COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 13, 2023, 6:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

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1. Mayor Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Mayor Fitzpatrick asked everyone to join her in the salute to the flag.

3. Township 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 9, 2023, stating that a regular meeting of the Township Committee would be held on December 13, 2023, 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 November 17, 2023, noting the meeting time change from 7:00pm to 6:00pm".

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

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

5. Resolution 2023-167: Executive Session

   Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto, seconded by Committeewoman Buss and a majority roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

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

   After closed session, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to return to open session at 7:02pm. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto, seconded by Committeeman Bartolomeo and a majority voice vote, the meeting returned to open session.

6. **Proclamation(s):**

   a. Honoring Monmouth County Commissioner, Lillian Burry

   Deputy Mayor Rizzuto read the proclamation and the entire Township Committee presented the proclamation to Ms. Burry.

   b. Honoring Kenneth Olson – Department of Public Works

   Committeeman Bartolomeo and the entire Township Committee presented Mr. Olson with a plaque and thanked him for his many years of service to Colts Neck Township.

c. Honoring Thomas Hennessy, Jr. – Department of Recreation Director

Mayor Fitzpatrick mentioned that Mr. Hennessy was not in attendance and thanked him publicly for his years of service to Colts Neck Township. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the Township Committee will present Mr. Hennessy's plaque to him.

d. Honoring Joseph Edward Klecko

Mayor Fitzpatrick read the proclamation and the Township Committee presented it to Mr. Klecko for his accomplishments over his NFL football career and for being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

e. Proclamation of Recognition – Trony Clifton

Committeeman Bartolomeo read the proclamation and presented it to Mr. Clifton for his accomplishment on becoming an Eagle Scout.

f. Proclamation of Recognition – Ryan M. Brush

Committeeman Bartolomeo read the proclamation and presented it to Mr. Brush for his accomplishment on becoming an Eagle Scout.

g. Recognizing Kyra Tobia

Mayor Fitzpatrick recognized eight-year-old Kyra Tobia on her accomplishment for being the youngest person to win the Hunter Pace competition this year. Mayor Fitzpatrick explained that Kyra is a member of the Colts Neck Trail Riders Club along with her mother. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the Hunter Pace Competition is a 7–8-mile trail marked through woods, trails, and streams. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the team with the closest time to the most ideal time wins the competition. Mayor Fitzpatrick and the entire Township Committee congratulated Kyra on her accomplishment.

7. <u>Approval of minutes:</u>

a. November 8, 2023 – Regular meeting

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve the minutes. On a motion by Committeeman Bartolomeo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto and a majority roll call vote, the minutes were approved.

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

8. <u>Old business:</u>
None

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

a. Resolution 2023-168: Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2020 – June 2025

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto, seconded by Committeeman Bartolomeo and a majority roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

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

b. Resolution 2023-169: Accepting the resignation of Township employee, Patrick F. Marinaccio

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto, seconded by Committeeman Bartolomeo and a majority roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

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

c. Resolution 2023-170: Authorizing the purchase of Case 588H 4WD Forklift for the Department of Public Works, Sourcewell Contract# 032119-CNH, $94,137.00

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Committeeman Bartolomeo commented that all of the resolutions on the agenda tonight for purchases are items that were approved during the budget process earlier in the year. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Bartolomeo, seconded by Committeewoman Buss and a majority roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

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

d. Resolution 2023-171: Authorizing the purchase of a 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe for the Colts Neck Fire Department, ESCNJ Contract# 20/21-09, $48,808.40

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Bartolomeo, seconded by Committeewoman Buss and a majority roll call vote, the resolution was adopted. Deputy Mayor Rizzuto abstained from voting.

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

e. Resolution 2023-172: Authorizing the purchase of a T450 T4 V2 Bobcat Compact Track Loader for the Department of Public Works, Sourcewell Contract# 040319-CEC, $56,374.08

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Bartolomeo, seconded by Committeewoman Buss and a majority roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

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

f. Resolution 2023-173: Authorizing the purchase of a 2024 CV515 SFA Landscape Dump Truck for the Department of Public Works, Sourcewell Contract# 060920-NVS, $92,525.00

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto, seconded by Committeeman Bartolomeo and a majority roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

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

g. Resolution 2023-174: Authorizing the purchase of a new John Deere 624 P Wheel Loader for the Department of Public Works, ESCNJ Contract# 18/19-25, $257,265.25

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Bartolomeo, seconded by Committeewoman Buss and a majority roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

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

h. Resolution 2023-175: Authorizing the purchase of two 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe Pursuit 4WD vehicles for the Colts Neck Police Department, ESCNJ Contract# 20/21-09, $98,439.30

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeewoman Buss, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto and a majority roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

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

i. Resolution 2023-176: Authorizing formal transfer of funds, 2023 budget

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto, seconded by Committeewoman Buss and a majority roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

