

## **MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 8, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Cicerale at approximately 7:00 P.M. with the opening statement that the meeting had been duly advertised and met all the requirements of the Sunshine Law. Also present were: Deputy Mayor Kaminski, Councilman Kula, Councilman Miller, Councilman Verrilli, Manager/Deputy Clerk Carrine Piccolo-Kaufer and Township Attorney Robert Rossmeissl of Dorsey & Semrau

### **SALUTE THE FLAG**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **A. Purchase of Replacement Ladder Truck**

A discussion was held regarding the purchase of a replacement ladder truck for the Hardyston Township Volunteer Fire Department.

##### **B. Resolution #69-24 – A Resolution of the Township of Hardyston, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey requesting the Sussex County Clerk to Print Upon the Official Ballot to be Used at the Next Ensuing General Election a Non-Binding Referendum Question to Consider Whether the Township Should Expend an Amount Not to Exceed \$2,000,000 for the Purchase of a New Ladder Truck for Use by The Township of Hardyston Volunteer Fire Department**

A motion was made by Verrilli to disapprove of the resolution as presented, seconded by Kaminski. All in favor. Motion carried. The above resolution was not approved.

At this time, a motion was made by Kula to direct the Township Manager to prepare a Bond Ordinance for the purchase of a new fire truck, seconded by Kaminski. All in favor. Motion carried.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (in accordance with P.L. 2002, c.80): A motion was made and seconded to open the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried.

Nicholas Demsak – Questioned the rationale of putting a question regarding public safety to the public for their opinion.

William Hickerson – Spoke as OEM Coordinator and discouraged the Council from putting a decision of public safety to the public.

Anthony Rosta – Spoke as Fire Chief and asked the Council to support the purchase of the truck and safety of the Township.

Robert Cook – Spoke as Assistant Fire Chief and said there is a lot of confusion regarding the need for the truck and that the lack of information regarding impact on safety, apparatus, response times and insurance would make it difficult for public to make an informed choice.

Joseph Ionta – Spoke as Assistant Fire Chief and spoke against the idea of referendum and asked if all future capital purchases would be subject to referendum.

William Walsh – Stated that the decision to purchase the truck is time sensitive due to the impending price increase.

Maura Demsak – Asked the Council why they waited until now to consider purchasing the truck if it is needed.

Mark Scott – (Sparta) Expressed support for the purchase of the truck, as it will be needed if future warehouse development was to take place.

Tony Alfano – Spoke in favor of short-term financing at higher cost per homeowner over longer term with interest.

John Giannone – Spoke to the unreliability of grants and stated time to authorize the purchase of a truck is now.

Michele Van Allen – Thanked the Fire Department for their service and expressed opposition to the idea of a public question and disagreed with the Council asking room if they were in favor or not when they did not have all the facts.

Ed Zinck – Spoke in opposition to the referendum question and mentioned that the impact is less than \$.50 per day.

A motion was made and seconded to close the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At approximately 8:10 p.m., a motion was made by Kaminski to adjourn seconded by Verrilli. All in favor. Motion carried.

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Jane Bakalarczyk, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk