COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 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 everyone to join him in the salute to the flag.

3. Municipal Clerk, Trina 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 February 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:	Trina Lindsey, Municipal Clerk and Meghan Bennett, Township Counsel
Absent:	Kathleen Capristo, Township Administrator

5. **Proclamation(s):**

   a. Proclaiming March 2024 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness month within Colts Neck Township

Mayor Rizzuto read the proclamation and presented it to Michele Battista. Ms. Battista shared her journey with colorectal cancer and being a cancer survivor.

Deputy Mayor Buss and Committeewoman Fitzpatrick thanked Ms. Battista for sharing her story and for being an advocate for screening.

6. **Approval of minutes:**

   a. February 14, 2024 – Regular meeting

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 minutes were approved as presented.

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					

7. **Old business:**

   a. Ordinance 2024-11: Capital ordinance providing for various general capital improvements by and in Colts Neck Township, in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey; appropriating $220,000 therefor from the capital improvement fund to pay for the cost thereof

Mayor Rizzuto read the ordinance by title for second reading/public hearing. Mayor Rizzuto called for comments. Committeeman Viola stated that this capital ordinance is for three projects that are underway. Committeeman Viola stated that those projects are the cupola replacement at Town Hall Annex, the HVAC system at Town Hall Annex and the block building at Bucks Mill Park. Committeeman Viola stated that the Township has saved approximately $280,000 for these projects and have determined that an additional $220,000 will be needed, therefore the adoption of the temporary budget and the capital ordinance will allow for the reappropriation of funds. Committeeman Viola stated that taxes are not being raised to cover the cost of these projects, the money has been saved by the township over several years. Hearing no further comments from the committee, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to open public comment. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Buss, seconded by Committeeman Viola and a unanimous voice vote, public comment was open.

Kevin O'Brien, resident, stated that it would be helpful to the public to know how much each project costs stating that when projects are grouped altogether it becomes uncomfortable.

Hearing no further comments from the public, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to close public comment. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Buss, seconded by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick and a unanimous voice vote, public comment was closed. 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 ordinance 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					

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

a. Ordinance 2024-12: An ordinance to exceed the municipal budget appropriation limits and to establish a cap bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Mayor Rizzuto read the ordinance by title for first reading/introduction. Mayor Rizzuto called for comments. Committeeman Viola stated that this ordinance is annual housekeeping and explained that every municipality in the state must adopt a cap bank ordinance. 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. Mayor Rizzuto stated that the public hearing is scheduled for March 13, 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. Resolution 2024-53: Self-examination of 2024 municipal budget

Mayor Rizzuto called for comments. Hearing none, 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					

c. Approval of Vouchers:

Committeeman Viola stated that he reviewed all of the vouchers and found all to be in order. 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 unanimous roll call vote, the bills list was approved.

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.

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					

9. Township Committee reports:

Committeeman Bartolomeo

- Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that the daddy/daughter dance hosted by the Colts Neck Sports Foundation is scheduled for April 13, 2024.
- Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that opening day for baseball is scheduled for April 6, 2024. Notification will be posted on the township's website.

Committeewoman Fitzpatrick

- Committeewoman Fitzpatrick reported that the Green Team Advisory Committee and the Environmental Commission met on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, and are in the process of finalizing the Environmental Resource Inventory. Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that each member chose a chapter of interest from fifteen chapters and will review and report back at the March meeting. Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that the boards were able to review seven chapters, four of which need further review and three were approved as is.
- Committeewoman Fitzpatrick stated that the Colts Neck Business Association's next event will be on March 14, 2024, as well as their annual luncheon at Trump National Golf on March 20, 2024, tickets can be purchased on the website, www.coltsneckbusiness.org.

Committeeman Viola:

