

MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MAY 1, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Miller at approximately 7:00 P.M. with the opening statement that the meeting had been duly advertised and met all the requirements of the Sunshine Law. Also present were: Deputy Mayor Hamilton, Councilman Kula, Manager Marianne Smith and Clerk Jane Bakalarczyk. Councilman Ross was absent from this meeting.

SALUTE THE FLAG

OATH OF OFFICE – Frank Cicerale – Council Vacancy Temporary Appointment

Frank Cicerale was sworn in to office by Mayor Miller to fill the unexpired term of Kenneth P. Kievit until the 2012 General Election.

CONSENT AGENDA: ALL MATTERS LISTED BELOW ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE IN NATURE AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THE ITEMS. IF ANY DISCUSSION IS DESIRED, THAT PARTICULAR ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND WILL BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY.

Agreements/Applications/Licenses:

- 1. Raffle – Junior Achievement of New Jersey, Inc.

A motion was made by Kula to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Hamilton. All in favor with Cicerale abstaining. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES:

1st READING: None

ORDINANCES:

2nd READING: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Resolution #25-12 – Resolution opposing the closing of the inpatient, surgical and ambulatory units of St. Clare’s Hospital in Sussex, New Jersey

RESOLUTION #25-12

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CLOSING OF THE INPATIENT, SURGICAL AND AMBULATORY UNITS OF ST. CLARE’S HOSPITAL IN SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, St. Clare’s Hospital in Sussex, New Jersey, is a vital service provider for essential health care in Sussex County, with a history of providing exemplary and life-saving services for nearly a century, making it an essential part of the community; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a plan being considered which would close the inpatient, surgical, and ambulatory units; and

WHEREAS, the relative geographic isolation of residents living in Northwest New Jersey requires the presence of inpatient, surgical and ambulatory services to ensure a quick response in emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, the closure of such units will have a significant financial impact on the local communities which it serves as a result of the loss of jobs in the area, increased fuel and maintenance costs for ambulance and rescue squads that will have to drive further, and the loss of service for residents/patients; and

WHEREAS, patients will not seek medical care when it is inconvenient to them, particularly senior citizens which are in the most need to of medical care, resulting in unfortunate long term health issues which often create a greater demand on local, county, state, and federal resources ; and

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WHEREAS, the closure of St. Clare's inpatient, surgical, and ambulatory units will result in fewer healthcare dollars for our area while our healthcare costs continue to escalate; and

WHEREAS, the harm that will result from the closure of inpatient services at St. Clare's Hospital in Sussex, New Jersey represents a cost from both a social and economic perspective that far outweighs the lack of a historical profit margins at the facility; and

WHEREAS, the ability to turn a profit while operating this essential, life-saving facility should rely on a progressive, modern marketing plan which will increase utilization and create new job opportunities for the region, rather than falling back on a failure-driven business closure plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Hardyston does hereby oppose the closing of the inpatient, surgical, and ambulatory units at St. Clare's Hospital;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Township Council of the Township of Hardyston does hereby urge the New Jersey Commissioner of Health and Senior Services and Governor Chris Christie, to likewise oppose the Certificate of Need and the closing of St. Clare's Sussex Campus;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk is hereby authorized to forward certified copies of this resolution to Governor Chris Christie, the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, Senator Steven Oroho, Assemblywoman Alison Littel-McHose, and Assemblyman Gary Chiusano.

A motion was made by Hamilton to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Cicerale. All in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS TO BE PAID: A motion was made by Hamilton to approve the bill list as presented, seconded by Kula. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PORTION: A motion was made and seconded to open the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried. No public comment. A motion was made and seconded to close the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Hamilton to adjourn at approximately 7:10 p.m., seconded by Kula. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jane Bakalarczyk, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk