COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2025, 6:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL

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1. Deputy Mayor Viola called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Deputy Mayor Viola asked everyone to join in the salute to the flag.

3. Municipal Clerk Lindsey read the following Sunshine Statement: "The notice requirements of the New Jersey Public Meetings Law have been satisfied by noticing the Asbury Park Press and the Two River Times on January 3, 2025, stating that a regular meeting of the Township Committee would be held on September 10, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., 1 Veterans Way, Colts Neck, NJ 07722, Town Hall. A copy is on file in the office of the Township Clerk."

   "Further notice was provided to the Asbury Park Press on September 3, 2025, noting the meeting time change from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m."

4. Roll call by Municipal Clerk Lindsey indicated the following:

Present:	Deputy Mayor Michael Viola, Committeeman Dan Buzzetta, Committeewoman Sue Fitzpatrick and Committeeman Frank Rizzuto
Also Present:	Trina Lindsey, Municipal Clerk, and Meghan Bennett, Township Counsel
Absent:	Mayor Tara Torchia Buss and Kathleen Capristo, Township Administrator

5. **Resolution 2025-151:** Executive Session – Potential Litigation

   Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Rizzuto, seconded by Committeeman Buzzetta and a majority roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Torchia Buss					X
Deputy Mayor Viola		X			
Buzzetta	S	X			
Fitzpatrick		X			
Rizzuto	M	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

   After closed session, Deputy Mayor Viola asked for a motion to go back to open session. On a motion by Committeeman Rizzuto, seconded by Committeeman Buzzetta and a majority voice vote, the Governing Body was back in open session at 7:04 p.m.

   Deputy Mayor Viola spoke about the passing of Lillian G. Burry stating that Lillian was a pillar of the community in Colts Neck and her loss will be felt for years to come. Deputy Mayor Viola asked for a moment of silence.

6. **Proclamation**

   a. Suicide Prevention week within Colts Neck Township, September 7-13, 2025

   Deputy Mayor Viola read the proclamation and presented it to Anita Dedalis, Prevention Alliance.

7. Minutes

a. August 13, 2025 – Executive Session
b. August 13, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Deputy Mayor Viola called for comments, corrections or additions to the minutes. Hearing none, Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Rizzuto, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a majority voice vote, the minutes were approved.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Torchia Buss					X
Deputy Mayor Viola		X			
Buzzetta		X			
Fitzpatrick	S	X			
Rizzuto	M	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

8. Discussion Item(s)

a. Affordable Housing update

Deputy Mayor Viola stated that the Round IV obligation for affordable housing is 101 units. Deputy Mayor Viola stated that the Township has fulfilled the requirements for the Round IV obligation which were adopting a resolution and developing a plan. Deputy Mayor Viola stated that on September 2, 2025, the Township was notified that there are three objectors to the Round IV plan. Deputy Mayor Viola stated that the three objectors are:

Marsh and Associates in connection with 68 Obre Road
Active Acquisitions in connection with the property on Route 537
Fair Share Housing

Deputy Mayor Viola advised that the township plans to fight against the three objectors.

Deputy Mayor Viola also advised that the township is close to closing a deal on preserving units at The Grande. Deputy Mayor Viola advised that the resolution and ordinance required will be on September 24, 2025, Township Committee agenda.

9. Old Business

a. **Second Reading/Public Hearing:** Ordinance 2025-15: An ordinance of Colts Neck Township in the County of Monmouth and State of New Jersey amending and supplementing Chapter 195 "Solid Waste", Article III, "Refuse Containers/Dumpsters" of the code of Colts Neck Township

Deputy Mayor Viola read the ordinance by title for second reading/public hearing. Deputy Mayor Viola called for comments. Hearing none, Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to open the public hearing. On a motion by Committeeman Rizzuto, seconded by Committeeman Buzzetta and a majority voice vote the public hearing was open. Hearing no questions or comments from the public, Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to close the public hearing. On a motion by Committeeman Rizzuto, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a majority voice vote the public hearing was closed. Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Buzzetta, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a majority roll call vote the ordinance was adopted.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Torchia Buss					X
Deputy Mayor Viola		X			
Buzzetta	M	X			
Fitzpatrick	S	X			
Rizzuto		X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

b. **Second Reading/Public Hearing:** Ordinance 2025-16: An ordinance of Colts Neck Township in the county of Monmouth and the State of New Jersey amending and supplementing Chapter 79, "Animals", Article I, "Dogs", subsection 79-4 Nuisances on public property of the code of Colts Neck Township

