COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2024, 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

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1. Mayor Rizzuto called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Mayor Rizzuto asked Committeeman elect Dan Buzzetta to lead 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 8, 2024, stating that a regular meeting of the Township Committee would be held on November 13, 2024, 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."

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

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

5. **Minutes**

   a. October 30, 2024 – Executive session
   b. October 30, 2024 – Regular meeting

Mayor Rizzuto called for comments or changes to the minutes. Hearing none, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Buss, seconded by Committeeman Viola and a majority roll call vote, the minutes were approved as presented.

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

6. **<u>Old Business:</u>**

   a. Ordinance 2024-26: An ordinance of Colts Neck Township in the County of Monmouth and the State of New Jersey amending and supplementing Chapter 213 of the code of Colts Neck Township entitled "Towing"

Mayor Rizzuto read the ordinance by title for second reading/public hearing. Mayor Rizzuto called for comments from the Committee. Committeeman Viola stated that this ordinance amends the radius in which the Police Department can utilize towing companies, the radius is being amended from two miles to five miles. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to open the public hearing. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Deputy Mayor Buss and a majority voice vote, the public hearing was opened. Mayor Rizzuto called for any comments from the public. Hearing none, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to close the public hearing. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Deputy Mayor Buss and a

majority voice vote, the public hearing was closed. Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Committeeman Bartolomeo and a majority roll call vote, the ordinance was approved.

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

7. **New business:**

   a. Ordinance 2024-27: An ordinance of Colts Neck Township in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey establishing Chapter 42 of the code of Colts Neck Township designated as the Colts Neck Municipal Prevention Alliance

Mayor Rizzuto read the ordinance by title for first reading/introduction. Mayor Rizzuto called for comments from the committee. Deputy Mayor Buss stated that this ordinance amendment is to change the language in the ordinance from Drug Alliance to Prevention Alliance which falls more in line with the work that the Prevention Alliance does. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Deputy Mayor Buss and a majority roll call vote, the ordinance was approved for introduction. Mayor Rizzuto stated that the public hearing is scheduled for December 11, 2024.

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

   b. Ordinance 2024-28: An ordinance of Colts Neck Township in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, amending Ordinance 2024-13 an ordinance setting the salary and wage ranges for township employees

Mayor Rizzuto read the ordinance by title for first reading/introduction. Mayor Rizzuto called for comments from the committee. Hearing none, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Bartolomeo and a majority roll call vote, the ordinance was approved for introduction. Mayor Rizzuto stated that the public hearing is scheduled for December 11, 2024.

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

   c. Resolution 2024-174: Resolution authorizing the sale of not to exceed $2,200,000 aggregate principal amount of general obligation refunding bonds,

series 2024, of Colts Neck Township, in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, to the Monmouth County Improvement Authority ("MCIA") and determining the form and other details of same pursuant to the MCIA's 2024 Governmental Loan Refunding Program

Mayor Rizzuto called for comments. Committeeman Viola stated as previously discussed this resolution is a part of the process with the MCIA to refinance the remaining four years of loans which saves the taxpayers of Colts Neck money. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Deputy Mayor Buss and a majority roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

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

d. 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 2024-175: Authorizing fireworks display on July 3, 2025, Trump National Golf, One Trump National Boulevard, Here Comes the Boom Pyrotechnics

b. Resolution 2024-176: Accepting the resignation of Township employee, Matthew Young

The Committee briefly discussed Resolution 2024-175 stating that this fireworks display will be the same evening and approximately the same time as the fireworks display at Bucks Mill Park for the Fourth of July festivities sponsored by the CNBA. The Township Committee ultimately determined that this will not cause any issues. Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Committeeman Bartolomeo and a majority roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

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

e. Approval of Vouchers

Committeeman Viola stated that he reviewed all of the vouchers and found all to be in order. Committeeman Viola noted several payments on the bills list such as various taxes to the County and Schools, as well as a payment to the Monmouth County Improvement Authority.

Committeeman Viola made a motion to approve the bill list.

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

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

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

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

Committeeman Viola recuses from any bills/vouchers in connection with Best Horticultural and Joleen Landscaping.

f. Administrator's Report
None

g. Township Committee Reports

Committeeman Bartolomeo

- Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that the Shade Tree Commission met and discussed presenting a memorial tree program and cleaning out of easements throughout the township. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that this will be presented to the Township Committee next year with whoever will be the liaison from the Township Committee.
- Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that Flag Football Superbowl is this weekend at Five Points Park.

Committeeman Viola:

- Committeeman Viola extended congratulations to Drew Taeschler who earned the rank of Eagle Scout and noted the project Drew completed replacing the dock at Bucks Mill.
- Committeeman Viola stated that he, Deputy Mayor Buss and Committeewoman Fitzpatrick attended the Veteran's Day Service at Cedar Drive Middle School. Committeeman Viola stated that the children at the school really do a wonderful job for the Veteran's honoring them.
- Committeeman Viola stated that the Recreation Committee meets next week and will continue the Holiday festivity planning.
- Committeeman Viola stated that the gazebo for the area in between Town Hall Annex and the library is due to be delivered tomorrow and the work on that area will continue.
- Committeeman Viola stated that the Senior Citizens Club have one more meeting scheduled in December at Fire Company #2 on Conover Road. Committeeman Viola stated that they are currently planning their holiday lunch at the Molly Pitcher Inn.
- Committeeman Viola stated that the Department of Public Works offers a third leaf pick up which is by reservation only. Committeeman Viola stated that any resident who wishes to have a third leaf pick up at their residence, must call the Department of Public Works and get added to the list, and must call by 3:00 p.m. on December 6, 2024.
- Committeeman Viola stated that road resurfacing should wrap up before Thanksgiving.

