

The August 12, 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; Mayor John Driesse 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:

Mayor John Driesse
Deputy Mayor Kyle Russell
Councilwoman Melissa Florance-Lynch
Councilman David Kohle
Councilman Vincent Siracusa

Absent: None

Also Attending:

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

There were 9 members of the public in attendance.

PRESENTATIONS. There were no presentations.

REPORTS FROM VOLUNTEERS.

- Robin Jones, Open Space Advisory Committee Chair, provided a list of properties along the Pequannock River the committee is recommending be combined into a park.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Peter Schmitt commented on upcoming Medicaid cuts and what Pequannock "can and should do about it." Mr. Schmitt expressed concern regarding the United States child mortality rate the potential effect of cuts to Medicaid and referenced a table of suggestions for what could be done about it that he created with AI assistance. Mr. Schmitt commented little is communicated about what good work the Township does and suggested improvements to Medicaid access would be something that would be effective in improving the Town's image.
- Paul Mahler objected to the actions of the current Federal Administration, questioned what government officials stand for and expressed the belief that support for republic means an obligation to stand against the injustice and brutality of the current administration.
- Rich Walter reminded the Council a resident had previously recommended the Township look into outside council concerning the Board of Adjustment application on 60 Sunset and questioned if anything had been done to that effect.

Mr. Oostdyk commented on the role of attorneys in litigation, noting the Township's attorney is well respected and well known in the field. Mr. Oostdyk stated the Township could retain other council in the future but has not done so at this time.

MANAGER'S REPORT. Township Manager Adam Brewer reviewed the Manager's report for the meeting, reporting on the results of information gathered from the residents of Sherman Avenue regarding the replacement of sidewalks and requested direction from the Council on the scope of the project. Mr. Brewer provided information on action taken to improve visibility at West Franklin

and provided information on the Township's application for a grant to improve the Cherry Street Park. Mr. Brewer asked for the Council's approval of a ribbon cutting for the Greenview Park sports courts on September 9th prior to the meeting on that day, provided information on the schedule for the Route 23 Northbound and Southbound sewer extension project and reviewed several of the evening's agenda items.

Members of the Council expressed support for replacing all of the existing Sherman Avenue sidewalks under consideration and removal of a section of asphalt. They questioned the status of a potential parking lot on West Franklin, declined to remove parking from one side of the street and agreed to a September 9th, 6:00 p.m. grand opening of the Greenview Park sports courts.

PUBLIC HEARINGS.

PUBLIC HEARING - Ordinance No. 2025-09, AN ORDINANCE BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REPEAL CHAPTER 171; TO ADOPT A NEW CHAPTER 171 TO ADOPT FLOOD HAZARD MAPS; TO DESIGNATE A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Russell, the Public Hearing was opened without objection

There were no public comments.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, the Public Hearing was closed without objection.

On a motion by Mrs. Russell, seconded by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, the ordinance was adopted by the following vote:

For: Mrs. Florance-Lynch, Mr. Kohle, Mrs. Russell, Mr. Siracusa, Mayor Driesse.

Against: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION - Ordinance No. 2025-10, BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ELEVATION OF FLOOD PRONE HOMES IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$1,767,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,767,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF

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

For: Mrs. Florance-Lynch, Mr. Kohle, Mrs. Russell, Mr. Siracusa, Mayor Driesse

Against: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION - Ordinance No. 2025-11; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTERS 152 AND 237 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK AND ESTABLISHING MEMBERSHIP FEES AND RULES FOR PICKLEBALL AND TENNIS COURT USE

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

For: Mrs. Florance-Lynch, Mr. Kohle, Mrs. Russell, Mr. Siracusa, Mayor Driesse

Against: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION - Ordinance No. 2025-12; BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 FOR THE TREATMENT OF WELLS #1 AND #2 AND

RELATED IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$500,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF

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

For: Mrs. Florance-Lynch, Mr. Kohle, Mrs. Russell, Mr. Siracusa, Mayor Driesse

Against: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

RESOLUTIONS.

- **R2025-161**, approving the designated special event permit application (Post 242 Car Show).
- **R2025-162**, confirming the designated memberships in the Pequannock Township Fire Department.
- **R2025-163**, authorizing the execution of a Quit Claim Deed releasing ownership unit from affordability controls (Block 2202 Lot 2 Qual. C217).
- **R2025-164**, authorizing \$53,000 Bid Threshold, effective August 12, 2025.
- **R2025-165**, authorizing the execution of agreements between the Township of Pequannock and the New Jersey Department of Transportation necessitated by the Rt. 23 Improvement Project being undertaken by the State of New Jersey.
- **R2025-166**, correcting and confirming the amounts of Professional Services Agreements and Contracts with H2M Architects & Engineers, Inc, for the Wells 1 & 2 PFAS Treatment Project.
- **R2025-167**, authorizing the acceptance of a hold harmless agreement from Theodora and Adam Tsatsos (Block 3501 Lot 7, 13 William St).
- **R2025-168**, authorizing Tax Office refunds, overpayments or cancellations.
- **R2025-169**, authorizing release of designated Escrow Deposits.
- **R2025-170**, authorizing release of deposits for construction in a Township Right of Way.
- **R2025-171**, approving payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the August 7, 2025 Bill List and FEMA Elevation Escrow list.

On a motion by Mr. Siracusa, seconded by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, **Resolutions R2025-161 through R2025-171** were adopted by the following vote:

For: Mrs. Florance-Lynch, Mr. Kohle, Mrs. Russell, Mr. Siracusa, Mayor Driesse

Against: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION.

- Personnel Manual draft revisions

Mr. Brewer reviewed the changes reflected in the revisions. Members of the Council expressed support for the revisions and a resolution of approval will be listed on the September 9th meeting agenda.

REPORTS AND NOTICES. There were no reports or notices.

COUNCIL REPORTS.

Mrs. Florance-Lynch:

- Congratulated the two new firefighters.
- Historic District Commission. Newly appointed member Ellany Kincross attended the meeting. Renovations on the Train Station Museum are essentially complete. There were discussions regarding maintenance of the trail and access to Aquatic Park. The Pathways to History Tour is October 4th an 5th. The Train Station Museum plans to be open Sunday, October 5th. The

Commission will participate at the Street Fair and the Hoedown. The Commission also requested information on the procedures for purchasing. The Museum will be open on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month from 12 to 3 assuming staff is available.

- Requested information on removal of the guardrail by PV Park which was provided by Mr. Brewer.
- Planning Board approved a 6-vehicle car port in the industrial zone on West Parkway and a phased build out of Hillview Medical.
- Thanked the Police Department and those who participated in National Night out and the DPW for all the work they are doing on the roads.

Mr. Kohle:

- Thanked those who organized National Night Out which was a great success.
- Congratulated the new firefighters and expressed admiration for the dedication of junior firefighters who recently completed 6 weeks of training at the firefighter's academy.

Mrs. Russell

- Congratulated the new firefighters and echoed Mr. Kohle's compliments on the dedication of the trainees.
- First Aid and Rescue Squad reported 100 calls July, 40 of them to Cedar Crest. There has been a total of 720 calls so far this year of which 268 were to Cedar Crest. The Oktoberfest fundraiser is scheduled for September 27th.
- Bids for construction at the library were opened last week and the construction and bid opening will be discussed at the next meeting of the Library Board.
- Requested information about cleanup of trash on the rail trail.

Mr. Siracusa

- Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee next week.
- Welcomed new member Sal Presti to the Open Space Advisory Committee. Tree tubes will be installed along the rail trail over the next few months The proposed project report is being updated and will be circulated to the membership. The next meeting is on September 8th.

Mayor. Driesse

- Reminded everyone to respect the Crossing Guards as school will be in session soon.
- Recommended parents speak to their kids about safety on electric bikes.
- National Night Out was a great success.
- Congratulated the new firefighters
- Expressed appreciation for the road work being done on the Turnpike.
- Complimented the Train Station Museum work.
- Encouraged everyone to be thankful.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Karen Randolph expressed concern about the Township's emergency preparedness and asked if they would consider a presentation for the public. Ms. Randolph reported the Environmental Commission spent two Saturdays completing plantings at Greenvue Park and is maintaining the plantings
- Sandy LaCorte expressed thanks for the Council's decision to defend the Board of Adjustment decision on the 60 Sunset application and the hope that the Township and Board of Adjustment will prevail.
- Peter Schmitt noted the new version of ChatGPT will be out in a few days, gave some

examples of his experience using the program and recommended we all be prepared for the changes it will bring. Mr. Schmitt noted work being done regarding the use of AI in schools and recommended the council and administration consider participating in training.

- Paul Mahler questioned if homes are being raised to the 100-year flood level or higher. Mr. Brewer provided information on the Township's successful response during recent flooding, agreed a presentation by the Township's Flood Resilience Officer would be scheduled, provided information on the level of home elevations.

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

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, **Resolution R2025-172**, authorizing an Executive Session to discuss Contract Negotiations with the Borough of Pompton Lakes regarding Garbage and Recycling Collection and The Borough of Lincoln Park for Animal Control Services and the Litigation of Pascack Valley Learning Center v. Township of Pequannock, and PFAS was unanimously adopted.

The public portion of the meeting was recessed at 8:12 p.m. followed by the Executive Session during which the following took place:

- Two contract negotiations were discussed. The first was with the Borough of Pompton Lakes on a potential local service agreement for the garbage and recycling services. The Township Manager reported on the proposed cost of that service and direction was given by the Township Council not to proceed further. Second, there was a discussion of the negotiation with the Borough of Lincoln Park for Animal Control Services. The Township Manager reported on that negotiation and where the final negotiations had ended up at a price point and the Council directed that should proceed.
- There was an update on the litigation of Pascack Valley Learning Center v. Township of Pequannock and to issues as the litigation progresses and direction was given to the Governing Body and there will be follow up on those items.
- Finally, there was an update from the Township Manager on the PFAS negotiation as to at least one of the defendants, 3M, and how that had proceeded and the anticipated settlement funds that would be received and how it was proposed those funds would be utilized and direction was given by the Governing Body.

The closed session was completed at 8:39 p.m. at which time the public meeting was reconvened.

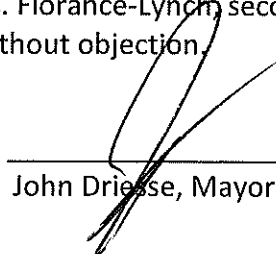
Township Attorney Oostdyk summarized the Executive Session discussion. No formal action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m. without objection.



Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk



John Driesse, Mayor