

**VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 22, 2024 7:00 PM**

This Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:00 p.m. on January 22, 2024 via Zoom Webinar and in the Vernon Municipal Center, 21 Church Street, Vernon, New Jersey with Council President Rizzuto presiding.

**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to the public and the press on January 17, 2024 and was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-7.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Council President Rizzuto led the assemblage in the salute to the flag.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were Council Members, Jessica DeBenedetto, William Higgins and Council President Patrick Rizzuto. Also, present were Mayor Anthony Rossi, Business Administrator Tina Kraus, CFO Donelle Bright, Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio and Township Attorney Joshua Zielinski.

Council Members Buccieri and Sparta were not present.

**MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Rossi appointed Richard Spoerl to the Land Use Board as Class IV for a 4-Year Term

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

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

MOVED: Higgins

SECOND: DeBenedetto

All members were in favor.

Jessi Paladini – expressed concern over the reading of the Statement of Compliance. Ms. Paladini questioned items on the bills list.

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

MOVED: DeBenedetto

SECOND: Rizzuto

All members were in favor.

## REVIEW OF BILLS LIST

The Council reviewed the bills list.

## CONSENT AGENDA

**Resolution #24-44:** Resolution Authorizing and Ratifying a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Winter Activity Center for Use of the Municipal Parking Lot

**Resolution #24-45:** Resolution Accepting the Completion of Road Improvements Project to Various Streets within Vernon Township

**Resolution #24-46:** Resolution Appointment to the Vernon Township Municipal Utility Authority

**Resolution #24-47:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 455 Lot 3 – Miklovic)

**Resolution #24-48:** Cancelling Taxes for Total Disables Veteran (Miklovic Block 455 Lot 3)

**Resolution #24-49:** Approving Active Volunteer Firefighter for Membership in the New Jersey State Fireman's Association (Styles)

**Resolution #24-50:** Refund Overpayment (Block 631 Lot 4 – Belli)

**Resolution #24-51:** Refund Overpayment (Block 604 Lot 4 - Greendyk)

**Resolution #24-52:** Refund Overpayment (Block 492 Lot 43 – Corelogic)

**Resolution #24-53:** Resolution Authorizing Leasing of Certain Vehicles for the Department of Police Through Sourcewell National Cooperative #060618-EFM Through Enterprise Fleet Management Services Inc. (Quote No. 7687990, 7687991, 7687992- 3 x Oxford White)

**Resolution #24-54:** Resolution Authorizing Leasing of Certain Vehicles for the Department of Public Works Through Sourcewell National Cooperative #060618-EFM Through Enterprise Fleet Management Services Inc. (Quote No. 7718761, 7718762, 7718763- 3 x Oxford White)

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

MOVED: Higgins

SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: DeBenedetto, Higgins, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Buccieri, Sparta

Motion carries to approve the Consent Agenda.

**Resolution #24-44**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND RATIFYING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NATIONAL WINTER ACTIVITY CENTER FOR USE OF THE MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT**

**WHEREAS**, the National Winter Activity Center (“NWAC”) is dedicated to improving the lives, health and fitness of youth by providing access to winter sports activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the NWAC has a need for additional parking in connection with events occurring in the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township has determined that it is in the best interests of the public to provide the NWAC access to the municipal parking lot in connection with upcoming events on February 24, 2024; February 25, 2024; March 2, 2024 and March 3, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township and the NWAC have entered a memorandum of understanding concerning the NWAC’s use of the Township lot.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Township of Vernon that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute memorandum of understanding between the Township and the NWAC attached hereto.

**RESOLUTION #24-45**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE COMPLETION OF ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT TO VARIOUS STREETS WITHIN VERNON TOWNSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, the Township awarded contracts for the Road Improvement Project for Various Streets (*Cliffwood Lake, Barry lakes (E-2 section), Lake Panorama & Susan Valley Terrace*) to Riverview New York, Inc., Campbell Foundry Co. and Road Safety Systems, LLC, awarded by Resolutions #23-216 and #23-217 on August 14, 2023, and

**WHEREAS**, the Road Improvement Project for Various Streets has been completed, and inspected as per the plans and specifications; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Engineer has submitted a letter dated January 9, 2024 which states that the said contracts have been completed in full and that it is recommended that the Road Improvement Project for Various Streets be accepted by the Township Council.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Vernon Township Council accept this project identified as Road Improvement Project for Various Streets as final and complete; and

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

**RESOLUTION #24-46**

**RESOLUTION APPOINTMENT TO THE VERNON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITY AUTHORITY**

**WHEREAS**, the Vernon Township Municipal Utilities Authority (“VTMUA”) is a duly established utilities authority pursuant to the Municipal and County Utilities Authorities Law, N.J.S.A. 40:14B-1, et seq.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, and STATE OF NEW JERSEY**, that the following individuals are hereby appointed as a member of the Vernon Township Municipal Utility Authority, effective 02/01/2024, for a term specified as follows:

**Paul Kearny**                      **Seat 1**  
Expiring 01/31/2029

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

Vernon Township Municipal Utilities Authority

**RESOLUTION #24-47**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN  
(Block 455 Lot 3 – Miklovic)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** awarded William Miklovic a 100% permanent and totally disabled veteran: and,

**WHEREAS**, the law exempts said property from taxation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes the Tax Collector to refund 2023 property taxes in the amount of \$6,538.47 to William Miklovic.

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Township Tax Collector.

**RESOLUTION #24-48**

**CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN  
(Miklovic Block 455 Lot 3)**

**WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** on awarded William Miklovic a 100% permanent and total disabled veteran; and

**WHEREAS**, as of said date the law exempts said property from taxation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Township of Vernon authorizes the Tax Collector to cancel the taxes for 2024 in the amount of \$3,269.24.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector.

**RESOLUTION #24-49**

**APPROVING ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE  
NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION (Styles)**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council recognizes the extraordinary contributions made by volunteer firefighters to our community and seeks to encourage their full participation in professional organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, Nicholas A. Styles, an active firefighter and member of the Vernon Volunteer Fire Department, is requesting approval to submit an application for membership to the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, Sussex County, New Jersey hereby approves Nicholas A. Styles for membership in the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association.

**RESOLUTION #24-50**

**REFUND OVERPAYMENT  
(Block 631 Lot 4 – Belli)**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Cerene Belli in the amount of \$2491.80 representing refund for overpayment of 4th qtr. 2023 property taxes for Block 631 Lot 4.

<b>OWNER</b>	<b>BLOCK</b>	<b>LOT</b>	<b>REFUND AMOUNT</b>
Belli	631	4	\$2491.80
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$2491.80</b>

**RESOLUTION #24-51**

**REFUND OVERPAYMENT  
(Block 604 Lot 4 – Greendyk)**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Kevin Greendyk in the amount of \$1628.35 representing refund for overpayment of 4th qtr. 2023 property taxes for Block 604 Lot 4.

<b>OWNER</b>	<b>BLOCK</b>	<b>LOT</b>	<b>REFUND AMOUNT</b>
Greendyk	604	4	\$1628.35
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1628.35</b>

**RESOLUTION #24-52**

**REFUND OVERPAYMENT  
(Block 492 Lot 43 – Corelogic)**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Corelogic in the amount of \$1605.69 representing refund for overpayment of 3rd qtr. 2023 property taxes for Block 492 Lot 43.

<b>OWNER</b>	<b>BLOCK</b>	<b>LOT</b>	<b>REFUND AMOUNT</b>
Corelogic	492	43	\$1605.69
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1605.69</b>

**RESOLUTION #24-53**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LEASING OF CERTAIN VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF  
POLICE THROUGH SOURCEWELL**

**NATIONAL COOPERATIVE #060618-EFM THROUGH ENTERPRISE**

**FLEET MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.**

**(Quote No. 7687990, 7687991, 7687992- 3 x Oxford White)**

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

**WHEREAS**, the governing body of Vernon Township approved in Resolution 19-164 authorizing leasing of certain vehicles through Sourcewell National Cooperative #060618-EFM through Enterprise Fleet Management Services, Inc., and this is an extension of that resolution; and

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**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Public Contract Law P.L. 2011, C.139 (the “Law” or “Chapter 139” and N.J.S.A.52:34-6.2 the regulations promulgated there under in Local Finance Notice LFN 2012-10, the following purchase without competitive bids from vendor with a National Cooperative Contract is hereby approved for municipalities, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Vernon has the need to procure certain vehicles through lease program for Township services in accord with the Local Publics Contract Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et. Seq., and;

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Vernon has previously acted in accord with New Jersey public procurement statutes and regulations as promulgated by formally joining a recognized and compliant national cooperative, being the Sourcewell National Cooperative, and;

**WHEREAS**, the regulations as set forth within Local Finance Notice LFN 2012-10 have been fully complied with, and;

**WHEREAS**, the equipment and corresponding Sourcewell National Cooperative contract is #060618-EFM for Enterprise Fleet Management Services Inc.; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost savings determination as required under LFN 2012-10 is the cost of contract as there is currently no cooperative lease program in effect under the New Jersey Division of Purchase and Property; and

**WHEREAS**, the quoted cost under the Sourcewell National contract is \$140,510.88 (Quote No. 7687990, 7687991, 7687992); and

**WHEREAS**, that the governing body of Vernon Township pursuant to NJAC 5:30-5.5(b) (the certification of available funds), states that the Chief Finance Officer shall either certify the full maximum amount against the budget at the time the contract is awarded, or no contract amount shall be chargeable or certified until such time as the goods or services are ordered or otherwise called for prior to placing the order, and a certification of availability of funds is made by the Chief Finance Officer; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Business Administrator is hereby directed to effectuate the contract with Enterprise Fleet Management Services Inc. under Sourcewell contract #060618-EFM in accord with the provisions of the tenets as established within 40A:11-1 et. Seq.,

#### **RESOLUTION #24-54**

### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LEASING OF CERTAIN VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS THROUGH SOURCEWELL**

#### **NATIONAL COOPERATIVE #060618-EFM THROUGH ENTERPRISE**

#### **FLEET MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.**

**(Quote No. 7718761, 7718762, 7718763- 3 x Oxford White)**

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

**WHEREAS**, the governing body of Vernon Township approved in Resolution 19-164 authorizing leasing of certain vehicles through Sourcewell National Cooperative #060618-EFM through Enterprise Fleet Management Services, Inc., and this is an extension of that resolution; and

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**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Public Contract Law P.L. 2011, C.139 (the "Law" or "Chapter 139" and N.J.S.A.52:34-6.2 the regulations promulgated there under in Local Finance Notice LFN 2012-10, the following purchase without competitive bids from vendor with a National Cooperative Contract is hereby approved for municipalities, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Vernon has the need to procure certain vehicles through lease program for Township services in accord with the Local Publics Contract Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et. Seq., and;

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Vernon has previously acted in accord with New Jersey public procurement statutes and regulations as promulgated by formally joining a recognized and compliant national cooperative, being the Sourcewell National Cooperative, and;

**WHEREAS**, the regulations as set forth within Local Finance Notice LFN 2012-10 have been fully complied with, and;

**WHEREAS**, the equipment and corresponding Sourcewell National Cooperative contract is #060618-EFM for Enterprise Fleet Management Services Inc.; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost savings determination as required under LFN 2012-10 is the cost of contract as there is currently no cooperative lease program in effect under the New Jersey Division of Purchase and Property; and

**WHEREAS**, the quoted cost under the Sourcewell National contract is \$226,863.00 (Quote No. 7718761, 7718762, 7718763); and

**WHEREAS**, that the governing body of Vernon Township pursuant to NJAC 5:30-5.5(b) (the certification of available funds), states that the Chief Finance Officer shall either certify the full maximum amount against the budget at the time the contract is awarded, or no contract amount shall be chargeable or certified until such time as the goods or services are ordered or otherwise called for prior to placing the order, and a certification of availability of funds is made by the Chief Finance Officer; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Business Administrator is hereby directed to effectuate the contract with Enterprise Fleet Management Services Inc. under Sourcewell contract #060618-EFM in accord with the provisions of the tenets as established within 40A:11-1 et. Seq.,

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 5 Minutes Per Person)**

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the meeting for public comment.

MOVED: DeBenedetto

SECOND: Higgins

All members were in favor.

Heidi LeBris – questioned the Tax Senior Freeze.

Peter Knipe – recognized the superior work the DPW and other responders did during the snowstorms.

Jessi Paladini – complimented that the DPW always does a great job. Ms. Paladini gave an update on the signage for the Scenic Byway.

Peg Distasi – commented that PS2023C75 is a new law that increases the income tax for the Senior Freeze to \$150,000. Ms. Distasi questioned when the results from the testing of the Wallace property is going to be available.

Seeing no other members of the public wishing to speak, President Buccieri asked for a motion to close the meeting for Public Comments.

MOVED: DeBenedetto

SECOND: Higgins

All members were in favor.



## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Council Member DeBenedetto has noticed some inconsistencies with the reassessment program when her own home was inspected. She encourages everyone to get their property record cards and make sure everything on them is accurate.

Council Member Higgins questioned the reassessment program. The Council discussed with the CFO the reassessment program.

## **COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS**

Council President Rizzuto had no comments.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:50 pm Council Member Higgins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member DeBenedetto

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marcy Gianattasio, RMC, CMR  
Municipal Clerk

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Patrick Rizzuto  
Council President

Minutes approved: February 26, 2024