COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 31, 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 Sheriff Golden to lead everyone in the salute to the flag.

3. 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 May 31, 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, Trina 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. **Presentation:**

   a. Police Department Accreditation Certificate presentation.

Chief Santucci thanked the Governing Body for their continued support of the Police Department. Chief Santucci explained to everyone that accreditation is having the best practices in place for the industry that you serve. Chief Santucci stated that accreditation also means continuously evaluating the department's procedures and operations and conducting self-audits on officers. Chief Santucci stated that in order for the Police Department to receive accreditation an outside agency is hired to review the process, procedures and best practices put in place. This agency decides whether the department receives accreditation or not. Chief Santucci stated that for a department to receive accreditation every officer must read and be trained thoroughly on the policies and procedures that have been rewritten. Chief Santucci explained that this process took approximately a year and a half and countless hours of the entire Police Department staff. Chief Santucci gave a special thank you to Lieutenant Daniel DeVito who took on the role of Accreditation Manager and worked with the Rodgers Group. Chief Santucci stated that Lieutenant DeVito is super organized, methodical and a true professional who brought the police department to a whole new level.

Harry Delgado, NJ State Association, presented Chief Santucci with the certificate for accreditation and said a few words regarding how labor intensive a task it is to receive accreditation. Mr. Delgado stated that Colts Neck is a highly proficient and dedicated police department.

Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that she is proud of Chief Santucci and the entire police department for being so professional and being concerned with making sure policies and procedures are done correctly.

Sheriff Shaun Golden congratulated Chief Santucci and Lieutenant DeVito and the entire police department stating that receiving accreditation is a testament to the Governing Body's leadership that support law enforcement. Sheriff Golden commended the police department for not only receiving accreditation, but for also taking on this task while being temporarily relocated and not in their own headquarters while the new municipal building construction project was underway.

6. **Discussion:**

a. Storage Building – Five Points Park, Sports Foundation, Jeffrey Reisinger

Jeffrey Reisinger stated that the Sports Foundation contracted him to install a new storage facility at Five Points Park. Mr. Reisinger stated that this storage facility has been purchased by the Sports Foundation and all costs associated with removing the current shed and installing the new storage facility will be paid for by the Sports Foundation. Mr. Reisinger presented a series of pictures to the Governing Body and stated that the Sports Foundation is seeking the Governing Body's guidance on the placement of the new storage facility. Mr. Reisinger explained that the current shed is approximately 10x12, the new storage facility is approximately 20x24 and will be placed on a concrete slab. Mr. Reisinger stated that he spoke with Township Planner, Tim Anfuso, and there are no setback issues for the new storage facility to be placed in the location of the current shed. Mr. Reisinger stated that the new storage facility is very industrial looking, and that Mr. Anfuso suggested placing it out of site of the public eye. Mr. Reisinger stated that he met with Lou Bader, Department of Public Works Direct, and Thom Hennessy, Recreation Director who both felt the location of the current shed is a suitable location for the new storage facility.

The Governing Body briefly discussed the possible locations and agreed that the location of the current shed is a suitable location for the new storage facility.

Township Attorney, Meghan Bennett asked Mr. Reisinger what the time frame is to start and complete this project. Mr. Reisinger responded that flag football is in full bloom currently so the project will likely begin in August prior to the start of the fall flag football season.

Attorney Bennett stated that the Township Committee will need to adopt a resolution accepting the donation of the new storage facility as well as a Right of Entry agreement.

b. Ad Hoc Committee – Five Points Park Recreation Facility

Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the Township has acquired the DeAngelis property and has discussed that Five Points Park is in need of restroom facilities. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the Township applied for an open space grant which was accepted and an architect for this project has been hired. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that she would like to put together an ad hoc committee who will work with the architect. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the members of this ad hoc committee will be Lou Bader, Chief Santucci, Deputy Mayor Rizzuto, Chris Montalvo, John Cantalupo, John Tobia, and herself.

All of the Governing Body member support the ad hoc committee.

7. **Approval of minutes:**

a. May 10, 2023 – Regular meeting

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve the minutes. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto, 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	M	X			
Torchia Buss	S	X			
Viola		X			
Bartolomeo		X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

8. **Old business:**
None

9. **New business:**

a. Ordinance 2023-12: Bond ordinance providing for the acquisition and the payment of a portion of the purchase price of real property (a conservation, open space, drainage and utility right-of-way easement) over and across property being designated as Block 50, Lot 4.01on the official tax map of, by and in Colts Neck Township, in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey; appropriating $832,000 therefore and authorizing the issuance of $792,380 bonds or notes of the township to finance part of the cost thereof

Mayor Fitzpatrick read the ordinance by title for first reading/introduction. Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Committeeman Viola commented that this in regard to a 220 plus acre area that abuts Naval Weapon Station Earle that is imperative for preservation. 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 ordinance was approved for introduction. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the public hearing is scheduled for June 14, 2023.

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					

b. Ordinance 2023-13: An ordinance authorizing the license of Block 56, Lot 1 owned by United States of America Department of the Navy to Colts Neck Township for the Township recycling yard and for parking of Colts Neck Township school buses

Mayor Fitzpatrick read the ordinance by title for first reading/introduction. Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Attorney Bennett stated that this is authorizing a rental license with the Navy that will codify the Township's use of this property. Attorney Bennett stated that this agreement has never been in writing previously. Attorney Bennett stated that the Navy has accepted her changes to the agreement and all parties are ready to move forward with the agreement. Attorney Bennett stated that the Township wishes to get a fee simple interest in this property. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that Attorney Bennett and Committeeman Viola worked tirelessly on this and countless hours. 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 ordinance was approved for introduction. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the public hearing is scheduled for June 14, 2023.

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					

c. Ordinance 2023-14: An ordinance of Colts Neck Township, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, establishing new Chapter 89, entitled "Business Hours of Operation" of the code of Colts Neck Township

Mayor Fitzpatrick read the ordinance by title for first reading/introduction. Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that this was discussed amongst the Long-Range Planning Committee. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that the ordinance will establish that business may not operate during the hours of Midnight – 5:00am. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that certain businesses will be exempt such as bars, restaurants, hotels, and auto teller machines. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that Colts Neck Township does not want to be a destination in the middle of the night hours. Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated that this is a good sound ordinance to preserve the quiet nature of the town. Committeewoman Buss stated that the ordinance is very well written to allow for future businesses as well as the current businesses. 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 ordinance was approved for introduction. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the public hearing is scheduled for June 14, 2023.

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					

d. Resolution 2023-94: Resolution authorizing conveyance of the right to perform certain pre-existing agricultural activities on the property located at Block 50, Lot 4.01 back to Patricia King Bailey, Inc.

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that this property is moving back to agricultural activities. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeewoman Buss, seconded by Committeeman Bartolomeo 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	M	X			
Viola		X			
Bartolomeo	S	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

e. Resolution 2023-95: Confirming hiring of Code Enforcement Manager, Antonio Cardoso

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Deputy Mayor Rizzuto thanked the personnel committee and Administrator Capristo who put a lot of time and thought into the selection of the candidate. Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated that Mr. Cardoso is a good candidate, and the township is happy to have him. 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. Resolution 2023-96: Resolution of Colts Neck Township, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey providing municipal consent for Veolia Water New Jersey to provide water and sewer service previously provided by Suez Water Toms River, Inc.

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Committeeman Viola stated that Veolia has acquired the assets of Suez Water, this resolution recognizes the transfer and also expands it to Charleston Meadows. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Fitzpatrick 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 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. Resolution 2023-97: Resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement with Meghan Ann Bennett of Dilworth Paxson, LLP, as Township Attorney and Alternate Bond Counsel for Colts Neck Township

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Hearing none, 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					

h. Resolution 2023-98: Resolution supporting the Click It or Ticket mobilization of May 22 – June 4, 2023

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated that the Click It or Ticket program is a statewide program. Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated that most accidents happen within ten miles of a person's home because that is where they are most relaxed and comfortable. Deputy Mayor Rizzuto urged residents to wear their seatbelt. 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					

i. Resolution 2023-99: Confirming appointment of Township professional pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Administrator Capristo stated that this resolution is authorizing the appointment of the Architect in connection with the Five Points Park restroom facility project. Hearing no further comments, 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					

j. Consent Agenda

a. Resolution 2023-100: Resolution declaring Robert T. Devino and Chester Jackiewicz in default and authorizing withdrawal of the Valley National Bank Irrevocable Letter of Credit No. OD09001388 for the development known as White Cedar Estates, Block 41, Lot 4, application No. PB528

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

k. Approval of Vouchers:

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

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a second to Committeeman Viola's motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto 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	S	X			
Torchia Buss		X			
Viola	M	X			
Bartolomeo		X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

l. Administrator's report:
None

m. Township Committee reports:

Committeeman Viola

- Committeeman Viola commented that it has been a rough few weeks for first responders with fatal accidents in town. Committeeman Viola thanked them for their service.
- Committeeman Viola stated that the Fire Department has two new candidates that will be graduating the fire academy and who will be sworn in at the June 28, 2023, Township Committee meeting.
- Committeeman Viola extended condolences to the Fire Department on the recent passing of Larry Duffy.
- Committeeman Viola stated that the Memorial Day Parade was a fabulous event.
- Committeeman Viola stated that no decision has been received from the court in connection with Affordable Housing.

Committeeman Bartolomeo

- Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that brush pick has been completed and Clean Up Day at Mazza Recycling went very well. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that Senior pick up also went very well.
- Committeeman Bartolomeo reminded residents that the recycling yard at the Department of Public Works is open and residents may drop off recycling and brush.
- Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that he spoke with the Director of Public Works, Lou Bader, in regard to the new recycling program. Mr. Bader indicated that the new recycling procedure is going very well. Committeeman Bartolomeo reminded residents that they can purchase an additional recycling cart at a cost of $120.00 per cart.
- Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that the Sports Foundation is doing an excellent job. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that on top of the Sports Foundation purchasing the new storage facility for Five Points Park, the Sports Foundation also donated $60,000 to the township for Laird Road park, as well as $25,000 to the school for new bleachers.

Committeewoman Buss

- Committeewoman Buss reported that the Colts Neck Business Association (CNBA) will be hosting fireworks on July 3, 2023, at Bucks Mill Park from 6:00pm – 10:00pm.
- Committeewoman Buss reported that Mr. Ryan Brush, Boy Scout Troop 290 of Colts Neck, presented to the Board of Education his completed Eagle Scout Service Project – "Conover Road Elementary School Gaga Pit". Committeewoman Buss congratulated Mr. Brush on his great accomplishment.
- Committeewoman Buss stated that the Board of Education approved the acceptance, with gratitude, of a donation of $25,000 from the Colts Neck Sports Foundation which will be allocated to the replacement of the gymnasium bleachers at the Conover Road Elementary School.
- Committeewoman Buss stated that the Board of Education had the first reading of Policy 5766 in regard to transgender students. Committeewoman Buss stated that there is a tremendous amount of controversy over this topic and issue. Committeewoman Buss stated that unfortunately, it was clear that many people in attendance did not read the policy, nor did they take the time to understand some of the issues and concerns. Many were there to make political statements, both those opposed to the policy and those in support of it. Committeewoman Buss stated that it was unfortunate that people, many of whom were outside of the Colts Neck community, were provided a public forum to dispense comments that were filled with hatred and disrespect. Committeewoman Buss stated that fortunately, there were others in attendance that spoke the opposite of care, concern and empathy. Committeewoman Buss stated that it was a long meeting, one that she hopes people educate themselves on rather than to turn to social media and believe false narratives. Committeewoman Buss stated that she grew up herself in this area and the residents of Colts Neck are some of the most warm, welcoming, understanding, and open people she has come across. Committeewoman Buss stated that she hopes the loud voices of the few are quieted by the strong voices of the many.
- Committeewoman Buss reported that the Colts Neck Prevention Alliance is still preparing for National Night Out which will be held at Bucks Mill Park on August 1, 2023.
- Committeewoman Buss reported that the Friends of the Library are accepting book donations in good condition during open hours in the lower level of the Colts Neck Library foyer. Committeewoman Buss stated that library hours are Monday & Wednesday 9:00am – 5:00pm, Tuesday & Thursday from 1:00pm – 9:00pm, Friday 1:00pm – 5:00pm, and Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm. Closed on July 4, 2023. Committeewoman Buss stated that the Friends of the Library will have a book sale on September 30, 2023, and October 1, 2023, from 10:00am – 4:00pm.

Deputy Mayor Rizzuto

- Deputy Mayor Rizzuto reported that the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is continuing to work on the five-year plan that is a mandatory overall emergency response plan that gets submitted to the County for approval and then the State.
- Deputy Mayor Rizzuto thanked Chief Santucci and the Police Department for their work in receiving accreditation.
- Deputy Mayor Rizzuto welcomed the new Code Enforcement Manager, Antonio Cardoso and stated he is looking forward to great things for the department.
- Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated that the Historic Preservation Committee is looking into applying for grants for the foundation of the Montrose School which is not in the best shape.
- Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated that the Memorial Day Parade was a great event and thanked Allan Ryan and his wife, Dina Ryan for their work putting together the party after the parade. Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated that they handle all of the food prep.
- Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated that after the Memorial Day Parade festivities were over, he got a ride back to Fire Company #1 on the ladder truck which had to take a detour to the Public Works yard to fuel up. Deputy Mayor Rizzuto commented that the Public Works yard looks fantastic stating that the

equipment is well maintained, everything is in its place and the yard looks clean and neat.

Mayor Fitzpatrick:

- Mayor Fitzpatrick reported that the first concert in the Summer Concert Series was May 25th with the Level Up Band. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the concert was well attended and enjoyed by all. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that Committeeman Bartolomeo and Committeewoman Buss were also in attendance.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony at Memorial Park and ended at Fire Company #2 with hot dogs and root beer, was a great day. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the bicycle contest was great and had a lot of participants. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the Women's Club decorated the Brock Farm wagon that carried the township's veterans. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that Boy Scout Alex Besculudes chose to enhance Memorial Park as his Eagle Scout project. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that Alex did a beautiful job with blue stone and landscaping. Mayor Fitzpatrick thanked Lou Bader and the Department of Public Works for their help preparing for the day's festivities, as well as Thom Hennessy, Recreation Director for all of his work. Mayor Fitzpatrick also recognized Loui Bertone and his son, Matthew for their help and attendance to Memorial Park. Mayor Fitzpatrick also recognized Al & Julie Roth for winning the home decorating contest with their Made in the USA display. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the Roth family was presented with a flag.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick reminded residents that Sunday, June 11, 2023, is the Fishing Derby.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that June is National Trail month. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that she will celebrate our beautiful trails on Thursday, June 15th at 5:30pm at Schlesinger Park, all are welcome to join. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that she will be joined by Monmouth County Naturalist, Rob Fanning, as well as Thom Hennessy, Recreation Director. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that they will also meet on Thursday, June 29th at 5:30pm at Cedar Drive Park and head over to Bucks Mill Park.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that summer camp registration is going well with 125 campers registered and 20 camp counselors hired.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the Green Team Advisory Committee met and discussed articles of interest for the public and publishing in a local magazine. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that several articles have already been published and posted on the Green Team's page on the township website. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that Sandy Freeman had an article published about National Trail's Month mentioning Colts Neck's beautiful trails.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that she attended the Colts Neck Business Association (CNBA) networking event hosted by Robert DeFalco Realty.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that she attended the Women's Club luncheon and installation of new members as well as long time members.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that on May 18th she attended the dedication for the Lillian Burry Women's Wing at the Mansfield Veteran's Community.

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.

Adrianna Sarapochillo, resident, commented that she has lived in Colts Neck for forty years and her adult children have all moved back to Colts Neck as well. Ms. Sarapochillo spoke about the quality of life in the development she lives in near Big Brook Nature Preserve. Ms. Sarapochillo stated that she has sent several messages via the township's website and has also contacted the Police Department. Ms. Sarapochillo spoke about the visitors to Big Brook Preserve who are parking on both sides of the street, walking through resident's lawns, leaving trash everywhere, urinating on resident's lawns and BBQ'ing. Ms. Sarapochillo stated that the Police were there last week and found a mattress at Big Brook Preserve. Ms. Sarapochillo asked that the

township consider parking restrictions for residents only stating that her neighborhood has become unsafe.

Elaine Mann, resident, commented that the Township hired Antonio Cardoso, the new Code Enforcement Manager who worked in Monroe Township and was last employed in Millstone. Ms. Mann asked if Mr. Cardoso was one of the top three candidates in the last round of candidates that were interviewed. Ms. Mann stated that the last candidate that was hired resigned after the first day and asked if the township paid for a uniform for him. Ms. Mann asked if the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Secretary resigned from her position with the township. Ms. Mann commented that she submitted an OPRA request for the resolution accepting Ruth Leininger's resignation and received a response stating, "no responsive documents". Ms. Mann asked Committeeman Viola why he recuses from invoices relating to Best Horticultural on the bills list. Ms. Mann stated that NJ EZ Pass sent a violation to the township and asked what department received the violation. Ms. Mann asked what happened to the gazebo in front of Town Hall.

