

April 6, 2023
121 Evergreen Rd
New Egypt, NJ 08533

The Plumsted Township Committee meeting of April 6, 2023 was called to order by Deputy Mayor Marinari.

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 posted on the Bulletin Board.

THOSE OFFICIALS PRESENT:

COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO COMMITTEEMAN HAMMERSTONE
DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI ATTORNEY CIPRIANI CLERK WITHAM

Mayor Bowen was excused.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN HAMMERSTONE, RESOLUTION NO. 2023-154 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. A second roll call vote was taken. Deputy Mayor Marinari asked everyone to rise for the flag salute followed by the invocation led by Reverend Jim Gutacker.

A second roll call vote was taken. Deputy Mayor Marinari thanked everyone for their hard work regarding the storm this past weekend. News 12 NJ was excellent at covering storms, showing where there was debris and even down to the street so he thanked that channel. He also thanks first responders. Marinari asked for any comments from the committee.

Committeeman Cuzzo spoke about SOS and how they enrich lives of our community, it's a wonderful organization. His other liaison report was regarding the MUA and their new chair. Committeeman Grilletto spoke about the MEL, risk management training by the governing body. He spoke about the MEL retreat he went to and about claims. As far as Pinelands, he talked about ATV and a new law in NJ. We will be considering revising our ordinance; Pinelands will be developing a model ordinance. He then talked about SOS and the planter program on Main Street and Paradise Park.

Marinari spoke about the presentations we have tonight. The first is the high school girls bowling team; they were state champions. It is such a challenge and we should be proud of that. He asked the team to come up. We also have National Library Week; the librarian isn't able to attend tonight but he spoke about the wonderful things offered by the library for all ages. We also have National Alcohol Awareness Month, National Service Week and National Day of Prayer.

The bowling team came forward. Coach Kristen Pendleton spoke about the girls' team. She said that the girls spent a lot of time and worked hard all season long. Seniors Emily and Katie Search wanted to say a few words. Emily said it was their second undefeated season and second sectional win and it's the first state title for the school's history. Emily, Katie and Grace made it to individual state championship. The team won the BCSL Patriot Division and all seniors made first team and were top 5 team of the year. Katie Search placed 14th in the state out of a hundred girls that made it to the state championship. Pendleton is going to miss the girls, a wonderful

group. All players came forward for certificate from the coach and then they were presented certificates from the governing body.

The following proclamations were read by members of the governing body:

- New Egypt High School Girls Varsity Bowling Team – State Champions
- National Library Week 2023, April 23-29, 2023
- National Alcohol Awareness Month
- National Service Day and Volunteer Week
- National Day of Prayer

Cuozzo presented the National Day of Prayer proclamation to Barbara Diblin; this is the proclamation Ron Dancer wrote. Diblin spoke about the National Day of Prayer event at the municipal building on May 4th from 4-5. This is the 31st year, since 1992, and Diblin has been part of this every year since it started.

The bowling team was excused from the meeting.

RESOLUTION NON-CONSENT AGENDA:

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, RESOLUTION NO. 2023-156 - AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2023-130 ADOPTING A TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2023 WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-157 - TO INTRODUCE THE 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP was pulled from the agenda tonight.

MINUTES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR APPROVAL:

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, THE EXECUTIVE/WORKSHOP/REGULAR SESSION MINUTES OF THE 12/1/22 MEETING WERE APPROVED WITH COMMITTEEMAN HAMMERSTONE ABSTAINING.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP OF 12/5/22 WERE NOT APPROVED AS COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO AND DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI VOTING YES AND COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO AND COMMITTEEMAN HAMMERSTONE ABSTAINING. The minutes will be added to next month's agenda since both Cuozzo and Hammerstone were not in attendance at that meeting.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, THE WORKSHOP/REGULAR SESSION MINUTES OF THE 12/16/22 MEETING WERE APPROVED WITH COMMITTEEMAN HAMMERSTONE ABSTAINING.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, THE EXECUTIVE/WORKSHOP/REGULAR SESSION MINUTES OF THE 12/28/22 MEETING WERE APPROVED WITH COMMITTEEMAN HAMMERSTONE ABSTAINING.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, THE EXECUTIVE/WORKSHOP/REGULAR SESSION MINUTES OF THE 1/2/23 REORGANIZATION MEETING WERE APPROVED WITH COMMITTEEMAN HAMMERSTONE ABSTAINING.