Deputy Mayor Viola read the ordinance by title for second reading/public hearing. Deputy Mayor Viola called for comments. Hearing none, Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to open the public hearing. On a motion by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick, seconded by Committeeman Rizzuto and a majority voice vote the public hearing was open. Hearing no questions or comments from the public, Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to close the public hearing. On a motion by Committeeman Rizzuto, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a majority voice vote the public hearing was closed. Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick, seconded by Committeeman Buzzetta and a majority roll call vote the ordinance was adopted.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Torchia Buss					X
Deputy Mayor Viola		X			
Buzzetta	S	X			
Fitzpatrick	M	X			
Rizzuto		X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

c. **Second Reading/Public Hearing:** Ordinance 2025-17: An ordinance of Colts Neck Township in the County of Monmouth and State of New Jersey amending and supplementing Chapter 102 "Development Regulations", of the code of Colts Neck Township

Deputy Mayor Viola read the ordinance by title for second reading/public hearing. Deputy Mayor Viola called for comments. Hearing none, Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to open the public hearing. On a motion by Committeeman Rizzuto, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a majority voice vote the public hearing was open. Hearing no questions or comments from the public, Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to close the public hearing. On a motion by Committeeman Rizzuto, seconded by Committeeman Buzzetta and a majority voice vote the public hearing was closed. Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Buzzetta, seconded by Committeeman Rizzuto and a majority roll call vote the ordinance was adopted.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Torchia Buss					X
Deputy Mayor Viola		X			
Buzzetta	M	X			
Fitzpatrick		X			
Rizzuto	S	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab -					

Absent

d. **Second Reading/Public Hearing:** Ordinance 2025-18: An ordinance of Colts Neck Township in the County of Monmouth and State of New Jersey amending and supplementing Chapter 102 of the code of Colts Neck Township entitled "Development Regulations"

Deputy Mayor Viola read the ordinance by title for second reading/public hearing. Deputy Mayor Viola called for comments. Hearing none, Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to open the public hearing. On a motion by Committeeman Rizzuto, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a majority voice vote the public hearing was open.

Elaine Mann, resident, stated that the township is only allowed to control the height of a building and the setbacks of the building. Ms. Mann stated that the township cannot dictate building materials and could be sued.

Hearing no further questions or comments from the public, Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to close the public hearing. On a motion by Committeeman Buzzetta, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a majority voice vote the public hearing was closed. Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Buzzetta, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a majority roll call vote the ordinance was adopted.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Torchia Buss					X
Deputy Mayor Viola		X			
Buzzetta	M	X			
Fitzpatrick	S	X			
Rizzuto		X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

e. **Second Reading/Public Hearing:** Ordinance 2025-19: Bond Ordinance providing for the extension of affordability controls on certain units located at The Grande at Colts Neck, a condominium, in and by Colts Neck Township, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey, appropriating $2,500,000 therefor and authorizing the issuance of $2,375,000 bonds or notes of the township to finance part of the cost thereof

Deputy Mayor Viola read the ordinance by title for second reading/public hearing. Deputy Mayor Viola called for comments. Deputy Mayor Viola stated that funds have been deposited into the affordable housing trust fund for years which those funds are to be used for affordable housing. Deputy Mayor Viola explained that those funds are currently being used to file an appeal with the court. Deputy Mayor Viola explained that this ordinance is to borrow the funds to purchase the units in The Grande and will be reimbursed from the affordable housing trust fund.

Committeeman Buzzetta stated that the units that are purchased in The Grande will allow the affordability controls to remain on those units for the next forty years and buying these units gives the township five credits for every one unit purchased.