Allan Ryan, resident, commented that the town looked great for the Memorial Day festivities. Mr. Ryan thanked his wife and several others from the Senior Citizen's Club who helped with the preparations. Mr. Ryan thanked the veterans for their service, the ones who came home and the ones who did not ever make it home stating they are the focus of Memorial Day. Mr. Ryan commented that Bernie Helman, former Fire Department Chief, passed away in April and recognized him for his service to the fire department. Mr. Ryan stated that he was picking up bagels and other items at Dunkin Donuts the morning of the Memorial Day Parade and Art Becker's of Becker's Hardware was there as well. Mr. Ryan stated that he paid for the bagels and other items for the parade as well as made a donation.

Jena Cosimo, resident, applauded the Governing Body for their unwavering support with preserving farmland and open space. Ms. Cosimo gave statistics on the farmland and open space that has been preserved in Colts Neck and spoke about the benefits of land preservation. Ms. Cosimo also spoke about recommending a referendum on the ballot of the General Election to increase open space tax.

Astrid Weber, resident, commented on the situation at Big Brook Preserve stating that she has been a resident for twenty-six years. Ms. Weber stated that the neighborhood is overrun every weekend with visitors in the spring and summer months. Ms. Weber stated that the situation is unsafe and dangerous. Ms. Weber stated that the visitors are parking on both sides of the street making it nearly impossible for two cars to pass. Ms. Weber stated that with the visitors to Big Brook parking on the streets if residents have guests over, there is absolutely nowhere for them to park.

Debbie Santos, resident, commented that she approached one of the families visiting Big Brook Preserve who was having lunch on a resident's lawn. Ms. Santos stated that the family was rude and disrespectful when she explained to them that where they were sitting and eating their lunch was a resident's lawn. Ms. Santos stated that the visitors to Big Brook Preserve put up pop-up tents as well. Ms. Santos stated that most of the visitors have out of state license plates from Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Fulton Wilcox, resident, commented that the Memorial Day parade and festivities were a nice event. Mr. Wilcox spoke about wearing his Star Wars hat to the parade and spoke about previously working for a center in Whippany, NJ where hyper velocity missiles were developed. Mr. Wilcox stated that the people who work on those missiles are not veterans of uniform but are veterans of Star Wars. Mr. Wilcox spoke about the new municipal building and that the project completing was six months late. Mr. Wilcox stated that the Police Department received accreditation in a very unfortunate situation not being housed in their headquarters. Mr. Wilcox stated also spoke about the block building and that the township has spent over $200,000 on that building which is probably best to tear down.

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

11. Discussion of Public Comment:

The Governing Body along with Attorney Bennett spoke about the issues raised by several residents in regard to Big Brook Preserve. Attorney Bennett stated that Big Brook Preserve cannot be closed as it is public property not only owned by Colts Neck, but also owned by the State of New Jersey. Attorney Bennett stated that it also cannot be limited only to residents. Attorney Bennett stated that she would speak with Chief Santucci and get back to the Township Committee with her findings. Attorney Bennett also stated that she would speak to Chief Santucci about the issue of Big Brook Preserve visitors using resident's lawns as that is a trespassing issue.

Committeeman Bartolomeo responded to Mr. Wilcox in regard to the block building stating that the township originally thought that they would be able to utilize that building to temporarily house the Police Department during the construction of the new municipal building, however that did not work out as planned. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that the township did explore taking the building down and had someone look at the building. It was recommended not to take the building down as it is a structurally sound building that had a bad roof. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that the roof has been replaced and there are plans to use the building as storage.

Deputy Mayor Rizzuto added to Committeeman Bartolomeo's comments in regard to the block building, stating that the money spent on that building was on infrastructure; the new roof and drainage. Deputy Mayor stated that water had to be diverted away from the building and back towards the pond.

Committeeman Viola responded to Ms. Mann stating that the first candidate who was chosen for the Code Enforcement Manager did not resign after one day of employment, he withdrew his acceptance and the township moved on to the next best candidate.

Mayor Fitzpatrick responded to Ms. Mann in regard to the gazebo in front of Town Hall stating that the gazebo was broken and a hazard. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that she is in touch with the family with whom the gazebo was in remembrance of and they are working on ideas for something else.

12. Adjournment:

As there was no further business, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Committeewoman Buss and a unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Trina Lindsey, RMC
Municipal Clerk

APPROVED: 06/14/23