COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 13, 2025, 6:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL

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

2. Mayor Buss asked everyone to join in the salute to the flag.

3. Administrator Capristo 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 August 13, 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 July 24, 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:	Mayor Tara Torchia Buss, Deputy Mayor Michael Viola, Committeeman Dan Buzzetta, Committeewoman Sue Fitzpatrick and Committeeman Frank Rizzuto
Also Present:	Kathleen Capristo, Township Administrator, Trina Lindsey, Municipal Clerk, and Meghan Bennett, Township Counsel
Absent:	None

5. **Resolution 2025-139:** Executive Session – Potential Litigation

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

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

   After closed session, Mayor Buss asked for a motion to go back to open session. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Viola, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a unanimous voice vote, the Governing Body was back in open session at 7:13 p.m.

6. **Proclamation**

   a. International Overdose Awareness Day, August 31, 2025, within Colts Neck Township

   Mayor Buss read the proclamation and presented it to Anita Dedalis, Prevention Alliance. Mayor Buss and Committeewoman Fitzpatrick spoke about the purple flags and the entrance to the Town Hall complex and working with the organization Prevention First to display the purple flags.

7. Minutes

a. July 9, 2025 – Regular meeting

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

8. Discussion Item(s)

a. Colts Neck Fire Department billing – Ray Shebell

Ray Shebell of the Colts Neck Fire Department and Colts Neck Fire Police were present. Mr. Shebell stated that he submitted a proposed ordinance that outlines the Fire Department billing for service calls. Mr. Shebell spoke about the revenue from billing being an incentive for new members joining the volunteer department. Mr. Shebell stated that volunteer fire departments across the country bill for service calls. Mr. Shebell stated that a third-party company would handle the billing, where it would typically be billed to the homeowner's or person's insurance policy and billing is based on what equipment was used on the call, how long the Fire Department is on scene, etc. Mr. Shebell stated that in an instance where a person does not have insurance it is at the discretion of the Fire Department how much that individual is billed or if the Fire Department would waive billing that individual. Mr. Shebell stated that the third-party company that would handle the billing typically charges 20-25% of revenue collected. Mr. Shebell stated that Fire Department members would earn points for calls that they respond to and receive a bonus at the end of the year from the monies collected. Mr. Shebell stated that the money collected would also be used for training.

Attorney Bennett asked what other towns in Monmouth County utilize billing for service calls. Mr. Shebell was not sure of what other towns in Monmouth County utilize billing but stated that Milltown Borough does.

Deputy Mayor Viola asked if there is a proposed percentage breakdown of how the collected money would be utilized such as 50% for incentives, 25% for equipment, 25% for training. Mr. Shebell stated that they haven't figured out those percentages yet because they do not know how much money would be collected. Deputy Mayor Viola asked if Mr. Shebell could use the call data from last year to estimate how much money would be collected.

Mayor Buss asked if the Fire Department can find out what other volunteer departments locally are soft billing. Mayor Buss stated that this could be a way to supplement shortfalls in the budget.

Attorney Bennett stated that she is concerned about how non-residents versus residents will be billed. Attorney Bennett also stated that she has concerns about the Fire Department being able to choose not to bill an individual, stating how do you choose who will be billed and who wouldn't.

Attorney Bennett stated that she will do some research on this topic and report back to the Governing Body.

b. Youth Advisory Committee

Isabella McAllister was present. Ms. McAllister stated that she is a rising senior at Colts Neck High School and has lived in Colts Neck for two years. Ms. McAllister spoke about wanting to organize a Youth Advisory Group where members would be chosen through an in-depth application process that the Township Committee would ultimately approve. Ms. McAllister spoke about a Youth Advisory Group bringing new visions, and youth getting more involved with the community. Ms. McAllister stated that teenagers may be more willing to get involved with a committee of their peers versus volunteering for other boards, committees and commissions where the members are all adults and not of their age group. Ms.

McAllister stated that the selected members of the Youth Advisory Group would be required to meet once a month and review past and present local laws, discuss new visions and ideas for the township, and meet with the Township Committee to discuss various topics. Ms. McAllister stated that the Youth Advisory Group would promote youth activities, volunteer opportunities and encourage teenagers to learn how to have professional conversations and engage in the community.

Mayor Buss stated that she thought having Ms. McAllister come to a meeting to discuss her ideas for the Youth Advisory Committee was important. Mayor Buss asked how organizing a Youth Advisory Committee would be different than just incorporating youth into the current boards, committees and commissions. Ms. McAllister responded, stating that she feels kids are more inclined to get involved with kids their own age versus having an adult push to encourage youth to get involved.

Committeeman Rizzuto stated that he thinks the Youth Advisory Group is a fantastic idea.

Attorney Bennett asked if the meetings held once a month would take place at the municipal building or at the school. Ms. McAllister stated that the meetings would be held at the municipal building. Attorney Bennett stated that waivers from the parents would be required.

Deputy Mayor Viola complimented Ms. McAllister on her passion and how she had the ability to articulate her vision.

Committeeman Buzzetta thanked Ms. McAllister for her presentation and asked what age group of kids would be members of the advisory group. Ms. McAllister stated that the members would be 16-18 years old and either juniors or seniors in high school.

Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that she doesn't feel the group should be limited to just juniors and seniors and should be opened to freshman's and sophomore's as well.

9. Old Business

a. **Second Reading/Public Hearing:** Ordinance 2025-14: Ordinance authorizing the leasing of certain capital equipment by Colts Neck Township, New Jersey from the Monmouth County Improvement Authority and the execution of a lease agreement relating thereto

Mayor Buss read the ordinance by title for second reading/public hearing. Mayor Buss called for comments. Administrator Capristo stated that this ordinance amendment is in connection with the 2025 budget and are capital items that were chosen to purchase through the MCIA. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Buss called for a motion to open the public hearing. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Viola, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a unanimous voice vote, the public hearing was opened.

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

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Torchia Buss		X			
Deputy Mayor Viola	M	X			
Buzzetta		X			
Fitzpatrick	S	X			

Rizzuto		X				
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent						

10. New business

a. **First Reading/Introduction:** 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

Mayor Buss read the ordinance by title for first reading/introduction. Mayor Buss called for comments. Administrator Capristo stated that the next four ordinance introductions are in connection with the ordinances the Township Planner, Tim Anfuso, discussed at the July 9, 2025, meeting. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Buss called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Rizzuto seconded by Deputy Mayor Viola and a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was approved for introduction. Mayor Buss stated that the public hearing is scheduled for September 10, 2025.

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

b. **First Reading/Introduction:** 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

Mayor Buss read the ordinance by title for first reading/introduction. Mayor Buss called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Buss called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Rizzuto seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was approved for introduction. Mayor Buss stated that the public hearing is scheduled for September 10, 2025.

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					

c. **First Reading/Introduction:** 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

Mayor Buss read the ordinance by title for first reading/introduction. Mayor Buss called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Buss called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Viola seconded by Committeeman Buzzetta and a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was approved for introduction. Mayor Buss stated that the public hearing is scheduled for September 10, 2025.

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

d. **First Reading/Introduction:** 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"

Mayor Buss read the ordinance by title for first reading/introduction. Mayor Buss called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Buss called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Viola seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was approved for introduction. Mayor Buss stated that the public hearing is scheduled for September 10, 2025.

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

e. **First Reading/Introduction:** 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

Mayor Buss read the ordinance by title for first reading/introduction. Mayor Buss called for comments. The Governing Body discussed that they are currently working on extending the affordability controls on 88 units in The Grande. This was discussed in detail at the June 11, 2025, Township Committee meeting.
Hearing no further comments, Mayor Buss called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Viola seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was approved for introduction. Mayor Buss stated that the public hearing is scheduled for September 10, 2025.

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

f. **First Reading/Introduction:** 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

Mayor Buss read the ordinance by title for first reading/introduction. Mayor Buss called for comments. Deputy Mayor Viola explained that this is an owner-occupied unit in The Grande that the Township is acquiring at a standard price set by the State and will sell the unit to someone who is qualified to purchase an affordable unit at a price standard set by the State. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Buss called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Deputy Mayr Viola seconded by Committeeman Rizzuto and a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was approved for introduction. Mayor Buss stated that the public hearing is scheduled for September 10, 2025.

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					

g. **First Reading/Introduction:** 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.

Mayor Buss read the ordinance by title for first reading/introduction. Mayor Buss called for comments. Attorney Bennett stated that this ordinance simply allows for an increase according to State guidelines. Attorney Bennett stated that when the state sets the cost-of-living rate (COLA) the increase for LOSAP will automatically increase. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Buss called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick seconded by Deputy Mayor Viola and a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was approved for introduction. Committeeman Buzzetta and Committeeman Rizzuto recused. Mayor Buss stated that the public hearing is scheduled for September 10, 2025.

