety protocols, as it relates to the buildings and bus, with Director Zirilli and his responsibility to implement the protocols. Attorney Roselli suggested keeping the program consistent each week of the program and to send him a copy of the final draft of the registration packet, for his approval. The Township Committee authorized refunds in the event of quarantine minus the trip costs.
- BCJIF Legal Bulletin – Mandatory Employee Vaccination – Attorney Roselli reviewed the legal implications of a policy. After discussion, there was a general consensus to NOT move forward with a policy.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Questions, comments or statements from members of the public in attendance.

Mayor Doyle opened the meeting to the public. There were no public comments this evening.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT

Proposed By: Deputy Mayor DeBaecke

Seconded By: Committeeman Forsyth

BACK TO PUBLIC SESSION

BUDGET WORKSHOP – TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE TO REVIEW BUDGET LINE ITEMS

Mayor Doyle noted there were several lines that would need increased this year. He stated legal line would need increased for various reasons. He reviewed capital needs of drainage, water treatment, body cams, ambulance, generator gas conversion, turn out gear and microphones. Township Committee discussed the needs of the JVFC with Chief Gancarz. The Township Committee made various inquires with Chief Gancarz and it was decided a meeting with Mayor Doyle, Committeeman O’Donnell and Chief Gancarz would be set up, in the near future. Mayor Doyle expressed concerns with the current stipend program and wanted to review the stipend records. He also expressed concerns with the wording in Chief Gancarz budget request and noted he was mindful of taxpayer dollars. The Committee thanked Chief Gancarz for his time and service.

Mayor Doyle noted the lease payment funds were available in the 2021 year as the leases have been paid. The Committee preliminarily reviewed the Police Budget. Deputy Mayor DeBaecke noted he would like to stay on a schedule with Police vehicles and that sedan options could be considered in the future should the funding dictate that. There was a general consensus to use the lease funding and administrative fees to purchase a new Ford.

Committeeman O'Donnell noted the Mayor and him discussed the Court operation with the CFO and noted they operated efficiently. There was a general consensus the Court budget was put together well.

The Committee would like to see the budget transfers for 2020 in a separate sheet, for the next workshop. There was a general consensus for the Township Committee to further review the budget documentation and the next workshop to formulate the budget and capital plan. There was brief discussion of the EMS service budgetary impact and possible referendum on the matter.

The Clerk was directed to have the CFO, Treasurer and OIC Duff at the next budget workshop and to have the Finance Department provide the transfers. The Committee set March 1st for the next workshop.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

8:58 pm

Proposed By: Deputy Mayor DeBaecke

Seconded By: Committeeman Forsyth

Respectively submitted,

*Mary Picariello, RMC/CMR/CTC
Township Clerk*