The January 28, 2025 meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Pequannock, Morris County, New Jersey was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Meeting Room located at 530 Newark-Pompton Turnpike; Deputy Mayor Kyle Russell presiding.

Township Clerk Carol Marsh read the following statement for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

"In accordance with the requirements of New Jersey's Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was included in the Annual Meeting Notice which was filed in the Office of the Township Clerk; posted on the Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building; published as legal notice in the Suburban Trends and Daily Record newspapers; and distributed to all persons requesting notice in accordance with Township policy."

Mayor Driesse led the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a prayer and a moment of thanks for those individuals serving our nation.

Present:
Deputy Mayor Kyle Russell
Councilwoman Melissa Florance-Lynch
Councilman David Kohle
Councilman Vincent Siracusa

Absent:
Mayor John Driesse

Also Attending:
Adam Brewer, Township Manager
Robert Oostdyk, Esq., Township Attorney
Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk

There were 8 members of the public in attendance.

PRESENTATIONS. There were no presentations.

REPORTS FROM VOLUNTEERS. There were no reports from volunteers.

PUBLIC COMMENT. There were no public comments.

MANAGER'S REPORT. Township Manager Adam Brewer reviewed the Manager's report for the meeting, confirming the existence of an emergency access point for Cedar Crest, reviewing the proposed schedule for Budget Workshop Meetings and reviewing items on the evening's agenda.

PUBLIC HEARINGS. There were no public hearings.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION - Ordinance No. 2025-01; ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH AND PRESERVE A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

On a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, the ordinance was approved for introduction by the following vote:

For: Mrs. Florance-Lynch, Mr. Kohle, Mr. Siracusa, Mrs. Russell.
Against: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Mayor Driesse.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION - Ordinance No. 2025-02; ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5-87 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK AND EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM TO INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN ANY MUNICIPALITY THAT IS CONTIGUOUS WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, the ordinance was approved for introduction by the following vote:

For: Mrs. Florance-Lynch, Mr. Kohle, Mr. Siracusa, Mrs. Russell.
Against: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Mayor Driesse.

RESOLUTIONS.

- **R2025-57,** Designating Initiation and Authorization Roles for EFT Transactions
- **R2025-58**; appointing individuals to serve on the Open Space Advisory Committee.
- **R2025-59**; appointing Nicholas A. Galante, Esq., as Municipal Prosecutor
- **R2025-60**; awarding a contract for the Pompton Plains Railroad Station Exterior Restoration Project (2nd Bid) to Alden Bailey Corporation for the contract amount of $324,810 and accepting Unit Prices No. 1 and No. 2 in accordance with the bid specifications.
- **R2025-61**; authorizing submission of an SFY25 Local Recreation Improvement Grant application and execution of the grant agreement for the project to upgrade and replace the Greenview Park Playing Court Lighting & Controls.
- **R2025-62**; approving the designated special event permit application (Chamber of Commerce Street Fair).
- **R2025-63**, authorizing Tax Office refunds, overpayments or cancellations.
- **R2025-64,** approving payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the **January 23, 2025** Bill List and 2018 FEMA Elevation Escrow.

Deputy Mayor Russell invited Pequannock Valley Chamber of Commerce member Heidi Roback to speak on Resolution R2025-62. Ms. Roback reviewed some of the logistical and financial issues of the event. After discussion, Mr. Brewer recommended approval of the event be held and additional information on the event be gathered, and members of the Council agreed.

Members of the Council discussed the rationale behind the timing of Open Space Advisory Committee liaison appointments.

On a motion by Mr. Siracusa, seconded by Mr. Kohle, **Resolutions R2025-57 through R2025-61 and R2025-63 and R2025-64** were adopted by the following vote:

For: Mrs. Florance-Lynch, Mr. Kohle, Mr. Siracusa, Mrs. Russell.
Against: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Mayor Driesse.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION. There were no discussion items.

REPORTS AND NOTICES. There were no reports or notices.

COUNCIL REPORTS.

Mrs. Florance-Lynch:

- Economic Development Advisory Committee is working on an initiative about business openings.

Mr. Kohle:

- Congratulated Chilton for being named by Health Grades as one of America's 250 best hospitals for overall clinical performance the 3rd year in a row.
- PBA is holding a Beefsteak/Tricky Tray on Friday, March 21st.

Mr. Siracusa

- No report.

Mrs. Russell

- Congratulated Chilton Hospital.
- Library is having painting done and waiting on plans for new furniture.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Valerie Montrose, representing Prime Equity NYC, stated the firm has purchased the

Pompton Plains shopping center / Fireside Plaza on Route 23, and requested a contact on the Council to set up an introductory meeting. Mr. Brewer was recommended as a contact and reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce was also recommended. Ms. Montrose distributed information on plans for the property.

- Mary Kay Schmermund asked if there has been discussion about honoring Barbara Muzzio and if the freeze on federal funding would affect grants Mr. Brewer referenced earlier.
- Sharon Taylor asked if the award of a bid was based on lowest bid or other factors, and complimented the work of the DPW.

Mr. Brewer responded that Ms. Muzzio had not been discussed, noted the grants are state grants and summarized the state statute regulating the award of contracts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES. There were no minutes presented for approval.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION.
On a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, seconded by Mr. Kohle, **Resolution R2025-65**, authorizing an Executive Session to discuss Contract Negotiations with the Board of Education regarding Solid Waste and Recycling Collection, and the Borough of Kinnelon on Shared Services unanimously adopted.

The public portion of the meeting was recessed at 7:37 p.m. followed by the Executive Session during which the following took place:

- There were 2 discussion items, both involving shared service contracts.
  One was to discuss the solid waste shared service contract with the Township's Board of Education. The manager presented the issue and the Council gave direction in regards to where to go next in terms of negotiating that shared service renewal.
  The second was a proposed shared service with the Borough of Kinnelon dealing with construction service. The manager was authorized to do a financial analysis and report back to the Council regarding the potential benefits and issues that may come with that proposal.

The closed session was completed at 7:55 p.m. at which time the public meeting was reconvened.

Township Attorney Oostdyk summarized the Executive Session discussion. No formal action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT.
There being no further business, on a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, seconded by Mr. Siracusa the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. without objection.

Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk

Kyle Russell, Deputy Mayor