

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
MEETING – September 15, 2025**

Mayor Mueller ***calls the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.*** announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

***PRESENT:*** Mayor A. Mueller, Mr. J. Heller, Mr. J. Huelsebusch, Mr. J. Albanese  
and Deputy Mayor V. Panico

***ALSO PRESENT:*** Administrator J. Curry, Municipal Clerk A. Lehberger, Attorney C. Corsini  
Deputy Clerk, D. Monaghan

***EXECUTIVE SESSION:***

Mayor Mueller read the following Resolution:

**EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION  
September 15, 2025**

***WHEREAS***, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 *et seq.*, the Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

***WHEREAS***, the Township Committee is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist and desires to authorize the exclusion of the public from the portion of the meeting in accordance with the act;

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the specified subject matter as set forth in the following Exhibit “A.”

**EXHIBIT A**

| <b><u>Subject Matter</u></b>   | <b><u>Basis of Public Exclusion</u></b> | <b><u>Date Anticipated</u><br/><u>When Discussion Will</u><br/><u>Be Disclosed to Public</u></b>      |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Police.....<br>Township        | Personnel.....                          | Certain information at the<br>discretion of the<br><br>Committee tonight<br>shall remain confidential |
| Website Services.....          | Contract Negotiations.....              | “ “ “                                                                                                 |
| Executive Session Minutes..... | Attorney-Client Privilege.....          | “ “ “                                                                                                 |

- September 2, 2025
- September 8, 2025

Affordable Housing..... Potential Litigation ..... “ “ “

2. It is anticipated at this time that the stated subject matter will be made public on or about the time set forth in Exhibit “A”.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

*A MOTION* was made by Mr. Huelsebusch to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Heller with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Mueller led those present in the *Salute to the Flag*.

***Executive Session:***

*A MOTION* was made by Mr. Panico to amend the executive session agenda to add *Potential Litigation*, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

***Personnel/Police***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

***#R-2025-180***

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING MICHAEL COLUMBO  
AS PERMENANT POLICE OFFICER***

***WHEREAS***, Michael Columbo was appointed Probationary Police Officer on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, by way of Resolution #R-2024-152; and

***WHEREAS***, Probationary Police Officer Michael Columbo has successfully completed his one (1) year probationary period in accordance with the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Township of Readington and P.B.A. Local #317.

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED***, the Township Committee appoints Probationary Police Officer Michael Columbo as Permanent Police Officer for Readington Township effective September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at a salary set by contract.

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Mr. Albanese    | - Aye |
| Mr. Heller      | - Aye |
| Mr. Huelsebusch | - Aye |
| Mr. Panico      | - Aye |
| Mayor Mueller   | - Aye |

***Contract Negotiations/Website Services***

Deputy Mayor Panico stated that no action was required.

***Attorney-Client Privilege/Executive Session Minutes/September 2, 2025, and September 8, 2025***

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 2, 2025, and September 8, 2025, meeting for content only, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Mr. Albanese    | - Aye |
| Mr. Heller      | - Aye |
| Mr. Huelsebusch | - Aye |
| Mr. Panico      | - Aye |
| Mayor Mueller   | - Aye |

***Potential Litigation/Affordable Housing***

Deputy Mayor Panico stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

***Potential Litigation***

Deputy Mayor Panico stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

***CONSENT AGENDA:***

Mayor Mueller read the following statement:

*All items listed with an asterisk "\*" are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a committee member or citizen requests, in which event the item will be removed from the General Order of Business and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.*

Mayor Mueller asked if there were any comments from the public.

1. **\*APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of the meeting on September 2, 2025, and September 8, 2025

2. *\* CMS Construction Inc./Harriet's Mobile Home Park Sanitary Sewer Extension Payment #1*
3. *\*Tax Lien Redemption*

The following resolution were offered for consideration:

***READINGTON TOWNSHIP  
HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
RESOLUTION***

***WHEREAS***, an interested party has paid to the Tax Collector the amount necessary to redeem the lien on Block 21.06, Lot 301.07 and,

***WHEREAS***, it is the desire of the Tax Collector to refund to the lienholder the redemption amount.

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED***, by the Township Committee that the Treasurer be authorized to refund the redemption amount of \$1,113.33, plus a premium paid in the amount of \$500.00, known as Tax Sale Certificate #2023-006, to the lienholder, Pro Cap 8 FBO Firsttrust Bank.

4. *\*Veterans Tax Refund*

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

***#R-2025-179***

***READINGTON TOWNSHIP  
HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
RESOLUTION***

***WHEREAS***, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the property owner of Block 34, Lot 36.052 is a 100% permanently disabled veteran (date of determination – July 1, 2025); and

***WHEREAS***, the property owner purchased the property on August 7, 2023; and

***WHEREAS***, the Readington Township Tax Assessor approved the application for 100% exempt status on August 6, 2025.

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED***, by the Township Committee that the Tax Collector be authorized to cancel the 2025 property taxes for the time period of August 6 – December 31, 2025, and refund the owner \$880.55, the amount of taxes overpaid in 2025.

5. ***\*Payment of Bills*** – (Complete bill list is on file in Clerk's Office)

| <b><u>Fund Description</u></b> | <b><u>Fund No.</u></b> | <b><u>Received Total</u></b> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| GENERAL                        | 4-01                   | \$ 375.00                    |
| GENERAL                        | 5-01                   | \$ 905,610.24                |
| SEWER UTILITY OP FUND          | 5-02                   | \$ 46,548.46                 |
| GENERAL                        | G-01                   | \$ 203,120.32                |
| SEWER UTILITY OP FUND          | G-02                   | \$ 19,614.12                 |
| OTHER TRUST                    | X-03                   | \$ 7,981.48                  |
| PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS             | X-06                   | \$ 212,349.80                |
| 2015 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT       | X-15                   | \$ 114,000.00                |
| <b>TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS</b>      |                        | <b>\$ 1,509,599.42</b>       |

***A MOTION*** was made by Mr. Panico to approve the Consent Agenda seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese - Aye  
Mr. Heller - Aye  
Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye  
Mr. Panico - Aye  
Mayor Mueller - Aye

***POLICE AWARDS***

Police Chief Steve Rindock recognized ten Readington Township Police Officers with Life Saving Awards; Lieutenant Jack Mazellan, Corporal Jacob Belardo, Detective Miles Smith, Officer Anthony Albanese, Officer Kevin Bereheiko, Corporal David Bodine, Officer Dylan Hourihan, Officer Mike Columbo, Officer Mike Ramos and Officer Ryan Donovan.

***POLICE CHIEF REPORT***

Police Chief Steve Rindock thanked the Committee for their support and reported on recent department activity. He stated that fifteen officers received promotions or new assignments, and the traffic division has been restructured to ensure that a traffic-certified officer is on every shift. He noted that the Community Outreach Team continues their amazing work and additional staffing may be needed in the future. He further stated that the department is operating at full capacity, prompting ongoing discussions about a new building and the goal of achieving accreditation.

The Mayor commended Chief Rindock for his leadership and expressed appreciation for the work of the entire Police Department.

***COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC*** for items listed on the agenda only.

Tony Dargis inquired about the difference between the old airport ordinance, and the amended ordinance.

***PUBLIC HEARINGS***

1. ***An Ordinance Amending Chapter 148 (Land Use) of the Municipal Code of the Township of Readington to Create a New Section 27.4 Entitled "Solberg Hunterdon Airport Zone Districts" – Ordinance #19-2025***

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Panico to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read the ordinance by Title:

***AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 148 (LAND USE) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON TO CREATE A NEW SECTION 27.4 ENTITLED "SOLBERG-HUNTERDON AIRPORT ZONE DISTRICTS" ORDINANCE #19-2025***

Mayor Mueller introduced Township Planner Michael Sullivan who provided an overview of the ordinance which creates air safety zones and creates the Solberg-Hunterdon airport zoning district. He stated that in addition, it provides for a zoning map that delineates the air safety zones and describes the Airside and Landside subzones. Mr. Sullivan summarized the difference between this ordinance and the previously introduced ordinance stating that issues previously raised had been assessed and addressed accordingly. Mr. Sullivan noted a typographical error on page 8 of the ordinance regarding the width of runway 13-31 of 200 feet that was omitted but is correctly shown on the map.

Mayor Mueller asked if there were any comments from the governing body.

Deputy Mayor asked Mr. Sullivan about the difference in runway lengths between the Township and the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) and DOT (Department of Transportation), the use of hangers and long-term storage.

Mayor Mueller asked if there were any comments from the public.

Ed Nagle stated that the FAA and the DOT define Runway 422 as 5,598 by 50 and inspect and approve it that way. He questioned relying on an individual's assessment when licensed agencies have different information of the runway length.

Bob Shoenfield asked about the difference between helicopters and eVTOL's (Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing Aircrafts) if they are permitted or not. He also questioned if storing a single vehicle long-term in a hangar would be a safety issue.

Tony Dargis inquired if eVTOL's are prohibited under this ordinance.

Carolyn Fimbel inquired about the possibility of a future restaurant at the airport, storage tanks, and if there would be restrictions for hours of operation.

Diana Schulze inquired about the Airport Safety Hazard Act and enforcement of traffic patterns. She also inquired if drones and model airplanes are permitted.

Bob Shoenfield inquired when the ordinance would be voted on and questioned how it could be voted on with a discrepancy in the runway length.

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this ordinance, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Mr. Albanese    | -Aye  |
| Mr. Heller      | - Aye |
| Mr. Huelsebusch | - Aye |
| Mr. Panico      | - Aye |
| Mayor Mueller   | - Aye |

#### ***CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER INFORMATION***

1. ***Letter from Raritan Township*** – Introduction of Ordinance Amending the Township’s Tree Removal/Replacement Regulations – Ordinance 25-36 - No action taken.

#### ***NEW BUSINESS***

1. ***Resolution Authorizing the Township Qualified Purchasing Agent to Solicit Requests for Bids for Pulaski Road Section 4 Road Improvements***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

***#R-2025-182***

#### ***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR PULASKI ROAD SECTION 4 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS***

***WHEREAS***, the Township of Readington has determined that improvements are necessary to Pulaski Road; and

***WHEREAS***, the Township Engineer has prepared preliminary plans and specifications for said improvements and recommends proceeding with the solicitation of bids; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4 and the Local Public Contracts Law, the Township may solicit bids for public works projects exceeding the bid threshold; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township has appointed a Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq., who is authorized to oversee the bidding process;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the Township Qualified Purchasing Agent is hereby authorized to solicit bids for the Pulaski Road Section 4 Road Improvements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Mr. Albanese    | - Aye |
| Mr. Heller      | - Aye |
| Mr. Huelsebusch | - Aye |
| Mr. Panico      | - Aye |
| Mayor Mueller   | - Aye |

2. ***Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Community Based Deer Management Grant Award***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

**#R-2025-183**

***RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMUNITY BASED DEER  
MANAGEMENT GRANT AWARD***

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Readington has an extensive deer management program; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection offers a Community Based Deer Management Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Readington has been awarded the grant under the Venison Donation initiative; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the Township of Readington Municipal Court is hereby authorized to accept funding from the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in the amount of \$6,000.00.

*A MOTION* was made by Mr. Panico to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Mr. Albanese    | - Aye |
| Mr. Heller      | - Aye |
| Mr. Huelsebusch | - Aye |
| Mr. Panico      | - Aye |
| Mayor Mueller   | - Aye |

3. ***Resolution Authorizing Insertion of Special Item of Revenue and Appropriation into Budget for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Community Based Deer Management Grant \$6,000.00***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

***#R-2025-184***

***RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION INTO THE BUDGET FOR THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMUNITY BASED DEER MANAGEMENT GRANT \$6,000.00***

***WHEREAS***, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any County or Municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

***WHEREAS***, the Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for an equal amount.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** by the Township of Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the Township hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2025 in the sum of \$6,000.00 which item is now available as a revenue from the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the provision of statute; and

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*** that the like sum of \$6,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption "Deer Mgmt Grant".

*A MOTION* was made by Mr. Panico to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Mr. Albanese    | - Aye |
| Mr. Heller      | - Aye |
| Mr. Huelsebusch | - Aye |

Mr. Panico - Aye  
Mayor Mueller - Aye

**4. Resolution Amending the Cash Management Plan for the Year 2025**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

**#R-2025-185**

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON**  
**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2025**

**WHEREAS**, the Local Fiscal Affairs Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-1, et seq., requires municipalities to adopt a Cash Management Plan which is designed to assure, to the extent practical, investment of local funds in interest-bearing accounts and other permitted investments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cash Management Plan must include: (1) the designation of a public depository or depositories; (2) the authorization for investments as permitted by applicable laws; (3) the annual submission of the Cash Management Plan to the governing body to be approved by a majority vote of the governing body; (4) an annual audit of the Cash Management Plan; and (5) that when an investment is in bonds which mature in more than one year, a determination that the maturity approximates the prospective time when such funds are needed; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 7, 2025, the Township Committee adopted the Cash Management Plan for 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Chief Financial Officer recommends the Cash Management Plan for 2025 be amended to rescind the Change Fund in the amount of \$100.00 for the Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Chief Financial Officer further recommends the Cash Management Plan for 2025 be amended to update the Designation of Depositories.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the attached amended Cash Management Plan is hereby adopted for the year 2025.

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Hulsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese - Aye

Mr. Heller - Aye  
Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye  
Mr. Panico - Aye  
Mayor Mueller - Aye

**5. Resolution Authorizing the Application for the County Open Space Trust Fund**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION  
FOR THE COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND**

**WHEREAS**, The Hunterdon County Commissioners has approved an Open Space Trust Fund and established a Municipal Grants Program to provide County Funds in connection with preserving open space, natural areas, farmland and historic sites; to acquire, develop, improve and maintain county and municipal lands for recreation and conservation purposes; and preservation of historic structures, properties, facilities, sites, areas or objects; or for the payment of debt service or indebtedness issued or incurred by the municipality for any of the purposes described above; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Readington desires to further public interest by obtaining funding in the amount of \$67,105.00 from the County of Hunterdon to fund the replacement of court lighting in Pickell Park at a cost of \$117,105.00;

**WHEREAS**, the County of Hunterdon shall determine if the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the Hunterdon County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Plan, applicable County Commissioners Board Policies and the Procedures Manual for the Municipal Grant Program adopted thereto, and notify the Municipality of the amount of the funding award: and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipality is willing to use the County funds in accordance with such adopted Policies and procedures, and applicable state and local government rules, regulations and statutes;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Readington Township Committee that:

1. Gabrielle Bolarakis of the above-named Municipality is hereby authorized to execute any documents and agreements with the County of Hunterdon known as Replacement Pickell Park Court Lighting; and
2. Gabrielle Bolarakis is further authorized to: 1) make applications for such County Open Space Trust Funds; 2) provide additional application information and furnish such documents

as may be required, and 3) act as the authorized correspondent of the above-named Municipality; and

3. The Municipality has its share of funds, if required, in the amount of \$50,000.00; and
4. That, in the event the County of Hunterdon's funds are less than the total project cost specified above, the applicant has the balance of funding necessary to complete the project; and
5. That the applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and
6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

*A MOTION* was made by Mr. Heller to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Albanese and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Mr. Albanese    | - Aye |
| Mr. Heller      | - Aye |
| Mr. Huelsebusch | - Nay |
| Mr. Panico      | - Nay |
| Mayor Mueller   | - Nay |

*This resolution was not adopted.*

***6. Resolution Endorsing the County Municipal Park and Recreation Grant Application***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

***#R-2025-186***

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON  
RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE COUNTY MUNICIPAL PARK & RECREATION GRANT  
APPLICATION***

***WHEREAS***, the Hunterdon County Open Space, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund ("County Open Space Trust Fund"), provides matching grants to municipal governments and to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the development or redevelopment of outdoor municipal recreation facilities; and

***WHEREAS***, the Township of Readington desires to further public interest by obtaining a matching grant of \$65,565.00 from the County Trust Fund to fund the following project: dugout renovations and fencing replacement in Hillcrest Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing body/board has reviewed the Municipal Park and Recreation Grant Program application and instructions, and desires to make an application for such a matching grant and provide application information and furnish such documents as may be required; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Hunterdon shall determine whether the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the Municipal Park and Recreation Grant Program and the Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, the application is willing to use the County Open Space Trust Fund in accordance with such rules, regulations and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the County of Hunterdon for the above-named project and ensure its completion on or about the project contract expiration date.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Readington Township Committee that:

1. It is hereby authorized to submit the above completed project application to the County by the Deadline of August 29, 2025, as established by the County; and
2. That, in the event of a County Trust Fund award that may be less than the grant amount requested above, the Readington Township Committee has, or will secure, the balance of funding necessary to complete the project, or modify the project as necessary; and
3. That the Readington Township Committee is committed to providing a 25% cash match for the project; and
4. That only those park improvements identified and approved in the project application, its Project contract, or other documentation will be considered eligible for reimbursement; and
5. The Readington Township Committee agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and
6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Mr. Albanese    | - Aye |
| Mr. Heller      | - Aye |
| Mr. Huelsebusch | - Aye |
| Mr. Panico      | - Aye |
| Mayor Mueller   | - Aye |

7. ***Resolution Endorsing the Application to the New Jersey Historical Commission for the Installation of a Historical Marker***

Mayor Mueller invited Jim Carden, Historic Preservation Commission member and resident, to speak about the resolution. Mr. Carden stated his full endorsement of the resolution and provided information on the history of Readington and the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

**#R-2025-187**

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON  
RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A HISTORICAL MARKER***

***WHEREAS***, the New Jersey Historical Commission, through its Revolution NJ initiative, is sponsoring a program to install historical markers throughout the State in recognition of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence; and

***WHEREAS***, the Township of Readington was located on the route of march taken by the New England Army in December 1776 as the troops advanced to join General George Washington in Pennsylvania prior to the pivotal Battle of Trenton on December 26, 1776; and

***WHEREAS***, the Readington Township Committee endorses the submission of an application for the installation of a historical marker commemorating this significant Revolutionary War event within the Township; and

***WHEREAS***, the Township Committee is honored to participate in this program commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and recognizes the importance of commemorating Readington's role in this critical moment in American history, and supports efforts to preserve, interpret, and share this heritage with the public; and

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington hereby endorses the submission of an application to the New Jersey Historical Commission for the installation of a State Historical Marker commemorating the December 1776 march of the New England Army through Readington Township; and

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that the Mayor and Township Clerk are authorized to prepare and execute the necessary documents, and to take any additional actions required to complete and submit the application on behalf of the Township.

***A MOTION*** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese - Aye  
Mr. Heller - Aye  
Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye  
Mr. Panico - Aye  
Mayor Mueller - Aye

8. ***Resolution Authorizing the Donation of a Readington Township Fire Engine to the Hunterdon County Emergency Services Training Center***

Chief Tim Apgar was present and briefly spoke in favor of the donation of the fire engine to the County training center.

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

**#R-2025-188**

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF A READINGTON TOWNSHIP  
FIRE ENGINE TO THE HUNTERDON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING  
CENTER***

***WHEREAS***, the Township of Readington is the owner of a surplus fire engine, specifically a 1993 Pierce Fire Engine, VIN #4PICT02M2PA000534; and

***WHEREAS***, the Township has determined that this vehicle is beyond its service life and no longer needed for municipal purposes; and

***WHEREAS***, the Township Committee finds that the donation of said vehicle will serve a valuable public purpose by supporting countywide emergency services training; and

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED***, by the Township Committee of the Readington Township that the 1993 Pierce Fire Engine, VIN #4PICT02M2PA000534, is hereby declared surplus property and authorized to be donated to the Hunterdon County Emergency Services Training Center effective September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025; and

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that the Administrator, Clerk, and any other necessary municipal officials are authorized to execute any documents required to effectuate this donation.

***A MOTION*** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese - Aye  
Mr. Heller - Aye  
Mr. Huelsebusch - Aye

Mr. Panico - Aye  
Mayor Mueller - Aye

***9. An Ordinance Creating a Refunding Mechanism for Certain Application Fees Related to the Issuance of Handgun Permits in the Township of Readington – Ordinance #20-2025***

The following ordinance was introduced:

***TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON  
AN ORDINANCE CREATING A REFUNDING MECHANISM FOR CERTAIN APPLICATION  
FEES RELATED TO THE ISSUANCE OF CONCEALED CARRY PERMITS IN THE TOWNSHIP  
OF READINGTON***

***Ordinance# 20-2025***

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4, applicants for permits to carry a handgun are required to pay an application fee in the amount of \$200, of which \$150 is paid to the municipality and \$50 is paid directly to the Superintendent of the State Police; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Readington recognizes that the statutory fee structure imposes financial burdens on applicants and wishes to ease that burden for residents by offering refunds of the Township of Readington's portion of the application fee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Readington recognizes that the United States Supreme Court has long held that taxes on fundamental rights are unconstitutional and that the statutory fee prescribed by N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4 is in excess of a mere processing fee and is therefore a tax on a core constitutional right; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Readington has determined that it is in the public interest to establish an administrative process for refunding the \$150 municipal portion of the application fee upon appropriate documentation;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Committee of Readington Township as follows:

**Section I**

There is hereby established an Article VI of Chapter 119 entitled "Firearm Fees."

**Section II**

Section 119-21 is hereby created in Chapter 119 of the municipal code of the Township of Readington and shall be inserted in the aforementioned Article VI thereof and shall appear as follows (all text novel):

Section 119-21            Establishment and Purpose

The Township of Readington has determined that it is in the public interest to establish a refunding mechanism for the municipal portion of the handgun licensing fee established by the State of New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4.

### **Section III**

Section 119-22 is hereby created in Chapter 119 of the municipal code of the Township of Readington and shall be inserted in the aforementioned Article VI thereof and shall appear as follows (all text novel):

#### **Section 119-22          Refund Authorization**

Any applicant who has paid the \$150 municipal application fee for a handgun carry permit on or after January 1, 2025, and who submits a valid receipt showing payment, may apply to the Township of Readington's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for a refund of \$150, representing the portion of the statutory fee paid to Township of Readington under N.J.S.A 2C:58-4.

### **Section IV**

Section 119-23 is hereby created in Chapter 119 of the municipal code of the Township of Readington and shall be inserted in the aforementioned Article VI thereof and shall appear as follows (all text novel):

#### **Section 119-23          Procedure for Refund**

Refunds shall be issued upon applicant's submission to the CFO of (a) proof of payment, and (b) confirmation that the application was processed through the Township of Readington.

The Township of Readington CFO is hereby authorized to administer this refund program and to require any reasonable documentation necessary to confirm eligibility.

### **Section V**

Section 119-24 is hereby created in Chapter 119 of the municipal code of the Township of Readington and shall be inserted in the aforementioned Article VI thereof and shall appear as follows (all text novel):

#### **Section 119-24          Limitation on Refund**

This refund policy applies only to the municipal portion of the fee and does not apply to any amounts remitted by the applicant directly to the State of New Jersey or other agencies. Refunds shall be available only for payments made on or after January 1, 2025.

### **Section VI**

All ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

## **Section VII**

If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to this section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision and the remainder of this Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

## **Section VII**

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and publication in the manner required by New Jersey general law.

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to introduce this ordinance, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Mr. Albanese    | -Aye  |
| Mr. Heller      | - Nay |
| Mr. Huelsebusch | - Aye |
| Mr. Panico      | - Aye |
| Mayor Mueller   | - Aye |

The Clerk stated that the Public Hearing is scheduled for October 20, 2025, at 7:45 p.m.

### ***10. Request to Hold the 2025 Annual Coin Toss Fundraiser/Whitehouse Fire Company – September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> (Rain Dates: September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>)***

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to approve the Coin Toss Fundraiser for Whitehouse Fire Co., seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Mr. Albanese    | -Aye  |
| Mr. Heller      | - Aye |
| Mr. Huelsebusch | - Aye |
| Mr. Panico      | - Aye |
| Mayor Mueller   | - Aye |

### ***11. Request for Waiver of Temporary Food Handlers License Fee/Whitehouse School Welcome Back Block Party***

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to grant the fee waiver, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese - Aye  
Mr. Heller - Aye  
Mr. Hulsebusch - Aye  
Mr. Panico - Aye  
Mayor Mueller - Aye

1. ***Special Event Permit Application/Brakes and Briskets BBQ/Auto Equinox (9/21, 10/5, 10/12 & 10/19)***

***A MOTION*** was made by Mr. Panico to approve the Special Event Permit, seconded by Mr. Hulsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese - Aye  
Mr. Heller - Aye  
Mr. Hulsebusch - Aye  
Mr. Panico - Aye  
Mayor Mueller - Aye

***ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT***

Administrator Curry stated that he had nothing further to report.

***ATTORNEY'S REPORT***

Attorney Corsini stated that he had nothing further to report.

***COMMITTEE REPORTS***

**JONATHAN ALBANESE**

Mr. Albanese stated he had nothing further to report.

**JONATHAN HELLER**

Mr. Heller stated he had nothing further to report.

**JUERGEN HULSEBUSCH**

Mr. Hulsebusch stated that the next Open Space walk will be at Pleasant Run on Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup>. He reported that the girl scouts will be making and installing wood duck boxes for Open Space properties and the kestrel program is in its second year with a goal of 50 boxes throughout the township.

**ADAM MUELLER**

Mayor Mueller reported there have been numerous complaints recently regarding the trash haulers hours of operation and that the zoning Official was looking into regulations implemented by neighboring towns. He also reminded residents that schools are back in session and emphasized the importance of not passing school buses.

#### **VINCENT PANICO**

Deputy Mayor Panico reported on upcoming museum events including the Season of Music event on September 21<sup>st</sup>, featuring bluegrass music, and the semi-regular barn dance on October 11<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the Chief provided a thorough police report, noting that they have been busy and thanked all first responders.

#### ***COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC***

Tim Apgar inquired on the status of the grant that was received for the crosswalks on Main Street in Whitehouse Station.

#### ***COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY***

There were none.

As there was no further business, *A MOTION* was made by Mr. Panico at 9:30 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Submitted by:

Ann Marie Lehberger, *RMC*  
Municipal Clerk