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

h. 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 2025-140: Authorizing the release of unexpended escrow funds plus any accrued interest for 7 Willowbrook Road – ZB2045

b. Resolution 2025-141: Authorizing 100% disabled veteran cancellation and overpayment of 2025 property taxes, Turiano

c. Resolution 2025-142: Accepting the resignation of township employee, Michael Shead

d. Resolution 2025-143: Authorizing summer camp program fee refund

e. Resolution 2025-144: A resolution of Colts Neck Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey endorsing RevolutionNJ and its mission commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the establishment of the United States as an independent nation

f. Resolution 2025-145: Authorizing Change Order No. 1 to the contract awarded to Fernandes Construction, Inc. for the FY 2024 Municipal Aid Program – Improvements to Heyers Mill Road from Conover Road to Heritage Lane

g. Resolution 2025-146: Authorizing award of contract for installation of a concrete slab at the Department of Public Works, S. Brothers, Inc.

h. Resolution 2025-147: Authorizing award of contract for Town Hall Annex steps & platform rehabilitation, S. Brothers, Inc.

i. Resolution 2025-148: Confirming hiring Colts Neck Township Laborer for the Department of Public Works, Kyle Davis

j. Resolution 2025-149: Confirming hiring Colts Neck Township Laborer for the Department of Public Works, Sean Kelly

k. Resolution 2025-150: Resolution authorizing execution and recording of a declaration of encumbrance – DeAngelis property – 8 Route 537, Block 41, Lot 3

Mayor Buss called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Rizzuto, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a unanimous 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		X			
Fitzpatrick	S	X			
Rizzuto	M	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

l. 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 reviewing the bills list took two visits this month. Deputy Mayor Viola noted that 92% of the bills list where taxes such as County taxes, school taxes, library taxes, etc.

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

Mayor Buss called for a second to Deputy Mayor Viola's 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.

Mayor Buss recuses from any bills/vouchers in connection with the shared municipal court with Holmdel Township.

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

m. Administrator's Report
Administrator Capristo stated that the Colts Neck Business Association is requesting to have alcohol at Bucks Mill Park for the annual Polo Classic scheduled for September 7, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The Governing Body unanimously approves.

n. Township Committee Reports

Committeeman Buzzetta:

- Committeeman Buzzetta stated that he is the liaison to the Code Enforcement Department. Committeeman Buzzetta stated that there are properties in the Business District that are not as well kept as the township would like them to be. Committeeman Buzzetta stated that the Code Enforcement Manager has inspected these properties and has issued violations where warranted. Committeeman Buzzetta stated that the township has ordinances in place that the owners of these properties have to abide by and the township is working to rectify these issues.
- Committeeman Buzzetta stated that he reviewed the July Police Department report, and the residents of Colts Neck should be proud that we live in a very safe town. Committeeman Buzzetta reviewed some data in the report; 0 burglaries, 0 thefts and 3 larcenies.

Committeewoman Fitzpatrick

- Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that National Night Out was a great success and was well attended. Committeewoman Fitzpatrick thanked Anita Dedlis of the Prevention Alliance and the local PBA.
- Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that the Colts Neck Business Association (CNBA) Executive Board met and discussed the upcoming Polo Classic scheduled for September 7, 2025. Tailgate tickets are available for purchase on the CNBA website. Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that the CNBA has a networking event scheduled for Thursday, August 17, 2025, at Trump National Golf Course.
- Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that she attended the Senior Citizen's Club luncheon and gave a brief report for Committeeman Buzzetta. Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that she enjoys attending the Senior's luncheons and seeing so many friends.
- Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that the Long-Range Planning Committee meeting was cancelled. Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that she was looking forward the Environmental Commission's ERI report being adopted into the Master Plan and is counting on that to happen in September.
- Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that the Farmland and Open Space Committee has exciting news to stating that the 88 acres of the Spinella Family Farm preservation is final.

Committeeman Rizzuto:

- Committeeman Rizzuto stated that the Historic Preservation Committee is continuously planning for the Halloween event scheduled for October 25, 2025, with a rain date of October 26, 2025, at Fire Company #1. Committeeman Rizzuto also stated that the Historic Preservation Committee is planning for the Country Christmas event at the Montrose School, which is scheduled for December 7, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. rain or shine.
- Committeeman Rizzuto stated that he spoke with the Chief of Police who would like to advise new parents that they can schedule to have a child seat safely and correctly installed by an officer who is certified at safely and correcting installing child seats. Committeeman Rizzuto stated that the Chief would also urges residents to visit the Police Department's Facebook page to keep current on news from the Police Department and to look out for the next Coffee with a Cop event.
- Committeeman Rizzuto stated that the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is working on obtaining the appropriate signatures to submit the five-year plan.

Deputy Mayor Viola:

- Deputy Mayor Viola stated that National Night Out was a spectacular event, lots of kids attended and interacted with law enforcement. Deputy Mayor Viola thanked Anita Dedalis and the local PBA.
- Deputy Mayor Viola stated that the rescheduled Summer Concert Series concert on Monday night was great, and the weather was perfect.
- Deputy Mayor Viola stated that the Department of Public Works is preparing for brush collection to resume in September and October and urges residents to check the township website for the collection schedule in their zones.

Mayor Buss:

- Mayor Buss stated that the Executive Fire Council has been looking at fire trucks for the purchase of their new fire truck.
- Mayor Buss stated that National Night Out was great and thanked Anita Dedlis, the local PBA and the Police Department as a whole.
- Mayor Buss stated that the township will advance an e-bike ordinance to the Long-Range Planning Committee for review. Mayor Buss stated that the township has a lot of enforceable avenues currently, however the township would like to get an ordinance in place.
- Mayor Buss stated that the Friends of the Library is preparing for their upcoming book sale scheduled for September 15, 2025, and September 16, 2025, and will be accepting donations until August 31, 2025.
- Mayor Buss congratulated Dr. Amy Eschinger for getting Garden Wildlife Certified by the National Wildlife Foundation.

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

Mayor Buss called for a motion to open public comment. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Viola, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a unanimous voice vote, public comment was opened.

Adriana Sarapachillo, resident, thanked the Governing Body for serving the community. Ms. Sarapachillo stated that she has lived in Colts Neck for 40 years. Ms. Sarapachillo spoke about repeat issues with the visitors who come to visit Big Brooke Preserve. Ms. Sarapachillo stated that in the past two weeks the Police Department has given out over 50 parking tickets and the people who are visiting the preserve do not care. Ms. Sarapachillo spoke about the issues with people walking on homeowner's lawns, throwing trash everywhere, the unsafe parking on the street where parking is prohibited and various other issues. Ms. Sarapachillo asked if the Township Committee would consider closing that entrance to Big Brooke which will force the visitors to utilize the other entrances where there is ample parking.

Mayor Buss thanked Ms. Sarapachillo for coming and voicing her concerns.

Committeeman Rizzuto stated that the Township Committee will look at all possible resolutions to this issue.

Michele Battista, resident, stated that she is concerned that the Friends of the Library can no longer have information and flyers posted on the township website in the news and notices section of the website. Ms. Battista stated that she was advised by Clerk Lindsey that those notices will be in a new location on the website under Local Happenings. Ms. Battista voiced concern that residents will not know to look in this location on the website. Ms. Battista spoke about the sub-committee for the upcoming 250th celebration of America's Birthday and asked why the township has a sub-committee when the township has the Historic Preservation Committee.

Clerk Lindsey responded to Ms. Battista and explained to the Township Committee that she created the Local Happenings page on the website to post local events such as Monmouth County events and for local groups that are not Township groups. Ms. Lindsey stated that she discussed keeping the news and notifications section of the website strictly for Colts Neck group notifications and township notifications with Administrator Capristo who agreed.

Elaine Mann, resident, asked why a Department of Public Works truck was parked on Laird Road at 6:15 p.m. with no employee in site. Ms. Mann asked if overtime was being paid and why they were on Laird Road. Ms. Mann noted several bills on the bills list. Ms. Mann asked if the items for the Senior Clean Up Day was picked up by the Department of Public Works and delivered to Mazza Recycling. Ms. Mann asked if the township gets paid for the metal that is delivered to Mazza Recycling. Ms. Mann stated that there was an incident involving two Department of Public Works employees where she alleged that money was missing, Ms. Mann stated that one employee is no longer with the Township, and one still works for the township. Ms. Mann stated that the employee who still works for the township allegedly refused a lie detector test.

Mayor Buss stated that the Township Committee does not discuss personnel matters. Mayor Buss stated that although Deputy Mayor Viola is the liaison and Finance Chair to the Finance Department all Township Committee members receive the bills list and review it.

Deputy Mayor Viola stated that the separation of metals on Clean Up Day is a function performed by Mazza Recycling not the Department of Public Works. Deputy Mayor Viola stated that the employee on Laird Road was cutting the grass in the right of way, and the truck was parked nearby so that employee could access the equipment he needed.

Committeeman Rizzuto stated that the incident of theft was an incident that happened approximately 15 years ago, and it is disingenuous of Ms. Mann to discuss that incident as if it happened recently.

Allan Ryan, resident, stated that he is a member of the Fire Department and a member of the Senior Citizen's Club. Mr. Ryan stated that he would like the Township Committee to consider beginning their meetings with a prayer and stated that times are rough and we could all use guidance. Mr. Ryan stated that we should never forget that speaking at these meetings is a gift.

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

12. <u>Adjournment</u>:

As there was no further business, Mayor Buss 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 8:43 p.m.

Trina Lindsey, RMC
Municipal Clerk

APPROVED: 09/10/25