- Committeeman Viola spoke about the dry conditions and the drought issue that the state is currently facing and urged residents to curtail water use and also reminded residents that there is currently a ban for outdoor fires of any type.
- Committeeman Viola stated that the Department of Public Works has also been busy planting trees at Laird Road Park and Bucks Mill Park.
- Committeeman Viola stated that the Planning Board will hold an informational meeting on January 14, 2025, to review the Round 4 obligation for affordable housing.

Deputy Mayor Buss:

- Deputy Mayor Buss stated that the Board of Education meeting is tonight, which is referred to as their COW meeting, Committee of the Whole.
- Deputy Mayor Buss stated that she attended the Veteran's Day event at the Cedar Drive Middle School, and it was a wonderful event. Deputy Mayor Buss stated that the students were absolutely wonderful.
- Deputy Mayor Buss stated that budget planning is starting now for the Board of Education.
- Deputy Mayor Buss stated that November 18, 2024, is the Harlem Wizards vs. Colts Neck staff game which is always a fun event.
- Deputy Mayor Buss stated that the Planning Board met last night, and Roger Mumford Homes was in attendance presenting their plan for 25 single family homes going up off of Hockhockson Road on Obre Road. Deputy Mayor Buss stated that their testimony was mostly completed, and they will present their tree saving plan. Deputy Mayor Buss recognized the Planning Board Secretary, Joni, for utilizing the audio-visual equipment in the meeting room making the presentation seamless for the applicant.

Mayor Rizzuto:

- Mayor Rizzuto stated that the OEM first draft of the newly formatted emergency operation plan has been submitted.
- Mayor Rizzuto stated that the First Aid Squad is settling back into their building.
- Mayor Rizzuto stated that as everyone saw earlier in the agenda the Police Department expanded the towing ordinance which will save the town money being able to utilize more companies.
- Mayor Rizzuto stated that the Historic Preservation Committee's Country Christmas at Montrose School is coming up on Sunday, December 8, 2024, and urged the public to attend with their children as it is a very nice event.

Public Comment:

Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to open public comment. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Buss, seconded by Committeeman Viola and a majority voice vote, public comment was opened.

Phyllis Camera, resident stated the following, "I want to address why the Colts Neck Republican Committee should stay out of our local Board of Education elections. This involvement, especially in a nonpartisan race where both slates are conservative, is unnecessary and risks dividing our community. The Board of Education should focus on our students' welfare, not be drawn into political battles.

The Committee's job should be to unify Colts Neck, not split it. By endorsing one slate, the Committee has created a divide where none should exist. Colts Kids First has actively supported Colts Neck businesses, giving Committee woman Sue Fitzpatrick design work for our campaign signs. Yet the Committee turned around and endorsed the other slate, creating an imbalance and alienating voters. Their relentless campaigning—over ten Facebook posts, emails, calls, and shares backing one slate—has also been excessive, diminishing voter freedom and pushing constituents to follow the Committee's choice instead of deciding independently.

By endorsing a slate that includes an independent candidate over four committed Republicans, the Committee risks looking like "RINOs." Let's focus on issues that impact our town directly: managing resources for the growing population, planning for

Livana Square's new residents, or adding safe bike lanes for students. The Committee's time and resources should go towards these issues, not interfering in nonpartisan school board races".

Elaine Mann, resident, stated that the Veteran's Day ceremony was fabulous and Ms. Mann commended Dr. Rigby, the Principal of Cedar Drive Middle School whom she stated does a really great job at helping children understand what this country is about. Ms. Mann also noted that Dr. Rigby's staff is fabulous. Ms. Mann questioned why the township is paying a deposit to the contractor for the snow plowing contract and also questioned if every one of his vehicles has insurance. Ms. Mann asked why the township is planting trees in a drought.

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

8. **Discussion of Public Comment:**

Mayor Rizzuto responded to Ms. Camera, who he noted unfortunately left the meeting prior to the end of public comment. Mayor Rizzuto stated that he has never endorsed anyone for a school board election.

Committeeman Viola responded to Ms. Camera stating that no one on the Township Committee is an elected member of the Republican Committee.

Deputy Mayor Buss stated that Ms. Camera might not have had knowledge of how the Township Committee responds to public comment once all public comments have been made. Deputy Mayor Buss stated that she has worked hard to support every Board of Education candidate and stated that she looks forward to working with Ms. Camera and whomever else is elected to the Board of Education. Deputy Mayor Buss stated that the Board of Education election has been made political many years ago, which is a shame.

Committeeman Viola responded to Ms. Mann stating that the contractor for the snow plowing contract has his own private insurance for the vehicles he provides to plow snow in the township. Committeeman Viola stated that is a requirement of the contract. Committeeman Viola explained the set-up charge that Ms. Mann referred to on the bills list stating that fee is to have all of the equipment prepared and ready to go in case we have a snowstorm.

9. **Adjournment:**

As there was no further business, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Committeeman Bartolomeo seconded by Committeeman Viola and a majority voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Trina Lindsey, RMC
Municipal Clerk

APPROVED: 12/11/24