

WALPACK MAYOR AND COMMITTEE
MINUTES
APRIL 30, 2024

Opening Statement: Mayor Maglio stated, "This remote meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, having been duly advertised."

NOTE: The system employed by the Township of Walpack for conducting its remote public meetings affords the public the opportunity to both listen to, and participate in, the meeting by a means of a simple dial-in process which has been made known to the public via an announcement on the Township website since the first remote meeting was announced.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Victor J. Maglio, Committeewoman Kelly Happe, MCFO Ashley Kannaley, Attorney Glenn Kienz, RMC Christine M. Von Oesen, Deputy Mayor James Heigis (delayed)

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve the March 26, 2024 Mayor and Committee Meeting minutes. Motion by Committeewoman Happe. Second by Mayor Maglio. All in Favor.

New Business:

A one day expansion of premises application for The Walpack Inn was submitted to the ABC and approved.

Sussex County Clerk Jeff Parrott sent a memo to municipalities regarding potential squatter activity in the County. Residents are encouraged to contact law enforcement if suspicious activity is observed.

Walpack Historical Society member William Gardner has proposed in a letter to the Committee that he and other volunteers would like to clean up and repair the old Walpack Firehouse #1. Before responding to Mr. Gardner's generous offer, Deputy Mayor Heigis requested, for the safety of the volunteers, that a contractor assess the building for structural stability before Mr. Gardner sets his plan in motion. Contractor Steve Lane felt that the Walpack Firehouse was not in a repairable state. Licensed contractor Chris Happe is available to provide an estimate, as is licensed contractor Mark Cunico. Mayor Maglio offered that Congressman Tom Kean, Jr.'s office has community grants which might apply to properties such as the Walpack Firehouse. Deputy Mayor Heigis advised that he is available to provide contractors access to the Walpack Firehouse.

Regarding the status of repairs to the bridge in Walpack Center, Congressman Kean's office is anticipating a National Park Service report from the Federal

Highway Association. The Walpack Township Committee is waiting on this response, acknowledging that time will be needed for the Congressman's office, NPS, and the FHA to provide their findings. Additionally, the Mayor and Committee advise that there are also other clean-ups and repairs to address.

Ordinance:

Ordinance #01-24 Calendar Year 2024, an Ordinance to exceed the municipal budget appropriation limits and to establish a cap bank (NJSA 40A:4-45.14).

CFO Kannaley explained this ordinance, and advised that by passing this ordinance, we are allowed to increase appropriations by 3.5%, versus the 1% adjustment determined by the State of New Jersey. Unused amounts are "banked," allowing for flexibility in the next two years' budgets, and to estimate cap banks.

Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve Ordinance #1-24. Motion by Deputy Mayor Heigis. Second by Committeewoman Happe. All in Favor.

Resolutions:

R-21-24 Resolution approving the Bills List. Bills List attached. Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve R-21-24. Motion by Mayor Heigis. Second by Committeewoman Happe. All in Favor.

R-22-24 Resolution – Introduction of the Budget. First Reading.

CFO Kannaly presented the 2024 Budget. The total budget went down from \$128,305.82 in 2023 to \$122,882.85. The reassessment is completed and paid in the prior year, allowing some savings. A reserve was added for uncollected taxes to ensure liabilities are paid due to a decreased collection rate. Surplus anticipated in this year's budget is also lower than in the prior year. Walpack continues to have a zero municipal tax rate for 2024.

Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve the Budget on First Reading. Motion by Deputy Mayor Heigis. Second by Committeewoman Happe. All in Favor.

Mayor Maglio opened the meeting for Public Comment:

Mr. Ken Bechtold advised that what appears to be the Old Walpack Firehouse Fire Truck, circa 1950's, is currently advertised on Facebook as available for purchase. The junkyard where it is parked is asking \$2800. The truck is in very poor condition and would be prohibitively expensive to repair. There is a logo on the side of the truck which indicates that it is the original Walpack Fire Truck.

In August, a historical marker memorializing Shapanack will be placed in front of Janina Wycalek's home.

The Walpack Historical Society plans to write a letter regarding the Walpack Bridge when the time is appropriate.

Mr. Bechtold advises that the Route 615 landslide from 2 years ago still blocks a lane and the road is therefore closed to vehicles. No confirmation has been received as to when this will be fixed. Congressman Kean's office may be able to offer assistance.

Hearing no further comment, Mayor Maglio closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Committeewoman Kelly Happe. Second by Deputy Mayor Heigis. All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Von Oesen
Clerk
Walpack Township