- Committeeman Viola stated that the Senior Citizen Club met and has an enrollment of 277 members. Committeeman Viola stated that any resident age 55 years old or above can become a member for $10.00.
- Committeeman Viola reported that no decision has been received from the court in regard to Affordable Housing Round 3 obligations.
- Committeeman Viola stated that the Recreation Committee is currently reviewing permits and fees for programs and activities to determine Colts Neck's competitiveness locally.
- Committeeman Viola stated that beginning March 4, 2024, the Recreation Director, Colby Marques will be hosting a Monday morning walking program where anyone interested will meet at the Colts Neck Library and will walk the path around the municipal complex.
- Committeeman Viola stated that the annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 16, 2023, with a rain date of March 23, 2024. Committeeman Viola reported that the Recreation Department is also planning for music in the park and the Farmhouse 5K is back. Committeeman Viola told residents to look out for a brochure from the Recreation Department with upcoming events that will be out in the next few weeks.
- Committeeman Viola stated that the Department of Public Works continues to work on potholes and urged residents to report potholes through the Report a Concern feature on the township's website.
- Committeeman Viola stated that in the next week or so residents will receive a newsletter in regard to Clean Up Day which is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, 2024.
- Committeeman Viola stated that budget planning continues, and the Township has received its rating from Moody's and once again the township has received the highest rating possible which means that if the township were in a position to have to borrow money, the township would receive a favorable rate.

Deputy Mayor Buss:

- Deputy Mayor Buss reported that the Teeter family donated a piano for the music program at the middle school which was greatly received and appreciated.
- Deputy Mayor Buss stated that the Board of Education introduced a new policy where they are adding a student representative to the Board of Education.
- Deputy Mayor Buss stated that Janet Baccash, a part time occupational therapist is retiring from the middle school after 14 years of service. Deputy Mayor Buss also reported that Christine McCloud is retiring after 35 years of service from the Conover Road School.
- Deputy Mayor Buss reported that the new fire truck has been delivered and will be in service in the next month or two once the truck is fitted with all the things it needs and training takes place.
- Deputy Mayor Buss stated that the New Jersey Poison Control Center has identified a cluster of poisoning cases involving tianeptine, a substance with opioid-like effects that is being falsely marketed across the state in gas stations and online as a dietary supplement. Deputy Mayor Buss stated that the drug has street names such as "gas station heroin", "ZaZa Red" and "Neptune's Elixir".
- Deputy Mayor Buss stated that the Prevention Alliance also is looking at Colts Neck's smoking ordinance and comparing it to surrounding municipalities.
- Deputy Mayor Buss stated that the Friends of the Library are accepting book donations for their upcoming book sale on Saturday, April 27, 2024, and Sunday, April 28, 2024.
- Deputy Mayor Buss stated that the Board of Health meeting was cancelled this month. Deputy Mayor Buss stated that the Health Director will be rescheduling the free rabies clinic for some time in November. Deputy Mayor Buss stated that the Health Director is currently working on developing a community health assessment. Deputy Mayor Buss stated that the next Board of Health meeting is April 2, 2024.

Mayor Rizzuto:

- Mayor Rizzuto thanked the members of the public who attended the budget workshop. Mayor Rizzuto also thanked Administrator Caprito and John Antonides, Chief Financial Officer as well as all of the department heads and volunteer departments for their work on the budget. Mayor Rizzuto also thanked Committeeman Bartolomeo and Administrator Capristo for cutting the budget workshop down to one day versus in previous years when the workshop was held for two full days plus one evening.

e. **Public Comment:**

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.

Kevin O'Brien, resident, stated that the Department of Defense determined that 750 military institutions had a problem with carcinogen chemicals that could affect the water, Mr. O'Brien asked if Naval Weapon Station Earle had this issue. Mr. O'Brien asked of the status on the police department issuing parking violation warnings. Mr. O'Brien asked if Committeeman Viola could share what the obligation number will be for affordable housing Round 4. Mr. O'Brien asked if the Governing Body has changed their view on recording the committee meetings and making the recordings available to the public.

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 Viola, seconded by Deputy Mayor Buss and a unanimous voice vote, public comment was closed.

f. **Discussion of Public Comment:**

Committeeman Viola responded to Mr. O'Brien stating that Naval Weapons Station Earle held several meetings in Freehold last year in regard to the potential chemical in water. Committeeman Viola stated that there are several wells in town that are being monitored.

Committeeman Viola responded to Mr. O'Brien stating that Round 4 obligation numbers have not been written into law yet.

Deputy Mayor Buss responded to Mr. O'Brien stating that there were 16 wells that were tested in Colts Neck and all of the wells were well below the average number issued by the DEP.

Mayor Rizzuto responded to Mr. O'Brien stating that he will follow up with the Chief on issuing parking violation warnings.

g. **Adjournment:**

As there was no further business, Mayor Rizzuto called for a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Deputy Mayor Buss and a unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Trina Lindsey, RMC
Municipal Clerk

APPROVED: 03/13/24