COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 14, 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 Chief DeVito to lead 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 8, 2024, stating that a regular meeting of the Township Committee would be held on August 14, 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, Committeeman J.P. Bartolomeo and Committeewoman Sue Fitzpatrick
Also Present:	Kathleen Capristo, Township Administrator, Trina Lindsey, Municipal Clerk, and Meghan Bennett, Township Counsel
Absent:	None

5. Resolution 2024-121: Confirming the promotion and appointment of Detective Sergeant Morgan Savage to the position of Lieutenant for the Colts Neck Township Police Department

   Mayor Rizzuto called for comments. Police Chief, Daniel DeVito spoke briefly highlighting Morgan Savage's career with Colts Neck Township. Chief DeVito stated that Mr. Savage was hired by the Colts Neck Township Police Department in 2002. Chief DeVito stated that in 2020 Mr. Savage became the Supervisor of the Detective Bureau. Chief DeVito stated that Mr. Savage is a 30-year life member of the Colts Neck Fire Department and comes from a family of volunteer firemen. Chief DeVito thanked the Governing Body for their continued support of the Police Department and stated that he is very excited to work with Mr. Savage in his new role as Lieutenant. The Governing Body congratulated Mr. Savage on his promotion and stated the promotion is well deserved. Mayor Rizzuto stated that he has had the pleasure of working with the entire Savage family in the Fire Department, as well as Morgan's wife, who is well known to many in town and is a teacher in the Colts Neck School system. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Bartolomeo, seconded by Committeeman Viola and a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

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

6. **Oath of Office** – Morgan Savage, Lieutenant, Colts Neck Township Police Department

   Mayor Rizzuto administered the oath of office to Lieutenant, Morgan Savage.

7. Proclamations

a. International Overdose Awareness Day – August 31, 2024

b. Suicide Prevention Week – September 8 – 14, 2024

Deputy Mayor Buss read the International Overdose Awareness Day proclamation and Mayor Rizzuto read the Suicide Prevention Week proclamation. Both were presented to Anita Dedalis, Prevention Alliance.

Committeewoman Fitzpatrick mentioned the purple flag display at the entrance to the municipal complex in recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day.

8. Presentation

a. Colts Neck Sports Foundation – shed and bleachers

Stephen Luthmann of the Colts Neck Sports Foundation was present and discussed the Sports Foundation's plans to donate two 10x10 storage sheds at Five Points Park, and new bleachers at Cedar Drive football field.

Committeeman Viola asked if the bleachers will be bolted to the ground on a cement slab. Mr. Luthmann responded stating no, they will be on crushed stone and will be bolted to the ground. Mr. Luthmann stated that there are parents who are in that line of work professionally who will be donating their time to ensure everything is installed correctly.

The Governing Body unanimously approved the donations and thanked the Sports Foundation for their continued support and donations.

9. Minutes

a. July 10, 2024 – Regular meeting

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

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					

10. <u>Old Business:</u>

a. Ordinance 2024-19: 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 second reading/public hearing. Mayor Rizzuto called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to open the public hearing. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Committeeman Bartolomeo and a unanimous voice vote, the public hearing was opened.

Hearing no comments from the public, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to close the public hearing. On a motion by Committeeman Bartolomeo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Buss and a unanimous voice vote, the public hearing was closed. Mayor

Rizzuto called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman 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 Rizzuto		X			
Deputy Mayor Buss		X			
Viola	M	X			
Bartolomeo		X			
Fitzpatrick	S	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

b. Ordinance 2024-20: Ordinance amending Chapter 93 "Certificates of continued occupancy" of the Code of Colts Neck Township, County of Monmouth

Mayor Rizzuto read the ordinance by title for second reading/public hearing. Mayor Rizzuto called for comments. Administrator Capristo stated that this ordinance amendment is to update our current ordinance to be in compliance with the Department of Community Affairs requirements. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to open the public hearing. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Buss, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a unanimous voice vote, the public hearing was opened.

Hearing no comments from the public, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to close the public hearing. On a motion by Committeeman Bartolomeo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Buss and a unanimous voice vote, the public hearing was closed. Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman 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 Rizzuto		X			
Deputy Mayor Buss		X			
Viola	M	X			
Bartolomeo		X			
Fitzpatrick	S	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

11. <u>New business:</u>

a. Ordinance 2024-21: Ordinance amending Chapter 177, Article VII, "Big Brook Preserve", of the code of Colts Neck Township, County of Monmouth

Mayor Rizzuto read the ordinance by title for first reading/introduction. Mayor Rizzuto called for comments. Administrator Capristo stated this ordinance amendment is to amend the ordinance so that it is consistent with the Township's general practice in regard to not charging a permit fee for usage and visitation to Big Brook Preserve. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Committeeman Bartolomeo and a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was approved for introduction/first reading. Mayor Rizzuto stated that the public hearing is scheduled for September 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					

b. Ordinance 2024-22: An ordinance of Colts Neck Township, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey establishing new Chapter 121 in part II: General Legislation; entitled "Fireworks" of the code of Colts Neck Township

Mayor Rizzuto read the ordinance by title for first reading/introduction. Mayor Rizzuto called for comments. Committeeman Bartolomeo commented that this ordinance was reviewed by the Long-Range Planning Committee, and there was a discussion about having the township ordinance mimic the state ordinance. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that the local ordinance cannot supersede the state ordinance therefore this ordinance is not needed. Meghan Bennett, Township Attorney agreed.

The Governing Body did not introduce the ordinance.

c. Ordinance 2024-23: 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. Administrator Capristo stated that this ordinance amendment is to amend the minimum and maximum salary range for a mechanic position within the Department of Public Works. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was approved for introduction/first reading. Mayor Rizzuto stated that the public hearing is scheduled for September 11, 2024.

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

d. Resolution 2024-122: Authorizing and approving execution of an employment agreement, Morgan Savage

Mayor Rizzuto called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Bartolomeo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Buss and a unanimous 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		X			
Bartolomeo	M	X			
Fitzpatrick		X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab -					

Absent

e. Resolution 2024-123: Establishing 2024 salaries and wages for non-union township positions

Mayor Rizzuto called for comments. Administrator Capristo stated that this resolution is in regard to the salary adjustments for John Antonides and Cheryl Houss in connection with the Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of West Long Branch. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Committeeman Bartolomeo and a unanimous 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					

f. Resolution 2024-124: Authorizing the purchase of Motorola portable radios for the Colts Neck Fire Department, N.J. State Contract #83909, $34,860.05

Mayor Rizzuto called for comments. Committeeman Viola stated that this purchase was included in the 2024 budget. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Buss, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

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

g. Resolution 2024-125: Authorizing award of contract for private snow removal services for the period of November 15, 2024, through April 15, 2025, and November 15, 2025 through April 15, 2026 with a third-year option of November 15, 2026 through April 15, 2027

Mayor Rizzuto called for comments. Committeeman Viola stated that the award of this contract comes after a formal bidding process was followed two times where one bid was received and twice the bid was rejected; after being rejected twice the township was able to negotiate a contract with the vendor who was the solitary bid received both times. Committeeman Bartolomeo spoke about the history of having the Department of Public Works plow one-third of the township and an outside vendor plows two-thirds of the township. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that the township welcomes other vendors to bid on the plowing contract, however, the township only received one bid both times the formal bidding process was followed. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Bartolomeo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Buss and a unanimous 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		X			
Bartolomeo	M	X			
Fitzpatrick		X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

h. Resolution 2024-126: Resolution authorizing an emergency repair of $8,640.00 for road repair on Glenwood Road

Mayor Rizzuto called for comments. Administrator Capristo stated that during one of the recent storms a power line came down on Glenwood Road causing damage to the road. Administrator Capristo stated that this resolution is for the emergency repair to Glenwood Road due to that damage. 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 unanimous 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					

i. Resolution 2024-127: Authorizing award of contract FY2024 Capital Road Improvement Program Phase I

Mayor Rizzuto called for comments. Committeeman Viola stated that road improvements will be done in two phases this year, and there will be approximately 4 miles of roadway that will be paved this year. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a unanimous 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		X			
Fitzpatrick	S	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

j. Resolution 2024-128: Authorizing AC and Heat installation at Town Hall Annex Omnia Cooperative Contract# 319260, $138,669.00

Mayor Rizzuto called for comments. Committeeman Viola stated that the funds for this project were previously appropriated through capital funds. 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 unanimous 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					

k. Resolution 2024-135:Authorizing the replacement of the library building roof, Proven Contracting, LLC, $35,850.00

Mayor Rizzuto called for comments. Committeeman Viola stated that the roof at the library is failing. Committeeman Viola stated that the funds for this project are also available through capital funds. Committeeman Viola stated that the township will start with replacing the roof at the library and later consider adding a cupola. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a unanimous 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		X			
Fitzpatrick	S	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

l. Resolution 20244-136: Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the donation from Esposito Construction to provide for the paving of the Colts Neck Township Police Firing Range

Mayor Rizzuto called for comments. Mayor Rizzuto stated that the Police Department has mandatory practice in all weather conditions. Mayor Rizzuto stated that having the area of the firing range paved will make it a lot easier on the officers who during practice are on their knees a lot and have to roll on the ground, etc. Mayor Rizzuto stated that Esposito Construction has offered to donate this service to the township. Deputy Mayor Buss stated that Esposito Construction is also the company that stepped up to resurface the fields after the Polo event. 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 unanimous 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					

m. 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 2024-129: Authorizing acceptance of a performance guarantee for a street opening permit, Block 12, Lot 29 – 5 Lexington Court

b. Resolution 2024-130: Designation of additional municipal depository

c. Resolution 2024-131: Approving insertion of Special Item of Revenue – Recycling Tonnage Grant

d. Resolution 2024-132: Authorizing fireworks display on September 14, 2024, Trump National Golf, One Trump National Boulevard, Garden State Fireworks, Inc.

e. Resolution 2024-133: Accepting the resignation of township employee, Scott Pevonis

f. Resolution 2024-134: Accepting the resignation of township employee, Sharon O'Conner

Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Deputy Mayor Buss and a unanimous 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					

n. Approval of Vouchers

Committeeman Viola stated that he reviewed all of the vouchers and found all to be in order. Committeeman Viola stated that the bills list is rather large this meeting due to having one meeting per month during the summer months.

Committeeman Viola made a motion to approve the bill list.

Mayor Rizzuto called for a second to Committeeman Viola's motion, seconded by Committeeman Bartolomeo and a unanimous roll call vote, the bills list 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					

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.

o. Administrator's Report
Administrator Capristo stated that the Colts Neck Business Association has requested approval from the Governing Body to have alcohol at Bucks Mill Park during the Polo Classic event scheduled for September 8, 2024.

The Governing Body unanimously approved this request contingent upon all proper permit approvals from the Recreation Department.

p. Township Committee Reports

Committeeman Bartolomeo

- Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that Mr. Luthmann did a great job presenting this evening for the Sports Foundation, and he is excited to see what is to come in the future.
- Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that the Shade Tree Commission did not meet due to a lack of agenda items.

Committeewoman Fitzpatrick

- Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that this past month was a light lift due to meetings being cancelled by the Environmental Commission, the Green Team Advisory Committee and the Long-Range Planning Committee.
- Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that the Colts Neck Business Association (CNBA) is hosting a networking event at Trump National Golf on August 22, 2024, from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that the CNBA will host the 5th Polo Classic at Bucks Mill Park on September 8, 2024, tickets are available on their website via Eventbrite.
- Committeewoman Fitzpatrick reminded everyone that the Colts Neck Summer Concert Series continues tomorrow evening with music from The Black Ties band.
- Committeewoman Fitzpatrick thanked Deputy Mayor Buss for representing Colts Neck at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Colts Neck Manor project, the site of the new affordable housing units. Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that the Deputy Mayor's message was important for the developer and the NJDEP to know that the environmental concerns and the terms of safety regulations will be monitored and inspected regularly.

Committeeman Viola:

- Committeeman Viola reported that the Colts Neck Summer Concert series continues tomorrow night and urged residents to come and enjoy the concert. Committeeman Viola stated that summer camp has ended with a very good season. Committeeman Viola stated that camp out and movie night is scheduled for September 28, 2024. Committeeman Viola stated that there are conversations taking place to possibly reschedule National Night out with that event.
- Committeeman Viola stated that at the Monmouth County Commissioners meeting of July 11, 2024, the Commissioners unanimously adopted a resolution to contribute 37 ½% of the Maida acquisition exceeding $880,000.
- Committeeman Viola stated that the Department of Public Works have completed repairs to 22 inlets throughout the township.
- Committeeman Viola stated that the Monmouth County shredding event is scheduled in Colts Neck for Saturday October 5, 2024, rain or shine.
- Committeeman Viola stated that brush pick up begins in Zone 1 on September 2, 2024, brush only, no leaves.
- Committeeman Viola stated that the Senior Citizens Club is very active, and have several upcoming trips planned.

Deputy Mayor Buss:

- Deputy Mayor Buss stated that she attended the groundbreaking ceremony at the new Kushner property. Deputy Mayor Buss stated that this project has a lot of mixed viewpoints from a variety of people. Deputy Mayor Buss stated that the truth is the township has 360 units coming to this town and we are here to stay connected with the developer, stay informed, and keep the public informed.
- Deputy Mayor Buss stated that Aug 31, 2024, is the deadline to donate books for the upcoming Friends of the Library book sale. Book sale is Sept 21, 2024, and September 22, 2024.
- Deputy Mayor Buss stated that the Board of Education's meeting is also tonight. Deputy Mayor Buss stated that the BOE is preparing to appoint someone to fill Mr. John Camera's spot on the BOE, who recently passed away. Deputy Mayor Buss stated that the board is appointing Mr. Richard Wickberg tonight a new BOE member.

Mayor Rizzuto:

- Mayor Rizzuto reported that the First Aid Squad building restorations are ongoing, and all restorations are within the budget. Mayor Rizzuto stated that the township is planning to move the outside police trailers back to the Department of Public Works to be the range houses for the firing range. Mayor Rizzuto spoke about the trailers being given to the township by the state for free, and the paving of the firing range being a donation.
- Mayor Rizzuto congratulated to Lieutenant Savage and his family.
- Mayor Rizzuto stated that the Historic Preservation Committee Halloween event is coming up on October 19, 2024, at the Colts Neck Fire Department #1.
- Mayor Rizzuto stated that the Long-Range Planning was cancelled.

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

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

David Houss, resident, stated that the Mayor of Montville is filing a lawsuit in regard to affordable housing. Mr. Houss stated that he has identified critical flaws for towns such as Colts Neck. Mr. Houss stated that the mayor has solicited every town in NJ to pledge $20,000 for legal fees in support of this lawsuit. Mr. Houss stated that he is curious as to where Colts Neck stands with a decision to support the lawsuit. Mr. Houss stated that the issues that have been identified are in regard to the affordable housing laws unfairly placing this burden on some communities while other communities have no obligation.

Elaine Mann, resident, commented in regard to the Colts Neck Manor apartments. Ms. Mann asked what provisions have been made between Kushner and Colts Neck Township in the event the residents are unable to occupy their apartments. Ms. Mann gave an example where Edison Township had an issue where residents were unable to occupy their units. Ms. Mann stated that Edison Township had an agreement with the developer that outlined that the developer was responsible for housing arrangements for the displaced residents and the township paid for their food. Ms. Mann asked what happened to the benches in the meeting room and why did they need repair. Ms. Mann asked why the township needs such a top-heavy Department of Public Works, stating that much of the work is outsourced. Ms. Mann suggested eliminating one of the supervisory roles.

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 Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a unanimous voice vote, public comment was closed.

13. **Discussion of Public Comment:**

Committeeman Viola responded to Mr. Houss stating that the township is aware of the petition from Montville. Committeeman Viola stated that at this time there isn't much information on how they plan to challenge the law. Committeeman Viola stated that he will reach out to the mayor and get more information. Committeeman Viola stated that the township cannot say we will commit or deny at this time until more information becomes available.

Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that there has been a lot of comments about property taxes in Colts Neck and the complaint of taxes being too high. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that if you peruse any Facebook or social media site, people are making the same complaint in every town across the state. Committeeman Bartolomeo spoke about other towns raising taxes 20%. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that Colts Neck does the best we can and try to hold our taxes as flat as we can. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that he receives regular compliments from many residents who compliment the township on how beautiful the town looks, and the hard work being done by every department. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that many residents complain about school taxes. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that the schools are the life blood of every single town in America. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that all residents should encourage the school boards to raise taxes to better the school's systems and stated that our children are the future.

14. **Adjournment:**

As there was no further business, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Trina Lindsey, RMC
Municipal Clerk

APPROVED: 09/11/24