

April 7, 2022
121 Evergreen Rd
New Egypt, NJ 08533

The Plumsted Township Committee meeting of April 7, 2022 was called to order by Mayor Bowen.

STATEMENT: "This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act." It was presented for publication to the Asbury Park Press and Trenton Times and posted on the Bulletin Board.

THOSE OFFICIALS PRESENT:

COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO MAYOR BOWEN
ATTORNEY ZABARSKY CLERK WITHAM

DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI called in by phone.

Attorney Zabarsky read the committee into the executive session. ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, RESOLUTION NO. 2022- 158 AUTHORIZING THE CONVENING OF AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

The committee returned from Executive Session. Mayor Bowen called the Workshop/Regular Session to order. A second roll call was taken; all committee in attendance. He asked everyone rise to for the flag salute and invocation by Pastor Chris Kissam of the Bible Baptist Church.

Mayor Bowen said the flags were at half-staff to honor former Deputy Mayor Joe Przywara who served the township for 14 years and as Deputy Mayor for 12 years within that time. He and his wife retired to North Carolina and he was serving the community there.

Bowen spoke about outdoor opportunities now that spring has arrived. He spoke about further paving in the town – Tower and Hopkins Road. He talked about some vandalism in the town and would welcome any help from the community; the repairs will be made.

Bowen reviewed the agenda. Although we are doing resolutions for our new police officers, we will be doing their oaths of office at a future meeting. Also, Shawn Abate is unable to attend tonight. Resolution 22-182 tonight is three nominations to the MUA. Bowen spoke about the new candidates.

Marinari added that the new individuals are very impressive and he is sure the MUA will return to their normal function. Grilletto spoke about his liaison committees – one is the JIF including training, cybersecurity, etc. He also mentioned there was a Paradise Park cleanup – 2 hours of a family cleanup, it was a good time. The next step is to put mulch on the trail and a bench there. They are also looking for donations for plants, bird seed and help feeding the birds.

Cuozzo had no comment at this time. Calabrese welcomed the new MUA members and the new officers we hired today. He thanked Bob O'Neill for helping with the audio visual, helping to improve the audio for Zoom. Bob is a member of the LUB. Recreation had their opening day for baseball as the mayor mentioned.

Bowen made some announcements including closures, events and meetings. Since we are welcoming new officers, we sadly are accepting the following resignation letters.

Mayor Bowen asked for a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Officer DeDeyn. ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, THE RESIGNATION WAS ACCEPTED WITH REGRETS; ALL AYES.

Mayor Bowen asked for a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Officer Mlotkiewicz. ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, THE RESIGNATION WAS ACCEPTED WITH REGRETS; ALL AYES.

Mayor Bowen asked for a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Officer Lugo. ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, THE RESIGNATION WAS ACCEPTED WITH REGRETS; ALL AYES.

Mayor Bowen asked for a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Detective Ringle. ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, THE RESIGNATION WAS ACCEPTED WITH REGRETS; ALL AYES.

RESOLUTION NON-CONSENT AGENDA: Separate votes are being taken on the following four resolutions:

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, RESOLUTION NO. 2022-159 - AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF KEVIN LUXICH AS A PROBATIONARY (FULL-TIME) REGULAR POLICE OFFICER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE, RESOLUTION NO. 2022-160 - AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF TYLER JACKSON AS A PROBATIONARY (FULL-TIME) REGULAR POLICE OFFICER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE, RESOLUTION NO. 2022-161 - AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF LANDON ZAGACKI AS A PROBATIONARY (FULL-TIME) REGULAR POLICE OFFICER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, RESOLUTION NO. 2022-162 - AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF ANDREW PICINIC AS A PROBATIONARY (FULL-TIME) REGULAR POLICE OFFICER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

PRESENTATIONS and PROCLAMATIONS:

Bowen asked the New Egypt High School Girls Varsity Bowling Team to come forward. The team spoke about their successful season. Certificates were presented to all of the members.

Renee Bowe, the new library branch manager came forward to accept the proclamation for National Friends of the Library Week April 3-9, 2022. She talked about the library, hot spots and some new programs they are offering, many throughout the summer. Grilletto read the proclamation, the committee was all in favor.

Ann Funck of the Municipal Drug and Alliance came forward to accept the National Alcohol Awareness Month April 2022. Bowen read the proclamation. Committeeman Grilletto made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Marinari; all in favor.

Committeeman Calabrese read the National Service Day April 6, 2022 and Volunteer Week April 17-23, 2022 proclamation. Committeeman Grilletto made a motion and Deputy Mayor Marinari seconded; all in favor.

Barbara Diblin came forward. Committeeman Cuzzo read the National Day of Prayer 5/5/22 proclamation. Committeeman Grilletto made a motion, seconded by Committeeman Calabrese; all in favor.

Committeeman Cuzzo asked if there may be discussion on the budget. Zabarsky said it's just an introduction, the discussion and public hearing will be at the next meeting. Madden and Gower were on Zoom. Cuzzo asked to summarize it. The budget calls for the tax increase and he doesn't agree with one. He believes there are ways in the budget to keep our budget robust and taxes staying the same. He said the tax increase is minimal for the average household, estimated to be \$25 per quarter increase which means \$100 over the course of the year. However, he believes there are ways to avoid that and he has and will continue questions to talk about it. Finance put together a good package here and hopefully we can hash these things out so it passes.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, RESOLUTION NO. 2022-163 - TO INTRODUCE THE 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

MINUTES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR APPROVAL:

Bowen asked for any discussion on the minutes up for approval. Cuzzo said that he didn't get them in his packet. Witham said that it was put separately in his mailbox prior to the packets for review.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE, THE REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES OF 1/3/2022 WERE APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES WITH COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO ABSTAINING.

ORDINANCE: INTRODUCTION

The floodplain ordinance is being introduced with a second reading scheduled for May 5th. Witham explained the DEP is asking us to adopt the ordinance by May. Witham was waiting for the DEPs review of the draft so that's why the information was last minute. This is the DEPs template and we had to fill in a few items pertinent to Plumsted; this is a 46 page ordinance.

ON MOTION OF MAYOR BOWEN, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, ORDINANCE NO. 2022-02 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 19 OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, ENTITLED "FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION" SO AS TO CREATE A NEW CHAPTER 19, SECTION 6, ENTITLED "FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS" TO ADOPT FLOOD HAZARD MAPS, TO DESIGNATE A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR AND PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE WAS NOT APPROVED; ALL COMMITTEEMEN ABSTAINED WITH MAYOR BOWEN AYE.

There was discussion as to a special meeting or if we might introduce it at the May meeting; Witham will check with the DEP.

ORDINANCE: SECOND READING - none

RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS ON A CONSENT AGENDA ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE AND SHALL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. SHOULD ANY MEMBER OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SEEK SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF ANY ITEM, THAT ITEM SHALL BE REMOVED AND DISCUSSED SEPARATELY. THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WILL BE VOTED ON IN ONE VOTE.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-164 - AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATES

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-165 - APPROVING THE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS AT LAURITA WINERY FOR DATES IN APRIL THROUGH NOVEMBER 2022

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-166 - AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PURCHASE ORDER TO PAY CELEBRATION FIREWORKS, INC AS TOWNSHIP PYROTECHNICS EXHIBITOR FOR THE JULY 4TH CELEBRATION, PAID FOR THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-167 - AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF A SEWER LOAN

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-168 – AUTHORIZING PAYMENT FOR THE INSURANCE OPT-OUT PROGRAM FOR 2022

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-169 - AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED AND THE COUNTY OF OCEAN FOR THE FY2022 OCEAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-170 – AMENDING RESOLUTION 2022-88 AUTHORIZING DAVID J. LEUTWYLER, GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKING SUPERVISOR, TO PROVISIONALLY APPOINT A PART-TIME GENERAL MAINTENANCE LABORER

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-171 - ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF ON-SITE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT INC. TO PROVIDE GROUNDS SERVICES TO PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED FOR THE YEAR 2022

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-172 – AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2021-198 AWARDING A CONTRACT TO WINNER FORD FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2022 FORD F150 4X4 CREW CAB FOR THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-173 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP CLERK TO EXECUTE AND FILE THE 2022 CENTRAL JERSEY HEALTH INSURANCE FUND WELLNESS GRANT APPLICATION

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-174 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AND FILE THE 2022 LOCAL EFFICIENCY ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (LEAP) GRANT APPLICATION

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-175 – AWARDING A CONTRACT TO EARLE ASPHALT COMPANY AND CREST CONSTRUCTION GROUP FOR EMERGENCY CALL-OUT WORK, CRITICAL CALL-OUT WORK AND SCHEDULED WORK ORDERS FOR STORM SEWER AND ROADWAY REPAIRS FOR THE YEARS 2022-2023

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-176 - ADOPTING THE REVISED RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-177 - RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 2021-341 AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP ENGINEER DEWBERRY ENGINEERS INC., AS PROJECT ENGINEER FOR THE CRANBERRY CANNERS ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-178 - SUPPORTING SENATE BILL NO. S1801 (Sponsored by Senator Edward Durr District 3)

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-179 - AUTHORIZING THE ASSIGNMENT OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE NO. 20-00008 TO PGRE HOLDINGS LLC FOR BLOCK 38, LOT 9, KNOWN AS 9 BRINDLETOWN ROAD

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-180 – AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF UNUSED LEAVE TIME FOR DAVID LEUTWYLER

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-181 – APPOINTING EDDIE ROMAN AS FULL-TIME GENERAL MAINTENANCE LABORER

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-182 - APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-183 – AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED AND THE PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT #1 FOR EMS SERVICES

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-184 – APPOINTING RALPH ROSAMILIA AS THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-185 - APPOINTING RALPH ROSAMILIA AS THE DEPUTY ZONING OFFICER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-186 -AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES/DIVISION ON MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES (DMHAS) GRANT APPLICATION

Committeeman Calabrese asked about 22-175 for awarding a contract for emergency call out work. Witham advised that it is a two-year contract. The amounts are the maximum, this is just an award for emergency repairs for safety reasons. We won't necessarily spend it. There was some discussion on how the contract works.

Calabrese then asked about 22-172 regarding the vehicle. Witham advised it's an amendment because the vehicle we were going to get would not be available for over a year so this one is available sooner.

Cuozzo asked to pull 22-178, 22-166 and 22-182. He doesn't necessarily have to pull 22-166, he wanted to bring to the attention that the fireworks are being paid for by local businesses, not taxpayer dollars. He thanks AGU, NE Marketplace and Big Woods.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, RESOLUTIONS 2022-164 THROUGH 2022-186, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF RESOLUTION 2022-178 and 2022-182 THAT WERE PULLED FROM THE AGENDA, WERE APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

There was discussion regarding 22-178. Cuozzo wanted to read into the record and his intention to support it as much as possible. It is regarding this Senate bill regarding the safety requirement and be allowed to get a gun permit for self-defense. Grilletto said that he supports it but the Supreme Court is hearing some cases to help lift some of the requirements.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, RESOLUTION 2022-178 WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES WITH MAYOR BOWEN ABSTAINING.

Cuozzo then spoke about 22-182 appointing members to the MUA. He mentioned this during interviews and a meeting that Beth Kimmick didn't directly request to be on the committee but be an alternate and the reason why is that Mr. Ruppel said that with his credentials, he wouldn't

take an alternate position on the board. Cuozzo said he and Calabrese spoke with Beth about this and that she would like to be part of these things but if she could leave the member position open for someone who is credentialed like Michael Ruppel, she wanted to do that. So out of respect for Kimmick, he would like to amend the resolution for her to be an alternate instead of the member of the unexpired term of Walt Bronson.

Bowen confirmed Cuozzo wanting to amend the resolution from being a regular member to alternate; Cuozzo said yes. Zabarsky clarified the amendment which would be to appoint Kimmick as an alternate. Witham said that the expiration date of her term would be the same with either position. Calabrese asked about the alternate term. Witham explained that the alternate term is also filling an unexpired term, Steven Grosso's. Cuozzo then made an announcement that we are still looking for qualified members of the MUA.

Bowen explained that the reason we were going on the recommendation of the executive director, Tim Shea, was to actually have a variety of board members, not just all engineers or all one thing. Bowen thinks it would benefit the MUA as all of our boards, to have a variety. Ruppel has great expertise but we don't necessarily need another. Beth is an excellent regular member. He doesn't see anyone more qualified than she is with the perspective she brings to the committee. We didn't look for all engineers but a wide variety. One of the things missing throughout the construction of the sewer is the sensitivity to small businesses and disruption and cost. That's why he recommended her for a full member.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, RESOLUTION 2022-182 AS AMENDED WAS NOT APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: COMMITTEEMEN CALABRESE AND CUOZZO YES; COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI AND MAYOR BOWEN NO.

Cuozzo asked if Bowen disagrees with Kimmick that she should be an alternate. He said that is what she said to Calabrese and him. Cuozzo said then we are going to vote for doing what she doesn't want us to do. It was Bowen's understanding that she would consider being an alternate or a regular member. Calabrese said she would be happy either way. Grilletto agrees with a diversity on the MUA. Cuozzo hasn't spoken with her since that night.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, RESOLUTION 2022-182 WAS APPROVED AS WRITTEN. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES WITH CUOZZO ABSTAINING.

MOTION TO CONSIDER: Witham announced all Raffles Licenses that came in for approval. All of their paperwork is in order.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE, Raffles License No. 2022-06; Christmas in July Tricky Tray 7/23/22 for McKaig Test Mullen American Legion Post #455; Raffles License No. 2022-07; Tricky Tray 5/14/22 for NEPS/WES PTO; Raffles License No. 2022-08; On-Premise 50/50 on 5/14/22 for NEPS/WES PTO WERE APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES WITH COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO ABSTAINING.

Bowen announced the deadline for being eligible for the sewer loan application with permits being applied for by May 1st.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS AND PROFESSIONALS:

Mayor Bowen asked if there were any comments on the Bill List of April 7, 2022; there were none.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE, THE AMENDED BILL LIST OF APRIL 7, 2022 WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR COMMITTEE REVIEW: CONSTRUCTION REPORT – Plumsted & New Hanover February 2022; TAX COLLECTOR REPORT – February 2022; FINANCIAL REPORTS – Revenue Summary by Month February 2022; Abbreviated Summary Budget Account Status February 2022; Treasurer’s Report February 2022; POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT – February 2022; PLUMSTED BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT #1 MEETING MINUTES – 2/7/22; PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP MUA MINUTES – none

Bowen asked for any old business; there was none. Bowen asked for any new business. Marinari said that we have had an interesting first four meetings and he is pleased with the work our new mayor is doing for this community. Regarding EMS, all of the paperwork was done by the mayor. This committee should be proud of what he is doing.

Cuozzo said that we’ve spoken about recreation, fields and the building. He would like to invite the recreation board to present their proposal at a future meeting so we can move forward. Calabrese will speak with them and Marinari at the next meeting. At this point it’s a wish list, we need a contractor in there. Calabrese will invite them to the next meeting.

Cuozzo then said that he had 27 things he wanted to talk about for the budget but one thing he’d like to bring up for consideration is that it would take a considerable amount of work to change this but using the iBank for the township building sewer hookup costs instead of the ARPA funds. He believes it could help us get the budget where it needs to be.

Cuozzo then stated that one of the things he wanted to mention is that he is thankful the Chief and the police department and new recruits brought in. He looks forward to working with them. One of the things that gets overlooked with the PD is that there is a turnover amongst the lower ranks of officers. Cuozzo discussed things we are thinking about in the PBA proposal. We have fewer ratables because of our rural community.

He also wanted to bring up one other thing about the budget that needs consideration. We are contemplating hiring and taking part-time employees and making them full-time employees in the budget. There are departments that didn’t spend their budget money last year but we are adding to those departments because of new responsibilities. He would like to recommend that we can consider hiring a business administrator that can actually be a chief of staff for the town and handle all of those new hires. He has consistently been asking for performance reviews for the employees when they are recommended getting raises and he has been told that they do not exist. He would like to see those things. He is inclined to have those things in hand before making decisions about employment. He thinks part of the budget is personnel and town employees. So having someone actually administering those things and doing those performance reviews and being a liaison between the committee and the employees would be wonderful. He knows there has been a lot of turnover here and a lot of work and with that turnover and new employees, he thinks it is in the best interest of the town to have a business administrator. He would like to talk about those things.

Cuozzo asked to talk about it now. Zabarsky said that the budget hearing will be May 5th, next month. Cuozzo said that because of the OPMA, he can only talk to the committee one person at a time so he wants to discuss it publicly. Zabarsky said there is a public hearing next month.

Grilletto suggested another budget workshop. Cuozzo said that is all of his notes. He would love to discuss those things in a public setting.

Bowen asked for any public comment. Margaret Newman, 324 Lakewood Road. In this township, we are losing police officers all of the time. She said to Cuozzo that he wants to hire a township administrator. We need to get our police a raise. You are spending money on hiring people we don't really need. This is ridiculous. We are hiring new people, how long are they going to stay. Police are training and training and there is no reason for this. She would gladly pay \$100 a more in taxes to give our police a raise.

Wendy Galloway was on Zoom, 4 Hyacinth Court. She said that as the former public safety director, she welcomes the new police officers to the department. She appreciates the fact that they chose Plumsted Township and we hope they will stay with us as our township is in great need of officers who can work with our community and be part of it and continue to serve the community. Again, congratulations on your appointments and another job well done by Chief Meroney and Lt Reilly.

Deputy Mayor Marinari had to excuse himself.

Resident Carol Reed, 63 Brindletown Rd came forward. She was a little confused and would like to get this straight. Who does the township administrator work now? And you want to hire another person? You are talking about keeping taxes low but you want to hire another person to take the job that the current person is doing. Is that correct? Cuozzo said you are not correct. He asked if he could respond or did counsel want to instead. Zabarsky said he didn't know what was going to be said. There are people receiving multiple salaries to do multiple jobs. He would like to actually have someone assigned to that job and get the salary that would be appropriate for that person to do that job. Reed is not following. Cuozzo said Jen Witham receives more than one salary and has more than one job and he wants to take that job away from Jen Witham and give it to another person that can do that job. So we take the salary from her and give it to another person so that they can do that job. Reed asked why. Cuozzo said that there is a lot that has to be done in this town. Reed said then you are saying that Jen is not doing her job and he feels that if he hires someone else, they will do a better job than what she is doing. Cuozzo said that is exactly how he feels. Reed said thank you, her question was answered.

CFO June Madden was on Zoom. She thanked the finance committee that consists of the mayor and Committeeman Grilletto who have been working since the fall of 2021 to develop this budget. There have been numerous meetings. Meetings with the department heads. Numerous meetings to get the tax rate down as low as possible. The tax rate that is in this introduced budget represents a 2.15% increase and is using 50% of our surplus. It will result, if adopted, in a \$19.68 increase annually on the average residential property. Under \$20 of an increase, not \$25 per quarter for \$100. It is a very, very small increase and there is a lot being done with this budget with salaries and wages and operating expenses. Madden will be happy to answer any questions. We did answer questions to Committeeman Cuozzo, we responded within a day or two to his questions. If he has additional questions, she is happy to meet with him personally to go through any questions he may have.

Cuozzo asked what the total increase of the budget is that we are going to receive from increasing everyone's taxes. Madden asked him to repeat because it is hard to hear on Zoom. Madden is happy to meet with any of the committee. Madden doesn't agree with using NJIB over the ARPA funds for the sewer as they are funds coming to us that are totally free to the township. However, they must be used in a certain way and the sewer connection for the four of our buildings is one of the acceptable uses of that money.

Chief Meroney, Plumsted PD and resident came forward. In reference to those officers that departed. It wasn't the junior officers we are losing. We are losing those we have invested anywhere from 5-9 years so a lot of work was put into them with mandatory training. It's not a revolving door from the bottom anymore. The fact that we are ok with having a revolving door is something he has never stood for. He has been a member of this agency for 22 years. Thanks to Public Safety Director Galloway for appointing him to this position. He has pride in this township so much that he moved into this town. It is a 14 officer department. When they leave, officers lose friends and training experience. They have lost officers from all different levels. As a resident, a \$19 per year increase, he hopes we can move forward and do something. If you increased his taxes to use it to retain people for the town, not just the police department. Mrs. Witham has a million hats and does a great job and there are so many part time positions in the township. He is saying this as a resident. We have to work on getting the offices that we have intact so that we can retain people. The process we have been going on for 20 years, it hasn't helped. We don't want to raise taxes but with all due respect, the fact that we want to bring in another full-time BA when the one we have is doing numerous jobs and we have issues with senior officers leaving and other employees looking. At some point, he wishes the committee would have pride in the town like he does and we do something to retain people we have invested in.

Calabrese made one point of clarity about raising taxes. We are legally bound as to how much we can raise taxes. We had a plan in place to work on the contract we want but legally, we are bound by the state. From what he understands, it would have been above cap. We are fighting to get more money for the police. Cuozzo agreed and bringing someone else in could actually lower the cost of that admin job. Meroney said he didn't want to get into negotiations again. The officers we lost were not at the beginning steps. The new officers come in making \$36,500 and the officers that left were making \$75,000. Cuozzo said everything they are bringing up is with his goal in mind and he feels bad that the chief thinks they are on opposite sides. He is exactly on the same page as him, that's why he is doing what he is doing.

Resident Susan Potter, 94 Sanders Lane, came forward. She wanted to say that most of us are very happy with the exemplary work that Mrs. Witham has done for this community. She went to Witham last year some time and complained about the brush that overgrows these streets in our town and within two days she had that brush removed from the streets so they are safe to walk in. She would like to ask if it is public knowledge how much Mrs. Witham gets paid in this district. She also wants to know with all the hats that she is wearing, how much is she making. Is this board aware of how much a BA could actually cost in this district? It will be a heck of a lot more than what we pay Mrs. Witham. She said that she finds it very unprofessional the way Cuozzo just treated her in this meeting. She thinks it was despicable and she cannot believe that a man of God would actually treat someone like that and he should be ashamed of himself.

Another resident came forward. Cuozzo said, here we go counsel, here we go. Are we going to allow this kind of disrespect and disorder in the meeting? Zabarsky said that it is public comment and she is allowed to say the comments were inappropriate. Resident Kate Tallon, 53

Oak Lane spoke. Zabarsky said that on that note, he should caution any adjectives would be inappropriate and we should keep it to your comments were inappropriate and things of that nature, rather than use such language that is more an adjective that is inappropriate. No one should be attacked. No words should be used.

Tallon said that first of all, she would like to jump on board with the police statement, she wouldn't mind if taxes went up for police raises as well. She would, however, mind if we had to start hiring full-time positions for all of the hats that all of the employees at the municipal building wear. Just for some clarification, are you specifically just saying you want to take away Mrs. Witham's jobs or you want to replace everybody's part-time jobs with full-time employees?

Cuozzo said that we have a lot of new employees and he would like to have a business administrator to oversee them. He would like to have some performance reviews. Tallon asked if he was just targeting the business administrator position as full-time, not the other employees' part-time positions. Cuozzo just wants a business administrator. It has nothing to do with Jen, it has to do with the job being done. Tallon said that she does the business administrator position. Cuozzo has yet to receive a performance review he has requested, he has yet to see a structure of the departments though he has requested it, he has yet to receive business cards that he requested, the sign out front is still what it is. Look, there are a lot of typos and things that he goes through. He knows how busy she is and he would like a business administrator to administer the employees. That's my feelings about it. It has nothing to do with anything else besides wanting a business administrator.

Tallon asked if he knew what the average salary rate is on a business administrator in the State of NJ? Cuozzo looked it up, yeah. Tallon asked what it is. Cuozzo said it is between \$150-160,000. Tallon said you don't want to pay police a little bit extra. Cuozzo wants to give police everything they deserve. Police understand that, that's why they are shaking their heads back there. Everyone is totally wrong about that. Tallon remembers the presentation he made them have. She was there about salaries at last month's meeting. With that said, one of her other public comments with other voting decisions she has watched him make. It sounds like once again he is targeting individuals that he doesn't deem worthy and he is looking for employee reviews, once again, to be judge and jury on employees that work here and he has to deal with. Cuozzo said that people elected him to lead this town and he cannot do his job right if he doesn't get the right information. He will do his job right and this is how it works. He was elected to do so. People can elect someone else but right now, he has the position and right now he is inclined to meet people before we hire them and make personnel decisions based on real data and that's how real business operates and he wants our town to operate like a real business. Tallon said it's not a business, it's a government.

Grilletto said that he is entitled to have his opinion about what an operation should entail and what it should be. Grilletto has requested things in the past too that we haven't had any reviews of personnel. Since he has been here for three years since the first time he came here, he requested that. Before she became business manager, the other business manager and that nothing existed. He thinks we do need, in his experience, is that it is the first things they need. Especially if you have to discipline someone if they are not doing their work. You have to document that. It's important. And you have to have standards that you document.

Tallon's last public comment is that she had the privilege of working with Mrs. Witham and she knows what she gives to this community and she goes above and beyond to do her job. The

community basically doesn't deserve her, she is an angel on this earth and she deserves better than what was just handed to her. Thank you.

There was a comment typed in on Zoom. MacReynolds read it. "Spend my money for a full-time employee to give an existing employee raises. No I don't think so. What happened to the last one? No tax increase, any increase is not acceptable. Along with the \$5 per gallon gas, food increase and ridiculously high taxes already, we do not need a property tax increase again. Wish I had a microphone. We don't need another administrator for money that we cannot afford. "

Cuozzo wanted to be clear. He does not want to spend more money on an administrator. He thinks that the position can be hired out RFI or whatever way we do it but he is not suggested we increase. All of his proposals are to decrease the budget to make room for what he thinks is a priority which is what he thinks is taking care of our police officers. That is his proposal all across the board. That is what he is trying to do here. He believes he was elected to fight for taxes and to keep the taxes low. He is going to fight for that, that is why he was elected.

Robert Krohn, president of the Plumsted Township Career Firefighters FMBA Local 89, resident of Beachwood NJ, 437 Beachwood Blvd. Just so everyone knows, as not everyone attends the commissioners meeting, at the last meeting, the fire department voted to enter into a shared services agreement to continue EMS to the end of this year. What that will involve is a lot more work from the township, committee and residents to keep that going for the future. We also just lost an employee of about 5 years with our department, firefighter/EMT Bergeron left. Hopefully we will be hiring some people in the next few weeks. He said that it is hard to find qualified candidates. We are a small town, not as busy so we try to get people to come with experience. Career firefighters are what you see during the day and volunteer firefighters at night. They work hand in hand with the police department.

When you talk about increases, it comes out of our pockets but they are there to protect the community. When we talk about this in budget workshops, there is a deficit in emergency services throughout this country. People do not want to be cops, firefighters and EMS anymore. It is hard to get volunteers. This is a struggle in our county and having these towns with paid services, they are trying to find the money any way they can. The more support they can have from the community to ensure they have services so when you have a heart attack at your house or it catches on fire, or someone breaks into your house, you have that protection, that insurance policy of public safety, that everything comes with a cost. Unfortunately, that cost is growing, just like gas prices, food prices and everything else. That is the protection you have when something happens in 3-5 minute response, not 45 minutes in some towns. Or wait for State Police since that was the answer years ago. They come from Hamilton and they are tied up with another call and someone is breaking into your home. Just think about that when it comes to a vote. You have to worry about public safety, it is an insurance policy. Something for what-if. Some people say they never used the police department, fire department, EMS but there is going to be a day you may. Grilletto thanked him for working with the union and township and getting services to the end of this year.

Resident Barbara Diblin, 12 Terrace Ave, said that she is grateful for the township, the committeemen, the lawyer and Jen and all of the workers of the administration in the township. Whenever I come, they have been helpful and friendly and she can see, she is grateful for their workmanship on the professionalism on the township and trying to resolve problems and concerns. She knows that they have good integrity and she appreciates all of the work they are doing to resolve problems and concerns and do the best for the township and citizens. So she

just wants to say that and she is grateful and she will be praying for you. Not only the National Day of Prayer but there are many prayer groups that pray for our township and each and every one and we care about everyone because God loves everyone. And she appreciates and she is praying for guidance, wisdom and discernment. Thank you for your workmanship.

There was no other public comment.

Grilletto mentioned that there will be a Main Street cleanup day in the near future and we are a little ahead of the time but on Veteran's Day, we will be doing something, along with Memorial Day on May 30th at the American Legion. He would like to dedicate something to the Vietnam War Veterans to get their recognitions.

Bowen asked for a motion to adjourn, ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CALABRESE, THE APRIL 7, 2022 MEETING WAS ADJOURNED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Witham, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk