COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 8, 2023, 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

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

2. Mayor Fitzpatrick asked Drew Taeschler to lead the salute to the flag.

3. Township Administrator, Kathleen 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 9, 2023, stating that a regular meeting of the Township Committee would be held on November 8, 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."

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

Present:	Mayor Sue Fitzpatrick, Deputy Mayor Frank Rizzuto, Committeewoman Tara Torchia Buss, Committeeman Michael Viola, and Committeeman J.P. Bartolomeo
Also Present:	Kathleen Capristo, Township Administrator, Trina Lindsey, Municipal Clerk and Meghan Bennett, Township Counsel
Absent:	None

5. **Proclamation(s):**

   a. Proclaiming December 2023 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention month within Colts Neck Township

Deputy Mayor Rizzuto read the proclamation and presented it to Anita Dedalis of the Colts Prevention Alliance.

6. **Discussion Item(s):**

   a. Drew Taeschler – Eagle Scout Project to rebuild the floating dock at Bucks Mill Park

Drew Taeschler presented the Township Committee with a handout and reviewed the details of his plans to rebuild the dock at Bucks Mill Park. Mr. Taeschler explained that he would like to rebuild this dock for fishing purposes and wildlife viewing. Mr. Taeschler stated that the dock he is proposing will be 4 ft. x 8 ft. with two floats, one in the front and one in the back. Mr. Taeschler stated that he went through the process of applying to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) because there are wetlands where the dock is located. Mr. Taeschler explained that he has received an approval letter from the NJDEP and now requires approval from the Township Committee. Mr. Taeschler explained that he plans to do fundraising to raise the funds to rebuild the dock, which will take him approximately 6-10 hours of labor and he hopes to have the project completed by the summer of 2024.

Attorney Bennett asked if there will be any responsibility of the township to maintain the dock. Mr. Taeschler responded stating that if no one purposely destroys the dock, it will last a very long time as the material he plans to use is resin.

Deputy Mayor Rizzuto raised a point stating that the issue with the previous dock was the ramps people laid in the grass area to get to the dock were always a safety issue. Mr. Taeschler responded stating that he is unable to build in the wetlands area, however, he plans to build the dock as close to the shore as possible.

Committeewoman Buss commended Mr. Taeschler for going through the process of obtaining approval from the NJDEP and stated that she appreciates him taking on this project.

b. Victory Stables – Captain Suhaila O'Dowd – Breast Cancer fundraiser recognition

Ms. Suhaila O'Dowd, a resident of Colts Neck explained that she is thirteen years old. Ms. O'Dowd stated that when she was just eleven years old her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Ms. O'Dowd explained that the one thing that kept her spirits high during this difficult time for her family was her horses and riding. Ms. O'Dowd stated that she came across the fundraiser for breast cancer, Ride for a Cure. Ms. O'Dowd explained how her trainer and fellow riders at Victory Stables all stood behind her and were on board to participate in the fundraiser. Ms. O'Dowd stated that the ride took place on October 9, 2023, for three hours and she raised $5,712. Ms. O'Dowd stated that one in eight women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime. Ms. O'Dowd thanked the Township Committee, Mayor Fitzpatrick, her mom, her trainer, her fellow riders and everyone who supported her throughout this fundraiser.

7. **Approval of minutes:**

a. October 25, 2023 – Regular meeting
b. October 25, 2023 – Executive session

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 Committeewoman Buss and a unanimous roll call vote, the minutes were approved.

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					

8. **Old business:**
None

9. **New business:**

a. Resolution 2023-162: Resolution authorizing one change order to the contract awarded to Black Rock Enterprises, LLC for the FY 2023 Capital Road Improvement Program

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 unanimous 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					

b. Resolution 2023-163: Resolution authorizing one change order to the contract awarded to Shore Top Construction for the Reconstruction of Laird Road Tennis Courts

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Committeeman Viola stated that this change order reduced the cost by over $7,000. Committeeman Viola stated that with this reduction in cost plus the grant funds received the Township was able to provide new tennis courts and pickleball courts for just over $150,000 to the taxpayers. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Bartolomeo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto and a unanimous 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		X			
Viola		X			
Bartolomeo	M	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

c. Resolution 2023-164: Resolution supporting the submission of the Colts Neck Farmland Preservation Program Municipal Planning Incentive Grant Program 2023 Planning Round application

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Administrator Capristo stated that this resolution authorizes the filing of the annual application for the Planning Incentive Grant which enables the Township to continue to preserve farmland. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto and a unanimous 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		X			
Viola	M	X			
Bartolomeo		X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

d. Resolution 2023-165: 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 Committeeman Viola, seconded by Committeewoman Buss and a unanimous 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	M	X			
Bartolomeo		X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

e. Resolution 2023-166: Confirming hiring Colts Neck Township Director of Recreation, Colby Marques

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated that Mr. Marques will begin his employment in December and the Township is very excited to have him join. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Fitzpatrick 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 Fitzpatrick		X			
Deputy Mayor Rizzuto		X			
Torchia Buss		X			
Viola	S	X			
Bartolomeo	M	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

f. Approval of Vouchers:

Committeeman Viola stated that he reviewed all of the vouchers and found all to be in order. Committeeman Viola noted a few items on the bill list such as three police vehicles, one of which was from 2022 and it took this long to receive the vehicle, Colts Neck Board of Education school tax, Freehold Regional school tax, and various others. Committeeman Viola made a motion to approve the bill list.

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a second to Committeeman Viola's motion, seconded by Committeeman Bartolomeo and a unanimous 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.

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 Fitzpatrick		X			
Deputy Mayor Rizzuto		X			
Torchia Buss		X			
Viola	M	X			
Bartolomeo	S	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

g. Administrator's report:
None

h. Township Committee reports:

Committeeman Viola

- Committeeman Viola stated that he worked with Administrator Capristo and Chief Financial Officer, John Antonides to look at the last five years from 2019 – 2023 of grant funds. Committeeman Viola stated that the township has worked to apply for more grants. Committeeman Viola stated that since 2019 the township has received over $3.5 million dollars in grants which is exclusive

of land preservation and inclusive of funds from the American Rescue plan from COVID-19.

- Committeeman Viola reported that no decision from the court has been received yet in connection with Affordable Housing.
- Committeeman Viola reported that the Colts Neck Lion's Club will host their annual pancake breakfast on December 2, 2023, at the Colts Neck Community Church.
- Committeeman Viola stated that he and Mayor Fitzpatrick attended the Veteran's Day Ceremony at Cedar Drive Middle School which was a very nice event.
- Committeeman Viola warned residents to be mindful of deer when driving.

Committeeman Bartolomeo

- Committeeman Bartolomeo reported that the Department of Public Works is in Zone 3 for leaf pick up.
- Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that the Recycling Yard is closed on Saturdays for the winter and residents can see the schedule on the township's website.
- Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that a bone marrow drive took place for Brady Wilcox who is in need of a bone marrow transplant. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that another drive will take place on December 14, 2023, at the Conover Elementary School which is a blood drive.
- Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that the Shade Tree Commission had one application to hear, however, they did not have a quorum and could not meet so therefore the application will go straight to the Planning Board for review.

Committeewoman Buss

- Committeewoman Buss stated that the Colts Neck Business Association is hosting a networking event tomorrow night at Huddy's Inn at 5:30pm.
- Committeewoman Buss stated that the Board of Education's meeting is next week therefore she will report on that at the next meeting.
- Committeewoman Buss reported that she and several other Township Committee members attended an extrication drill by the Colts Neck Fire Department. Committeewoman Buss stated that she had never seen that done before and stated that the drill mimicked a call they had that same day where there was an entrapment that required extrication. Committeewoman Buss encouraged residents to volunteer for the Fire Department or First Aid Squad even as just a driver.

Deputy Mayor Rizzuto:

- Deputy Mayor Rizzuto reported that OEM continues 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 urged residents to utilize the Report a Concern feature on the township's website to report various concerns throughout the township.

Mayor Fitzpatrick:

- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that on September 28, 2023, the township held a grand opening and ribbon cutting for the Laird Road Tennis/Pickleball courts. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that it was a beautiful day and a wonderful turnout. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the courts were filled with players of all levels.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that on Saturday, November 4, 2023, the Township celebrated Joe Klecko Day at Five Points Park during the playoffs for flag football. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the newly inducted, Colts Neck resident, NY Jets Pro Bowler, Joe Klecko was on hand to sign autographs and take pictures with the kids. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that Mr. Klecko did the coin toss to start the second game of the day. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that one of her favorite moments from the day was the picture Mr. Klecko took with the

pee wee Jets team. Mayor Fitzpatrick thanked the Sports Foundation for helping to organize the event, especially President Chris Montalvo, and football commissioner Matt Williams, Paul Blanco and Dave Deletta for the DJ and for organizing the Colts Neck resident Jetman, Rob Fulmer. Mayor Fitzpatrick also thanked Department of Public Works employee, Ed Damon who was on hand to make sure everything was up and running and helped resolve a power issue.

- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that she attended the extrication drill by the Colts Neck Fire Department as well as an awards ceremony for long time members Chuck Fredda and Denise Hornick.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that she attended the Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Cedar Drive Middle School. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that Dr. Rigby invited her to speak, and she was honored to attend. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that it was a special event for students to introduce and honor their parents who are active duty or a veteran. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that Major Penczak was also in attendance, and the CNHS ROTC honor guard and drill team. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that a patriotic selection of each military branch's official song was performed by the Cedar Drive band and a beautiful tribute was song by the Cedar Drive Chorus. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that Lieutenant Jesse Lindsey of Naval Weapons Station Earle gave a stirring speech about what it means to be a "Superhero", our service men and women are the heroes. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that she and Committeeman Viola presented the wreath in honor of our fallen heroes.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick reported that this Saturday, November 11, 2023, at 11:00am Colts Neck's Veterans will be honored at Town Hall followed by a lunch prepared by the Colts Neck Woman's Club in the large meeting room at the library.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that she will not have office hours next week as she will be away at the League of Municipalities conference. Office hours will resume on Tuesday, November 21, 2023.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick urged residents to sign up for news and notifications on the township's website to stay up to date on various things such as weather-related closings, cancellations, etc.

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

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

Elaine Mann, resident, addressed Mr. Drew Taeschler and told him he can contact Jeanie Roseti in the Department of Public Works who handles the Clean Communities funds. Ms. Mann stated that Mr. Taeschler can clean a street and receive funds towards his Eagle Scout project to rebuild the dock. Ms. Mann stated that at the last meeting she addressed Deputy Mayor Rizzuto in regard to the Long Branch Police Building which he stated was built many years ago. Ms. Mann stated that she wanted to correct her statement on the record and that she was incorrect in saying Long Branch, it was West Long Branch that built a new Police Building. Ms. Mann asked if the township will no longer cover the Fire Department on the township's insurance.

Kim Skorka, a resident of Little Silver and part of the New Jersey Libertarian Party stated that she spoke with Attorney Meghan Bennett in regard to Chapter 164 of Colts Neck ordinances which she stated most of which is preempted or unconstitutional. Ms. Bennett stated that she will look into those ordinances and if there are any issues, Colts Neck will amend the ordinances.

Fulton Wilcox, resident, stated that it is good to hear that the Police are continuing to settle into the new building. Mr. Wilcox stated that the project name of Improvements to the Police Building was the worse project name because it resulted in the building of the new municipal building. Mr. Wilcox spoke about there being no budget amount per township owned municipal buildings in the township budget. Mr. Wilcox stated that he and his wife experienced for the first time the security at Cedar Drive Middle School and stated that he appreciates that level of security in the schools. Mr. Wilcox asked if the town is addressing security for town events through the recreation department.

Scott Britton, resident, spoke about an issue of a person living in their van in Colts Neck. Mr. Britton commented that this person has loitered in shopping center areas and has verbally harassed numerous females in town. Mr. Britton spoke about people feeling unsafe in his presence and that he feels the police are not doing enough.

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 Committeeman Viola and a unanimous voice vote, public comment was closed.

11. Discussion of Public Comment:

Deputy Mayor Rizzuto responded to Mr. Britton stating that the Police Department is very well aware of the situation with this individual who is not homeless and has a family member who resides in Colts Neck. Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated that summonses have been issued by the Police Department and stated that situations such as these take time and encouraged residents to continue reporting any issues of harassment, etc. from this individual.

Committeewoman Buss responded to Mr. Wilcox and encouraged residents to attend the budget workshop when it is held in early 2024.

12. Adjournment:

As there was no further business, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Committeeman Bartolomeo, seconded by Committeeman Viola and a unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Trina Lindsey, RMC
Municipal Clerk

APPROVED: 12/13/23