

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP REGULAR SESSION JANUARY 3, 2023

The Township Committee met on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 295 Bordentown-Chesterfield Road, Chesterfield, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order by the Township Clerk, Caryn Hoyer at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Salute to the Flag and Moment of Silence.

The Open Public Meetings Act statement was read and compliance noted.

AGENDA MATTER(S) REQUIRING RECUSAL(S)

Ms. Blazic advised she would be recusing herself from Resolution 2023-1-4 and Resolution 2024-1-5.

OATH OF OFFICE

David Sass, Esq. administered the Oath of Office to Committeeman Matthew Litt.

David Sass, Esq. administered the Oath of Office to Committeeman Shreekant Dhopte.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present: Belinda Blazic, Denise Koetas-Dale, Jeremy Liedtka, Matthew Litt, Shreekant Dhopte

Also present: Thomas A. Sahol, Township Administrator; Caryn M. Hoyer, Township Clerk; Rachel Fryc, Deputy Clerk; Troy Ulshafer, Public Works Manager and Michael Davison, Chief of Police

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE OF MAYOR

Ms. Hoyer asked for nomination for the Office of Mayor. Mr. Dhopte nominated Denise Koetas-Dale seconded by Mr. Litt.

Roll Call: YEA: Blazic, Koetas-Dale, Liedtka, Dhopte, Litt

David Sass, Esq. administered the Oaths of Office to Mayor Denise Koetas-Dale.

Mayor Koetas-Dale presided over the meeting.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Mayor Koetas-Dale asked for nomination for the office of Deputy Mayor. Mr. Litt nominated Mr. Dhopte for Deputy Mayor seconded by Ms. Koetas-Dale.

Roll Call: YEA: Blazic, Koetas-Dale, Liedtka, Dhopte, Litt

David Sass, Esq. administered the Oath of Office to Deputy Mayor Shreekant Dhopte.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Koetas-Dale suggested changing the resolution to have closed session meeting when necessary at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular meeting beginning at 7:00

p.m. All agreed to amend the resolution accordingly. Motion by Mr. Liedtka, seconded by Mr. Litt to approve Resolution 2023-1-1 as amended. Voice vote – All ayes.

**RESOLUTION 2023-1-1 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MEETING
DATES OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE FOR
THE YEAR 2023**

Motion by Mr. Dhopte seconded by Mr. Liedtka to approve Resolution 2023-1-2.
Voice vote – All Ayes

**RESOLUTION 2023-1-2 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HOLIDAY
SCHEDULE FOR NON-UNION EMPLOYEES OF
CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP**

Motion by Mr. Dhopte seconded by Ms. Blazic to approve Resolution 2023-1-3.
Voice vote – All Ayes

**RESOLUTION 2023-1-3 RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL
NEWSPAPERS FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF
CHESTERFIELD FOR THE YEAR 2023**

Motion by Mr. Liedtka seconded by Mr. Litt to approve Resolution 2023-1-4. Voice vote – All Ayes except Ms. Blazic who recused herself and did not participate.

**RESOLUTION 2023-1-4 RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL
DEPOSITORIES FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF
CHESTERFIELD**

Motion by Mr. Liedtka seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolution 2023-1-5.
Voice vote – All Ayes except Ms. Blazic who recused herself and did not participate.

**RESOLUTION 2023-1-5 RESOLUTION ADOPTING CASH MANAGE-
MENT PLAN**

Motion by Mr. Liedtka seconded by Ms. Blazic to approve Resolution 2023-1-6.
Voice vote – All Ayes

**RESOLUTION 2023-1-6 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RATE OF
INTEREST FOR DELINQUENT TAXES AND
DUPLICATE TAX BILL FEE**

Motion made by Mr. Liedtka seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolution 2023-1-7. Voice vote – All Ayes

**RESOLUTION 2023-1-7 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PENALTY RATE
FOR TAX TITLE LIENS**

Motion by Mr. Liedtka seconded by Ms. Blazic to approve Resolution 2023-1-8.
Voice vote – All Ayes

RESOLUTION 2023-1-8

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL SMALL BALANCES

Motion by Mr. Dhopte seconded by Mr. Liedtka to approve Resolution 2023-1-9.
Roll Call: YEA: Blazic, Koetas-Dale, Liedtka, Dhopte, Litt

RESOLUTION 2023-1-9

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

Motion made by Mr. Liedtka, seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolution 2023-1-10. Voice vote – All Ayes

RESOLUTION 2023-1-10

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHECK PRIOR TO BILL LIST APPROVAL

Motion by Mr. Liedtka, seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolution 2023-1-11. Voice vote – All Ayes

RESOLUTION 2023-1-11

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ASSESSOR TO FILE APPEALS TO MAINTAIN ASSESSEMENT ACCURACY

Motion by Mr. Liedtka, seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolution 2023-1-12. Voice vote – All Ayes

RESOLUTION 2023-1-12

RESOLUTION APPOINTING FUND COMMISSIONER FOR THE BURLINGTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND

Motion by Mr. Liedtka, seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolution 2023-1-13. Voice vote – All Ayes

RESOLUTION 2023-1-13

RESOLUTION APPOINTING CONTACT PERSON FOR THE EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY ATTORNEY CONSULTATION SERVICE OF THE BURLINGTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND

Motion by Mr. Liedtka, seconded by Mr. Litt to approve Resolution 2023-1-14. Voice vote – All Ayes

RESOLUTION 2023-1-14

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Motion by Mr. Dhopte seconded by Ms. Blazic to approve Resolution 2023-1-15. Voice vote – All Ayes

RESOLUTION 2023-1-15

RESOLUTION APPOINTING CERTAIN TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES

Motion by Mr. Dhopte, seconded by Mr. Liedtka to approve Resolution 2023-1-16. Voice vote – All Ayes

RESOLUTION 2023-1-16**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE PAYMENT DATES FOR LEVY TO THE FIRE DISTRICT**

Mr. Liedtka made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic approving Resolution 2023-1-17 with Parker McCay as Township Solicitor.

Roll Call: YES: Blazic, Liedtka,
NO: Dhopte, Litt, Koetas-Dale

Mr. Litt made a motion to reject all of the RFPs for Township Solicitor. Mr. Liedtka disagreed since one is qualified. Ms. Koetas-Dale agreed with Mr. Litt. Mr. Liedtka requested to make the memo from conflict Attorney, Doug Heinold public. Mr. Litt does not agree without asking the attorney if the attorney client memo can be public. Mr. Litt made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to reject all proposals for the appointment of Township Solicitor and issue a new RFP and have the current Township Solicitor John Gillespie in the interim.

Roll Call: YES: Dhopte, Litt, Koetas-Dale
NO: Blazic, Liedtka

Mr. Liedtka requested discussing the RFP process and changes at the next Township meeting. Mr. Litt suggested removing the minimum experience requirement for the RFP in order to give the Township discretion to choose the appropriate attorney without an arbitrary requirement. Ms. Koetas-Dale stated that she would like to have more flexibility to the RFP process and suggested we revise the RFP process at the next meeting. After some discussion regarding having a special meeting, the Township Committee agreed it should be on the January 26th regular meeting to discuss the RFP process.

Mr. Liedtka made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic to approve resolution 2023-1-18 with ERI as the Township Engineer.

Roll Call: YES: Blazic, Liedtka,
NO: Dhopte, Litt, Koetas-Dale

Ms. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Mr. Litt to approve resolution 2023-1-18 with Roberts Engineering as the Township Engineer.

Roll Call: YES: Dhopte, Litt, Koetas-Dale
NO: Blazic, Liedtka

RESOLUTION 2023-1-18**RESOLUTION APOINTING TOWNSHIP ENGINEER FOR THE YEAR 2023**

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Mr. Liedtka approving Resolution appointing Bowman & Company LLC for Township Auditor.

Roll Call: YES: Blazic, Liedtka, Dhopte, Litt, Koetas-Dale

RESOLUTION 2023-1-19**RESOLUTION APPOINTING TOWNSHIP
AUDITOR FOR THE YEAR 2023**

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Mr. Litt to approve Resolution 2023-1-20 with Malamut & Associates LLC for Township Bond Counsel.

Roll Call: YES: Blazic, Liedtka, Dhopte, Litt, Koetas-Dale

RESOLUTION 2023-1-20**RESOLUTION APPOINTING TOWNSHIP BOND
COUNSEL FOR THE YEAR 2023**

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Mr. Litt to approve Resolution 2023-1-21 with Evan Crook of Malamut & Associates LLC for Labor Attorney.

Roll Call: YES: Dhopte, Litt, Koetas-Dale
NO: Blazic, Liedtka

RESOLUTION 2023-1-21**RESOLUTION APPOINTING TOWNSHIP
LABOR ATTORNEY FOR THE YEAR 2023**

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Mr. Litt nominating The Barclay Group for Risk Management Consultant.

Roll Call: YEAS: Blazic, Dhopte, Litt, Koetas-Dale
NOES: Liedtka

RESOLUTION 2023-1-22**RESOLUTION APPOINTING RISK
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FOR THE
BURLINGTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL JOINT
INSURANCE FUND**

Mr. Litt asked what the former committee members experience was with this court. Mayor Koetas-Dale replied it has been an excellent relationship. Chief Davison fully supports the agreement.

Mr. Litt made a motion seconded by Mr. Liedtka. All were in favor.

RESOLUTION 2023-1-23**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SHARED
SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH TOWNSHIP OF
BORDENTOWN REGARDING A SHARED
MUNICIPAL COURT****REPORTS & DISCUSSION****Mayoral Appointments -**

Planning Board: Mayor Koetas-Dale appointed Karl Braun as Class II member and Matt Litt as Class III member. Mayor Koetas-Dale will be Class I member, Jeffery Kolakowski will be Class IV member and Roman Horoszewski will be 2nd Alternate.

Environmental Commission: Mayor Koetas-Dale reappointed Nancy Scarafale as the TC Member to the Environmental Commission. Mayor Koetas-Dale appointed Belinda Blazic and Suruchi Batra.

Township Committee Appointments –

HPC: Mayor Koetas-Dale re-appointed Robert Forwood as Class A member, James Codella as Class C member and Jill Moraca as Alternate member. With Debbie Kelly stepping down, Mayor Koetas-Dale recommends Joe Ratajczak to be appointed.

Ag Advisory Board: Mayor Koetas-Dale suggested doing the appointments at the January 26th meeting.

Shade Tree Advisory Board: Ms. Koetas-Dale stated that Dan Brown and Roseanne Greenberg have agreed to serve for another term.

Mayor Koetas-Dale appointed the following Township Committee Liaisons:

Building & Grounds/Public Works & Roads – Liedtka & Koetas-Dale
Finance – Dhopte & Liedtka
Personnel – Blazic & Koetas-Dale
Administration – Litt & Liedtka
Economic Development – Dhopte
Agriculture Advisory Board – will determine at the January 26th meeting
Historic Preservation – Koetas-Dale & Litt
Shade Tree Advisory – Koetas-Dale & Dhopte
Municipal Alliance – Koetas-Dale

Mr. Liedtka made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic to open the meeting to the public. All were in favor.

Lee Panfili, 518 Ward Avenue congratulated Mr. Dhopte and Mr. Litt. He stated that the town solicitor should be set at the highest standards. He is concerned to hear the current Township Committee is thinking about lowering their RFP standards for the professionals. Mr. Panfili said that John Gillespie has helped build this town and has history. He asked that the Committee not lower their standards. Mayor Koetas-Dale agreed that she does not want to lower the RFP standards but that the current process does not fit our needs. She feels strongly that the residents want a change with the professionals and she wants to make that change.

Shamita Kumar, 39 Harness Way congratulated all of the Township Committee members. She invites members of the community such as Mr. Panfli to lend their knowledge to the Township Committee and Professionals. She would like the Township to be more transparent, objective and honest going forward. She says that the Township Attorney should take care of and listen to the residents first.

Burlington County Commissioner Balvir Singh - Congratulated the Township Committee and wished them a Happy New Year.

Christina Hoggan, read her disclaimer as a member of the BOE. She stated that having less years of experience for an attorney does not equal unqualified and changing firms in government is not unusual.

Hearing no further comments, Mr. Liedtka made a motion seconded by Mr. Litt to close public comment. All were in favor.

Mr. Liedtka stated that Mr. Heinold has advised him he can release the memo regarding the RFP's. Mr. Litt replied that if we release that memo he is concerned that it sets a precedent for all and any future attorney privilege documents.

Mr. Litt made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:53 pm. All were in favor. Mr. Liedtka was reserved to go into executive session without the Township Attorney present.

Mr. Liedtka made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to return to regular session at 8:09 PM. All were in favor.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Liedtka and seconded by Mr. Dhopte. All were in favor. Meeting Adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Caryn M. Hoyer, RMC
Township Clerk