

**VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 9, 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, Jessica DeBenedetto, William Higgins, Bradley Sparta and Council President Patrick Rizzuto. Also, present were Mayor Anthony Rossi, Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio, CFO Donelle Bright and Township Attorney Matthew Moench.

PRESENTATION

Swearing In – Officer Robert Baumann

Swearing In – Sgt. Harry Russo

Recognition: Tyler Mackesy

Jenna Mackesy

Candice Leitner

Robert Niessen

Tiffany Burrows

Recognition: Alexander Ortiz

Officer Abigal Lenz #71

Council President Rizzuto called a ten-minute recess.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Rossi announced that the Quiet Time with Santa and the annual Holiday Tree Lighting was very successful. He met Miss Vernon who will be going to boot camp for the US Army. Miss Vernon is also a member of Vernon's EMT and is hoping to be a medical combat vet.

Mayor Rossi also announced that tomorrow is the Senior Holiday Party at Casa Bianca. The Senior of the Year will be announced.

The Holiday Toy Train will take place on Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 4:00pm, followed by the Celebration of Light on December 26, 2024.

Mayor Rossi will be announcing his list of accomplishments and in late February will post a State of the Township address.

Mayor Rossi wished everyone happy holidays and a Happy New Year.

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: Sparta

SECOND: Buccieri

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: Higgins

SECOND: DeBenedetto

All members were in favor.

REVIEW OF BILLS LIST

The Council reviewed the bills list.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 28, 2024 – Executive Session

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the October 28, 2024 executive session minutes.

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN: DeBenedetto

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approved the October 28, 2024 executive session minutes.

October 28, 2024 – Regular Meeting

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the October 28, 2024 regular meeting minutes.

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Higgins

All members were in favor except for DeBenedetto who abstained.

Motion carries to approved the October 28, 2024 regular meeting minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution #24-287: Appointment of Office of Emergency Management Coordinator (Kenneth W. Clark)

Resolution #24-288: Appointment of Office of Emergency Management Deputy Coordinator (Daniel B. Young)

Resolution #24-289: Appointment of Office of Emergency Management Deputy Coordinator (Ken Kiefer)

Resolution #24-290: Resolution of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, Awarding Bid# 10-2024 Air Filling Station Bid

Resolution #24-291: Transfer Resolution – Balance Transfers

Resolution #24-292: Temporary Budget – Debt Service

Resolution #24-293: Resolution Amending Resolution #24-252 for Award of Contract to Vendor with National Cooperative Contracts HGACBUY

Resolution #24-294: Refund Overpayment (Block 257 Lot 15 – Wheaton)

Resolution #24-295: Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 73 Lot 4-Williams)

Resolution #24-296: (Block 73 Lot 4-(Williams) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

Resolution #24-297: (Block 73 Lot 4-(Williams) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

Resolution #24-298: Resolution Requesting Authorization to Purchase 5 Cardiac Science Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) from the Newton Medical Center Foundation

Resolution #24-300: Resolution Accepting Bid of Hunter Truck Sales for 2023 Kenworth T880 or Equivalent Bid 11-2024

Resolution #24-302: Approving Active Volunteer Firefighter for Membership in the New Jersey State Firefighter's Association (Petrucci)

Resolution #24-303: Approving a Solicitor's Permit – Archtop Fiber

Resolution #24-304: Approving a Solicitor's Permit – WVT Fiber

Resolution #24-305: Resolution Authorizing Leasing of Certain Vehicles for the Department of Fire Prevention Through Sourcewell National Cooperative #060618-EFM Through Enterprise Fleet Management Services Inc. (Quote No. 8452213- 1 x Vermillion Red)

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

MOVED: DeBenedetto
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approved the consent agenda.

RESOLUTION #24-287

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon is in need to appoint an Office of Emergency Coordinator and wishes to renew appointment of Kenneth W. Clark for the position.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, and STATE OF NEW JERSEY, that Kenneth W. Clark is hereby appointed as the Township of Vernon Office of Emergency Coordinator for term of three years effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Township Clerk shall send a certified copy of this resolution to the County Office of Emergency Management.

RESOLUTION #24-288

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPUTY COORDINATOR (Daniel B. Young)

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon is in need to appoint an Office of Emergency Management Deputy Coordinator and wishes to appointment of Daniel B. Young for the position.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, and STATE OF NEW JERSEY, that Daniel B. Young is hereby appointed as the Township of Vernon Office of Emergency Management Deputy Coordinator for the term effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Township Clerk shall send a certified copy of this resolution to the County Office of Emergency Management.

RESOLUTION #24-289

**APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPUTY COORDINATOR
(Ken Kiefer)**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon is in need to appoint an Office of Emergency Management Deputy Coordinator and wishes to appointment of Ken Kiefer for the position.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, and STATE OF NEW JERSEY, that Ken Kiefer is hereby appointed as the Township of Vernon Office of Emergency Management Deputy Coordinator for the term effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Township Clerk shall send a certified copy of this resolution to the County Office of Emergency Management.

RESOLUTION #24-290

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AWARDING BID# 10-2024 AIR FILLING STATION BID

WHEREAS, the Township public advertised and sought bids for Bid 10-2024 Air Filling Station Bid, in a fair and open manner, consistent with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Township received and opened bids on November 15, 2024, wherein the Township received three (3) bids, to wit:

NAME OF BIDDER	AAA Emergency Supply Co., Inc.	New Jersey Fire Equipment Co.	Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc.
LUMP SUM	\$47,894.00	\$48,225.61	\$48,927.30

;and

WHEREAS, the bid submitted by AAA Emergency Supply Co., Inc. 635 North Broadway, White Plains, New York, 10603 was determined to be the lowest responsible bidder in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4A.

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

The bid submitted by AAA Emergency Supply Co., Inc. 635 North Broadway, White Plains, New York, 10603 is hereby awarded in the amount of \$47,894.00.

The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute all contracts and agreements in furtherance of Bid #10-2024 Air Filling Station Bid.

RESOLUTION #24-291

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:		
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – S&W	5,900.00	
STREETS & ROADS – O/E	6,000.00	
TO: CURRENT FUND		
TAX ASSESSMENT – S&W		900.00
HEALTH BENEFIT WAIVER – O/E		2,000.00
RECYCLING – S&W		2,000.00
MAINTENANCE OF PARKS – S&W		1,000.00
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – O/E		6,000.00
TOTAL TRANSFERS	11,900.00	11,900.00

RESOLUTION #24-292

Temporary Budget- Debt Service

WHEREAS, N.J.S.40A:4-19 provides authority for appropriating in a temporary resolution the permanent debt service requirements for the coming fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, the date of this resolution is subsequent to that date, and

WHEREAS, principal and interest will be due on various dates from January 1, 2025 to January 31, 2025, inclusive, on bonds and notes issued and outstanding,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, that the following appropriations be made to cover the period from January 1, 2025 to January 31, 2025 inclusive:

Payment of Bonds	\$1,285,000.00
Interest on Bonds	<u>59,662.00</u>
Total	<u>\$1,344,662.00</u>

RESOLUTION #24-293

**RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION #24-252 FOR AWARD OF
CONTRACT TO VENDOR WITH NATIONAL COOPERATIVE CONTRACTS
HGACBUY**

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

WHEREAS, the Township awarded on September 23, 2024, through Resolution #24-252, an award to First Priority Vehicles an authorized under HGAC contract AM10-23, in the amount of \$299,949.00; and

WHEREAS, First Priority Vehicle has discovered the requirement to Repair Subflooring As Necessary upon discovery of refurbishment of the ambulance in the amount of an additional \$2,698.00; and

WHEREAS, the repairs are acceptable to the Township, necessitating a new not to exceed amount of 302,647.00, consistent with HGAC contract AM10-23; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer certifies that funds are available in the amount of: \$2,698.00

Through line item: C-04-24-010 Various Purpose Bond Ordinance

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT; the Mayor is hereby authorized to effectuate the

purchase of herein approved equipment for the amended not to exceed amount of \$302,647.00 through First Priority Vehicles an authorized under HGAC contract AM10-23.

TOWNSHIP OF VERNON

RESOLUTION #24-294

**REFUND OVERPAYMENT
(Block 257 Lot 15 – Wheaton)**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Stephen Wheaton in the amount of \$3253.57 representing refund for overpayment of 1st qtr. 2024 property taxes for Block 257 Lot 15.

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Wheaton	257	15	\$3253.57
		TOTAL:	\$3253.57

RESOLUTION #24-295

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN
(Block 73 Lot 4-Williams)**

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS awarded Craig Williams 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 2024 property tax in the amount of \$2,696.12 to Craig Williams.

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

RESOLUTION #24-296

**(Block 73 Lot 4 – (Williams))
CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS on awarded Craig Williams 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 \$5,077.49.

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

RESOLUTION #24-297

**(Block 73 Lot 4 – (Williams))
CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS on awarded Craig Williams 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 2025 in the amount of \$4,785.58.

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

RESOLUTION #24-298

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE 5 CARDIAC SCIENCE
AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFRIBILLATORS (AED’s) FROM THE
NEWTON MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION.**

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Township of Vernon to use \$4,150 from the Opioid Settlement Fund to purchase five (5) AED’s replacing five (5) AED’s which are at the end of their serviceable life.

WHEREAS, the Vernon Township Police Department responds to and provides care for individuals suffering from symptoms of an overdose and cardiac arrest, sometimes requiring use of an AED for defibrillation.

WHEREAS, the Vernon Township Police Department Police Chief recommend the purchase of the listed defibrillators at a subsidized rate through the Newton Medical Center AED program.

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that there are sufficient funds in the Opiod Settlement Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, approve the purchase of five (5) Cardiac Science AED’s from the Newton Medical Center Foundation, effective December 9th, 2024.

RESOLUTION #24-300

**Resolution Accepting Bid of Hunter Truck Sales
for 2023 Kenworth T880 or Equivalent Bid 11-2024**

WHEREAS, there is a need for a 2023 Kenworth T880 or Equivalent through bid # 11-2024 in the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon publicly advertised for bids and received in a public manner on October 16, 2024, at 11:30A.M. for 2023 Kenworth T880 or Equivalent Bid under bid 11-2024; and

WHEREAS, the Township received two (2) bids to wit:

Hunter Truck Sales	Nassau Trading Inc.
\$239,900.00	\$292,110.00
2023 Kenworth	2025 Kenworth

;and

WHEREAS, the Qualified Purchasing Agent has reviewed the bid submitted by Hunter Truck Sales, 524 Monmouth Road, Clarksburg, New Jersey, 08510. and found them to be the lowest responsible bidder in accord with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4(a).

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

- 1. The contract for 2023 Kenworth T880 or Equivalent Bid is hereby awarded to Hunter Truck Sales, 524 Monmouth Road, Clarksburg, New Jersey, 08510 in the amount of \$239,900.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, 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.

RESOLUTION #24-302

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

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, Joseph Petrucci an active firefighter and member of the Vernon Township 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 Joseph Petrucci for membership in the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association.

RESOLUTION #24-303

APPROVING A SOLICITOR PERMIT – Archtop Fiber

WHEREAS, Sean Gilbane has made an application for a Solicitor Permit for the purposes of providing fiberoptic internet service; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of the application for a Solicitor Permit, by Sean Gilbane of Archtop Fiber, the Vernon Township Police Department investigated the applicant’s moral character and found it to be satisfactory and in good order for the protection of the public good; and the necessary application has been filed and all documentation is in order;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that approval be granted for a Solicitor Permit for Sean Gilbane of Archtop Fiber

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to issue a Solicitor’s Permit to the aforesaid applicant in accordance with Chapter 428 of the Code of the Township of Vernon.

RESOLUTION #24-304

APPROVING A SOLICITOR PERMIT – WVT Fiber

WHEREAS, Jean Beattie has made an application for a Solicitor Permit for the purposes of providing high-speed fiber internet, digital phone service; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of the application for a Solicitor Permit, by Jean Beattie of WVT Fiber, the Vernon Township Police Department investigated the applicant’s moral character and found it to be satisfactory and in good order for the protection of the public good; and the necessary application has been filed and all documentation is in order;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that approval be granted for a Solicitor Permit for Jean Beattie of WVT Fiber

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to issue a Solicitor’s Permit to the aforesaid applicant in accordance with Chapter 428 of the Code of the Township of Vernon.

RESOLUTION #24-305

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LEASING OF CERTAIN VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT
OF FIRE PREVENTION THROUGH SOURCEWELL
NATIONAL COOPERATIVE #060618-EFM THROUGH ENTERPRISE
FLEET MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.
(Quote No. 8452213- 1 x Vermillion Red)**

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 \$58,158.60 (Quote No. 8452213); 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.,

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #24-299: Resolution Authorizing the Award of CC# 9-2024 Financial Advisory and Management Consulting Services LOSAP Program Through the Competitive Contracting Process

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #24-299.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve resolution #24-299.

TOWNSHIP OF VERNON

RESOLUTION #24-299

Resolution Authorizing the Award of CC# 9-2024 Financial Advisory and Management Consulting Services LOSAP Program Through the Competitive Contacting Process

WHEREAS, the Township has authorized the competitive contract procurement for Financial Advisory and Management Consulting Services LOSAP Program Through the Competitive Contacting Process through resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Township received and opened responses in a public manner on November 15, 2024.; 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, in accord with N.J.A.C.5:34-4; and

WHEREAS, the Township received one (1) proposal; and

WHEREAS the report produced by the committee recommended Lincoln Retirement Plan Services, LLC, 1301 South Harrison Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46802 and 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, Lincoln Retirement Plan Services, LLC, 1301 South Harrison Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46802, has provided a proposal deemed as the most advantageous based upon Price and Other Factors (N.J.A.C. 5:34-4); and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation that the Township enter into an agreement for services under competitive contract with Lincoln Retirement Plan Services, LLC, 1301 South Harrison Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46802 for a period of five (5) years under the terms and tenets as set forth in the competitive contract procurement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED 1. That the Mayor is authorized to execute contract with Lincoln Retirement Plan Services, LLC, 1301 South Harrison Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46802 under the precepts of competitive contract grant writing services vendor CC# 5-2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk shall forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Business Administrator; Chief Financial Officer; and Purchasing Agent.

Resolution #24-301: Authorizing an Agreement with the County of Sussex, Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services, for Transportation Services for Senior Citizens and People with Disabilities who Reside in Vernon Township for the Year 2025 in the Amount of \$50,000.00 Per Year

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #24-301.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve resolution #24-301.

RESOLUTION #24-301

AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES, FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WHO RESIDE IN VERNON TOWNSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2025 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.00 PER YEAR

WHEREAS, the County of Sussex (hereinafter the County) operates a coordinated, countrywide transportation system and desires to improve paratransit service coverage to the outlying areas of its geographic boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon (hereinafter the Township) desires transportation for its senior citizens and people with disabilities as per the service agreement; and

WHEREAS, the term of the agreement will be in effect beginning January 1, 2025 and terminating on December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the cost of these services will not exceed \$50,000.00 per year; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified the funds for 2025 subject to the adoption of the 2025 Municipal Budget.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the 1st day of January, 2025 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 the County of Sussex for the purpose of Transportation for Senior Citizens and People with Disabilities in accordance with the attached agreement; and
2. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an Agreement with the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey.

Resolution #24-306: Authorizing the Collective Bargaining Agreement with U.A.W. Local #2326 and Vernon Township

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #24-306.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve resolution #24-306.

RESOLUTION #24-306

**AUTHORIZING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH U.A.W.
LOCAL #2326 AND VERNON TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has agreed to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the U.A.W. Local #2326, which shall govern the terms of employment and compensation for the Administrative Employees for the calendar years 2025 through 2029; and

WHEREAS, U.A.W. Local; #2326, has agreed to enter in.to a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Township of Vernon and has been voted upon by its members adopting said Agreement.

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 Council authorizes a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Township and the U.A.W. Local #2326.
2. The Mayor and Township Business Administrator are authorized to sign the

Collective Bargaining Agreement on behalf of the Township.

3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

A copy of this resolution as well as the referenced Collective Bargaining Agreement shall be placed on file with the Clerk of the Township.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE/PUBLIC HEARING

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.

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #24-16.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Higgins

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 #24-16.

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

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

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN: Buccieri

ABSENT:

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #24-16.

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.

WHEREAS, the properties identified on Exhibit A annexed hereto on the Township of Vernon Tax Assessment Map (the “Properties”) are either vacant or have historically received water service from wells and the Township desires to connect said Properties to the public water supply; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon also is desirous of spurring economic development, redevelopment, and capital investment into the area and the properties included within the requested franchise expansion area; and

WHEREAS, the provision of water services to these Properties is in the best interest of the Township and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Veolia Water New Jersey, Inc., (“Veolia”) is a New Jersey Public utility corporation providing water service to certain areas within the State of New Jersey, including within other Properties within the Township of Vernon;

WHEREAS, Veolia desires to secure the consent of the Borough to (i) provide water service to the Properties, and (ii) to lay water pipes beneath such public roads, streets, alleys and places adjacent thereto as it may deem necessary for its corporate purpose to provide water service to the Property.

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

Section 1.

1. Veolia is hereby given the consent and permission of the Township of Vernon to provide water service to the Properties identified on Exhibit A annexed hereto, and to lay, maintain and relay its water pipes, mains, connections, apparatus and appurtenances beneath such public roads, streets, alleys and places as it may deem necessary in the future for its corporate purposes, subject to such additional approvals or consents the law may require, within the lands and premises hereinafter designated and under all public roads, streets, alleys, or places abutting same for the purpose of providing water service to:

All those tracts or parcels of lands shown on the Tax Assessment Map of
The Township of Vernon as identified on Exhibit A, annexed hereto.

2. The consent granted by this Ordinance is made expressly subject to the following conditions:
 - a. In the event that the Township of Vernon shall hereafter lawfully elect to alter or change the grade of any street, alley or other public way within its jurisdiction, Veolia shall upon reasonable notice by the Township, remove, relay or relocate its water mains, service pipes, manholes and other fixtures at its own expense.
 - b. In case of any disturbance of pavement, sidewalk, driveway or other surfacing of any public street, road, highway or other public places cause by Veolia, Veolia shall, at its own costs and expense and in a manner required by the Township Code and as approved by the Township Engineer, replace and restore all paving, sidewalks, driveways and other surfaces of any street, road, highway or other public places disturbed in as good condition as before said work was commenced;
 - c. This consent shall take effect upon the approval of the Board of Public Utilities as required by law.

Section 2. Should any part, portion or provision of his ordinance be held unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole, or any other part thereof.

Section 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon publication and final passage according to law.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 5 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.

John Cosh – Vernon Township Fire Commissioner, explained to the Council that the LOSAP program is going well and there are more members out at calls. They are almost up to 500 calls for the year. There have been 15 new members join the fire department. Mr. Cosh appreciates the Council’s support.

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: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the floor to public comments.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Higgins asked what the cost of the DWP contract was.

Council Member DeBenedetto had no comments.

Council Member Sparta commented that we saw a lot of people get civilian appreciation awards tonight. He feels that in a time when people do not want to get involved, there are still great people in the world and in the town. Council Member Sparta appreciates the Mayor and Chief Young taking the time to recognize all the good things that happen in the town by great people.

Council Member Buccieri wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. She hopes that Mountain Creek has a great season. Council Member Buccieri has enjoyed working with the Council this year.

Council Member Higgins listened to the live podcast with the Mayor and Tax Assessor Kristen Umansky. He feels that Kristen did a great job.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council President Rizzuto feels that it was wonderful to recognize the people who did voluntary acts of service to help an injured resident. Council President Rizzuto remembers when a resident needed a transplant and the town went all out to help this person. This makes us proud to be residents of Vernon. Council President Rizzuto wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:27 pm Council Member Sparta 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