

WALPACK MAYOR AND COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 25, 2025

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

NOTE: This 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 procedure which has been made known to the public via an announcement on the Township website since the first remote meeting was announced."

Roll Call: Mayor Victor Maglio, Deputy Mayor Ken Bechtold, Attorney Glenn Kienz, CFO Ashley Kannaley, Clerk Christine M. Von Oesen

Absent: Committeeman James Heigis

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve the November 26, 2024 Mayor and Committee Meeting minutes. Motion by Deputy Mayor Bechtold. Second by Mayor Maglio. All in favor.

Discussion:

The Sussex County Municipal Utility agreement regarding Certified Recycling Professional services was discussed and a brief explanation provided.

The Agreement for inter-municipal court for the municipalities of Frankford Township, Hampton Township, Montague Township, Lafayette Township, Sandyston Township, and Walpack Township was acknowledged and discussed. The new agreement allows for Hampton Township to join the inter-municipal court.

Ordinance:

Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve, on first reading, Ordinance #01-25, The Calendar year 2025 Ordinance to exceed the municipal budget appropriation limits and to establish a cap bank (NJSA 40A:40-45.14). Motion by Deputy Mayor Bechtold. Second by Mayor Maglio. All in favor.

Resolutions:

R-14-25. Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve R-14-25, A Resolution of the Walpack Township Committee endorsing the submission of the 2024 recycling

tonnage grant application. Motion by Deputy Mayor Bechtold. Second by Mayor Maglio. All in favor.

R-15-25. Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve R-15-25, A resolution extending the 2025 budget introduction and adoption dates. Motion by Deputy Mayor Bechtold. Second by Mayor Maglio. All in favor.

R-16-25. Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve R-16-25, A resolution approving bills and vouchers for payment. Bills list attached. Motion by Deputy Mayor Bechtold. Second by Mayor Maglio. All in favor.

R-17-25. Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve R-17-25, A resolution to support publishing legal notices on official government websites. Motion by Deputy Mayor Bechtold. Second by Mayor Maglio. All in favor.

R-18-25. Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve R-18-25, A resolution approving Governor's Council of Substance Abuse Use Disorder, Fiscal Grant Cycle October 2020-June 2026. Motion by Deputy Mayor Bechtold. Second by Mayor Maglio. All in favor.

Public Comment. Mayor Maglio opened the floor to Public Comment.

Deputy Mayor Bechtold introduced members of the Walpack Historical Society present at this meeting: President Don Stitch, Dan Tassey, Jeff Stovenken, and Bill Schwab. Also in attendance was Sussex County Commissioner Alan Henderson, Municipal liaison for Franklin Borough, Vernon Township, Hardyston Township, Ogdensburg Township, and Walpack Township.

Public Comment. Mayor Maglio opened the floor to Public Comment.

Deputy Mayor Bechtold introduced members of the Walpack Historical Society present at this meeting: President Don Stitch, Dan Tassey, Jeff Stovenken, and Bill Schwab. Also in attendance was Sussex County Commissioner Alan Henderson, Municipal liaison for Franklin Borough, Vernon Township, Hardyston Township, Ogdensburg Township, and Walpack Township.

The schoolhouse roof was discussed, focusing on the fact that the current protective tarp has ripped away from the roof. As a result, the roof needs either immediate re-tarpping or complete repair. The optimum sequence would likely be to first remove the existing deteriorated tarp; concurrently evaluate the condition of the roof and support structures in order to properly estimate costs for a final repair; and then immediately re-tarp the roof to prevent further damage until such time as the full and final repairs can be made.

President Stitch offered that the Walpack Historical Society, for 40 years, has wished to preserve Walpack Township history. A long-term lease regarding the schoolhouse continues to be discussed. Previously, the WHS ran into an insurance roadblock due in large part to the condition of the roof.

The WHS requests permission from the Walpack Mayor and Committee, to pursue a new proposal to assist the Township in the temporary repair of the roof, to find an insurer, and to develop a long-term lease agreement for future use of the schoolhouse by the WHS.

Attorney Keinz offered that the WHS plan is a good one, and Mayor Maglio agreed.

Mayor Maglio requested a Motion authorizing the Walpack Historical Society to assist the Township with the temporary repair the schoolhouse roof and to acquire insurance in order to facilitate a long-term lease agreement. Deputy Mayor Bechtold and Attorney Kienz will work with WHS for this purpose. Motion by Deputy Mayor Bechtold. Second by Mayor Maglio. All in favor.

Mayor Maglio expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the Walpack Historical Society's work on this project and he looks forward to working with the Walpack Historical Society.

Deputy Mayor Bechtold has contacted Chris Happe, who initially tarped the schoolhouse roof. Mr. Happe will be able to re-tarp after funding is provided. President Stitch will seek assistance from WHS members who can volunteer their time and talents to assist in this effort.

Attorney Keinz requested of WHS that they please keep in contact with CFO Kannaley regarding monies associated with this project.

Mr. Schwab asked about insurance that Walpack currently has. CFO Kannaley stated that the buildings are insured, including fire and liability insurance through Arthur Gallagher at Selective Insurance. CFO Kannaley will forward these policies to Deputy Mayor Bechtold.

Mr. Tassey added that he is happy to be working together, and Mr. Stoveken concurred.

County Commissioner Henderson offers his assistance any time and looks forward to working with Walpack. Mayor Maglio and deputy Mayor Bechtold welcomed Commissioner Henderson's attendance and look forward to working with him.

Hearing no further Public Comment, Mayor Maglio closed the floor to Public Comment.

Deputy Mayor Bechtold advised that he had attended a meeting with the Blue Ridge Rescue Squad. He learned that Blue Ridge will become a 4 day paid squad in 6 months to a year. He added that Walpack had 6 calls last year, and Blue Ridge responded to three.

The area covered by Blue Ridge is north of the Walpack Inn, while Blainstown Rescue covers the area south of the Walpack Inn.

Attorney Kienz offered that this recently happened in Wantage, with the Wantage Township First Aid Squad, and so he and CFO Kannaley have experience on how these changes proceed.

Adjournment: Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to adjourn. Motion by Deputy Mayor Bechtold. Second by Mayor Maglio. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Von Oesen  
Clerk