ORDINANCE: Second Reading/Public Hearing

Marinari opened up the public hearing for Ordinance No. 2023-04. Witham advised that these were amendments made to comply with stormwater requirements. There were no comments.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, THE PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 2023-04 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 15 OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, ENTITLED “ZONING” SO AS TO AMEND SECTION 15-14.21, ENTITLED “SUPPLEMENTAL DESIGN STANDARDS AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS” WAS CLOSED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, ORDINANCE 2023-04 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 15 OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, ENTITLED “ZONING” SO AS TO AMEND SECTION 15-14.21, ENTITLED “SUPPLEMENTAL DESIGN STANDARDS AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS” WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

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. 2023-158 – AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF SEWER LOANS

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-159 – AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2023-84 APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE LAND USE BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-160 – ACCEPTING THE 2023 STATE OF NEW JERSEY SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES GRANT ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-161 – AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2023-82 APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE SENIOR OUTREACH SERVICES (SOS) PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-162 – AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF UNUSED ESCROWS TO MICHAEL GIOVANELLI

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-163 - AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP AND THE PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE COURTESY BUSING FOR HAZARDOUS ROUTES FOR THE YEAR 2022-2023

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-164 – APPOINTING MATTHEW RACK AS THE FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-165 – AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2023-77 APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-166 – AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATES

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-167 – 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. 2023-168 – OPPOSING GOVERNOR MURPHY’S PROPOSED FUNDING CUTS TO SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-169 – AUTHORIZING AN UNDERWATER INSPECTION OF THE OAKFORD LAKE DAM BY COASTAL ENGINEERING

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-170 – RECOGNIZING NJ LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK APRIL 16-22, 2023 AND ENCOURAGING ALL CITIZENS TO SUPPORT THE CELEBRATION

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-171 – AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO DISPOSE OF OR RECYCLE OBSOLETE ITEMS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE

Cuozzo commented on a few resolutions. One is 23-168 opposing funding cuts for the schools. We aren't the only township to be complaining about this. He believes the Murphy administration may have relented a little bit. The SOS program has a new member and it's a wonderful program. Finally, the appointment on the LUB. There are no new positions, since Committee Hammerstone filled Calabrese's place, he is also filling the LUB spot on the board.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN HAMMERSTONE, RESOLUTIONS NO. 2023-158 THROUGH 2023-171, EXCLUDING RESOLUTION NO. 2023-163 BEING PULLED FROM THE AGENDA, WERE APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

There were two add-on resolutions.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, RESOLUTION 23-172 APPOINTING COURTNEY MEYER AS THE PART-TIME MUNICIPAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, RESOLUTION 23-173 APPOINTING SUSAN SMITH AS A PART-TIME CLERK TYPIST FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Marinari asked for any comments on the bill list. There were none.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, THE BILL LIST OF APRIL 6, 2023 WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

The engineer's report of April 6, 2023 was submitted for review; there were no comments.

Marinari asked for any old business. Marinari asked for any new business; there was none. Marinari then asked for public comment.

Joann Loricco and her husband Joel of 807 Route 539 came forward regarding issues with Waste Management. She has been having difficulty with missed trash pickups. She has been dealing with Dave Leutwyler. This has been an ongoing problem and she doesn't know how to solve it. She has called Waste Management. When she has a missed pickup, she calls and the recording says it was picked up. There is a breakdown somewhere. She feels as though the township has a responsibility to help them since it's a contract through the township. She doesn't know where to go. She's dealt with Dave three times and he is trying really hard but the issue is becoming bigger. Two weeks ago, Buckalew Lane was missed entirely. Today, one of her friends had a call from Waste Management saying they were canceling their service but then they still picked it up. How many people are missed on a daily basis? It's now a holiday weekend and what should she do with her trash? Can I put it in the town's dumpster? What should she do? Marinari asked Witham. Witham said that we don't actually have a dumpster here, just a trash can. Marinari said that she is going to the proper person and he wishes there had been a resolution. Joann said that Dave is working on it but it doesn't seem to make it better, it's actually getting worse. Grilletto asked if there was a reason why they are missing them.

Loricco said she is on 539, it's a basic route. The week prior, an entire road has been missed. When they are called, Waste Management does come out to pick it up. The drivers are saying that they picked up. Cuozzo thanked her for coming. He is sorry for the frustration. He has the

cell phone number for the Waste Management route manager and he calls and texts him and he sends him pictures where they have been and haven't. He is surprised to hear this because usually there are places missed that are mismarked in Google. He can share this with Dave. His name is Henry and he can let him know when it's been missed. He has live charts to see where they have been. Joel Loricco said that late in a day, it's missed and then too late to call the township. Cuozzo offered his cell phone number to assist. Loricco didn't hear back from the township until a Tuesday from his call the prior Thursday because of a part-time staff. It is frustrating. Cuozzo told Loricco to call or text him, texting is best. Joann Loricco said that when she calls Waste Management, she is told the task is done but it isn't. And the other issue is that they should know where they live, they pick up sometimes and sometimes not. And with a 900 foot driveway, that's far to pick it up and take it back to the house. This may not be the most important thing in the world today but it is frustrating. Marinari said that they will get a call from Leutwyler on Monday. Loricco said that he has been very good and Dave is frustrated as well. Grilletto said that it shouldn't be a computer issue; if the can is there, pick it up. There is a communication issue with Waste Management. The governing body apologized for the aggravation.

Michael Silvestro of Myrtle Ave in Monroe came forward. He asked about the chaplain application and invocation and being able to participate but hasn't had a response. Is there a status on anything about who can do invocation or why he hasn't received a response? Marinari said that it is his understanding that the mayor is working on the invocation and chaplain discussion. Cipriani said that it is her fault; she is a new township attorney. She has the information from the Bowen and Cuozzo and she is doing a review of it. She expects to be able to have something back prior to the next meeting. She would expect some action on that at the next meeting in May or June. Silvestro asked why did this process start a year and a half ago? Cipriani cannot speak to the past process but the deputy mayor is correct. She has the information and is working on the process.

Silvestro feels that the governing body just now doing this versus a year and a half ago when the resolution was first passed is a type of censor to discriminate against different religions. He wanted to make a statement. "We don't have to agree on each other's beliefs. We can completely disagree on that one thing but we cannot legally discriminate against someone for their religious beliefs. This is part of the majority opinion from the former court justice from the majority opinion of the case *Greece v. Galloway*. To hold the invocations must be non-sectarian would force legislators sponsoring prayer in the courts deciding these cases to act as supervisors and censors of religious speech. Thus, involving government in religious matters to a far greater degree than is the case under the town's current practice of neither editing nor approving prayers in advance nor criticizing their content after the fact. Respondents contrary arguments are unpersuasive, it is doubtful that the consensus could be reached as to what qualifies as generic or non-sectarian prayer. It would also be unwise to conclude that only those religious words acceptable by the majority are permissible for the First Amendment is not majority rule and the government may not seek to define permissible categories of religious speech. This part matches very well with the resolution that was passed over a year ago and has yet to have been fully practiced. I will continue on to the next part of the majority opinion from that same case. Absent a pattern of prayers that over time disingenuates or proselytize or betrays for government purpose a challenge based solely on the content particular pair will not likely establish a constitutional violation. Finally, so long as the town maintains a policy of non-discrimination, the constitution does not require it to search beyond its borders for a non-Christian prayer givers in an effort to achieve religious balancing. Looking at a list of those that did the invocation from 2022, there are four Christian clergies in Plumsted and two Christian

clergies from outside of Plumsted. The fact that the township is trying to make up special rules completely goes against the latest Supreme Court ruling. Not only that, if a secular humanist, Jewish, Satanist or Buddhist or any other religious group forms within the township and applies to give invocation, you cannot discriminate. Also, in *Greece v. Galloway*, the majority opinion concluded that the principle audience for these invocations is not indeed the public but the lawmakers themselves who may find a moment of prayer or quiet reflection sets the mind to a higher purpose and eases the task of governing. Almost all of the invocations that have taken place here have been taking place facing them and not asked for them to participate. Also the mayor has asked us to remain standing for the prayer which goes against the resolution and goes against the Constitution and goes against multiple Supreme Court rulings. Now also in the case of *Hunt v. Kenai Peninsula*, three residents of the borough were prevented from delivering invocation at a borough assembly meeting because they were members of a qualifying religious association. The Supreme Court of Alaska upheld that the establishment clause only allows the prevention of an invocation speaker where exploited the invocation opportunity to proselytize advance disparage any faith or belief. This is what the town board is currently trying to stop from happening. Time and time again the courts have ruled against what I feel is going on here. The township has enough problems as it is. If we look at the township resolution that was passed". Silvestro then read the resolution. Cipriani asked Silvestro to finish up based on time limit. Silvestro said he has been waiting for a year and a half. Cipriani said it is not starting new; she is going to review what was done in the past.