Hearing no further comments, Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to open the public hearing. On a motion by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick, seconded by Committeeman Buzzetta and a majority voice vote the public hearing was open. Hearing no questions or comments from the public, Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to close the public hearing. On a motion by Committeeman Buzzetta, seconded by Committeeman Rizzuto and a majority voice vote the public hearing was closed. Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Rizzuto, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a majority roll call vote the ordinance was adopted.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Torchia Buss					X
Deputy Mayor Viola		X			
Buzzetta		X			
Fitzpatrick	S	X			
Rizzuto	M	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

f. **Second Reading/Public Hearing:** Ordinance 2025-20: Ordinance of the Township Committee of Colts Neck Township authorizing the acquisition of real property designated as Block 41.01, Lot 43 on the tax map of Colts Neck

Deputy Mayor Viola read the ordinance by title for second reading/public hearing. Deputy Mayor Viola called for comments. Deputy Mayor Viola explained that this is an owner-occupied unit, the unit owner wishes to sell their unit to the township to maintain the affordability controls. Deputy Mayor Viola stated that for every unit purchased the township gets five credits so that is five less units that have to be built. Hearing no further comments, Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to open the public hearing. On a motion by Committeeman Rizzuto, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a majority voice vote the public hearing was open. Hearing no questions or comments from the public, Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to close the public hearing. On a motion by Committeeman Rizzuto, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a majority voice vote the public hearing was closed. Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Rizzuto, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a majority roll call vote the ordinance was adopted.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Torchia Buss					X
Deputy Mayor Viola		X			
Buzzetta		X			
Fitzpatrick	S	X			
Rizzuto	M	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

g. **Second Reading/Public Hearing:** Ordinance 2025-21: An ordinance amending the emergency services volunteer Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) in Colts Neck Township to permit cost of living adjustments in the amount of Township contributions

Deputy Mayor Viola read the ordinance by title for second reading/public hearing. Deputy Mayor Viola called for comments. Hearing none, Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to open the public hearing. On a motion by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick, seconded by Committeeman Rizzuto and a majority voice vote the public hearing was open.

Allan Ryan, resident, stated that he is a member of Colts Neck Fire Company #2. Mr. Ryan stated that the cost-of-living increase is very well deserved by the volunteers who sacrifice so much.

Elaine Mann, resident, stated that she listened to a program on the radio that spoke about the challenges of getting volunteers. Ms. Mann spoke about legislation for incentives for volunteers and stated that the township should consider adopting a resolution to support that legislation.

Hearing no further questions or comments from the public, Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to close the public hearing. On a motion by Committeeman Buzzetta,

seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a majority voice vote the public hearing was closed. Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to approve. Attorney Bennett stated that there are not enough voting members present to pass the ordinance being that Committeeman Rizzuto and Committeeman Buzzetta must abstain, therefore the vote will be carried to the next Township Committee meeting.

10. New business

a. Consent Agenda

All items listed on the "Consent Agenda" are considered routine by the Township and are adopted or approved collectively by a single motion and roll-call vote of a majority of the Township Committee. If discussion is desired on any item, it is considered separately.

a. Resolution 2025-152: Authorizing execution of employment agreements for the Department of Public Works Laborers Kyle Davis and Sean Kelly

b. Resolution 2025-153: Authorizing acceptance of performance guarantees and inspection fee for Charleston Meadows, Block 42, Lot 4, 193 Stone Hill Road, PB753

c. Resolution 2025-154: Authorizing award of contract FY 2025 Capital Road Improvement Program

d. Resolution 2025-155: Authorizing summer camp program fee refunds

e. Resolution 2025-156: Accepting the resignation of Township employee, Parker McCall

f. Resolution 2025-157: Authorizing veteran deduction allowance, Schrider

g. Resolution 2025-158: Resolution authorizing an emergency repair of $12,300.00 for a sink hole on Hominy Hill Road

h. Resolution 2025-159: Authorizing acceptance of a performance guarantee and an inspection fee for a street opening permit for Block 45, Lot 1.03, 48 Mine Brook Road

i. Resolution 2025-160: Resolution increasing bid threshold and quotation threshold

j. Resolution 2025-161: Authorizing Countryside Developers, LLC to appoint an Administrative Agent for affordable housing in accordance with the terms of the settlement of litigation agreement dated March 18, 2020

Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Buzzetta, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a majority roll call vote, the consent agenda resolutions were adopted.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Torchia Buss					X
Deputy Mayor Viola		X			
Buzzetta	M	X			
Fitzpatrick	S	X			
Rizzuto		X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

k. Approval of Vouchers

Deputy Mayor Viola stated that he reviewed all of the vouchers and found all to be in order. Deputy Mayor Viola stated that 83% of the bills list was for payment to the two schools.