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

j. Consent Agenda

a. Resolution 2023-177: Authorizing cancellation of miscellaneous charges and outstanding checks

b. Resolution 2023-178: Authorizing cancellation of 2023 taxes, Colts Neck Township

c. Resolution 2023-179: Authorizing acceptance of a Performance Surety Guarantee, a Cash Performance Guarantee and an Inspection fee for Block 48, Lot 6, Express Auto Spa, 297 Route 34

d. Resolution 2023-180: Authorizing 100% disabled veteran cancellation and overpayment of 2023 property tax, Smith

e. Resolution 2023-181: Authorizing sale of municipal personal property through on-line auction

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

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

k. Approval of Vouchers:

Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that Committeeman Viola reviewed all of the vouchers and found all to be in order. Committeeman Bartolomeo made a motion to approve the bill list.

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

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

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

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

l. Administrator's report:
None

m. Township Committee reports:

Committeeman Bartolomeo

- Committeeman Bartolomeo reported that the Department of Public Works is in Zone 4 for leaf pick up. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that all residents who called to be placed on the list for a final leaf pick will have one final pick up scheduled.
- Committeeman Bartolomeo reported that basketball has begun for sports, and everything is going great.
- Committeeman Bartolomeo thanked Mayor Fitzpatrick for her leadership as Mayor this year.

Committeewoman Buss

- Committeewoman Buss stated that the Colts Neck Board of Education also had a meeting that evening therefore she would report on that at the next meeting.

- Committeewoman Buss commented that on the bill list, a large portion of the money is school taxes. Committeewoman Buss encouraged residents to attend the Board of Education meetings and to become involved in the schools.
- Committeewoman Buss stated that the Colts Neck Business Association (CNBA) will have their last meeting tomorrow.
- Committeewoman Buss thanked all of the residents in attendance for coming out for the Township Committee's last meeting of the year and thanked Mayor Fitzpatrick for her leadership this year.

Deputy Mayor Rizzuto:

- Deputy Mayor Rizzuto reported that OEM cancelled their meeting, however they continue to work on the five-year plan that will be submitted to Monmouth County for approval and ultimately the State.
- Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated that the Chief of Police is still moving items into the new building and continues to settle in nicely.
- Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated that the First Aid Squad continues to work with the Department of Public Works and the Chief of Police on getting their building back to what they need.
- Deputy Mayor Rizzuto reported that County Christmas hosted by the Historic Preservation Committee at Montrose School was very well attended and successful. Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated that the Historic Preservation Committee is looking into grant monies to maintain the Montrose School.

Mayor Fitzpatrick:

- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that on November 11, 2023, she and Committeeman Bartolomeo and Committeeman Viola attended the Veteran's Day Ceremony at Town Hall with Colonel Safyer as the presider. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the event was very well attended, and a delicious lunch was provided immediately following the ceremony, provided by the Colts Neck Women's Club.
- Mayor Fitpatrick stated that she praised over a wedding on Sunday, November 12, 2023.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the Farmland and Open Space Committee met and discussed upcoming preservation opportunities.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that from November 14, 2023 – November 16, 2023, the Township Committee attended the annual League of Municipalities conference in Atlantic City where Mayor Fitzpatrick was asked to chair a panel discussion on Open Space and Farmland Preservation.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that on November 18, 2023, she and Committeeman Bartolomeo and Committeeman Viola attended the Sports Foundation Super Bowl. Mayor Fitzpatrick commented that it was a spectacular event that was well attended. Mayor Fitzpatrick commented that the teams have their own tailgate tents and as the teams are announced the players run through a tunnel.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that on November 19, 2023, she attended the ceremony for Ryan Brush as he earned Eagle Scout rank.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that on November 20, 2023, she attended the Recreation Committee meeting which was a wrap of the year and discussions regarding the Tree Lighting ceremony.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that on November 21, 2023, she, Committeeman Bartolomeo, and Committeeman Viola attended the Ecumenical Service at St. Mary's with Monsignor Walsh and Reverend Brown.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that on November 30, 2023, she started off with office hours at Town Hall and then assisted supervise the Colts Neck High School students who were participating in the CNBA window painting contest. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated she then went to the Fir Farm for the Trees for Troops program, and then she and Committeewoman Buss met at Town Hall to decorate Town Hall and prepare for the Tree Lighting event.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that on December 1, 2023, she presided over another wedding.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that on December 2, 2023, she, Committeeman Bartolomeo, and Committeeman Viola attended the Lion's Club pancake breakfast, and then went to Conover Road School to visit the PTO's Frosty event, and then attended the tree lighting ceremony. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated

that the Colts Neck Dance Academy performers were so talented. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the Cedar Drive Chorus was there in force and great voice with Mr. Willis, Mrs. H. Mayor Fitzpatrick's husband, Jim Fitzpatrick led in a sing-along, along with her son Jimmy and his wife and children who joined. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that resident Brian Sheehy played Santa Claus, stating he was wonderful and very good with the children who stood in line for an hour to talk to Santa. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that Recreation Committee members Paul Wild and Brian McNally served refreshments and were helped by Scout Troop 290, led by Trony Clifton and Michael Taeschler. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that Recreation Director Thom Hennessy lead the count down to the tree lighting, and she asked all of the residents in attendance to give Mr. Hennessy a big thank you for his 50 plus years of community service to Colts Neck.

- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that on December 3, 2023, she attended Country Christmas at Montrose School. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that despite the weather there was record attendance at the event, especially in recognition of Commissioner Lillian Burry's legacy to the Historic Preservation Committee and her many contributions to Colts Neck.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that on December 7, 2023, she attended the memorial service at Naval Weapon Station Earle in remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that it is a moving event and having been to Pearl Harbor it makes it all the more reverent.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that on December 12, 2023, she attended the staff Holiday luncheon along with her fellow committee members. Mayor Fitzpatrick thanked Janine Patti, Cheryl Houss, Christine Eschert, Trina Lindsey, and John Antonides for putting the luncheon together and also thanked the Department of Public Works for setting up the room.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick urged residents to sign up for news and notifications on the township website.

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

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

Elaine Mann, resident, asked why Department of Public Works Director, Lou Bader signed the purchase order for the purchase of the 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe for the Fire Department. Ms. Mann asked how many employees the Department of Public Works has as well as the Police Department. Ms. Mann noted an invoice on the bill list from Dilworth Paxson in connection to what she referenced as the Gluck property. Ms. Mann asked why Griffin Engineering is still working on the new municipal building. Ms. Mann asked about the plumbing emergency that the new municipal building experienced in November.

Kevin O'Brien, resident, stated that he does not receive responses to his reports of violations of state law. Mr. O'Brien spoke about a warning system from the Police Department where violators receive a warning note on their windshield, then followed by a ticket etc. for repeat violators. Mr. O'Brien asked why a system like that is not used any longer. Mr. O'Brien stated that he met with Mayor Fitzpatrick during her office hours where he told her that as Mayor, she is ultimately responsible for upholding the township's ordinances. Mr. O'Brien stated that Mayor Fitzpatrick disagreed. Mr. O'Brien commented to Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stating that he hopes Mr. Rizzuto will do a better job upholding the township's ordinances during his mayoral term. Mr. O'Brien asked about the white striping on the roof of the new municipal building and inquired if there is a leakage issue.

Kim Weinberg, resident, stated that she is a nurse at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital. Ms. Weinberg spoke about seeking the Township Committee's support by resolution in support of the safe staffing bill. Ms. Weinberg spoke about her experiences as a nurse and the hospital being understaffed. Ms. Weinberg spoke about a nursing strike that would fight for all nurses and patients across the state of New Jersey, not just the hospital that she works at. Ms. Weinberg spoke in detail about her experience over five years at the hospital and how staff is rapidly leaving stating that in just five years she is one of the more senior staff members now due to turnover and understaffing.

William Mumford, former Colts Neck resident, spoke about how people trust nurses just like they trust politicians in the positions they have chosen. Mr. Mumford gave examples of touching situations that can and have happened to people of all ages. Mr. Mumford asked the Governing Body to support the bill and pass a resolution showing that support.

Brian Kavanuagh, resident, stated that he attended the meeting tonight to voice his concern over the bill list and the purchase of several new pieces of equipment. Mr. Kavanaugh asked why the Department of Public Works cannot purchase used equipment which would save a lot of money. Mr. Kavanaugh thanked Mayor Fitzpatrick for doing a great job during her term as Mayor.

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

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

Committeeman Bartolomeo responded to Ms. Mann stating that the township has not purchased a Gluck property and stated that Dilworth is still wrapping up loose ends on the DeAngelis property.

Committeeman Bartolomeo responded to Ms. Mann stating that the plumbing emergency at the new municipal building were clogged toilets.

Committeeman Bartolomeo responded to Mr. Kavanaugh stating that the purchase of the equipment and vehicles was discussed during the budget process and was voted on during the budget process.

Deputy Mayor Rizzuto responded to Ms. Mann stating that the Department of Public Works Director, Lou Bader, signed the purchase order for the purchase of the Fire Department vehicle because Mr. Bader is the custodian of all township vehicles and that is a township vehicle.

Deputy Mayor Rizzuto, Committeeman Bartolomeo and Committeewoman Buss all stated that they understand and support the initiative for the nurses and thanked them for their service. Mayor Fitzpatrick urged the nurses to start a campaign to talk to legislators stating that she supports their mission.

Attorney Bennett responded to Mr. Kavanaugh explaining capital purchases and the life expectancy of five years.

12. <u>Adjournment</u>:

As there was no further business, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto, seconded by Committeewoman Buss and a majority voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Trina Lindsey, RMC
Municipal Clerk

APPROVED: 01/10/24