

**VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 14, 2024 7:00 PM**

This Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:00 p.m. on November 14, 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 Natalie Buccieri, William Higgins, Bradley Sparta and Council President Patrick Rizzuto. Also, present were Mayor Anthony Rossi, Business Administrator Tina Kraus, Assistant Municipal Clerk Lauren Shaw, Township Attorney Matthew Moench.

Council Member DeBenedetto was not present.

DISCUSSION ITEM

2024 Best Practices Survey

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Rossi commented on the passing of Michael Basso who passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 30th, 2024. Michael has been a lifelong resident of Vernon. Dedicated to his country and his community, Michael volunteered with the Highland Lakes Fire Department and then joined McAfee Fire Department. He also served honorably in the National Guard before enlisting in the United States Army. He cherished the values of honor and duty, and will be remembered as someone who always put everyone else first.

Mayor Rossi gave his condolences on the passing of Dariel Vasquez, an 18 year old firefighter killed Saturday while battling the massive wildfire that has burned thousands of acres along the New Jersey-New York border. Dariel was struck by a falling tree and was killed.

Mayor Rossi announced Vernon Township lost another member of the community Marilyn Turansky who was the President of the Senior Citizens Committee. He gave his condolences.

Mayor Rossi asked to keep Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio and her children in your thoughts and prayers on the tragic passing of her husband Peter.

Mayor Rossi asked for a moment of silence.

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: Buccieri

SECOND: Higgins

All members were in favor.

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

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

REVIEW OF BILLS LIST

The Council reviewed the bills list.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution #24-279: Resolution Of The Township Of Vernon, County Of Sussex, State Of New Jersey, Authorizing The Disposition Or Salvage Of Obsolete Equipment In The Possession Of The Township At Auction On Municibid.Com

Resolution #24-282: Authorizing The Mayor To Continue The Incentive To Employees Who Enroll In An Alternate Health Or Prescription Plan

Resolution #24-283: Resolution Authorizing the Option for Employees of the Township of Vernon to Waive Health Insurance Benefits

Resolution #24-285: Appointment Of Vernon Township Acting Zoning Officer

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

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: DeBenedetto

Motion carries to approved the consent agenda.

RESOLUTION #24-279

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON,
COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING
THE DISPOSITION OR SALVAGE OF OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT
IN THE POSSESSION OF THE TOWNSHIP AT AUCTION ON MUNICIBID.COM**

WHEREAS, the Township has requested that the Township Council authorize the disposition of equipment currently in the possession of Vernon Township and also request to salvage the equipment should the asking price and second offer be rejected; and,

WHEREAS, such surplus items may be sold at public auction to the highest bidder in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has reviewed a request which describes the items aforesaid to be sold at the auction; and

WHEREAS, the items to be sold are:

Lot #1 2011 2.5Yd Downeaster Stainless Steel Hopper Sander S/N 10816

Lot#2 2017 Sno-Bandit 2.5 Yd Stainless Steel Hopper Sander Model#SB-GH25H-8SS

Lot#3 2016 Sno-Bandit 2.5 Yd Stainless Steel Hopper Sander Model#SB-GH25H-8SS

Lot#4 2016 Sno-Bandit 2.5 Yd Stainless Steel Hopper Sander Model#SB-GH25H-8SS

Lot#5 2016 Sno-Bandit 2.5 Yd Stainless Steel Hopper Sander Model#SB-GH25H-8SS

Lot#6 2011 Sno-Bandit 2.5 Yd Stainless Steel Hopper Sander

Lot#7 2012 Ford Escape 4 x 4 VIN# 1FMCU9DG0CKC70170

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

1. That the Division of Purchasing, or its designee, be and hereby is authorized to sell at auction to the highest bidder, any and all surplus items as described.
2. The sale of the surplus property shall be conducted through Municibid in accordance with the terms and conditions at <https://municibid.com/Home/Terms>; and
3. The sale will be conducted online, and the address of the auction site is www.Municibid.com

4. The sale is being conducted pursuant to Local Finance Notice 2019-15.
5. The surplus property as identified shall be sold in an “as-is” condition without express or implied warranties with the successful bidder required to execute a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement concerning use of said surplus property.
6. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any bid submitted. That the Division of Purchasing, or its designee, be and hereby is authorized to sell at auction to the highest bidder, any and all surplus items as described.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36 that formal public notification will be provided by the publication of a Legal Notice in the official newspaper, the New Jersey Herald, not less than seven (7) or more than fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled auction.

RESOLUTION #24-282

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO CONTINUE THE INCENTIVE TO EMPLOYEES WHO ENROLL IN AN ALTERNATE HEALTH OR PRESCRIPTION PLAN

WHEREAS, Health and Prescription Costs for employees and retirees are rising year after year and account for over 10% of the municipal budget; and

WHEREAS, the Township is offering multiple alternative health insurance and prescription plans for its employees; and

WHEREAS, the Township and employee will see the largest savings for switching to the optional plan known as Aetna Whole Health, Aetna 2035 and a High Deductible Health Plan; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2017 the Township offered an incentive of 1/3 of the Township’s net savings for each employee who elects to switch to the alternate health or prescription plan for the plan year and it is the wish of the Township to continue that program for the plan year January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

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

1. The Mayor of the Township of Vernon is hereby authorized to continue the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding with the UAW Local 2326 which created the mechanism of which to allow the incentive to be paid.
2. The change to the Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual adding the addendum to offer this incentive to non-union employees is also continued.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage in accordance with law.

RESOLUTION #24-283

Resolution Authorizing the Option for Employees of the Township of Vernon to Waive Health Insurance Benefits

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon (hereinafter “Township”) is continually seeking to reduce expenditures where appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the Township provides health benefit coverage to all regular full time employees; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:10-17.1 authorizes municipalities to permit employees to waive health care coverage when such employees are covered for health care under the coverage of a spouse; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to statute, the Township may pay to the waiving employee an amount equal to not more than 25% or \$5,000.00, whichever is less, of the amount saved by the Township when coverage is waived; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to implement such a cost efficiency measure for the year 2025; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby implements the following provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:10-17.1:

1. Any employee who elects to waive health care coverage pursuant to this Resolution shall be paid a sum equal to 25% or \$5,000.00, whichever is less, of the health care premium savings received by the Township. Payment of sums required under this Resolution shall be made to the Employee on a monthly basis, each payment being one twelfth of the total sum due.
2. An employee shall be eligible for such waiver and payment only upon compliance with, and under the terms of, the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:10-17.1.
3. An employee shall be eligible to, or required to, resume coverage pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:10-17.1.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

RESOLUTION #24-285

APPOINTMENT OF VERNON TOWNSHIP ACTING ZONING OFFICER

WHEREAS, the Township's Zoning Officer, Allison LaRocca, has been serving the Township since October 2014; and

WHEREAS, per the Vernon Township Administrative Code, the Zoning Officer shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, a need exists for a Zoning Officer in the event that the current zoning officer is ill, or otherwise unavailable; and

WHEREAS, Kimberley L. Decker has obtained her zoning administration and enforcement certification to perform the duties of Zoning Officer.

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. Kimberley L. Decker is hereby appointed as the Acting Zoning Officer to review and approve zoning permits for the Township of Vernon, New Jersey, in the event that Ms. LaRocca is unavailable.

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

RESOLUTION

Resolution #24-281: Transfer Resolution- Balance Transfers

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #24-281.

MOVED: Higgins

SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: DeBenedetto

Motion carries to approve resolution #24-281

RESOLUTION #24-281

TRANSFER RESOLUTION- BALANCE TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon Municipal Budget requires certain modifications to cover potential expenses that may occur in excess of the original budget;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that the following Transfer of Appropriations (2024 Municipal Budget) in accordance with N.J.S.A 40A-58/59 are hereby approved.

ACCOUNT	TRANSFER OUT	TRANSFER IN
FROM CURRENT FUND:		
LEGAL SERVICES – O/E	40,000.00	
TO: CURRENT FUND		
VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES – O/E		25,000.00
HEALTH BENEFIT WAIVER – O/E		15,000.00
TOTAL TRANSFERS	40,000.00	40,000.00

Resolution #24-284: Resolution Authorizing Water Main Extension And System Improvements Agreement With Veolia Water New Jersey, Inc.

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #24-284.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN: Buccieri
ABSENT: DeBenedetto

Motion carries to approve resolution #24-284

RESOLUTION #24-284

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WATER MAIN EXTENSION AND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AGREEMENT WITH VEOLIA WATER NEW JERSEY, INC.

WHEREAS, Veolia Water New Jersey, Inc. (“Veolia”) holds a franchise to provide water service to certain parts of the Township of Vernon (“Township”) pursuant to a municipal consent granted by the Township to Veolia, and approved by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to expand Veolia’s franchise area to provide domestic water service and fire protection services (via sprinkler systems and fire hydrants) as it will bring much needed water upgrades to the Township’s infrastructure and allow for future development, which is currently limited due to water access; and

WHEREAS, the Township and Veolia have negotiated a water main and sewer extension agreement which has been reviewed by the Township Attorney and CFO, as set forth in **Exhibit A** attached hereto and fully incorporated by reference herein; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council finds that this agreement to be acceptable and in furtherance of the Township’s desired goal of expanding water services.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that the Township is hereby authorized to enter into the water main extension and system improvement agreement with Veolia, upon the terms as substantially set forth in **Exhibit A**, and that the Mayor is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption by the Township Council.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance #24-16: An Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The Township Of Vernon, In The County Of Sussex, State Of New Jersey, Providing For The Municipal Consent Of The Township For Veolia Water New Jersey, Inc. To Provide Water Service To Certain Properties Identified On Exhibit A Annexed Hereto In The Township Of Vernon And For The Laying Of Pipes And The Installation Of Other Utility Facilities As May Be Necessary.

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to introduce ordinance #24-16.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN: Buccieri
ABSENT: DeBenedetto

Motion carries to introduce ordinance #24-16.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

Ordinance #24-22: An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Vernon, County Of Sussex And State Of New Jersey Amending Certain Portions Of Chapter 99 Entitled “Vehicles And Traffic”

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #24-22.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to come forward, President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the public hearing on ordinance #24-22.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Sparta

All members were in favor.

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to adopt ordinance #24-22.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Buccieri

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #24-22.

ORDINANCE #24-22

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY
AMENDING CERTAIN PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 99 ENTITLED
“VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC”**

WHEREAS, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey that Chapter 99 Entitled “Vehicles and Traffic” of the Township Code are hereby amended as follows:

Article I. General Provisions

§99-5. Violations and penalties.

Unless another penalty is expressly provided by New Jersey statute or otherwise provided for in the Township Code or unless the penalty is expressly set forth in the Local Supplemental Violations Bureau Schedule of the Township of Vernon, every person convicted of a violation of a provision of this chapter or any supplement thereto shall be liable to a penalty of ~~not more than \$100 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 15 days, or both~~ not to exceed \$500.00.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication according to law.

Ordinance #24-23: Bond Ordinance Providing for the Acquisition of New Equipment for Use by the Department of Public Works of the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, Appropriating \$540,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$513,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township for Financing Such Appropriation

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #24-23.

MOVED: Higgins

SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to come forward, President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the public hearing on ordinance #24-23.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Higgins

All members were in favor.

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to adopt ordinance #24-23.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Buccieri

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #24-23.

ORDINANCE #24-23

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF NEW EQUIPMENT FOR USE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$540,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$513,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING SUCH APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring), **AS FOLLOWS:**

The improvement described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance is hereby authorized as a general improvement to be made or acquired by The Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey. For the said improvement or purpose stated in said Section 3, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$540,000, said sum being inclusive of all appropriations heretofore made therefor and including the sum of \$27,000 as the down

payment for said improvement or purpose required by law and now available therefor by virtue of provision in a previously adopted budget or budgets of the Township for down payment or for capital improvement purposes.

For the financing of said improvement or purpose, including for the purpose of applicable United States Treasury regulations the reimbursement of expenditures heretofore or hereafter made therefor and to meet the part of said \$540,000 appropriation not provided for by application hereunder of said down payment, negotiable bonds of the Township are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of \$513,000 pursuant to the Local Bond Law of New Jersey. In anticipation of the issuance of said bonds and to temporarily finance said improvement or purpose, negotiable notes of the Township in a principal amount not exceeding \$540,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to and within the limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

1. The improvement hereby authorized and purpose for the financing of which said obligations are to be issued is the acquisition, by purchase, of new and additional equipment for use by the Department of Public Works of the Township, including two (2) dump trucks, together with all equipment, apparatus, appurtenances and accessories necessary therefor or incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor on file or to be filed in the office of the Township Clerk and hereby approved.

The estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued for said purpose is \$513,000.

The estimated cost of said purpose is \$540,000, the excess thereof over the said estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued therefor being the amount of the said \$27,000 down payment for said purpose.

The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

The said purpose described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance is not a current expense and is a property or improvement which the Township may lawfully acquire or make as a general improvement, and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be specially assessed on property specially benefitted thereby.

The period of usefulness of said purpose within the limitations of said Local Bond Law, according to the reasonable life thereof computed from the date of the said bonds authorized by this bond ordinance, is ten (10) years.

The supplemental debt statement required by said Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the office of the Township Clerk and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey, and such statement shows that the gross debt of the Township as defined in said Local Bond Law is increased by the authorization of the bonds and notes provided for in this bond ordinance by \$513,000, and the said obligations authorized by this bond ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

An aggregate amount not exceeding \$10,000 for interest on said obligations, costs of issuing said obligations and other items of expense listed in and permitted under section 40A:2-20 of said Local Bond Law may be included as part of the cost of said improvement and is included in the foregoing estimate thereof.

All bond anticipation notes issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the chief financial officer, acting chief financial officer or treasurer of the Township (the “Chief Financial Officer”) provided that no note shall mature later than one year from its date. The notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer. The Chief Financial Officer shall determine all matters in connection with the notes issued pursuant to this bond ordinance, and the Chief Financial Officer’s signature upon the notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. All notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. §40A:2-8. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the notes from time to time at public or private sale at not less than par and to deliver them to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price plus accrued interest from their dates to the dates of delivery thereof. The Chief Financial Officer is directed to report in writing to the governing body of the Township at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the notes pursuant to this bond ordinance is made. Such report must include the principal amount, interest rate and maturities of the notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

The full faith and credit of the Township are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the said obligations authorized by this bond ordinance. Said obligations shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Township, and the Township shall be obligated to levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable property within the Township for the payment of said obligations and interest thereon without limitation of rate or amount.

The capital budget or temporary capital budget of the Township is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing all detail of the amended capital budget or temporary capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, are on file with the Township Clerk and are available for public inspection.

This bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by said Local Bond Law.

Ordinance #24-24: Ordinance Addressing Clothing Allowance for Members of Volunteer Ambulance and First Aid Squads Serving the Township

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #24-24.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to come forward, President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the public hearing on ordinance #24-24.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Sparta

All members were in favor.

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to adopt ordinance #24-24.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Buccieri

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #24-24.

ORDINANCE #24-24

**ORDINANCE ADDRESSING CLOTHING ALLOWANCE FOR MEMBERS OF VOLUNTEER
AMBULANCE AND FIRST AID SQUADS SERVING THE TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon (Township) previously approved Ordinance 15-06, which provided for a clothing allowance for members of certain fire companies and ambulance squads serving the Township; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 15-06 codified the clothing allowance into Chapter 52 and specifically, § 52-7 of the Township’s Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Township subsequently passed Ordinance 21-13, which updated the Township Code relating to volunteer fire companies operating within the Township and established a Division of Fire Suppression within the Department of Public Safety, repealing and replacing the then-existing Chapter 52; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 21-13 inadvertently omitted certain ambulance squads from the clothing allowance, which is now contained in Ordinance § 52-10 and which relates to the Division of Fire Suppression; and

WHEREAS, the Township seeks to grant a clothing allowance to volunteer first aid squads, consistent with the intent of Ordinance 15-06, and to include same in a separate section of the Township Code specifically for volunteer first aid squads.

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

SECTION 1. Part I, titled “Administrative Legislation”, Chapter 5, titled “Administration of Government”, Article XII, titled “Department of Public Safety” of the Township Code is hereby supplemented as follows:

§ 5-72 Clothing allowance for members of volunteer first aid squads.

1. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the Township shall pay an annual clothing allowance to members of the Vernon Township Emergency Medical Services Volunteer Ambulance Corps, or any other recognized volunteer first aid or ambulance squad serving the Township.
2. The allowances shall be based upon a 12-month period from January 1st to December 31st each year.
3. The amount of the yearly clothing allowance shall be \$300 per year.
4. In order to be eligible for a clothing allowance the member must:
 - a. Be a full, active member, 18 years old or older in good standing (junior members and auxiliary members are not eligible;
 - b. Have 2 years of active service with the Department in which they serve;
 - c. Be up to date on state-mandated training;
 - d. Have attended 30% of emergency calls and 50% of all Department drill/training; and
 - e. Have a valid New Jersey Driver’s License.
5. The Chief or presiding officer of each department is responsible for the submission of the list of qualified members.

6. The Chiefs and Department Treasurers are exempt from the above requirements and will automatically receive the stipend.
7. No member is allowed to receive a stipend from more than one Department.
8. All “run sheets” will be filed with the Township Chief Financial Officer and will be subject to audit.

SECTION 2. Severability.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be severable. In the event that any portion of this Ordinance is found to be invalid for any reason by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be limited in its effect only to the portion of the Ordinance actually adjudged invalid and shall not be deemed to affect the operation of any other portion thereof, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. Repealer.

All ordinances and resolutions, and parts of ordinances and resolutions which are inconsistent with provisions of this ordinance shall be, and are hereby, repealed to the extent of any such inconsistency.

SECTION 4. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect upon final adoption and publication in accordance with law.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 5 Minutes Per Person)

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

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

Jason of All the Flavors LLC – spoke to the Council regarding a potential micro cannabis license.

Johnny Espinosa – expressed concern with rain water on his property.

Karina Espinosa - expressed concern with rain water on his property.

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

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Higgins

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the floor to public comments.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Higgins asked about the people shooting guns on Price Road and if that was an ongoing issue. Council Member Higgins commented on the Best Practices Survey and the question having to do with Chapter 78 regarding public employee’s health insurance.

Council Member Sparta had no comments.

Council Member Buccieri had no comments.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council President Rizzuto expressed concern about the fires that are taking place and he hopes that people are being very careful with the demands of no open burns. Council President Rizzuto explained that the fire departments help each other in these situations by sharing equipment and services. He recognized a few fire fighters who were in Greenwood Lake fighting a brush fire: Vernon Fire Department resources were requested by Sussex County fire coordinator and Orange County NY coordinator. We sent an engine from Vernon, McAfee, and Pochuck to assist at the scene in both states. The crews comprised of members of all four companies. They are as follows: Tim Davis, Matt Hayward, Mike Taylor, Joey Cordeiro, Drew VanGorder, Mike Passaro, Tom O’Brien, Steve Myers, Jack

Speight, Matt Sheridan, Timmy Pallis, John Cosh, Marc Cosh, Brian Enering, Tyler Enering, Terri VanderHey, Darren Gable, Ellen Rome, Alex Kazanecki, Nick Styles. The courtesy and the respect that these firefighters have for each other is amazing, and we thank them for all of the work that they do.

Council President Rizzuto reminded everyone that as we approach the holiday season, there are a number of activities planned through our recreation department.

On behalf of the Council, Council President Rizzuto wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:23 pm Council Member Higgins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Buccieri.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcy Gianattasio, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Patrick Rizzuto
Council President

Minutes approved: January 15, 2025