

**MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON MAY 8, 2020**

The meeting was called to order via Zoom webinar by Mayor Kula at approximately 2:00 P.M. with the opening statement that the notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act were satisfied with respect to this meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Hardyston which was held via Zoom webinar. Specifically, the time, date, and public call-in information were included in the meeting notice, posted in the Municipal Building, and sent the official newspapers of the Township, the NJ Herald and the NJ Sunday Herald. Additionally, the agenda and public call-in information for this meeting was posted in the Municipal Building and on the Township website, at least 48 hour preceding the start time of this meeting.

Also present via Zoom webinar were: Deputy Mayor Miller, Councilwoman Hamilton, Councilman Verrilli, Manager Carrine Piccolo-Kaufer, Clerk Jane Bakalarczyk and Township Attorney Fred Semrau of Dorsey & Semrau. Councilman Kaminski was not in attendance.

**SALUTE THE FLAG**

**ORDINANCES**

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING:**

**2020-04**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE TOTAL SUM OF \$345,200.00 FROM GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR FUNDING VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES BY THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDYSTON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY**

**BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Hardyston, County of Sussex, New Jersey, as follows:

**Section 1:** The sum of Three Hundred Forty Five Thousand and Two Hundred Dollars (\$345,200.00) to be utilized out of the General Capital Improvement Fund, is hereby appropriated for the following purpose:

For Various Capital Improvements or Purposes for the Township of Hardyston.

**Section 2:** In connection with the amount authorized in Section 1 hereof, the Township makes the following determination:

(a) The purpose described in Section 1 hereof is not a Current Expense and is an improvement, which the Township of Hardyston may lawfully make as general improvement.

(b) The period of usefulness of the purpose described in section 1 hereof is not in the limitations of the said Local Bond Law and according to the aggregate reasonable life thereof is five (5) years.

**Section 3:** All ordinances or parts of ordinances, which are inconsistent with the terms of this ordinance, be and the same is hereby repealed on to the extent of their inconsistency:

**Section 4:** This ordinance becomes effective immediately upon final passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

A motion was made by Miller to approve Ordinance 2020-04 on first reading, seconded by Verrilli. All in favor. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Tax Collector Resolutions

1. Resolution #33-20 – Resolution authorizing the Tax Collector to process Third Quarter “Estimated” Tax Bills, Due August 1, 2020

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**Resolution # 33-20**

**A Resolution Authorizing the Tax Collector to Process Third Quarter "Estimated" Tax Bills,**

**Due August 1, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, in light of the disruption caused by the coronavirus outbreak, the State delayed the adoption of the State Fiscal Year 2021 Budget to September 30, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) cannot certify State Aid allocations to the municipal budgets until State Aid Appropriations are known; and

**WHEREAS**, the DLGS cannot approve municipal budgets and the County Board of Taxation cannot certify taxes until long after the June 30, 2020 deadline to process third quarter tax bills due August 1, 202; and

**WHEREAS**, without an DLGS approved 2020 Municipal Budget and without a 2020 Certified Tax Rate the Tax Collector cannot process the final 2020 Tax Levy; and

**WHEREAS**, the DLGS "strongly recommends" under Local Finance Notice 2020-07 "that municipalities prepare to issue estimated property tax bills for 2020"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, computed and certified an estimated Tax Levy necessary to bill third quarter taxes due August 1, 2020

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Governing Body of the Township of Hardyston, in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020 that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to process the estimated tax bills for the third quarterly installment of 2020 taxes; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, the third quarterly installment of 2020 taxes shall not be subject to interest until the later of August 10, 2020 or the twenty-fifth (25) calendar day after the date the estimated tax bills were mailed. The estimated tax bills shall contain a notice specifying the date on which interest may begin to accrue.

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

2. Resolution #34-20 – Resolution instituting a grace period through June 1, 2020 for payment of second quarter property taxes due May 1, 2020, pursuant to Executive Order 130

**RESOLUTION # 34-20**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDYSTON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, INSTITUTING A GRACE PERIOD THROUGH JUNE 1, 2020 FOR PAYMENT OF SECOND-QUARTER PROPERTY TAXES DUE MAY 1, 2020, PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 130**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-66(a), second-quarter property taxes in the Township of Hardyston are due May 1, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 28, 2020, in response to New Jersey's ongoing COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency, Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order 130, which authorizes municipalities to institute by resolution a grace period concluding on a date no later than June 1, 2020 for the payment of second-quarter property taxes due May 1, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, while the Township must still meet its continuing financial payment obligations to the County of Sussex and local board of education, the Administration has taken the necessary financial steps to accommodate the extension of the second-quarter payment to June 1, 2020, the latest date permitted by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council finds it in the best interest of the Township to institute a grace period to June 1, 2020, the latest date permitted by law, to provide relief to property owners who may be incurring financial hardship during the COVID-19 emergency.

**MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON MAY 8, 2020**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Hardyston, in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. In accordance with Executive Order 130, the Township of Hardyston hereby institutes a grace period through June 1, 2020 for the payment of second-quarter property taxes.
2. In the event taxes are not paid by June 1, 2020, the Township is obligated to assess applicable interest and penalties as set forth by law.
3. The Township Clerk shall notify the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of this Resolution no later than the third business day following its adoption.

A motion was made by Miller to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Verrilli. 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. The Mayor ensured that the phone lines were available for public comment, they were opened up for public comment and no one from the public wished to be heard. A motion was made and seconded to close the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Verrilli to adjourn at approximately 2:20 p.m., seconded by Hamilton. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jane Bakalarczyk, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk