

The March 11, 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 5 members of the public in attendance.

PRESENTATIONS.

- New Jersey Senate Resolution recognizing Henry Struble
The Council recognized Henry Struble, reading a proclamation from the New Jersey State Senate.

REPORTS FROM VOLUNTEERS. There were no reports from volunteers.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Dana Witzak expressed concern about a policy that would involve bringing some types of waste to the DPW building, criticized the behavior of the Library Board Trustees, requested information on the plans for the library parking lot and recommended Library Board of Trustee meetings be recorded.

Mr. Brewer provided information on budgeting and paving of the library parking lot.

MANAGER'S REPORT. Township Manager Adam Brewer reviewed the Manager's report for the meeting, providing information on the finalization of the FIRM maps and a potential application for Morris County Trail Construction Grant, and reviewing several of the evening's agenda items. Members of the Council expressed approval of the Trail Grant application.

PUBLIC HEARINGS. There were no public hearings.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS. There were no ordinances presented for introduction.

RESOLUTIONS.

- **R2025-81**, confirming the designated memberships in the Pequannock Township Fire Department.
- **R2025-82**, authorizing Temporary Emergency Appropriations for Operating Purposes
- **R2025-83**, designating official depositories for the year **2025**.

- **R2025-84**, authorizing Tax Office refunds, overpayments or cancellations.
- **R2025-85**, approving payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the **March 7, 2025** Bill List and 2018 FEMA Elevation Escrow list.

On a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, seconded by Mrs. Russell, **Resolutions R2025-81 through R2025-84** 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. There were no discussion items.

REPORTS AND NOTICES. There were no reports or notices.

COUNCIL REPORTS.

Mrs. Florance-Lynch:

- Congratulated two new Eagle Scouts, Benjamin Trousdale and Jacob Van Varick, Henry Struble, and new Junior Firefighter Joseph Daniello.
- Planning Board approved a variance for a TD Bank sign.
- Historic District Commission is readying the Train Station Museum for scheduled construction.
- Expressed condolences for former firefighter John Woods.

Mr. Kohle:

- Congratulated Councilman Siracusa on his recent selection as Major Subordinate Command of the Operations Group at Fort Dix.
- Attended the Grand Opening of the Backyard Birding Store with Mayor Driesse.
- Congratulated the High School winter sports teams noting especially the hockey team, the boys basketball team and wrestler Sophia Klecha.
- Attended, along with Councilwoman Florance-Lynch, the Rotary Wine Tasting event.
- Congratulated Eagle Scout Jacob Van Varick noting his work at Lyman Park.

Mrs. Russell

- First Aid and Rescue Squad had 86 calls in February of which 36 were to Cedar Crest. The squad is currently working with one ambulance and expecting repairs to be completed on the second this week; Trivia Night has been cancelled, and Chilton Hospital thanked the Squad for properly using a new triage app.
- Recognized and expressed condolences for Environmental Commission member Herbert Bell
- Congratulated the new Eagle Scouts.
- Requested an additional Budget Workshop meeting, and requested an updated 2024 expenditure list. Members of the Council agreed to meet on March 25th at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Siracusa

- Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee reported the Senior Olympics is soon. Interested residents 60 and over are encouraged to participate. Rates for PV Park remain the same this year and the committee discussed rules for pickleball.

Mayor. Driesse

- Congratulated new Junior Firefighter Joseph Daniello.
- Congratulation to Henry Struble and the two new Eagle Scouts,
- Noted plans to recognize all volunteers at once at the end of the year.
- Shout out to the Crossing Guards and reminded drivers to be careful of kids on bikes.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Mary Kay Schmermund requested information on the numbering of the evening's resolutions, and what effect if any changes in the Federal Government will have on Pequannock schools, municipality and the local Health Department, and expressed concern about the safety of the rail trail crossings.

Mr. Driesse expressed confidence in the Health Department. Mr. Brewer provided information on the Township's use of Federal Grants, noted the Health Department's operations are normal stated the trail grants are Morris County grants, and commented on the type of safety lights used on the rail trail crossings.

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

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION.

On a motion by Mrs. Russell, seconded by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, **Resolution R2025-86**, authorizing an Executive Session to discuss Contract Negotiations of Shared Services with the Borough of Kinnelon was 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:

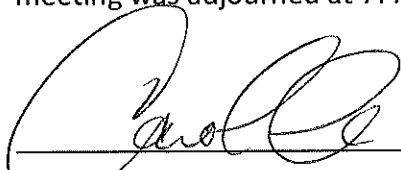
- The Township Manager discussed a contract negotiation issue for an Interlocal Service Agreement and direction was provided by the governing body.

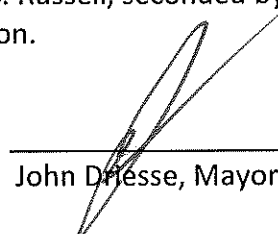
The closed session was completed at 7:44 p.m. at which time the public meeting was reconvened.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mrs. Russell, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. without objection.



Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk

John Driesse, Mayor

