

TOWNSHIP OF VERNON
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 15, 2024

The Reorganization Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 15, 2024 in the Vernon Municipal Center, 21 Church Street, Vernon, New Jersey.

CALL TO ORDER

STATEMENT: Adequate Notice of this Reorganization Meeting was provided to the public and the press on January 6, 2023 and December 26, 2023 and was posted at the Municipal Building in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-7.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The Township Clerk read the Statement of Determination

ROLL CALL

Present were Council Members Natalie Buccieri, Jessica DeBenedetto, Patrick Rizzuto and Bradley Sparta. Also, Present was Administrator Tina Kraus, CFO Donelle Bright, Township Attorney Joshua Zielinski and Township Clerk Marcy Gianattasio.

SWEARING IN MAYOR ANTHONY ROSSI BY JUDGE PETER LAEMERS

SWEARING IN COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAM HIGGINS BY JUDGE PETER LAEMERS

Council Member Higgins took his seat on the dais.

SWEARING IN COUNCIL MEMBER BRADLEY SPARTA BY ASSEMBLYMAN MICHAEL INGANAMORT

SWEARING IN FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEFS AND DEPUTIES BY ASSEMBLYMAN PARKER SPACE

Vernon Township Fire Commissioner and Chief of Pochuck Valley Fire Dept – John Cosh
Deputy Fire Commissioner – Ted Warnet

Highland Lakes Fire Dept Chief - Scott Semchesyn
Highland Lakes Fire Dept Asst Chief – Karen Thomas

McAfee Fire Dept Chief – Jeff Andersen
McAfee Fire Dept Asst Chief - Mike Passaro

Pochuck Valley Fire Dept Chief - John Cosh
Pochuck Valley Fire Dept Asst. Chief - Brian Enering

Vernon Fire Dept Chief - Ronald Krystofik Jr
Deputy Chief - James Raperto

SWEARING IN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BY ASSEMBLYMAN PARKER SPACE

Chief Operations - Kevin Duffy
Deputy Chief - Peggy Warnet
Operations Lieutenant - Marissa Ajamian

Logistics Lieutenant - Edward Brown
Administrative Lieutenant - Kaylee Muller

A motion was made by Council Member Rizzuto for a recess. Seconded by Council Member Sparta. All Members were in favor.

*******SHORT RECESS*******

A motion was made by Council Member DeBenedetto to resume the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Sparta. All Members were in favor.

STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Performed by Ms. Ali Thomas

INCOMING MAYOR COMMENTS

I think the first order of Business should be making Ali Thomas our official singer for the National Anthem. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you all for coming this evening. Before I start, I want to thank Mayor Howard Burell for his service to our Country and Vernon. As the Mayor or any other elected official would know, we will not please everyone. Still, you, sir, have always remained professional, positive, and available to do this job to the best of your ability, and that's all anyone can ask. Mayor Burell has led this town through the most difficult times our country has seen with COVID knocking on his door, which brought many other challenges, but you got us through that, and I applaud you for that Leadership. I want to thank you for opening the door to me and access to information and staff after the election so that we can have a smooth transition, and just as you did for me, my door (the people's door) will always be open for you. I hope you enjoy your retirement, but I know you will continue to serve our state in some capacity. As you said, it will be on your time, and that's important. Thank you again for your service.

I want to congratulate our new council members, Mr. Bill Higgins and Ms. Jessica DeBenedetto, and the re-elected councilman, Brad Sparta. I also want to congratulate our heroes; those heroes are the men and women who wear the uniform; what you do for the people of this community is unmeasurable. May God bless you, and please stay safe. Let's give them a round of applause.

I also want to applaud some additional people; they don't seem to get the recognition they deserve, and just because they do not have emergency lights on their vehicles doesn't mean they are not heroes. These men and women plow our streets, pave our roads, fill our potholes, clean our streets from falling debris, keep our parks safe and clean so that our children have a safe place to play, and hundreds of other issues they tackle daily. They are our very own DPW.

I want to thank my family and my parents, for always supported me. I hope I made you proud. To my friends and my campaign manager, Kelly Ann Hart, who are seated here today. I thank you for supporting me, and Kelly, thank you for all your hard work on this campaign, which led us here today. I want to thank Carmen, who has been extremely patient with me, especially during this campaign. I know it is a lot to sit there and watch the people you love become a personal and political target, but as you look around the room, it makes it all worth it. Lastly, I want to thank the voters for trusting me to lead Vernon as your next Mayor for the next four years. I take this responsibility seriously and will work hard to deliver results that's ONLY in the best interest of the Vernon taxpayers. Thank you. Today is a special day. Today is the orderly transfer of authority as called for in the Constitution, which happens every 4 years in Vernon and abroad. However, this day is normally on January 1st but this year it was moved to January 15th. It wasn't our decision to move this date, but sometimes things happen for a reason; maybe the reason is that January 15th is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Martin Luther King Jr. was one of the most inspiring and important figures in American history. Dr. King taught us to stand up for what we believe in through civil, peaceful means to unite our nation instead of dividing it. This unity has been seen right here in Vernon. One example of this unity is Mayor Burrell and I. As many of you all know, Mayor Burrell and I sit on two completely opposite sides of the political aisle. The Mayor and I had some

disagreements in the beginning, but we worked through it because that's what is the best interest of Vernon. I'm sure I will not agree on everything with the council and vice versa, but I will work with anyone for the betterment of Vernon. We were not elected to fight with each other, because that would prevent our town from moving forward and we can't afford it. This is just common sense, and we all campaigned that we will use it. We were elected to do the work for the people in our community, and we must always remember that, but just because we may not agree on something doesn't mean one of us is wrong; it just means we have a different opinion, and it very important to always respect each other's opinions and find ways to reach an agreement, but also NEVER take it personally. This difference of opinion and ideas is what our founding fathers intended for us, which is written in the Constitution!

I want to take a moment to comment about my campaign leading up to this day. This election was probably the worst Vernon has ever seen, and what was really sad to see was that some of our former town administrators, committee members, and former councilman stooped to an all-new low in Vernon politics by recruiting and triggering some of my past family members to do their dirty work for them. They took advantage of a broken family especially one that have children involved. My situation was not caused by oneself regardless of the one-sided story told. Everyone knows that there are 3 sides to a story and these people should know better especially the positions they ONCE held. But that's the keyword ONCE.

These dirty tactics are the reasons why volunteerism is down not just in Vernon but across this country, and also why many good people will not run for any office, but this type of behavior failed for them, and the voters seen right through it which is one of the reasons why I'm sitting here as your new Mayor. As for the political rhetoric calling me a tea party extremist etc. as if that was something bad. I have never been extreme about anything in my life but ok I will take it, I guess. But let me tell you what a tea party member is for some who may not know. It's a person who wants Lower taxes, less government control, and believes in the constitution the way it was originally written; so, for the record, I am a tea party member, an NRA member, and a member of the NEW Vernon GOP group, but we are a nonpartisan town so politics play no role in this form of government, but I want the people to know that we are a nation that has a government, not the other way around. We work for you, and I will always remind everyone here who they work for. Our government has no power except that granted it by the people a government FOR, BY and OF the people.

In the next few months, I have a budget to present, but until then I will direct my administration to reevaluate their current spending and challenge them to explore more ways to reduce spending. I'm not coming into this office terminating employees, let me be clear, so please, I want everyone to relax; I will work on the issues to help our employees succeed because if they succeed, we all succeed as a community. I believe in investing in your employees so that we can fully utilize their full potential.

With this and the fact that Vernon is the largest municipality in Sussex County we will push our shared services across the county to optimize our earning potential and capabilities. I have meetings set up to discuss the yearly tax reassessments, which I know is a hot topic for all of us; in addition, I have an agreement with the tax assessor's office to hold an open forum to be announced soon to discuss the new tax bill and other issues and concerns you may have. I have also been meeting with developers and potential investors, and many more on the calendar ahead, who are looking to come in and invest in our town. We need new ratables connected to our sewer line which will help reduce the cost of the sewer fees to our current connected users who are paying far too much and that's a priority of mine, but to do this we must become a business-friendly township I already have a plan in place so we will be restructuring our ways on how we do Business with current, and future potential investors, WE WILL, and I repeat, WE WILL Truly be a Business friendly township. Madam President, this concludes my comments. Thank you.

OUTGOING COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council Member Buccieri thanked the members of the Council who supported her as Council President in 2023. She enjoyed being the Council President and having more responsibility. Council Member Buccieri learned a lot and was able to work closely with the Municipal Clerk and she appreciated all of the support and hard work the Clerk does. Council Member Buccieri was also able to work closely with former Mayor Burrell and she enjoyed that and appreciated the extra ability to represent the community. Council Member Buccieri looks forward to working with Mayor Rossi, she welcomes Council Member Higgins to the Council and she looks forward to 2024.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT NOMINATIONS & SELECTIONS

Council Member Buccieri made a motion to nominate Council Member Rizzuto as Council President for 2024. Seconded by Council Member Higgins

MOTION: Buccieri

SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Rizzuto, Sparta

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carried to appoint Council Member Rizzuto as Council President for 2024.

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT NOMINATIONS & SELECTION

Council Member Rizzuto made a motion to nominate Council Member Buccieri as Council Vice President for 2024. Seconded by Council Member Higgins.

MOTION: Rizzuto

SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Rizzuto, Sparta

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carried to appoint Council Member Buccieri as Council Vice President for 2024.

INCOMING COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Higgins thanked everyone who voted for him last November. He looks forward to earning their trust and showing sound judgment. His goal as a member of the Town Council is to help reestablish a sound working relationship between the Mayor and Town Council and have Vernon move forward. We have some important issues to address including taxes, reevaluation services, debt from previous decisions concerning sewers and the situation concerning Legends Resort. Council Member Higgins said that Vernon Township government is responsible for twenty percent of your taxes, but we get one hundred percent of the criticism. We are very visible concerning all of the services that are offered due to the fact that taxpayers are using the services every day. Those who signed Council Higgins petition told him what they were hoping for when the new Council takes place, He hopes to deliver on those things. There was controversy leading up to this meeting about appointing a town attorney. Right now, there are no differences of opinion, the Council and Mayor are working together to come up with solutions to help the town.

Council Member Sparta thanked everyone who voted in the November election. He thanked his running mate Council Member Higgins. Council Member Sparta thanked Mayor Rossi and he agrees that it is about difference of opinion that makes good government and the object is to be able to work through it, find solutions, be amicable and respectful. The communication between

him and Mayor Rossi has been impeccable, and he feels that the town will benefit from this. Council Member Sparta feels that people need to come forward and serve the town without an agenda. He will listen to his fellow Council Members and Mayor Rossi about their ideas. Council Member Sparta thanked his family members who are present tonight, his wife Robin and his two daughters.

Council Member DeBenedetto congratulated Mayor Rossi and the incoming Council Members. She thanked the voters for trusting her and her family and friends for supporting her during her campaign.

INCOMING COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

I would like thank my fellow council members for their expression of support and confidence in me electing me as council president. Having held this position a number of times previously, I am aware of the trust that my fellow council members have placed in me and the responsibilities that this position carries with it.

This year brings to Vernon a number of challenges and along with them, opportunities for helping our township prosper. Certainly, ever green issues such as rising taxes, expansion of ratables to offset increased taxation, reduction of long-term debt through skillful financial management will be addressed by the council. Yet even in the face of an inflationary economy that confronted our township's budget as well as our own personal budget's; the township managed to avoid any increase in taxes in its budget by relying on use of a combination of reduced appropriations and our fund balance. Please know that Vernon is in fine financial shape enjoying a low debt to asset ratio and a strong financial statement.

We look forward to seeing work begin on our "over 55", 55-unit housing facility off Church St. this spring as well as initial preparations for construction on the Ryan homes project. Additional projects are well underway awaiting final approvals many of them tied to interest sensitive decisions.

I would hope that the community allows the mayor and council to begin working together under the form of government that directs our township, setting priorities and relying on each other's advice and counsel.

Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgment; and he betrays instead of serving you if he sacrifices it to your opinion. Edmund Burke

Council President Rizzuto presented a plaque to former Council Member Joseph Tadrick for his dedication to the Township.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (For Current Agenda Items Only, Limited to 3 Minutes Per Person)

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the meeting to Public Comments.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

Jessi Paladini – commented on the election and welcomed Mayor Rossi and the new Council Members.

Doreen Edwards – wished the Mayor and Council the best in 2024.

Seeing no one else from the public wishing to come forward, Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the meeting to Public Comments.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Rizzuto, Sparta

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carried to close the meeting to public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 11, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Council President Rizzuto ask for a motion to approve the December 11, 2023 regular session minutes.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Rizzuto, Sparta

NAYES:

ABSTAIN: Higgins

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approve the December 11, 2023 regular session minutes

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution #24-02: Designating of Official Newspaper for 2024

Resolution #24-03: Appointments of Special Police Officers

Resolution #24-04: Reauthorizing Petty Cash Funds for Calendar Year 2024

Resolution #24-05: Authorizing a Contract with Munidex to Maintain the Township’s Vital Statistic Software for 2024

Resolution #24-06: Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement Between the Township of Vernon and the Borough of Ogdensburg for Animal Control Services

Resolution #24-07: Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey Appointing Deputy Custodians of Records

Resolution #24-08: Authorizing the Municipal Tax Assessor and the Special Municipal Attorney to Defend the Township Before the Sussex County Board of Taxation for Tax Appeals

Resolution #24-14: Resolution Authorizing the Execution of Right-of-Way Easement with Jersey Central Power & Light (“JCP&L”) for Pole NJ1731VR at 7 Theta Drive, Vernon, New Jersey

Resolution #24-15: Authorizing the Award of a Contract for 2024 Between A & E Clothing and the Township of Vernon to Locate Clothing Donation Bins at the Municipal Recycling Center

Resolution #24-16: Authorizing Change Order #1 of Contract for Proposed Improvements of Various Streets within Vernon Township with Road Safety Systems, LLC

Resolution #24-17: Authorize the Award of a Required Disclosure Contract with “Spatial Data Logic” for Permitting / Licensing Software

Resolution #24-18: Designating Meeting Dates of the Township Council for the 2024 Calendar Year

Resolution #24-19: Appointment of the Business Administrator, Tina Kraus, Employment Contract

Resolution #24-20: Resolution Appointing Risk Management Consultant

Resolution #24-21: Establishing Interest Rates for Delinquent Property Taxes and Assessments

Resolution #24-22: Authorizing the Award of Contract for Professional Services

Twp. Planner	4-01-20-100-91	10,000.00
Qualified Purchasing Agent	4-01-20-100-95	9,500.00
Financial Advisors	4-01-20-130-20	7,000.00
Twp. Auditor	4-01-20-135-91	47,660.00
Expert Appraisal Services	4-01-20-150-37	10,000.00
Twp. Atty - In Rem Frclsr/Rdvlpmnt	4-01-20-155-44	50,000.00
Bond Counsel	4-01-20-155-45	15,000.00
Public Defender	4-01-20-155-51	4,000.00
Public Defender	T-14-56-825-00	6,000.00
Twp. Atty. – Tax Appeals	4-01-20-155-52	60,000.00
Twp. Atty. – Labor	4-01-20-155-53	50,000.00
Litigation (all attorneys)	4-01-20-155-54	70,000.00
Alt Municipal Prosecutor	4-01-20-155-57	3,000.00
Twp. Engineer	4-01-20-165-41	40,000.00
Health Benefits Consultant	4-01-23-220-57	70,000.00
Municipal Prosecutor	4-01-25-275-92	34,000.00

Resolution #24-23: Appointment of Municipal Court Judge

Resolution #24-24: Resolution of the Township of Vernon Appointing an Alternate Municipal Prosecutor

Resolution #24-25: Resolution of the Township of Vernon Appointing a Municipal Prosecutor

Resolution #24-26: Resolution of the Township of Vernon Appointing a Municipal Defender

Resolution #24-27: Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Required Disclosure Contract with “Lawsoft Inc. for Police Records Management System Fire Cad Software”

Resolution #24-28: Appointing ADA Coordinator

Resolution #24-29: Appointment of Public Agency Compliance Officer

Resolution #24-30: Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon Authorizing the Award of Payroll Management Services and Software Vendor Through the Competitive Contracting Process CC#4-2019

Resolution #24-31: Authorizing Change Order #1 of Contract for Proposed Improvements of Sandhill Road within Vernon Township with Denville Line Painting, Inc.

Resolution #24-32: Authorizing the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to Sign an Agreement with the County of Sussex for Nutrition Site Premises for Senior Citizens

Resolution #24-33: Resolution to Adopt a Cash Management Plan-2024

Resolution #24-34: A Resolution Renewing the Group Dental Benefits Program for Eligible Employees and their Covered Dependents Through Delta Dental of New Jersey, Inc.

Resolution #24-35: Adoption of 2024 Temporary Municipal Budget

Resolution #24-36: Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement with the Vernon Township Municipal Utilities Authority for the Provision of Snowplowing Services on an As-Need Basis

Resolution #24-37: Continuation of the Beautification Committee

Resolution #24-38: Continuation of the Economic Development Advisory Committee

Resolution #24-39: Appointment to the Land Use Board

Resolution #24-40: Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of a Firearm to a Retired Vernon Township Police Officer

Resolution #24-41: Authoring Signatures on Township Checks Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16

Resolution #24-42: Resolution Appointing Fund Commissioner

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Rizzuto, Sparta

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approve the consent agenda.

RESOLUTION #24-02

DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR 2024

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:53-1 et al. of the Open Public Meetings Act requires that the governing body of every municipality designate an official newspaper or newspapers for the publication of all advertisements and notices required by law to be published by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the second newspaper designated by this body must be one which has the greatest likelihood of informing the public within the jurisdictional boundaries of this body of such meetings; and

WHEREAS, *The New Jersey Herald/Sunday Herald* is hereby designated to receive all notices of meetings as required under the Open Public Meetings Act and *The Star Ledger*, and the *Advertiser News* and will be designated as the alternate newspapers; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of this public body that *The New Jersey Herald/Sunday Herald*, have the greatest likelihood of informing the public within the jurisdictional area of this public body of such meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey that *The New Jersey Herald/ Sunday Herald* is hereby designated as the official newspaper for the 2024 Calendar Year and will receive all Notices of meetings of the Township Council as required by the Open Public Meetings Act, and *The Star Ledger*, and *The Advertiser News*, will be designated as alternate newspapers of the Township of Vernon.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

RESOLUTION #24-03

APPOINTMENTS OF SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 94, Section 16 of the Code of the Township of Vernon, the Mayor shall appoint Class Two Special Police Officers; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has nominated the individuals named below for said position.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, and STATE OF NEW JERSEY, as follows:

1. That there shall be up to 6 positions for Special Police Class 2;
2. That the following individuals are hereby appointed or reappointed as Class Two Special Police Officers effective January 15, 2024 for a term of one year pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-146.14:

Special Police Officer (Class 2)
Scott Waleck

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following individuals are hereby appointed or reappointed as Class One Special Police Officers effective January 15, 2024 for a term of one year pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-146.14:

Special Police Officers (Class 1)
Jim Vette, Mike Sauer, Doug Vince

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT, the Township Clerk shall send a certified copy of this resolution to the following:

- a. Chief of Police

RESOLUTION #24-04

REAUTHORIZING PETTY CASH FUNDS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-21 authorizes the establishment of a Petty Cash Fund in municipalities by application and resolution; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Township of Vernon to establish the following Petty Cash Funds for calendar year 2024 as follows:

Department	Custodian	Amount Authorized
DPW	Clarence Babcock	\$100.00
Finance	Donelle Bright	\$100.00
Police	Daniel B. Young	\$500.00

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes such action and that the Township Clerk file two copies of this resolution with the Division of Local Government Services, State of New Jersey.

RESOLUTION #24-05

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH MUNIDEX TO MAINTAIN THE TOWNSHIP'S VITAL STATISTIC SOFTWARE FOR 2024

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has a need to maintain its vital statistic software; and

WHEREAS, MUNIDEX, Inc. supplied the original vital statistic software to the Township and has the expertise to maintain said program; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer recommends that the Township Council award a contract to maintain the Township's vital statistic software to Munidex, Inc., 174 Route 17 North, Rochelle Park, NJ 07662; and

WHEREAS, the cost for this annual maintenance contract is \$698.00 and there may be additional charges if on-site maintenance service is required and the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Vernon, has certified these funds are available in account #4-01-20-120-20.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are authorized to sign and accept the Software Maintenance Agreement for the year 2024 to maintain the Township's vital statistic software in an amount of \$698.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

RESOLUTION #24-06

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON AND THE BOROUGH OF OGDENSBURG FOR
ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Ogdensburg has requested that the Township of Vernon (“Township”) provide animal control services whenever there is a need for an animal control officer in the Borough of Ogdensburg; and

WHEREAS, the request has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate Township officials; and

WHEREAS, the Township is willing to provide animal control services to the Borough of Ogdensburg and this is deemed in the best interest of the Township; and

WHEREAS, such agreements are authorized pursuant to the Uniform Shared Services Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et. seq.; and

WHEREAS, a shared services agreement has been negotiated by and between the parties and that establishes the terms and conditions thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon as follows:

1. The Mayor and Township Clerk are authorized to execute the attached shared services agreement between the Township of Vernon and the Borough of Ogdensburg for animal control services.
2. A copy of said agreement will be attached to this resolution and held on file in the Office of the Township Clerk.
3. A certified copy this resolution shall be forwarded to the Mayor and Clerk of the Borough of Ogdensburg.

RESOLUTION #24-07

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX,
AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING
DEPUTY CUSTODIANS OF RECORDS**

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. (“OPRA”), names the municipal clerk as the custodian of government records; and

WHEREAS, certain officials and/or departments receive numerous public records requests based upon the nature of their official duties and/or office; and

WHEREAS, the governing body may designate one or more deputy custodians to facilitate compliance with OPRA; and

WHEREAS, the governing body adopted the policy of Deputy Custodians of Records via Resolution 16-175 on July 25, 2016 and wishes to continue this practice; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Vernon has determined that it is in the best interest of the Township and the public to designate deputy custodians for specific officials and/or departments.

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

1. The Police Chief is hereby appointed as the deputy custodian of records for Police Department records.
2. The Tax Collector is hereby appointed deputy custodian of records for tax collection records.
3. The Tax Assessor is hereby appointed deputy custodian of records for tax assessment records.
4. The Construction Official is hereby appointed deputy custodian of records for building, construction and land use records.
5. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby appointed deputy custodian of records for financial records.
6. The Land Use Board Secretary is hereby appointed deputy custodian of records for the Land Use and Zoning records.

7. The designated deputy records custodians shall report to the Township Clerk all requests for records and shall follow any instructions given by the Clerk regarding the handling of such records.

RESOLUTION #24-08

AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL TAX ASSESSOR AND THE SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY TO DEFEND THE TOWNSHIP BEFORE THE SUSSEX COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION FOR TAX APPEALS

WHEREAS, the County Tax Board requires the governing body of each municipality to pass a resolution authorizing the Assessor and Special Municipal Attorney (for tax appeals) of the municipality to file and prosecute any and all tax appeals, farmland rollback complaints, and any added and omitted assessment complaints before the Sussex County Tax Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Township of Vernon that the Assessor and Special Municipal Attorney (for tax appeals) are hereby authorized to file, prosecute, defend, stipulate, and/or agree upon all contested appeals before the Sussex County Board of Taxation and Tax Court of the State of New Jersey, and to initiate municipal appeals to correct the Township of Vernon tax list, including but not limited to, rollback complaints, added and omitted assessment complaints, and such other appeals as are necessary to correct property assessments for the Township of Vernon; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessor and the Special Municipal Attorney (for tax appeals) are hereby designated as the agents of the Township of Vernon for the purpose of signing settlements of the foregoing matters by stipulation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk is directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Sussex County Tax Board.

RESOLUTION #24-14

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT WITH JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT (“JCP&L”) FOR POLE NJ1731VR AT 7 THETA DRIVE, VERNON, NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon (“Township”) is the owner of certain land located at 7 Theta Drive, Vernon Township in the State of New Jersey, County of Sussex (“Property”); and

WHEREAS, Jersey Central Power & Light (“JCP&L”) has requested a right-of-way easement for pole NJ1731VR at the Property; and

WHEREAS, JCP&L has provided the Township with a proposed easement and map for said purpose, which is attached hereto and made a part of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, a determination has been made that it is in the best interests of the Township to grant the right-of-way easement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that the Mayor, Township Clerk, and Township Attorney are hereby authorized to execute the attached easement and take all necessary actions to effectuate the recordation of the necessary Deed of Easement and transmit the same to JCP&L and any and all other necessary parties at interest.

RESOLUTION #24-15

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR 2024 BETWEEN A & E CLOTHING AND THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON TO LOCATE CLOTHING DONATION BINS AT MUNICIPAL RECYCLING CENTER

WHEREAS, Vernon Township has a need to contract with a vendor to locate Donation Clothing Bins in the Vernon Township Municipal Recycling Center on Church Street for the continued service to Township residents; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township has received a proposal from A& E Clothing, Hamilton Township, NJ to provide Clothing Bins on Township Property and compensate Vernon Township \$60.00 per month per Bin; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and DPW Director recommends that Vernon Township renew a contract with A & E Clothing Corp to provide four (4) donation bins at the Recycling Center commencing January 1 through December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, A & E Clothing Corp. has been collecting clothing in New Jersey for over fourteen years which donations are shipped throughout the USA, Europe, Asia, Africa and South America and proceeds further support Non-Profit Organizations such as Retired Peace Officer Charity Organization and for research for Cancer, Crohn's Disease and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome; and

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

1. The Township of Vernon is authorized to engage A & E Clothing Corp. for the purpose of locating four (4) Clothing Donation Bins at the Vernon Township Municipal Recycling Center, Church Street, NJ, for compensation of \$60.00 per month per bin to the Township
2. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute Contract with A & E Clothing Corporation Corp.

RESOLUTION #24-16

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 OF CONTRACT FOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS OF VARIOUS STREETS WITHIN VERNON TOWNSHIP WITH ROAD SAFETY SYSTEMS, LLC

WHEREAS, on August 14, 2023, by way of adoption of Resolution #23-217, the Council of the Township of Vernon awarded a contract to Road Safety Systems for Guide Rails on Various Streets which contract provided for an expenditure of \$70,694.00 and

WHEREAS, in a memo dated December 18, 2023, the Township Engineer states that the contract requires a Change Order #1 by the addition of three (3) extra items in amount of \$2,072.00 and the reduction of one (1) item in amount of \$330.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer, in concurrence with the Mayor, recommends approving Change Order No. 1 resulting in the adjusted increased final contract amount of \$72,436.00.

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified the increased funds from Account: C-04-23-015.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon that it hereby approves the Township Engineer's recommendations and authorizes the Mayor to execute said Change Order No. 1 for said project resulting in the adjusted increased final contract amount of \$72,436.00 for said project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Road Safety Systems and the Township Engineer.

RESOLUTION #24-17

“Authorize the Award of a Required Disclosure Contract with “Spatial Data Logic” for Permitting / Licensing Software

WHEREAS, the Township has a need for software use in the Planning & Zoning, Building, Administration, Fire Prevention and Assessor's Offices for permitting, licensing, electronic maintenance of all inspection reports and transmission of monthly activity reports directly to the Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, for customer service efficiency and availability, Vernon Township has a need to utilize the Enterprise Licensing System offered by Spatial Data Logic, Somerset, NJ as a required disclosure contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4; for the calendar year of 2024 at a not to exceed cost of \$23,800.00 for 14 user licenses.

WHEREAS, the Sean Canning, Q.P.A., has determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisition will exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is for the year of 2024; and

WHEREAS, Spatial Data Logic in the aggregate is expected to provide more than the pay to play threshold of \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, Spatial Data Logic, has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification and a Personal Contribution Disclosure form which certifies that Spatial Data Logic has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the *Township of Vernon* in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Spatial Data Logic from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer hereby certifies that funds NOT TO EXCEED \$23,800.00 are available as follows;

RESOLUTION #24-18

DESIGNATING MEETING DATES OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR

BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et. seq., the Regular Meetings of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon shall convene on the Second and Fourth Mondays of each Month (except as noted with * in schedule below) at 6:00 pm (if there is an Executive Session), or at 7:00 pm (if there is no Executive Session). The meetings will be hybrid either via Zoom Webinar or in person at the Vernon Municipal Center, 21 Church Street, Vernon, New Jersey for the following:

MEETING DATES

January 15 (Reorganization) and 22	July 8 and 22
February 15* and 26	August 12 and 26
March 11 and 25	September 9 and 23
April 8 and 22	October 17* and 28
May 13 and 30*	November 14* and 25
June 10 and 24	December 9 and 23
January 15, 2025* (Reorganization 6:00 pm)	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if there is to be an Executive Session, the Township Council shall immediately convene into Executive Session after opening their Regular Meeting at 6:00 pm in order to discuss those matters in executive session from which the public shall be excluded and at 7:00 pm, or as soon thereafter, the public portion of the meeting will recommence. Formal action may be taken at any Council Meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED that all Township Council meetings shall be open to the public and public participation will be entertained at all Township Council meetings. There will be a limited period of public comment at the beginning of every meeting where speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes. During the first period for public comment each speaker may speak only on items on the current agenda. The total time for public speaking at the beginning of the meeting is limited to one half hour (30 minutes) to provide the Governing Body sufficient time to complete its work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there will be a second period of public comment at the end of each Council meeting. Speakers will be limited to five (5) minutes where the public may speak on any topic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Notices required by the Open Public Meetings Act shall be published in *The New Jersey Herald/Sunday Herald* and, if needed, in alternate newspapers, *The Advertiser News*, and *The Star Ledger* and shall be posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.

To join the meetings via Zoom Webinar:

RESOLUTION #24-19

APPOINTMENT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR, TINA KRAUS, EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:9-137 provides that each municipality shall have a business administrator appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the municipal council and shall serve during the term of the office of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to §5-30(A) of the Township Code, the Mayor may appoint a business administrator; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has appointed Tina Kraus (“Kraus”) as the Business Administrator for the Township; and

WHEREAS, Kraus has accepted the appointment as the Township’s Business Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Kraus’s terms and conditions of employment are governed by her employment agreement, which is attached; and

WHEREAS, Kraus’s position as the Township’s Business Administrator commences on January 16, 2024; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, hereby consent to the appointment of Kraus as Business Administrator and ratifies the employment agreement between Kraus and the Township.

RESOLUTION #24-20

RESOLUTION APPOINTING RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon (hereinafter “Local Unit”) has joined the Statewide Insurance Fund (hereinafter “Fund”), a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Risk Management Consultant, as those positions are defined in the Bylaws, if requested to do so by the “Fund”; and

WHEREAS, the Local Unit has complied with relevant law with regard to the appointment of a Risk Management Consultant; and

WHEREAS, the “Fund” has requested its members to appoint individuals or entities to that position.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of “Local Unit”, in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Township of Vernon hereby appoints Professional Insurance Associates as its local Risk Management Consultant.
2. The Mayor of the Township of Vernon and Risk Management Consultant are hereby authorized to execute the Risk Management Consultant’s Agreement for the year 2024.

RESOLUTION #24-21

ESTABLISHING INTEREST RATES FOR DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 permits the governing body of each municipality to fix the rate of interest to be charged for nonpayment of taxes or assessments subject to any abatement or discount for the late payment of taxes as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 has been amended to provide an additional penalty of up to six percent (6%) on delinquent taxes and all municipal charges in excess of \$10,000.00 that are not paid prior to the end of the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is necessary for efficient and uninterrupted operations of the business of the Tax Collector.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that:

1. The Tax Collector of Vernon Township is authorized to cancel all payments of taxes of \$10.00 or less.
2. That no interest shall be charged if payment of any installment is made within ten (10) days after date upon which the same became payable.
3. That the rate of interest to be charged for nonpayment of taxes on or before they would become delinquent shall be 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of the delinquency and 18% per annum, on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00, and;
4. Interest at the rate of 8% per annum on the unpaid balance of assessment is charged with each installment on due date. Any installment not paid on or before due date is subject to 8% interest, 18% interest over \$1,500.00.
5. A Year End Penalty of 6% is hereby assessed on delinquent tax accounts in excess of the sum of \$10,000.00 if a taxpayer shall fail to make payment in full on the delinquent amount prior to the end of the calendar year in which such taxes shall have accrued and been assessed.
6. That the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Vernon is hereby authorized to make investments for the Township of Vernon.

RESOLUTION #24-22

**AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT
FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, there is a need for Professional Services to the Township of Vernon for Attorneys, Auditor, Bond Counsel, Engineer, Financial Advisor, Health Benefits Consultant, Prosecutor, Public Defender, Planner, and Appraisal services and;

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 specifically exempts professional services from provisions of public bidding as provided in the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, said specified professional services are to be rendered or performed by a person or persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession, and whose practice is regulated by law within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the performance of said professional services requires knowledge of an advanced field of learning acquired by a prolonged formal course of specialized training and study as distinguished from general academic instruction or apprenticeship and training; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon is desirous to enter into an agreement with these professionals as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Finance Officer has certified in writing that the value of the contracts is available for these purposes subject to the adoption of the 2024 Municipal Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended, requires that this Resolution be publicly advertised.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that they hereby authorize and approve the award of contracts of a Professional Service Contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et seq. to provide Services in accordance with the attached Contracts for Professional Services pursuant to a non-fair and open contract to the following:

1. Township Planner – Jessica Caldwell of J. Caldwell and Associates
2. Qualified Purchasing Agent – Sean Canning, MPA, QPA of The Canning Group
3. Township Financial Advisor – Phoenix Advisors, LLC
4. Township Auditor – Nisivoccia & Company, LLP
5. Expert Appraisal Services - Associated Appraisal Group, Inc.
6. Special Township Attorney – Redevelopment and In Rem Foreclosures – Matthew Jessup, Esq. of McManimon, Scotland, & Baumann, LLC
7. Township Bond Counsel - Robert Beinfield, Esq. of Hawkins Delafield & Wood, LLP
8. Public Defender – John C. Grey, Esq.
9. Special Township Attorney: Tax Appeals- Robert McBriar, Esq. of Schenk, Price, Smith & King, LLP

10. Special Township Attorney – Labor – Douglas Steinhardt, Florio Perucci, Steinhardt, Capelli, Tipton & Taylor, LLC
11. Alternate Municipal Prosecutor – Steven M. Siegel, Esq.
12. Township Engineer – Cory Stoner of Harold E. Pellow & Associates
13. Health Benefits Consultant – Professional Insurance Associates, LLC
14. Municipal Prosecutor – Alicia Ferrante, Esq.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the award of contract shall be contingent upon the completion and receipt of the following:

- (a) A fully-executed professional services contract detailing the scope of services, established fees for said professional services, mandatory Equal Opportunity Language and Affirmative Action Certificate; and
- (b) Receipt of all statutorily mandated “pay to play” political contribution forms pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.; and
- (c) New Jersey Business Registration Certificate; and
- (d) Upon the aforementioned professional being a member in good standing in his respective profession.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute, seal and deliver the attached Contracts for Professional Services on behalf of and in the name of the Township of Vernon and that the Municipal Clerk shall publish the award of contract as required by law with ten (10) days of passage of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION #24-23

APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2B:12-4 and Chapter 5, §Section 37-4 of the Vernon Township Administrative Code, a municipal judge shall be appointed by the Township Council and serve for a term of three years from the date of appointment and until a successor is appointed or qualified; and

WHEREAS, the Hon. Peter J. Laemers, J.M.C., has been serving as Municipal Court Judge for the Township since May 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has determined that Judge Laemers is qualified to be re-appointed to the position of Municipal Court Judge for the Township of Vernon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, New Jersey, that the Hon. Peter J. Laemers, J.M.C., is hereby re-appointed to serve as Municipal Court Judge for the Township of Vernon, New Jersey, for a term of three (3) years commencing on January 15, 2024, and ending on January 14, 2027, to be compensated at an annual salary of \$39,400.56 for the year 2024; \$40,188.57 (2% increase) for the year 2025; \$40,992.34 (2% increase) for the year 2026.

RESOLUTION #24-24

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON APPOINTING AN ALTERNATE MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon (“Township”) has a need for an Alternate Municipal Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2B:12-27, a municipality may employ an attorney-at-law as a Municipal Prosecutor under the supervision of the County Prosecutor and that attorney may represent the municipality in any matter within the jurisdiction of the central municipal court and any other municipal court; and

WHEREAS, Steven M. Siegel, Esq. has the necessary experience and qualifications to perform the duties of Alternate Municipal Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 specifically exempts professional services from provision of public bidding as provided in the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the Township deems it in the best interests of the Township to appoint Steven M. Siegel, Esq. as the Alternate Municipal Prosecutor and to enter a non-fair and open contract to provide said services pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contract Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Steven M. Siegel, Esq. will complete and submit a Business Entity Disclosure Certification for Non-Fair and Open Contract which certifies that Steven M. Siegel, Esq. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Vernon in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit Steven M. Siegel, Esq. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that there are sufficient funds available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon as follows:

1. Steven M. Siegel, Esq. is hereby appointed as Alternate Municipal Prosecutor for one (1) year from January 15, 2024 to January 14, 2025 and the Mayor is authorized to execute a non-fair and open contract with Steven M. Siegel, Esq. to provide these services.
2. The required Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Political Contribution Disclosure Form shall be provided before execution of the contract and be placed on file with the resolution
3. A copy of this resolution shall be kept on file in the Township Clerk's Office.

RESOLUTION #24-25

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON APPOINTING A MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon ("Township") has a need for a Municipal Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2B:12-27, a municipality may employ an attorney-at-law as the Municipal Prosecutor under the supervision of the County Prosecutor and that attorney may represent the municipality in any matter within the jurisdiction of the central municipal court and any other municipal court; and

WHEREAS, Alicia Ferrante, Esq. has the necessary experience and qualifications to perform the duties of Municipal Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 specifically exempts professional services from provision of public bidding as provided in the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the Township deems it in the best interests of the Township to appoint _Alicia Ferrante, Esq. as the Municipal Prosecutor and to enter a non-fair and open contract to provide said services pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contract Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Alicia Ferrante, Esq. will complete and submit a Business Entity Disclosure Certification for Non-Fair and Open Contract which certifies that Alicia Ferrante, Esq. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Vernon in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit Alicia Ferrante, Esq. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that there are sufficient funds available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon as follows:

1. Alicia Ferrante, Esq. is hereby appointed as Municipal Prosecutor for one (1) year from January 15, 2024 to January 14, 2025 and the Mayor is authorized to execute a non-fair and open contract with Alicia Ferrante, Esq. to provide these services.
2. The required Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Political Contribution Disclosure Form shall be provided before execution of the contract and be placed on file with the resolution
3. A copy of this resolution shall be kept on file in the Township Clerk's Office.

RESOLUTION #24-26

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON APPOINTING A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon ("Township") has a need for a Municipal Public Defender; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2B:24-3, a municipality may employ an attorney-at-law as the Municipal Public Defender; and

WHEREAS, John C. Grey, Jr, Esq has the necessary experience and qualifications to perform the duties of Municipal Public Defender; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 specifically exempts professional services from provision of public bidding as provided in the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the Township deems it in the best interests of the Township to appoint John C. Grey, Jr., Esq. as the Municipal Public Defender and to enter a non-fair and open contract to provide said services pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contract Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, John C. Grey, Jr., Esq. will complete and submit a Business Entity Disclosure Certification for Non-Fair and Open Contract which certifies that John C. Grey, Jr., Esq. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Vernon in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit John C. Grey, Jr., Esq. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that there are sufficient funds available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon as follows:

1. John C. Grey, Jr., Esq. is hereby appointed as Municipal Public Defender for one (1) year from January 15, 2024 to January 14, 2025 and the Mayor is authorized to execute a non-fair and open contract with John C. Grey, Jr., Esq. to provide these services.
2. The required Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Political Contribution Disclosure Form shall be provided before execution of the contract and be placed on file with the resolution
3. A copy of this resolution shall be kept on file in the Township Clerk's Office.

RESOLUTION #24-27

Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Required Disclosure Contract with "Lawsoft Inc. for Police Records Management System Fire Cad Software"

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has a need for police records management system software, through Lawsoft Incorporated, 15 Hamburg Turnpike, Bloomingdale, N.J. as a required disclosure contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and,

WHEREAS the anticipated term of this contract is for the year of 2024, and

WHEREAS, Lawsoft Incorporated, in the aggregate is expected to provide more than the pay to play threshold of \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, Lawsoft Incorporated, has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification and a Personal Contribution Disclosure form which certifies that Law Soft Incorporated has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the *Township of* Vernon in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit LawSoft Incorporated from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, subject to the governing body approving future budgets the Chief Financial Officer hereby certifies that funds NOT TO EXCEED \$28,000.00 are available as follows;

Line Item: 4-01-25-240-20 and 4-01-25-260-20

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Vernon authorizes the Business Administrator to enter into a contract with Lawsoft Incorporated, not to exceed \$26,000.00 for the 2024 budget year; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Personal Contribution Disclosure form, Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution.

RESOLUTION #24-28

APPOINTING ADA COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, every municipality is required to designate an ADA Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the ADA Coordinator's role is to ensure the Township's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that the Township Business Administrator Tina Kraus is hereby appointed as the ADA Coordinator for Vernon Township.

RESOLUTION #24-29

APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

WHEREAS pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 17:27-1 the Township of Vernon is required to designate a Public Agency Compliance Officer on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS said Public Agency Compliance Officer shall act as the official liaison for all equal opportunity employment matters in the administration of public contracts; and

WHEREAS the Township designates the Township Business Administrator Tina Kraus as the Public Agency Compliance Officer for calendar year 2024;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that it hereby designates the Township Business Administrator Tina Kraus as the Township's Public Agency Compliance Officer for calendar year 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk shall forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the New Jersey Department of the Treasury Affirmative Action Office as required.

RESOLUTION #24-30

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF PAYROLL MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND SOFTWARE VENDOR THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS CC# 4-2019

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has a desire to provide for provide for payroll management services and software offerings for the operation of its financial matters in accord with the New Jersey Local Fiscal Affairs Law; and

WHEREAS, such services are currently available to be provided through the competitive contracting process under the New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1, and for a period of five (5) years under N.J.S.A 40A:11-4.1 et. Seq., and

WHEREAS, the Township received Competitive Contract proposals, CC# 4-2019 on May 21, 2019 at 11:00 A.M.; and

WHEREAS, the Township authorized the competitive contract process though council approved resolution, in accord with the prescripts of N.J.S.A.40A:11-4.1 through resolution #19-95; and

WHEREAS, the Township established a rating committee rating the proposals upon the standards of price and other factors, those factors being Technical, Managerial and Cost factors in accord with N.J.A.C.5:34-4; and

WHEREAS, Action Data Services Inc., 17 Sherwood Lane, Fairfield, N.J. 07004, has provided a proposal deemed responsive and responsible under the New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law (N.J.S.A.40A:11-1 et. Seq.); and

WHEREAS, the report produced by the committee, recommending Action Data Services Inc, was made available to the public and governing body at least 48 hours prior to the meeting of the governing body in accord with N.J.S.A 40A:11-4.1 and N.J.A.C 5:34-4; and

WHEREAS, subject to the yearly extension of contract for a maximum of five (5) years with term ending May 20, 2024, the governing body approval of the 2024 budget the amount of contract is not to exceed:

2024	\$3,500.00
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Subject to any yearly increases in accord with N.J.S.A.40A:11-15(a) thru (d); and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer hereby certifies that funds are available NOT TO EXCEED \$3,500.00 as follows:

2024 Current Budget - 4-01-20-130-20 FINANCE O/E

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of VERNON, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

The Vernon Township Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Action Data Services Inc., 17 Sherwood Lane, Fairfield, N.J. 07004 through May 20, 2024 through resolution encompassing the scope of work and cost proposal as outlined within CC# 4-2019.

RESOLUTION #24-31

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 OF CONTRACT FOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS OF SANDHILL ROAD WITHIN VERNON TOWNSHIP WITH DENVILLE LINE PAINTING, INC.

WHEREAS, on August 28, 2023, by way of adoption of Resolution #23-227, the Council of the Township of Vernon awarded a contract to Denville Line Painting, Inc. for Line Striping on Sandhill Road which contract provided for an expenditure of \$12,181.57; and

WHEREAS, in a memo dated January 2, 2024, the Township Engineer states that the contract requires a Change Order #1 by the reduction of one (1) item in amount of \$350.20 and the addition of two (2) extra items in the amount of \$ 1,968.19 for an increase in contract of \$1,617.99; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer, in concurrence with the Mayor, recommends approving Change Order No. 1 resulting in the increased contract amount of \$13,799.56.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon that it hereby approves the Township Engineer’s recommendations and authorizes the Mayor to execute said Change Order No. 1 for said project resulting in the adjusted increased contract amount of \$13,799.56 for said project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Denville Line Painting, Inc. and the Township Engineer.

RESOLUTION #24-32

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND MUNICIPAL CLERK TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX FOR NUTRITION SITE PREMISES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

WHEREAS, Vernon Township has available space in the Senior Citizen Center; and

WHEREAS, there is a continuing need for space to offer meals to accommodate approximately 75 senior citizens per day; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has offered, for appropriate compensation, to allow the County of Sussex to utilize a portion of the Senior Citizen facility for the Vernon Nutrition Site Operation project as per attached agreement for the year 2024; and

WHEREAS, the agreement is attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, the compensatory amount for the use of this facility is \$27,700.00 for the agreement year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, New Jersey as follows:

1. That the Township Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes and directs the Mayor and Township Clerk to execute the agreement between Vernon Township and the County of

Sussex for use of the Vernon Township Senior Citizen Center for the Vernon Nutrition Site Project.

2. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be submitted to the Clerk of Sussex County and Jacquelyne Suarez, the Acting Director of the NJ Division of Local Government Services.

RESOLUTION #24-33

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN-2024

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, that for the year 2024, the following shall serve as the cash management plan of the Township of Vernon.

1. Cash Management and Investment Objectives

The Township of Vernon has the following objectives.

- A. Preservation of capital.
- B. Adequate safekeeping of assets.
- C. Maintenance of liquidity to meet operating needs.
- D. Investment of assets in accordance with State and Federal Laws and regulations.
- E. Maximize Yield.

2. Designation of Official Depositories

The following Government Unit Protection Act approved banks are authorized depositories for deposit of funds:

Lakeland Bank
Provident Bank
Valley National Bank
PNC Bank
JP Morgan Chase Bank

3. Cash Management

- A. All funds shall be deposited within 48 hours of receipt in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-15
- B. The Chief Financial Officer shall minimize the possibility of idle cash accumulating in accounts by assuring that any excess amounts not needed to cover expenses or in excess of negotiated compensating balances are kept in interest bearing accounts or promptly swept into the investment portfolio.
- C. Investment decisions shall be guided by the cash flow projections prepared by the Chief Financial Officer.

4. Permissible Investments

- A. Certificates of Deposits.
- B. Savings and Loan Associations and Saving Bank Accounts.
- C. New Jersey Cash Management Plan
- D. Government Money Market Mutual Funds
- E. Local Government Investment Pools, such as MBIA Municipal Investors Service Corporation CLASS
- F. Short-Term Notes Issued to Local Governments and School Districts
- G. Any other obligations with maturities not exceeding 397 days, as permitted by the Division of Investments.

5. Authority for Investment Management

The Chief Financial Officer is authorized and directed to make investments on behalf of the Township. All investment decisions shall be consistent with this plan and all appropriate regulatory constraints.

6. Reporting

The Chief Financial Officer shall report to the Township Council investments in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-15.2.

7. Audit

The Cash Management Plan shall be subject to annual audit conducted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-14.

8. Disposition of Abandoned Property

The Chief Financial Officer shall escheat to the State of New Jersey checks which remain outstanding for more than twelve months after the date of issuance.

RESOLUTION #24-34

A RESOLUTION RENEWING THE GROUP DENTAL BENEFITS PROGRAM FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES AND THEIR COVERED DEPENDENTS THROUGH DELTA DENTAL OF NEW JERSEY, INC.

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon, hereinafter referred to as the Township, provides dental benefits coverage to eligible employees and their covered dependents as part of the comprehensive Employee Health Benefits Program; and

WHEREAS, the Township's Health Benefits Consultant, as a matter of due diligence, examined the plan usage, claims data and network utilization and further, engaged in active negotiations for the renewal of the Township's Dental Program, which currently consists of the Premier Plus Advantage Plan and the PPO Plan, administered by Delta Dental of NJ, Inc. and,

WHEREAS, the Consultant was successful in securing a renewal for both the Premier Plus Advantage and PPO Plans, that:

- Provides a 24-month renewal at 1.5% increase in Premium over the expiring, and
- Ensures all coverages/benefits are unchanged from each respective plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, hereby authorize the 24-month Renewal of the dental benefits contract with Delta Dental of New Jersey for the period **January 1, 2024** through **December 31, 2025**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Governing Body does hereby authorize and affirm the implementation of this Renewal, which maintains the current plan design of benefits; thereby ensuring the moral and contractual obligation of the Township; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Township Administrator and CFO are hereby authorized and directed to execute the renewal documents in accordance with the existing terms and conditions of the Agreement with the renewal rate provisions, as promulgated herewith; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to PIA Security Programs, A Division of World Insurance Associates, LLC; 429 Hackensack Street, P.O. Box 818 Carlstadt NJ, Health Benefits Consultant to the Township, the Township Chief Financial Officer and Municipal Auditor.

RESOLUTION #24-35

ADOPTION OF 2024 TEMPORARY MUNICIPAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, The Local Budget Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-1 et seq., provides that until the official Annual Budget for the budget year is adopted, a temporary budget not exceeding 26.25% of the total of all appropriations including appropriations for debt service, capital improvement fund, and public assistance must be adopted covering the first quarter of the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-1 et seq. further provides that the governing body of a municipality must adopt by resolution within the first thirty (30) days of the budget, by affirmative vote of the full membership of the governing body, a temporary budget; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council desires to establish temporary appropriations pursuant to the Local Budget Law; and

WHEREAS, total appropriations for the 2023 Annual Budget, exclusive of any appropriations for debt service, capital improvements, and public assistance was \$26,055,714.31; and

WHEREAS, up to 26.25% of total appropriations for the 2024 Annual Budget, exclusive of any appropriations for debt service, capital improvements, and public assistance is \$5,729,744.50 for a total of \$8,496,284.50;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that the attached Schedule ‘A’ entitled “2024 Temporary Budget” is hereby approved.

SCHEDULE A: 2024 TEMPORARY MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Description	Temporary Appropriations
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION - S&W	44,250.00
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION - O/E	37,932.00
MAYOR & COUNCIL - S&W	11,813.00
MAYOR & COUNCIL - O/E	1,615.00
CLERK - S&W	47,000.00
CLERK - O/E	12,023.00
FINANCE - S&W	63,250.00
FINANCE - O/E	4,712.00
TECHNOLOGY - O/E	9,975.00
COLLECTION OF TAXES - S&W	42,000.00
COLLECTION OF TAXES - O/E	6,064.00
ASSESSMENT OF TAXES - S&W	56,000.00
ASSESSMENT OF TAXES - O/E	36,960.00
LEGAL SERVICES - O/E	90,300.00
ENGINEERING SERVICES - O/E	10,500.00
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT O/E	100.00
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION - S&W	100.00
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION - O/E	100.00
BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE - O/E	1,500.00
LAND USE BOARD - S & W	49,500.00
LAND USE BOARD - O/E	12,994.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT - S&W	119,500.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT - O/E	4,660.00
WORKERS COMP. INSURANCE - O/E	122,500.00
GROUP INSURANCE - O/E	937,500.00
GROUP INS. - HEALTH BENEFIT WAIVERS	13,125.00

OTHER INSURANCE - O/E	165,000.00
POLICE DEPARTMENT - S&W	1,150,367.00
POLICE DEPARTMENT - O/E	42,746.00
RADIO COMMUNICATIONS - S&W	115,287.75
RADIO COMMUNICATIONS - O/E	2,363.00
911 COMMUNICATIONS - S&W SHARED	3,750.00
SRVC	
OEM DEPARTMENT - S&W	3,125.00
OEM DEPARTMENT - O/E	3,544.00
VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES	100,000.00
FIRE PREVENTION - S&W	46,250.00
FIRE PREVENTION - O/E	8,000.00
TWP. PROSECUTOR - O&E	8,925.00
ROAD REPAIRS & MAINT. - S&W	378,830.00
ROAD REPAIRS & MAINT. - O/E	184,375.00
RECYCLING S&W	6,563.00
RECYCLING - O/E	3,019.00
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - S&W	13,515.00
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - O/E	35,625.00
FLEET MANAGEMENT - S&W	70,000.00
FLEET MANAGEMENT - O/E	69,300.00
ANIMAL CONTROL - S&W	36,250.00
ANIMAL CONTROL - O/E	4,975.00
SEN CITIZENS - S&W	17,000.00
SEN. CITIZENS - ACTIVITIES -O/E	17,129.00
RECREATION - S&W	21,250.00
RECREATION - O/E	19,695.00
MAINTENANCE OF PARKS - S&W	50,138.00
MAINTENANCE OF PARKS - O/E	11,813.00
MUNICIPAL COURT - S&W	49,500.00
MUNICIPAL COURT - O/E	2,363.00
UTILITIES O/E	174,432.00
SEWER UTILITY-SCMUA	690,838.75
SOCIAL SECURITY - O/E	177,188.00
DEFINED CONTRIB RETIREMENT	1,838.00
PROGRA	
GRANT - MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE	7,472.00
MUNICIPAL SERVICES ACT O/E	250,000.00
SHARED SERVICE - ANIMAL CONTROL	21,355.00
SHARED SERVICE – FINANCIAL ADMIN.	23,025.00
SHARED SERVICES - SENIOR CITIZENS	6,925.00
2024 TEMP BUDGET IN CAP APPROPRIATIONS	5,729,744.50
CAPITAL PURCHASE OF VEHICLES	97,500.00
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	300,000.00
PAYMENT OF BOND PRINCIPAL	2,105,000.00
INTEREST ON BONDS	264,040.00
2024 TEMP BUDGET O/S CAP APPROPRIATIONS	2,766,540.00
2024 TEMP BUDGET TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	8,496,284.50

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Introduced Official Budget shall serve as the Temporary Budget pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19.1 if the Director of the Division of Local Government Services extends the budget dates pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5.1.

RESOLUTION #24-36

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE VERNON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY FOR THE PROVISION OF SNOWPLOWING SERVICES ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Vernon, a municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey, and the Vernon Township Municipal Utilities Authority (VTMUA), a municipal utilities authority established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:14-B-1 et. seq., have determined that a Shared Service Agreement is in the best interest of the parties; and

WHEREAS, the VTMUA employs certain personnel and owns certain equipment, both of which are utilized in the day-to-day operations of the VTMUA, and can be utilized for snow removal services; and

WHEREAS, the Township's Department of Public Works, performs snow removal and ice pretreatment/treatment on roads and parking lots; and

WHEREAS, the Township has requested that the VTMUA assist the Township in the clearing of snow and/or pretreatment/treatment for ice on roads and parking lots located within the Township; and

WHEREAS, VTMUA is able and willing to assist the Township as detailed above provided that it be made whole for the costs associated with same; and

WHEREAS, the Township has agreed to same and will prepare and present a shared service agreement detailing the rights and obligations of the parties, which, at a minimum, will contain the obligation of the Township to pay the VTMUA the hourly rate for its employee utilized to perform snow removal and ice treatment/pretreatment services, along with ancillary costs such as fuel, employer expenses, etc. as needed; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to execute a shared services agreement as detailed above.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey, that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a Shared Service Agreement between the Township and VTMUA for Snowplowing Services memorializing the terms and conditions above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the effective date of this agreement shall be January 1, 2024; and a copy of the Agreement and this Resolution shall be sent to the State of New Jersey, Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs.

RESOLUTION #24-37

CONTINUATION OF THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Council of Vernon Township established a Beautification Committee via resolution 16-66 on February 8, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Council of Vernon Township wishes to continue the Beautification Committee consisting of seven to nine members to be appointed by the Mayor.

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

1. The Beautification Committee established via Resolution No. 16-66 on February 8, 2016 is hereby continued.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Township Clerk shall send a certified copy of this resolution to the following:

- a. Chairperson of the Beautification Committee

RESOLUTION #24-38

CONTINUATION OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Council of Vernon Township established an Economic Development Advisory Committee via resolution 08-191 on October 9, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Council of Vernon Township expanded the membership of the Economic Development Advisory Committee via resolution 09-88 to include two additional members on May 28, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Council of Vernon Township wishes to continue the Economic Development Committee consisting of seven to eleven members to be appointed by the Mayor.

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

1. The Economic Development Advisory Committee established via Resolution No. 08-191 on October 9, 2008 and expanded via Resolution No. 09-88 on May 28, 2009 is hereby continued.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Township Clerk shall send a certified copy of this resolution to the following:

Chairperson of the Economic Development Advisory Committee

RESOLUTION #24-39

APPOINTMENT TO THE LAND USE BOARD

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, and STATE OF NEW JERSEY, as follows:

1. That the following individual is hereby appointed as a member of the Vernon Township Land Use Board for a term specified as follows:

William Higgins Class III Term Expiring 1/15/2025

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Township Clerk shall send a certified copy of this resolution to the following:

- a. Land Use Board Secretary

RESOLUTION #24-40

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF A FIREARM TO A RETIRED VERNON TOWNSHIP POLICE OFFICER

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon ("Township") has determined that the Sig Sauer P365, 9mm, firearm utilized by now Retired Cpl. Steve Gentle #56 is no longer needed for public use by the Vernon Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the Township has requested and obtained an estimate as to fair trade-in value of the weapon from Tri State Firearms Exchange, an authorized firearms dealer located at 280 State Route 94, Vernon, NJ 07462; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36 permits a municipality to sell, by private sale, personal property no longer needed for public use, when the fair value of the property to be sold does not exceed the applicable bid threshold; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 2C:58-2 regulates the sale of the firearms within the State of New Jersey and requires that firearms be sold exclusively through a licensed gun dealer; and

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate the sale of the Sig Sauer P365, 9mm, firearms to Retired Corporal Steve Gentle #56 for the estimated value of two-hundred twenty-five dollars (\$225.00); the firearm will be transferred to Tri State Firearms Exchange and the Township will receive two-hundred twenty dollars (\$225.00);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that the transfer of the firearm identified herein to Tri State Firearms Exchange, and the sale of the firearm identified by serial number 66B771119 to Retired Corporal Steve Gentle for the amount of two-hundred twenty-five dollars (\$225.00), to be received prior to transfer, is hereby authorized.

RESOLUTION #24-41

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES ON TOWNSHIP CHECKS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that the following Township Officials are hereby authorized to sign checks, withdrawal slips or other bank related items with two out of the four below listed principal signatures being required:

Mayor
Business Administrator
Chief Financial Officer
Tax Collector
Municipal Clerk

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that signature cards with the signatures of the persons authorized to sign be on file at all banks that presently have Township accounts.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

RESOLUTION #24-42

RESOLUTION APPOINTING FUND COMMISSIONER

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon (hereinafter "Local Unit") is a member of the Statewide Insurance Fund (hereinafter "Fund"), a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Fund's Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Fund Commissioner;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Township of Vernon, that Tina Kraus, is hereby appointed as the Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the Fund year 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Donelle Bright, is hereby appointed as the Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the Fund Year 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Local Unit's Fund Commissioner is authorized and directed to execute all such documents as required by the Fund.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #24-09: Authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement with Signature Information Solutions for "Inquiry Only" Access to Certain Tax Collectors Tax and/or Utility Records via Edmunds and Associates

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #24-09.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Buccieri, Higgins, Rizzuto, Sparta
NAYES: DeBenedetto
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to approve resolution #24-09.

RESOLUTION #24-09

AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH SIGNATURE INFORMATION SOLUTIONS FOR “INQUIRY ONLY” ACCESS TO CERTAIN TAX COLLECTORS TAX AND/OR UTILITY RECORDS VIA EDMUNDS AND ASSOCIATES

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon received a request from Signature Information Solutions seeking electronic “look only” inquiry access to the public tax records administered by the tax collector; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township’s tax records are currently maintained in an electronic format by Edmunds and Associates of Northfield, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, upon authorization, Signature Information Solutions, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry; and

WHEREAS, Signature Information Solutions also agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon:

1. Vernon Township will authorize Edmunds and Associates to provide look up information access to Signature Information Solutions for Vernon Township property tax and/or utility records.
2. Signature Information Solutions shall be subject to Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
3. Signature Information Solutions waives any claim that it may have against Vernon Township in connection with Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
4. Signature Information Solutions, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry, agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.
5. The Township of Vernon shall not incur any charges for providing this access or means of information exchange to Signature Information Solutions.

Resolution #24-10: Authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement with Accurate Abstracts for “Inquiry Only” Access to Certain Tax Collectors Tax and/or Utility Records via Edmunds and Associates

Resolution #24-11: Authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement with Valtech Research for “Inquiry Only” Access to Certain Tax Collectors Tax and/or Utility Records via Edmunds and Associates

Resolution #24-12: Authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement with Action Title Research for “Inquiry Only” Access to Certain Tax Collectors Tax and/or Utility Records via Edmunds and Associates

Resolution #24-13: Authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement with Priority Search Services, LLC for “Inquiry Only” Access to Certain Tax Collectors Tax and/or Utility Records via Edmunds and Associates

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolutions #24-10, #24-11, #24-12 and #24-13.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Higgins, Rizzuto, Sparta

NAYES: DeBenedetto

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approve resolutions #24-10, #24-11, #24-12 and #24-13.

RESOLUTION #24-10

AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH *ACCURATE ABSTRACTS* FOR “INQUIRY ONLY” ACCESS TO CERTAIN TAX COLLECTORS TAX AND/OR UTILITY RECORDS VIA EDMUNDS AND ASSOCIATES

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon received a request from Accurate Abstracts seeking electronic “look only” inquiry access to the public tax records administered by the tax collector; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township’s tax records are currently maintained in an electronic format by Edmunds and Associate of Northfield, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, upon authorization, Accurate Abstracts, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry; and

WHEREAS, Accurate Abstracts also agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon:

1. Vernon Township will authorize Edmunds and Associates to provide look up information access to Accurate Abstracts, for Vernon Township property tax and/or utility records.
2. Accurate Abstracts shall be subject to Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
3. Accurate Abstracts waives any claim that it may have against Vernon Township in connection with Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
4. Accurate Abstracts, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry, agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.
4. The Township of Vernon shall not incur any charges for providing this access or means of information exchange to Accurate Abstracts.

RESOLUTION #24-11

AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH *VALTECH RESEARCH* FOR “INQUIRY ONLY” ACCESS TO CERTAIN TAX COLLECTORS TAX AND/OR UTILITY RECORDS VIA EDMUND AND ASSOCIATES

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon received a request from Valtech Research seeking electronic “look only” inquiry access to the public tax records administered by the tax collector; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township’s tax records are currently maintained in an electronic format by Edmunds and Associates of Northfield, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, upon authorization, Valtech Research, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry; and

WHEREAS, Valtech Research also agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon:

1. Vernon Township will authorize Edmunds and Associates to provide look up information access to Valtech Research for Vernon Township property tax and/or utility records.
2. Valtech Research shall be subject to Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
3. Valtech Research waives any claim that it may have against Vernon Township in connection with Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
4. Valtech Research, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry, agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.
5. The Township of Vernon shall not incur any charges for providing this access or means of information exchange to Valtech Research.

RESOLUTION #24-12

AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH ACTION TITLE RESEARCH FOR “INQUIRY ONLY” ACCESS TO CERTAIN TAX COLLECTORS TAX AND/OR UTILITY RECORDS VIA EDMUNDS AND ASSOCIATES

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon received a request from Action Title Research seeking electronic “look only” inquiry access to the public tax records administered by the tax collector; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township’s tax records are currently maintained in an electronic format by Edmunds and Associates of Northfield, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, upon authorization, Action Title Research, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry; and

WHEREAS, Action Title Research also agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon:

1. Vernon Township will authorize Edmunds and Associates to provide look up information access to Action Title Research, for Vernon Township property tax and/or utility records.
2. Action Title Research shall be subject to Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
3. Action Title Research waives any claim that it may have against Vernon Township in connection with Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
4. Action Title Research, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry, agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.
5. The Township of Vernon shall not incur any charges for providing this access or means of information exchange to Action Title Research.

RESOLUTION #24-13

AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH *PRIORITY SEARCH SERVICES, LLC* FOR “INQUIRY ONLY” ACCESS TO CERTAIN TAX COLLECTORS TAX AND/OR UTILITY RECORDS VIA EDMUNDS AND ASSOCIATES

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon received a request from Priority Search Services, LLC seeking electronic “look only” inquiry access to the public tax records administered by the tax collector; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township’s tax records are currently maintained in an electronic format by Edmunds and Associates of Trenton, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, upon authorization, Priority Search Services, LLC, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry; and

WHEREAS, Priority Search Services, LLC also agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon:

1. Vernon Township will authorize Edmunds and Associates to provide look up information access to Priority Search Services, LLC, for Vernon Township property tax and/or utility records.
2. Priority Search Services, LLC shall be subject to Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
3. Priority Search Services, LLC waives any claim that it may have against Vernon Township in connection with Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
4. Priority Search Services, LLC, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry, agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.
5. The Township of Vernon shall not incur any charges for providing this access or means of information exchange to Priority Search Services, LLC.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

Ordinance #24-01: Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance #24-01.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Rizzuto, Sparta
NAYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion does not carry to approve ordinance #24-01.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

Economic Development Advisory Committee

Mayor Rossi appointed Peter Knipe as Chairman of the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Environmental Commission

Mayor Rossi appointed Stephanie DeBrienza as the Chairperson of the Environmental Commission and Ann Larsen as the Land Use Board Liaison.

Land Use Board

Mayor Rossi appointed John Auburger as the Mayor’s Designee to the Land Use Board, Ann Larsen as the Environmental Commission Liaison, Jodi White as Alternate #1 and Mark Vizzini as Alternate #4.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Limited to 5 Minutes On Any Topic)

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the meeting to Public Comments.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: DeBenedetto

All members were in favor.

Heidi Le Bris – wished the Mayor and Council well in 2024.

Katherina – welcomed the Mayor and Council and asked who was appointed to the Environmental Commission.

Steve Dunlop – questioned the agenda process if the agenda changes prior to a meeting.

Peter Knipe – congratulated the new Council Members and Mayor.

Sean Clarkin – questioned what the agreement was for the attorney that was originally on the agenda. Mr. Clarkin expressed concern with the agenda timeline.

Joe Tadrick – thanked the Council for the experience of being on the Council and he took it seriously. He congratulated Mayor Rossi and thanked the Municipal Clerk and Township Attorney.

Jessi Paladini – commented regarding the agenda process. She questioned the resolution for the Municipal Attorney appointment. Ms. Paladini questioned why the Town does not put out RFP's to new vendors.

Doreen Edwards – requested that the agenda is out in advance and she would like to see the attorney answer questions.

Seeing no one else from the public wishing to come forward, Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the meeting to Public Comments.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Higgins

All members were in favor.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Rossi thanked Joe Tadrick for his service to the military and the community. Mayor Rossi explained that he was the reason the agenda came out late. Mayor Rossi explained that it is early to make changes to the professionals. He is looking forward to the work ahead.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Higgins hopes to see improvements in the towns sport programs.

Council Member Buccieri reminded everyone about the Viking Snowshoe event on January 25, 2024.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council President Rizzuto thanked everyone for coming and congratulated the Mayor and the Council on their appointments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:55 pm Council Member Sparta made a motion to adjourn the Reorganization meeting. Seconded by Council Member Buccieri.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcy Gianattasio, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Patrick Rizzuto,
Council President

Minutes approved: February 15, 2024