

The Public Meeting of the Mount Olive Township Council was called to order at 7:24pm by President Roman.

President Roman: In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by sending timely notice to the Daily Record and the Mount Olive Chronicle and posting notice on the bulletin board of the Municipal Building, 204 Flanders Drakestown Road, Budd Lake, N.J. Additional notice has been posted on the Township website and Facebook page and on the outside front door of the Municipal Building and sent to those individuals requesting same.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Aaron, Mrs. Labow, Ms. Lalama, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Ferrante, and Mr. Roman

Absent: Mr. Mania

Also Present: Michelle Masser, Township Clerk; Sue Sharpe, Township Attorney; Joe Nicastro, Mayor; Andrew Tatarenko, Business Administrator; Claudia Quinn, Assistant Business Administrator; and Sherry Kolody, CFO

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 1. December 19, 2023, WS & PM (Absent: Mr. Ferrante & Mrs. Labow)
January 2, 2024, Reorganization Meeting
January 9, 2024, WS & PM (Absent: Mr. Mania @ WS, and arrived at 7:07pm to PM)

Mr. Aaron moves for approval of the December 19, 2023, WS & PM Minutes, January 2, 2024, Reorganization Meeting Minutes and January 9, 2024, WS & PM Minutes and **Mrs. Labow** seconds. There was no discussion.

ROLL CALL: **Passed with the exception of Mr. Ferrante and Mrs. Labow, who abstained on the December 19, 2024, WS & PM Minutes**

CORRESPONDENCE

LETTERS FROM RESIDENTS/ORGANIZATIONS/OTHER TOWNS

- 1. Email received January 16, 2024, from NOFA NJ regarding NOFA NJ Weekly Email: January 15, 2024.
- 2. Letter received January 16, 2024, from HOTGS, Inc, Jennifer Phillips Smith, Esq., GIBBONS P.C., regarding Public Notice - the Town of Hackettstown Land Use Board will hold a hearing on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 7:00pm in the Town of Hackettstown Municipal Building, located at 215 Stiger Street, Hackettstown, New Jersey 07840, for the purposes of reviewing and taking action upon the application of HOTGS, Inc.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES OTHER TOWNS

- 3. Email received January 16, 2024, from Roxbury Township regarding Roxbury Land Use Ordinance No. 02-24 INTRO (public hearing & 2nd reading scheduled for 02-13-24).

LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

- 4. Email received January 8, 2024, from NJLM regarding Affordable Housing Held; Brewery Bill Moves; Lame Duck Activity.
- 5. Email received January 8, 2024, from NJLM regarding Governor Murphy to Deliver State of the State on January 9th.
- 6. Email received January 11, 2024, from NJLM regarding Governor Delivers State of State Address.
- 7. Email received January 12, 2024, from NJLM Weekly Round-Up regarding State of the State; Bill Activity; Flood Mitigation.

- 8. Email received January 12, 2024, from NJLM Weekly Round-Up regarding State of the State; Bill Activity; Flood Mitigation.

STATE AGENCIES/LOI/HIGHLANDS – None

MSA/MUA – None

MORRIS COUNTY

- 9. Email received January 4, 2024, from Morris County regarding Flood Mitigation Program Supports Morris County Residents.
- 10. Email received January 5, 2024, from Morris County regarding Morris Academy Ranks Number One in the State.
- 11. Email received January 5, 2024, from Morris County regarding This Week in Morris County: Happy New Year!
- 12. Email received January 8, 2024, from Morris County regarding Morris County Government Reorganizes for 2024.
- 13. Email received January 8, 2024, from Morris County regarding Morris County Commissioner Stephen Shaw Elected Secretary of North Jersey Transportation Planning.
- 14. Email received January 10, 2024, from Morris County regarding Apply for 2024 Morris County Historic Preservation Funds.
- 15. Email received January 12, 2024, from Morris County regarding Morris County Weathers the Storms.
- 16. Email received January 12, 2024, from Morris County regarding Morris County Weathers the Storms.
- 17. Email received January 16, 2024, from Morris County regarding This Week in Morris County: Jan. 12, 2024.
- 18. Email received January 16, 2024, from Morris County regarding Morris County Honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

UTILITIES

- 19. Email received January 12, 2024, from New Jersey Natural Gas regarding NJNG – SBC virtual public hearings.
- 20. Email received January 12, 2024, from New Jersey Natural Gas regarding NJNG – SBC virtual public hearings - With Attachment.
- 21. Letter received January 16, 2024, from Jersey Central Power & Light regarding In the Matter of Jersey Central Power & Light Company's Verified Petition to Establish a Rate for Rider Lost Revenue Adjustment Mechanism ("LRAM") for Sales Losses Incurred During Program Year 1 Pursuant to the Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs ("PY 1 Rider LRAM Filing").

There was no discussion on Correspondence.

ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

President Roman: I open the hearing to the public on Ordinance #1-2024 entitled,

Ord.#1-2024 An Ordinance of the Township of Mount Olive Amending Ordinance #38-2023 Which Established Salaries for the Mayor, Council, Department Heads and Other Exempt Employees.

President Roman: Mr. Ferrante.

Mr. Ferrante: Sure, I move . . .

President Roman: Does anyone from the public wish to be heard on this Ordinance?

Mrs. Sergonis: I did. I'm sorry, I didn't . . . okay.

President Roman: Name and address unless you're exempt from Daniels Law.

Mrs. Sergonis: I'm not. Irene Sergonis, Mount Olive Road, Budd Lake. So, I was really surprised that there's no . . . for Ordinance #1-2024, you're giving yourselves a 20 percent increase and there was no discussion about this. We saw in a recent newspaper that we're going to expect a tax increase this year and I think giving yourselves a salary increase is not the correct tone. In a couple of weeks, you're going to have budget hearings. You're going to ask your department managers to do more for less, but in the meantime, the first Ordinance of 2024 is a large salary increase and you know, I have an issue with that. So, that's my thing. Thank you.

President Roman: I appreciate your comments. Anyone else? Okay. Seeing none. Anyone else from the public wish to be heard? Name and address unless you're exempt from Daniels Law.

Mr. Ghoshal: Hi everybody. Mayor. My name is Ron Ghoshal, I live at 182 Stephens State Park Road. I've been a citizen here for about a little over a year and I have grown to start to really love this Town. I'm excited about the new Mayor and congratulations. Today I saw that Ordinance #1-2024 for this year, for the recently seated Mayor, as well as the beginning of 2024, involves large increases to compensation ranging from 20 to 50 percent, depending on the role. As somebody who's worked at ADP and has helped craft compensation and pay range salaries for major corporations, I wanted to ask questions about when the salary range increases were vetted. Were they vetted by a third party? You know, when . . . what date those were all approved. Because they're huge increases, right? And when I commented in the Township forum today on Facebook, the people who participated were confused and they were taken aback by the size of some of the increases. Some individuals stated that police and fire budgets were suffering while these increases are being put forward, and I wanted to call that out on behalf of citizens who may not be able to be present today as well as myself. I also wanted to call out that recently we had a vote on a referendum that would've brought in a loan-based tax increase to improve schools for kids like my daughter and the individuals who showed up and voted, they voted against tax increases, even for a just cause like improving schools. So, I'm not sure if the Township's sentiment would align with increasing taxes just to increase role-based compensation. So, I wanted to call all of that out and hopefully it's well received.

President Roman: I'd like to, you know, let me comment on that. The percentage-wise sounds egregious.

Mrs. Labow: Yeah.

Mr. Ghoshal: It does.

President Roman: You say 20 percent.

Mr. Ghoshal: Yeah.

President Roman: It sounds egregious. The total increase between the Mayor and Council is approximately \$17,700.00. That's the total increase.

Mr. Ghoshal: Okay.

President Roman: We are looking at possibly a tax increase this year. We haven't had budget hearings yet. It's to my understanding that the overall impact on the Budget increase would be anywhere ranging from, correct me if I'm wrong, from \$90.00 to possibly \$110.00. Somewhere in that range. The short . . . Budget shortfall for that is being increased in order to cover \$971,000.00. So, there is the Mayor and Council raises . . . will have no impact whatsoever on whether we would end up having to increase municipal taxes.

Mr. Ghoshal: Okay.

President Roman: So, even though it sounds, you know, horrible to say a 20 percent increase but if you're going from a \$2,000.00 salary to a \$3,000.00 salary, that's a huge percentage-wise . . .

Mr. Ghoshal: Sure.

President Roman: . . . but in dollar amounts, it's nothing considerably.

Mr. Ghoshal: Sure.

President Roman: I'm going to speak for myself, but I do know some of the hard work that is done behind the scenes by some of our fellow Councilmembers and I know the Mayor, and it is my opinion that the compensation is well worth it for the amount of work that they do. You know, and I'm sorry that you think that you're grasping on that 20 percent, but I think it's important . . . I didn't chime in when I saw the discussion because I saw it late but the actual amount that's being increased is \$17,700.00.

Mrs. Labow: For all of us.

President Roman: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Nicastro: Yes, thank you. Just to clear up Ron, so you know, there was no cuts to the Fire or Police.

Mr. Ghoshal: Okay.

Mayor Nicastro: Their operating budgets actually remained the same, I believe. All throughout the Township we cut everything else, but the safety we did not cut.

Mr. Ghoshal: Okay.

Mayor Nicastro: That was important to keep there.

Mr. Ghoshal: Okay.

Mayor Nicastro: So, obviously, I don't have a decision in this because I don't vote on this but either way, it was a question of where it was and it doesn't, as the President said, it was really a zero impact on that part of it but it's a . . . just because the revenues are flat . . .

Mr. Ghoshal: Okay.

Mayor Nicastro: . . . we've had a lot of flat revenue come in now and, you know, it's going to be a couple of years before some things come up again. So, outside of that, that's why it's been a tough Budget year. Plus, the increases of, as we know, cost of living and all the . . .

Mr. Ghoshal: Sure.

Mayor Nicastro: . . . everything else that we have to pay out in Town. I had no choice but to look at that and try to figure out the lowest way to get the . . . out of it but it should be under \$100.00, is what we're trying to keep it at.

Mr. Ghoshal: Okay.

Mayor Nicastro: For the tax increase. It's been 11 plus years and it's just unfortunate I'm the one to sit here now and have to figure out that decision.

Mr. Ghoshal: All right. That's fair. I appreciate the context.

President Roman: Just so you're aware, in order for us to not increase it and have any tax increase, we're either going to have to cut almost a million dollars in the Budget or find a million dollars' worth of revenue. So, that's . . . so, just so you could kind of see the . . .

Mr. Ghoshal: Sure.

President Roman: . . . the numbers.

Mr. Ghoshal: Yeah.

President Roman: The last time this governing body raised the salaries for the Mayor and Council was four years ago. So, this is not something that is taken on annually.

Ms. Ghoshal: Sure, 2020 was the last time, right?

President Roman: Correct.

Mr. Ghoshal: That went from I think \$10,500.00 to \$20,000.00 at that point. So, that was a 90 percent increase.

President Roman: Not for Council.

Mrs. Labow: No.

Mr. Ghoshal: No? Oh, okay.

President Roman: No, not at all.

Mr. Ghoshal: All right. I will get better data and come back with more questions.

President Roman: We just had a proclamation for the Mayor, and I think there's some, on this dais, and some in the public that would make the case that our former Mayor was paid below for what he actually accomplished.

Mr. Ghoshal: Okay. Okay.

President Roman: Mrs. Labow.

Mrs. Labow: I just want to suggest . . . have you ever heard of an OPRA request? Open Public Records.

Mr. Ghoshal: I have heard that, yeah.

Mrs. Labow: That's where you get the absolute truth . . .

Mr. Ghoshal: All the facts.

Mrs. Labow: . . . the facts. You just go right into our Clerk's Office, or I think you can do it online. There's Michelle.

Mr. Ghoshal: Awesome.

Mrs. Labow: And this way, you're not taking the information from social media.

Mr. Ghoshal: Yeah, it's tough to do that. I only had a few hours to digest and limited time to research.

Mrs. Labow: Yeah.

Mr. Ghoshal: But I figured I'd come and be heard and . . .

Mrs. Labow: No, we're glad that you came. We're glad that you came.

Mr. Ghoshal: . . . get more people involved as well. All right. Thank you so much.

Mrs. Labow: Thank you.

Mr. Ghoshal: Thank you, everybody.

President Roman: Name and address for the record.

Mr. Gayles: I'm used to that. Antoine Gayles, 13 Tall Oaks Lane in Budd Lake. Sorry I came late to the party. I wanted to come for the reorg meeting so that I could congratulate Joe in person and the newly elected Councilmembers. So, congratulations, Joe. Thank you for a really honorable and good race. I just have to say, I didn't expect to hear that the first Ordinance was going to be a raise because the kind of like the hypocrisy I think is glaring because the team ran on not raising taxes. Not only do I hear that you're going to give yourselves a raise, but we're possibly going to experience a tax increase. Mr. Roman, I think that you personally advocated against the referendum that would've benefited many of our school children but yet here we stand

with you saying “Well, a few thousand dollars ain’t much.” There are a lot of people suffering and struggling in Mount Olive and for you to just callously say “Seventeen thousand dollars; it ain’t much.” It might not be much to you and me, but there are a lot of people who that might mean a lot to. So, I think that this governing body, for the first Ordinance, to give yourselves a raise and then to say “Well, it’s not that big of a deal.” I don’t know. I think that that’s . . . you know, for as good as a campaign that you ran, I think it’s kind of misleading now to say “Well, we’re not going to do some things.” And now you’re doing some things that are going to create, you know, some hardships for folks. So, I just ask you to think about that and I know you do a lot of work. I did that kind of work for nine years as a volunteer. So, I think that you guys can, and ladies, can do the work that you do without giving yourselves a raise and then turn around and possibly hitting us with a tax increase this year, next year, because who knows what kind of impact that’s going to have on the residents of Mount Olive. Thank you.

President Roman: Thank you for your comment. Anyone else from the public? Okay. Seeing none and I close to the public. Mr. Ferrante.

Mr. Ferrante: I move for adoption and final passage, Ordinance #1-2024.

President Roman: Is there a second?

Mrs. Labow: Second.

President Roman: Okay. Roll Call.

ROLL CALL: Passed with the exception of Ms. Lalama, who voted NO

President Roman: Ordinance #1-2024 is passed on second reading and I hereby direct the Clerk to forward a copy of the same to the Mayor and publish the notice of adoption as required by law. Okay, next item on the Agenda is Ordinance . . . I open the hearing to the public on Ordinance #2-2024 entitled,

Ord.#2-2024 An Ordinance of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive Amending Ordinance #15-2022 Entitled Fees and Rates for Off-Duty Police Officers.

President Roman: Does anyone from the public wish to be heard on this Ordinance? Okay. Seeing none. Mrs. Labow.

Mrs. Labow: Thank you, Mr. President. I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance #2-2024.

Mr. Stewart: Second.

President Roman: Okay. Any Council discussion? Okay. Seeing none. Roll Call, please.

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

President Roman: Ordinance #2-2024 is passed on second reading and I hereby direct the Clerk to forward a copy of the same to the Mayor and publish the notice of adoption as required by law. I open the hearing to the public on Ordinance 3-2024 entitled,

Ord.#3-2024 An Ordinance of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter 81, "Recreation", Specifically Article II "Fees for Recreation Department Programs" Establishing Recreation Fees for Various Township - Sponsored Recreational Activities.

President Roman: Does anyone from the public wish to be heard? Okay. Seeing none. Ms. Lalama.

Ms. Lalama: I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance #3-2024.

Mrs. Labow: Second.

President Roman: Okay. It’s been moved and seconded. Is there any Council discussion? Okay. Seeing none. Roll Call, please.

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

President Roman: Ordinance #3-2024 is passed on second reading and I hereby direct the Clerk to forward a copy of the same to the Mayor and publish the notice of adoption as required by law. Okay. We're on to Ordinances for first reading with a second reading of February 6, 2024. Okay. The next item on the Agenda for first reading is Ordinance #4-2024 entitled,

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: (2nd reading February 6, 2024)

Ord.#4-2024 An Ordinance of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Acceptance of Two Street Right-Of-Way Easements in Connection With Minor Subdivision Approvals for 8 Chamberlain Lane and 14 Chamberlain Lane. (Block 4100, Lots 71 and 73)

President Roman: Mr. Aaron.

Mr. Aaron: Thank you, Council President. I move that Ordinance #4-2024 be introduced by title and passed on first reading, be scheduled for public hearing, second reading, and consideration of final passage at a meeting to be held on February 6, 2024, at 7pm at the Municipal Building, 204 Flanders-Drakestown Road, Budd Lake, New Jersey, and be published, posted, and made available by the Clerk in accordance with law.

Mrs. Labow: Second.

President Roman: Okay. Any Council discussion? Okay. Seeing none. Roll Call, please.

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

President Roman: The next item on the Agenda for first reading is Ordinance #5-2024 entitled,

Ord.#5-2024 An Ordinance of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Amending Section 2 of Chapter 68, "Police Department," of the Township Code to Increase the Number of Captain Positions Within the Township Police Department.

President Roman: Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that Ordinance #5-2024 be introduced by title and passed on first reading, be scheduled for public hearing, second reading, and consideration of final passage at a meeting to be held on February 6, 2024, at 7pm at the Municipal Building, 204 Flanders-Drakestown Road, Budd Lake, New Jersey and be published, posted, and made available by the Clerk in accordance with the law.

Mrs. Labow: Second.

President Roman: Okay. It's been moved and seconded. Any Council discussion? Okay. Seeing none. I'd like to thank Chief Spitzer for bringing this to our attention and, you know, I know it's difficult to try to ask for an increase and change around in leadership but I think you have demonstrated that the need is there and I look forward to this having the effect that you outlined and increasing the professionalism that is already evident in our Police Department and then increase the safety of our residents. Roll Call, please.

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

CONSENT RESOLUTIONS AGENDA:

1. Resolution of the Township of Mount Olive, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, revising the Mount Olive Township Police Department Rules & Regulations
2. Resolution authorizing the Township of Mount Olive in the County of Morris through the Mount Olive Township Police Department to participate in the Defense Logistics Agency, Law Enforcement Support Office, 1033 Program to enable the Mount Olive Township Police Department to request and acquire excess Department of Defense equipment
3. Resolution of the Township of Mount Olive to execute a grant agreement with the State in an amount up to that awarded for the proposed project - Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund Administered by the New Jersey Historic Trust

4. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive appointing Andrew Tatarenko, Business Administrator, as the Fund Commissioner to the North Jersey Municipal Employees Benefit Fund and Claudia Quinn, Assistant Business Administrator, as the Alternate Fund Commissioner for 2024
5. Governing Body certification of compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"
6. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing purchases off New Jersey State Contracts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12 for calendar year 2024 (General Sales Administration - DBA Major Police Supply)
7. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the use of Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission Cooperative Purchasing Program for 2024 (Allied Oil)
8. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing change order No.1 for Bid #01-2023 HVAC System Upgrades at the Municipal Building (Reiner Group)
9. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing change order No.1 and final payment for Bid #09-2023 International Drive South Improvements Phase 1 (Riverview Paving, Inc.)
10. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the award of a contract for Re-Bid #14-2023 Wastewater Membrane Modules (Zenon Environmental Corporation)
11. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the award of a one-year contract extension (year 2/final) for Recycling Commodity Services (FCR Morris)
12. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive approving a non-fair and open vendor service contract pursuant to New Jersey Local Unit Pay-to-Play Law (Edmunds & Associates)
13. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the award of a professional services agreement for Legal Counsel to the Township of Mount Olive Local Ethics Board (Jonathan F. Cohen, Esq. of Plosia Cohen) (January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024)
14. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive amending the 2024 temporary budget for the current fund and sewer utility
15. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive to cancel taxes on Block 8500, Lot 31 for disabled veteran declared 100% totally & permanently disabled by the Tax Assessor
16. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the return of one (1) Sewer Equivalent Dwelling Unit from 212 Route 46 (Block 3305, Lot 14) back to the Township of Mount Olive
17. Resolution of the Township of Mount Olive, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, granting a temporary six-month conditional quarry license to Saxton Falls Sand & Gravel on certain conditions of compliance through July 9, 2024

Mr. Aaron moves for the adoption of Consent Resolutions one through seventeen and **Mrs. Labow** seconds. There was no discussion.

ROLL CALL: **Passed unanimously**

MOTIONS

1. Bill List

Mr. Ferrante moves for approval of the Bill List and **Mr. Stewart** seconds. There was no discussion.

ROLL CALL: **Passed unanimously**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor Nicastro reports he attended the grand opening of the Wolf Gym and comments on how nice of a facility it is. He also announces an upcoming job fair on Thursday, January 25, 2024, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm at the Senior Center, which will have over 30 businesses in attendance. He also discusses MOMAC and their sponsorship of the Recreation Department's first event for 2024 which is A Latte Music on February 29, 2024, from 7:00pm to 9:30pm at the Senior Center. He adds the admission is \$5.00 and preregistration is recommended. He then discusses meetings he's had with business leaders in the ITC. He states that in February, he will be announcing one of his first initiatives which is a celebration of diversity within the Township.

Mr. Tatarenko discusses a project that was delayed replacing two bridges along Pleasant Hill Road near the Flanders Golf Course. He reports they do have plans to replace both bridges during this summer, along with another bridge on Stephens Mill Road the following year. **Mr. Roman** asks what the additional cost will be since the bridge was deemed historic. **Mr. Tatarenko** explains there's no cost to the Township as it's a County responsibility. **Mrs. Labow** asks questions about the bridge. **Mr. Tatarenko, President Roman, and Mrs. Labow** further discuss the bridge. **Mr. Tatarenko** also discusses the Wawa development, including extending the Developer's Agreement. He goes over the timeline of the project and the eight-month extension they've asked for. He explains it's being reviewed by the Legal Department.

OLD BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS – none

LEGAL MATTERS – none

COUNCIL REPORTS

Board of Education Liaison Report

Mr. Aaron reports the Board of Education met January 22, 2024. He lists the topics of discussion including the New Jersey School Ethics Act and the need for volunteers. He asks that anyone who'd like to help please reach out to the school PTAs.

Library Board Liaison

Recreation Liaison Report – none

Mr. Ferrante reports the Library held their meeting the previous week, which was their reorganization meeting and honored former Mayor Robert Greenbaum.

Open Space Committee Report

Senior Citizen Liaison

Environmental Committee/Lake Issues

Mrs. Labow reports the Environmental/Lake Committee meets on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, and it'll be her first meeting. She also reports that the Open Space Committee met at the beginning of the month. She discusses how productive the meeting was and their puncheon sale which includes a name engraving for \$65.00. She describes the puncheon which can also be purchased for \$45.00 without engraving. She then reports the Seniors missed a meeting due to the snow. She acknowledges a member who passed away. She then discusses their upcoming trips and lunches.

Board of Health Report

Ms. Lalama reports the Board of Health held their reorganization meeting on January 17, 2024. She discusses a presentation given by the public outreach coordinators. She adds their next meeting will be in three months.

Economic Development Committee Report

Mr. Stewart reports the first quarter 2024 newsletter will be published at the end of the current week and their first official meeting for the year will be held on January 24, 2024.

Legislative Committee Report - none

Planning Board Report - none

PUBLIC PORTION

Irene Sergonis, Mount Olive Road, Budd Lake, congratulates Sergeant Pagonis. She acknowledges his Greek heritage and is pleased to see a fellow Greek getting promoted. She also acknowledges former Mayor Greenbaum’s proclamation. She then asks if doing sidewalks will be given priority during the budget hearing. **Mr. Tatarenko** explains the particular sidewalk Mrs. Sergonis is referring to is in the plan and they are going to try to connect Town Hall to the Library. **Mrs. Sergonis** thanks Mr. Tatarenko.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Aaron congratulates Sergeant Pagonis and expresses his excitement to see a fellow Greek “rise up.” He then discusses the Mount Olive Area Chamber of Commerce’s upcoming Breakfast with the Mayors taking place at Long Horn Steakhouse on February 7, 2024. He explains it’s open to anyone to register and join and Mayor Joe Nicastro, Mayor Janet Hoven from Chester Borough, and Mayor Matt Murello from Washington Township (Long Valley) will all be in attendance. He then announces the Chamber has their annual Devil’s Game trip on February 12, 2024. He states registration is available for both events on the Chamber’s website. He thanks Mayor Greenbaum for his mentorship during his first year on Council.

Mrs. Labow agrees with Mr. Aaron’s comments about Mayor Greenbaum. She congratulates Sergeant Pagonis. She also conveys her anticipation for the coming year.

Mrs. Lalama congratulates Sergeant Pagonis on his promotion. She also congratulates and thanks former Mayor Greenbaum. She then thanks everyone who attended and spoke at the meeting.

Mr. Stewart congratulates Sergeant Pagonis and former Mayor Greenbaum. He also reminds everyone that the annual radio auction for Hackettstown Medical Center will be hosted online in the middle of February and the on-air portion will be held March 8, 2024. He then mentions the EDC meeting will be at Jersey Girl Brewing.

Mr. Ferrante congratulates Sergeant Pagonis and former Mayor Robert Greenbaum for all the work he’s done. He shouts out the DPW for all the hard work they’ve been doing during the storms.

President Roman congratulates Sergeant Pagonis. He also recognizes the DPW for the work they do during the storms. He acknowledges the recent passing of former Chair of the Morris County Republican Committee, Ron DeFilippis.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion made and seconded. All in favor, none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.

Alex Roman, Council President

I, Michelle Masser, Township Clerk of Mount Olive do hereby certify that the foregoing Minutes are a true and correct copy of the Minutes approved at a legally convened meeting of the Mount Olive Township Council duly held on February 6, 2023.

Michelle Masser, Township Clerk

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