Deputy Mayor Viola made a motion to approve the bills list.

Deputy Mayor Viola called for a second to his motion, seconded by Committeeman Rizzuto and a unanimous roll call vote, the bills list was approved.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Torchia Buss					X
Deputy Mayor Viola	M	X			
Buzzetta		X			
Fitzpatrick		X			
Rizzuto	S	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

Committeeman Buzzetta recuses from any bills/vouchers in connection with the Colts Neck Fire Department.

Committeeman Rizzuto recuses from any bills/vouchers in connection with the Colts Neck Fire Department.

Deputy Mayor Viola recuses from any bills/vouchers in connection with Best Horticultural, Joleen Landscaping and Bucks Tree Service.

l. Administrator's Report
None

m. Township Committee Reports

Committeeman Buzzetta:

- Committeeman Buzzetta stated that Recreation fall sports are in full swing. Committeeman Buzzetta stated that the summer concert series has ended and was successful despite a few cancellations due to weather.
- Committeeman Buzzetta stated that the Senior Citizens Club continues to have well attended luncheons. Their next trip is scheduled for this upcoming Tuesday to Intrepid Museum with lunch at the Chart House.
- Committeeman Buzzetta stated that school is back in session and urged residents to drive safely and obey the rules and not pass busses.
- Committeeman Buzzetta stated that the Code Enforcement Manager has been monitoring violations at the shopping center. Committeeman Buzzetta stated that the owner of the shopping center is aware of what he needs to be fixed, and the township will stay on top of it.

Committeeman Rizzuto:

- Committeeman Rizzuto thanked Tyler Badaracco, OEM Coordinator, for submitting the paperwork for the five-year emergency plan. Committeeman Rizzuto also thanked the Police Department for their part in putting together the plan.
- Committeeman Rizzuto stated that the PBA Golf outing was a success and stated that the Chief of Police asked him to remind residents who need a car seat installed to contact the police department to have it installed by one of their certified officers.
- Committeeman Rizzuto asked Michele Battista, Historic Preservation Committee Secretary for any updates. Ms. Battista stated that the Historic Preservation Committee is continuously planning for the Haunted Hayride, which is scheduled for October 25, 2025, with a rain date of October 26, 2025, as well as Country

Christmas at the Montrose School, which is scheduled for December 7, 2025, from 1:00 pm. – 4:00 p.m.

Committeewoman Fitzpatrick:

- Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated the Farmland Preservation Committee meeting was cancelled.
- Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that the Planning Board met last night and adopted the Environmental Resources Inventory that has been in the works for the past several years. Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that it is a great addition to the Master Plan as a resource for practical questions that residents and professionals may have about Colts Neck from the history to vegetation to land use.
- Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that the Colts Neck Business Association's 6th Annual Polo Classic was this past Sunday and was a great day and event. Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that the Delicious Orchards team won 10-6 and brings the match total to 3-3.
- Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that she joined the CNBA for the ribbon cutting and official opening ceremony for Health Summit Medical Center and Dr. Chris Spinella. Committeewoman Fitzpatrick wished them much success.
- Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that she attended the wake and funeral for Lillian Burry. Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that it was a wonderful tribute to a great lady who did so much for Colts Neck and the County at large from land preservation, veterans and so much more. Committeewoman Fitzpatrick gave her sympathies to Don, Lenore and the Burry family.
- Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that the 9/11 remembrance ceremony is tomorrow evening at 6:00pm at the Memorial Garden at Town Hall.

Deputy Mayor Viola:

- Deputy Mayor Viola stated that the Department of Public Works has completed the first two passes of brush pick up in Zone 1 and will move on to Zone 2.
- Deputy Mayor Viola stated that the Town Hall Annex steps are being repaired, stating that the steps were unsafe and the repair was budgeted for in the 2025 budget.
- Deputy Mayor Viola stated that the Monmouth County paper shredding event is scheduled in Colts Neck on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at Town Hall from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Deputy Mayor Viola stated that residents can bring up to 100 lbs. of paper for shredding. Deputy Mayor Viola stated that the Fire Police will be on site to assist with directing traffic.
- Deputy Mayor Viola stated that he plans to meet with the Administrator and the CFO to provide guidance for the upcoming 2026 budget year.
- Deputy Mayor Viola stated that he attended the PBA Golf outing and luncheon which was great and successful event.
- Deputy Mayor Viola stated that he attended the services for Lillian Burry and stated that Lillian was a trailblazer who will be missed tremendously.

11. <u>Public Comment:</u>

Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to open public comments. On a motion by Committeeman Buzzetta, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a majority voice vote, public comment was opened.

Michele Battista, resident, stated that the paper shredding event runs from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. or until the trucks are full. Ms. Battista read the following statement in regard to Lillian Burry's passing:

Former Colts Neck Mayor and County Commissioner Lillian Burry passed away on August 28th after 5 decades of public service. Her family and friends referred to her as the "Queen of Monmouth County". Lillian was a role model for anyone looking to enter the public service arena where many sought her advice and some gained office on her coattails. Her calendar was always booked with meetings and I typed many of her speeches that always included words from her heart. Lillian loved her town of Colts Neck which is often referred to as the 'Jewel of Monmouth County'.

I started working for Lillian back in 2016 and witnessed a woman whose determination

made things happen in Monmouth County and here in Colts Neck. "No" was not an acceptable word in her vocabulary, as her list of accomplishments are too numerous to list though her obituary lists just an inkling of this accomplished woman's career. The plaque at Route 537 East before Route 34 now denotes Lillian's epitaph, "A Persistence of Vision".

She was the driving force on making the roundabout happen with the bronze horse statue which became the inception for our new town logo. The roundabout won the Monmouth County Planning Board merit award by the now defunct Colts Neck Architectural Review Committee which she chaired.

I was honored to have Don and hers' continued support for the Friends of the Colts Neck Library where then Mayor Lillian Burry was instrumental in securing a $100,000 grant from the state and a $35,000 donation from the County to build the library at $0 cost to the township. Don was Finance Chairman and a contributing member of the Construction Committee. Lillian helped design the library interior along with the late resident, Brenda Johnson.

Lillian was instrumental in the Colts Neck Sept. 11 memorial, a brass and copper sculpture designed by internationally known Colts Neck artist, Jim Gary and the garden layout designed by Julie McGowan. This was unveiled at the Colts Neck Municipal Park on November 10, 2002 in memory of the 5 Colts Neck residents lost on that tragic day. That is an impressive timeline. She wrote a poem about 9/11 titled "We Remember Them"

We Remember Them

In the opening of buds and in the warmth of summer,

We Remember Them

When we are weary and in need of strength,

We Remember Them

When we are lost and sick of heart,

We Remember Them

When we have joys we yearn to share,

We Remember Them

So long as we live, they too shall live

For now they are a part of us,

As We Remember Them.

Lillian was a positive sounding board for which I will forever be grateful for the time I supported her endeavors. But more importantly for being so lucky as to have been included in her sphere of influence!

Lillian was the driving force by Colts Neck in purchasing the historic Montrose Schoolhouse from the defunct Historic Society for $1 and establishing the now Historical Preservation Committee which she chaired for many years bringing the annual classic tradition of the Country Christmas enjoyed by many families in town.

This is now the end of an era in Colts Neck history. The Colts Neck Historical Preservation Committee under the chair of Mary Pahira looks to keep her vision alive.

An Italian quote which I find fitting, "We will not forget you, because you were the best of us, because you taught us to be good and courageous."

I say all this in good faith that the Colts Neck Township Committee will dedicate a memorial for the Hon. Lillian G. Burry.

Elaine Mann, resident, asked the township committee to confirm and deny if the Police Department is operating out of the Department of Public Works trailers and if they are, why. Ms. Mann reviewed several bills on the bills list such as food that was bought for the employees in the Department of Public Works, a subscription to the Weather Channel for the Department of Public Works Director. Ms. Mann stated that Mayor Buss made a statement saying that no township monies were spent on National Night Out, Ms. Mann stated that Clean Communities grant monies were used and asked how the township can justify using Clean Communities funds. Ms. Mann asked how many employees there are in the Department of Public Works. Ms. Mann asked if utility wires at the Department of Public Works yard were taken down requiring the DPW Secretary to be relocated to the Town Hall building. Ms. Mann asked about the DeAngelis property and a bill on the bills list concerning that property. Ms. Mann asked about a bill on the bills list in connection with the shared services for municipal court. Ms. Mann stated that she submitted an OPRA request and her request was denied and asked why.

Meghan Bennett, Township Attorney, responded to Ms. Mann in regard to the DeAngelis property stating that township has received final authorization which will be recorded.

Clerk Lindsey responded to Ms. Mann stating that her OPRA request was not denied. Ms. Lindsey stated that Ms. Mann requested information not documents and the information she requested was provided to her.

Deputy Mayor Viola responded to Ms. Mann stating that National Night Out was not funded by the Clean Communities grant funds.

Deputy Mayor Viola responded to Ms. Mann in regard to the utility wire damage at the Department of Public Works stating that the contractor responsible for the incident will be paying for all damage.

Deputy Mayor Viola responded to Ms. Mann in regard to the bills list stating that there are times that the Department of Public Works has training during the day and lunch may be provided for the employees during said training. Deputy Mayor Viola also stated that the weather channel subscription is needed for the Director to track inclement weather.

Allan Ryan, resident, stated that Lillian Burry was a class act and she will always be remembered for her tremendous work. Mr. Ryan asked if the township committee had considered doing a prayer before the start of township committee meetings.

Deputy Mayor Viola responded to Mr. Ryan stating that the Township Committee has always kept a clear vision between secular and non-secular and stated that he does not feel the committee meetings are the appropriate place for prayer.

Elisa Spada, resident, stated that at the Board of Education meetings they play the national anthem before every meeting, which is very nice. Ms. Spada stated that her grandchildren are at Five Points Park frequently for sports activities. Ms. Spada asked what the progress on the bathroom facility is stating that the porta johns at the park are horrible. Ms. Spada also spoke about lighting at the park stating that the park is very dark and feels unsafe.

Committeeman Rizzuto responded to Ms. Spada stating that the township explored a bathroom facility at the park which unfortunately the bids came in way over budget. Committeeman Rizzuto stated that the township is currently exploring other options, and that he is not sure about long term lighting plans at this time.

Committeeman Buzzetta stated that he shares Ms. Spada's concerns about wanting to spruce up Five Points Park. Committeeman Buzzetta stated that residents complain

about taxes going up which makes the township committee leery of spending money at times.

Deputy Mayor Viola responded to Ms. Spada stating that the bathroom facility bids came in over $1 million dollars and the project was vacated. Deputy Mayor Viola asked Committeeman Buzzetta to address the hours that sports activities are taking place at the park at night.

Linda Martin, resident, stated that the most rapidly accomplished solution to lack of facilities at Five Points Park would be contributions from the residents who support facilities at the park.

Committeeman Rizzuto responded to Ms. Martin stating that the entire park was done by donations from the residents and that the township is exploring all efforts and possibilities.

Deputy Mayor Viola spoke about confusion from residents in regard to the role of a township committee liaison. Deputy Mayor Viola read the definition of a township committee liaison stating, *"In New Jersey, a Township Committee Liaison serves as a bridge between the Township Committee (the governing body) and various boards, commission and committees. This role ensures communication and coordination between these groups and the Township Committee, helping to align local policies and initiatives"*. Deputy Mayor Viola stated that the department heads do not report directly to the Township Committee, they report to the Township Administrator.

As there were no further comments and/or questions from the public, Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to close public comment. On a motion by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick seconded by Committeeman Rizzuto and a majority voice vote, public comment was closed.

12. <u>Adjournment</u>:

As there was no further business, Deputy Mayor Viola called for a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick seconded by Committeeman Buzzetta and a unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Trina Lindsey, RMC
Municipal Clerk

APPROVED: 09/24/25