Marinari asked for any other public comment. Mike Search came forward, 115 Evergreen Rd. He has a question about the recreation fields. He recently put something on Facebook he probably shouldn't have and should have come to the township ahead of time. His concern is about the facilities. When sports are not in session, people are enjoying the facilities. There are kids there but the bathrooms are not available. He understands the bathrooms are inside the blue building and he doesn't think it would be feasible to keep it open all of the time because of vandals. A couple of years ago, the township used to give the rec program significantly more funding. Since then, the township has taken the money away and only provided the handling of the lawn. He stated the township no longer provides field maintenance, probably 20k off of the budget. He thinks that with that significant amount of money that the township is not spending on taking care of the dirt anymore, there has to be something that can be put in place for facilities when people are there with their children. It's about the kids. They can't use the playground if their child has to use the bathroom. It's a sad case. Other townships usually have public facilities at the rec areas that kids can use. At least maybe a porta-potty. This is in the off season. During the season, the sports provide porta-potties. But in off season, people still use the park. He thinks with the savings, there should be money in the budget to do that.

Karen Lamphere, 6 Hyacinth Court spoke. She understands that the municipal building may be used for non-governmental purposes by private organizations, is this true? Witham said that it is a public building, yes. Lamphere asked about the requirements for that. Cipriani said she and Witham have been having this conversation about setting up a policy for building use. It's been a first come, first serve basis. If it's available, it needs to be available for any group. There can be requirements regarding scheduling ahead of time and a hold harmless, cleaning and those kinds of things. That policy is yet to be fully adopted. Witham said a township meeting would have precedence. Lamphere said that there is no requirement for this building? Witham said that anyone could call her and if the room is available, it will be booked, she will make sure the doors are unlocked. We do have rules for the downstairs if someone was using it, the seniors have some rules about putting it back the way you found it. And if you were going to have a gathering with more than 25 people, we ask that you fill out an event notification form so that we are

notified if there are a lot of people in the parking lot to notify first responders if it's a larger gathering of people.

Lamphere said that she doesn't need insurance to cover the building or anything while it's in use? Is there any requirement for her to provide that? Cipriani said there is no adopted policy on that. That's one of the things the governing body will be asked to consider. Cuzzo can speak historically what the governing body and the township has done because he, separate from his position as a committeeman, he serves as the CEO of a non-profit in this town and there were four or five things required of him. He had to provide a letter, Certificate of Insurance, and the township facility had to be named on the address and facility on it. It was a COI. He had to provide a copy of his organizational document and the township said, Dave Leutwyler at the time, the mission of our organization needed to align with the township goals and that they wanted the organization to have been organized within the township. There were constituents from our town participating in that organization and that he had to write a letter, he used a thank you note, outlining their plan and terms of use, how long, all on one piece of paper. That's what was required of him on the other side of things years ago and it was a reinstated every six months and the same thing had to be put. It was very organized, very timely and very professional the way it was handled so he can't speak to it as it's been a long time but all of those things were required of him.

Cipriani said it sounds like there was policy like past practice but there has not been an adopted policy by the governing body which there should be and certainly some of those things, like insurance, depending on the intensity of the use or regular use. The question of aligning with township goals, that's problematic but we will talk about that. Witham said that was a different situation because there was storage for all of his items, a section in the basement. Maybe the insurance was needed for that and for the daycare on the other side of the building. Cipriani said there could be different requirements for different levels of use. There needs to be a written policy so it is clear and evenly applied.

Lamphere also commented that the Waste Management situation. She didn't get pickup today either. There probably is a service disruption in Jackson which backed everyone up because of power outages. Although Marinari and Witham said that they should let us know that.

John Lombardo of Gulfstream Rd commented on the excellent job with the storm. He then stated there was a great discussion on the PILOT program on the 20th. A lot of the residents are asking the next step. Is there going to be a subsequent meeting? Will there be a resolution at any time? A recommendation is that if there are committee members that could come to the community and update as to what is going on and what they can expect going forward, is there any date or anything set that we can meet again? Marinari said that a lot of this revolves around the mayor and he isn't here to answer properly. Cuzzo said that we want to be able to give an answer. He said that at least five things have taken place. In the last two weeks, we have reached out to the state by the CFO and counsel Jessup since they are involved, we are waiting to hear back. We also changed the disclosure, our CFO has synchronized with Lennar so the terminology is the same between Lennar and the township. We are requesting that our disclosure that we created be added to the sales contract and finally, we are reviewing proposals for their long term impacts. He has a specific proposal and there is an opportunity for some of us to give an update to folks at Lennar clubhouse but long term impacts have yet to be calculated. That's at least five things that have been done in the last two weeks.

Lombardo said the key thing is the discussion with the state about not having the opportunity to

freeze and other rebates. It's a loophole that is the state, not the township. It's going to impact a lot of people. He's looking forward to a resolution.

Cuozzo has a question for counsel. He has been on the front page of the local paper here for the investigations that have been, I'll say clearly, falsely derailed against me. Can you give an update to the impartial and independent investigations into those and tell us where they stand. Perhaps he can directly speak with Mr. Vosseller and ask if he would print a retraction based on the comments being retracted and the vindication and exoneration that independent investigation has performed? Vosseller said that it's unusual for a reporter to be asked for a comment. He has been covering the meeting. Cuozzo said it is unusual to be on the front page four months in a row for something that never happened. Cipriani said there is always an overlap that is trying to be worked out. Township business is to be conducted at meetings. As far as reporting, she recommends Cuozzo ask Vosseller outside of the dais. As far as the investigation, if you are speaking about the censure requests that were sent in, then yes, she can speak to that. She was asked to review a total of 53 correspondences regarding censure of Committeeman Cuozzo. Cipriani spoke about US Supreme Court cases and explained censure and how there is no other form of punishment, does not involve expulsion. Of the correspondences regarding censure, 50 of them were an identical message and that message, there was an unspecific accusation. One of the complaints referenced Committeeman Hammerstone. One of the remaining messages also spoke to Dominick Cuozzo being a danger to the LGBTQ members of our community and spoke of past actions protesting events. The last message was lengthy and spoke about issues with the selection process for the vacancy on the committee. Her determination, as to the first 50 correspondences, the alleged behavior had no proofs included. It wouldn't be appropriate to censure based upon unsupported allegations. As to the LGBTQ allegations, they do not constitute the conduct of official business and therefore, isn't a basis for censure. Finally, the selection process included the county committee, not the township committee and wouldn't constitute censure. There is a lot of strong feeling in a lot of ways but she would encourage those in this room asking for official action, remember it is for official township business.

Ellen Taylor of 29 Story Street came forward. She had a question about the use of the building. She is a taxpayer and if it's people asking in this township, that's fair. If they are from another township, she would think they would go to their township to ask for a meeting. She lives in New Egypt, she wouldn't go to Lakewood for another meeting. As a taxpayer, she would think that would be something we should think about. Cipriani said that things go along but when an issue is brought to focus, then that is when the governing body considers adopting a policy.

Marisa Maycar (?) of Cream Ridge, she wanted to clarify the censure. Then Cuozzo is exonerated? Cipriani said there is no question of exoneration, that's not what this is. This was based on a bunch of requests saying these are reasons we think the governing body as a whole should censure Committeeman Cuozzo. Her determination was that the requests lacked specificity. As to the request based on alleged hostility to the LGBTQ community, there was nothing that suggests conduct of a township official, and the last are statements that were not acting a township official. A governing body cannot discipline in any other way, other than censure about official township business. The determination was that none of those allegations legally provided a basis for censure. Marisa asked if the public could find out if there was a way who submitted censures? They are OPRable. Thank you for your time.

Cuozzo wanted to say something very quickly. He supports everybody's right to disagree with him wholeheartedly on everything. Everybody can disagree with anybody they want to and he supports their right to do that, he would fight and die to protect that right. It's important if we

disagree that we have public discourse. There have been lots of investigations and the one talked about, he would like to quote from the investigation, “the investigation did not identify any conduct that violated the borough’s anti-harassment or anti-discrimination policies. Cipriani interrupted, “Committeeman Cuzzo, I am going to stop you right there, I know what you are quoting from and that is not appropriate for other reasons because it has to do with personnel matters. What you said was fine but please go no further with quoting that document. Cuzzo said “that’s all he planned on quoting, that’s enough. Did not violate the borough’s anti-discrimination policy. It’s important to understand that someone having a different belief than you does not constitute harassment. We can all agree to disagree. I believe in freedom and liberty and its ok for people to disagree. No one is harassed for having a different opinion than someone else and I think that’s important and I wanted to say it. I thank you again for your explanation of things.”

Marinari asked for any other comments; there were none. This portion of public comment is closed. All in favor, ayes.

Grilletto spoke about the historical society and times they are open and that they are having a bake sale. Cuzzo thanked Marinari for chairing tonight. Marinari read with concern that the girls’ softball porta-potties were vandalized again. Vandalism has to stop. Don E. Miller said that they may have to remove the porta-potties if this continued. If you see something, please reach out to the police department. Vandalism has to stop.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN HAMMERSTONE, THE APRIL 6, 2023 MEETING WAS ADJOURNED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Witham, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

****Please be advised that these minutes are adopted pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-14. They are not intended to be a verbatim record of the meeting. There is a verbatim recording of the meeting a copy of which may be requested through the Plumsted Township Clerk’s Office.***