### MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 23, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kaminski at approximately 7:10 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 Verrilli, Councilman Kula, Councilman Miller, Manager Carrine Piccolo-Kaufer, Clerk Jane Bakalarczyk, and Township Attorney Robert Rossmeissl of Dorsey & Semrau. Township Attorney Fred Semrau of Dorsey & Semrau was present via Zoom. Councilman Cicerale was absent from this meeting.

#### SALUTE THE FLAG

CONSENT AGENDA: ALL MATTERS LISTED BELOW ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE IN NATURE AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THE ITEMS. IF ANY DISCUSSION IS DESIRED, THAT PARTICULAR ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND WILL BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY.

#### **Monthly Reports:**

- 1. Municipal Clerk Report March 2025
- 2. Tax Collector Report March 2025
- 3. Construction Certificate Activity Report March 2025
- 4. Construction Permit Activity Report Hardyston March 2025
- 5. Construction Permit Activity Report Hamburg March 2025
- 6. Construction Permit Activity Report Franklin March 2025
- 7. Construction Permit Activity Report Newton March 2025
- 8. Construction Permit Activity Report Sussex March 2025
- 9. Construction Permit Activity Report Wantage March 2025
- 10. Police Department Report March 2025
- 11. Municipal Court Report March 2025
- 12. Land Use Report March 2025
- 13. Zoning Officer Report March 2025
- 14. Department of Public Works March 2025
- 15. Sussex County Health Department Report March 2025

#### **Minutes:**

- 1. Special Workshop Minutes of 3/20/25
- 2. Regular Meeting of 3/26/25
- 3. Workshop Meeting of 4/9/25

#### Agreements/Applications/Licenses:

- 1. Raffles Catholic Charities Diocese of Paterson
- 2. Raffles K of C Council #12649 St. John Vianney

A motion was made by Kula to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Verrilli. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### **MANAGERS REPORT:**

Township Manager reported and gave the Council updates on the following:

- Transition to new payroll company
- Transition to finance software for vouchers and purchase orders
- EDC meeting of 4/21/25
- Health Insurance Broker

ORDINANCES 1<sup>ST</sup> READING:

#### 2025-03

## AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE TOTAL SUM OF \$459,900 FROM GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR FUNDING VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES BY THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDYSTON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY

**BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Hardyston, County of Sussex, New Jersey, as follows:

**Section 1:** The sum of Four Hundred Fifty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$459,900) to be utilized out of the General Capital Improvement Fund, is hereby appropriated for the following purposes:

For Various Capital Improvements or Purposes for the Township of Hardyston.

- Section 2: In connection with the amount authorized in Section 1 hereof, the Township makes the following determination:
- (a) The purpose described in Section 1 and Section 2 hereof is not a Current Expense and is an improvement, which the Township of Hardyston may lawfully make as general improvement.
- (b) The period of usefulness of the purpose described in section 1 hereof is not in the limitations of the said Local Bond Law and according to the aggregate reasonable life thereof is five (5) years.
- **Section 3:** All ordinances or parts of ordinances, which are inconsistent with the terms of this ordinance, be and the same is hereby-repealed on to the extent of their inconsistency:
- **Section 4:** This ordinance becomes effective immediately upon final passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

A motion was made by Miller to approve Ordinance 2025-03 on first reading, seconded by Kula. All in favor. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES 2<sup>ND</sup> READING:

#### 2025-02

#### CALENDAR YEAR 2025 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

**WHEREAS**, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.50% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

**WHEREAS,** N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council of the Township of Hardyston in the County of Sussex finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2025 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and.

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council hereby determines that a 1.00% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$96,003.75 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Hardyston, in the County of Sussex, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2025 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Hardyston shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.50%, amounting to \$330,119.25, and that the CY 2025 municipal budget for the Township of Hardyston be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

A motion was made and seconded to open the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried. No public comment. A motion was made and seconded to close the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried. A motion was made by Kula to approve Ordinance 2025-02 on second reading, seconded by Miller. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Township Manager reported and gave the Council updates on the following:

- A. 3490 Rt. 94 Redevelopment Site
- B. Street Lighting
- C. First Aid Squad Building
- D. Solar Project Lasinski Road
- E. Sign Ordinance Revisions
- F. RV Parking Ordinance Review
- G. Wheatsworth Park Lease Agreement

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Tax Collector Resolution
  - 1. Resolution #30-25 Lien Redemption 41 Meadow Pond Road Block 67.04, Lot 41.21

#### **RESOLUTION #30-25**

**WHEREAS,** at the Municipal Tax Sale held on October 10, 2024, a lien was sold on Block 67.04 Lot 41.21, also known as 41 Meadow Pond Road for 2023 water and sewer charges; and,

**WHEREAS,** this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate #2024-008, was sold to Glenn W. Gerisch, for a 0% redemption fee and \$2,500.00 premium,

**WHEREAS,** Indian Fields HOA, who holds a vested interested, has affected redemption for Certificate #2024-008 in the amount of \$3,156.46.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Hardyston that the Treasurer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$3,156.46 payable to Glenn W. Gerisch, for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #2024-008.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Treasurer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$2,500.00 (Premium) to the aforementioned lien holder.

A motion was made by Kula to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Miller. All in favor. Motion carried.

B. Resolution #31-25 – Self-examination of Budget Resolution

#### RESOLUTION #31-25 SELF-EXAMINATION OF BUDGET RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination, and

WHEREAS N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 THRU 7.5 the Township of Hardyston has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the Township of Hardyston meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2025 budget year, so now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Hardyston that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification. The governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

- 1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
  - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
  - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
  - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
  - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
  - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
  - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes
- 2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at 40A:4-45.3 et seq. are fully met (complies with the "CAP" law).

- 3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
- 4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
  - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate, and correctly stated.
  - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
  - c. In itemization, form, arrangement, and content the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.
- 5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced, publicly advertised, and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
- 6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED TO THE Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

A motion was made by Kula to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Miller. All in favor. Motion carried.

C. Resolution #32-25 – Resolution authorizing the execution of a Fire Mutual Aid Agreement between the Township of Hardyston and Hardyston Township Fire Department and the Township of Vernon and McAfee Fire Department

#### **RESOLUTION #32-25**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDYSTON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A FIRE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDYSTON AND HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON AND MCAFEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

**WHEREAS,** pursuant to the Fire Service Resource Emergency Deployment Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14E-14, municipalities in the State of New Jersey shall adopt a Fire Mutual Aid Plan ('Fire Mutual Aid Plan'); and

**WHEREAS**, the fire departments located in the Township of Hardyston and the Township of Vernon desire to establish a Fire Mutual Aid Plan to better serve the residents therein; and

WHEREAS, under the Fire Mutual Aid Plan, each municipality or fire district must prepare and adopt a local fire mutual aid plan which sets forth policies and procedures to coordinate the effective utilization of fire service resources where the implementation of the Fire Mutual Aid Plan is determined to be necessary or appropriate; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fire Mutual Aid Plan must be based upon the planning criteria, objectives, requirements, responsibilities, and concepts of operation essential for the implementation of all necessary and appropriate protective or remedial measures to be taken in response to emergency incidents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fire Mutual Aid Plan must take the form of an agreement to be adopted via resolution by participating municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, a Fire Mutual Aid Agreement ('Fire Mutual Aid Agreement') has been recommended for execution by the Township of Hardyston and Hardyston Township Fire Department and the Township of Vernon and McAfee Fire Department; and

- **WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Hardyston wish to enter into the Fire Mutual Aid Agreement.
- **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Hardyston, County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey that the that the Mayor and Township Manager are hereby authorized to execute a Fire Mutual Aid Agreement with the Township of Vernon and McAfee Fire Department.
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of the form of mutual aid agreement and this Resolution will be placed on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution will take effect immediately upon its passage.

A motion was made by Kula to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Miller. All in favor. Motion carried.

D. Resolution #33-25 – Resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement between the Township of Hardyston and the Hardyston Board of Education for the lease of the real property known as Block 62, Lot 33.01 on the tax map of the Township of Hardyston

#### **RESOLUTION #33-25**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDYSTON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDYSTON AND THE HARDYSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE LEASE OF THE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 62, LOT 33.01 ON THE TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDYSTON

- **WHEREAS**, the Township of Hardyston (the 'Township') and the Hardyston Board of Education (the 'BOE') in 1998 entered into a lease agreement (the 'Original Lease') whereby the Township leased from the BOE the real property located at Block 62, Lot 33.01 on the Tax Map of the Township of Hardyston (the 'Subject Property'); and
- **WHEREAS**, the twenty-year term of the Original Lease expired on September 30, 2018; and
- WHEREAS, the Township and the BOE now wish to enter into a new lease agreement whereby the Township will lease from the BOE the Subject Property (the 'New Lease'); and
- **WHEREAS**, the term of the new lease shall be forty ('40') years, commencing on October 1, 2018 and continuing until September 30, 2058; and
- **WHEREAS,** in consideration of its possession of the Subject Property, the Township shall pay annual rent in the amount of one dollar ('\$1.00'); and
- WHEREAS, the Township will benefit immensely from the New Lease, gaining access for its residents to athletic fields for various sports activities and general recreation; and
- **WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Hardyston wish to enter into the New Lease.
- **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Hardyston, County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey that the that the Mayor and Township Manager are hereby authorized to execute a Lease Agreement with the Hardyston Board of Education, with a term of forty ('40') years, whereby the Township will lease from the Board of Education the real property located at Block 62, MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 23, 2025

Lot 33.01 on the Tax Map of the Township of Hardyston, paying an annual fee of one dollar (\$1.00) in consideration of same.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of the form of Lease Agreement and this Resolution will be placed on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution will take effect immediately upon its passage.

A motion was made by Miller to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Kula. All in favor. Motion carried.

E. Resolution #34-25 – Special Item of Revenue and Appropriation – Chapter 159

#### RESOLUTION #34-25

#### SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION - CHAPTER 159

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item appropriation for an equal amount, and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hardyston has been awarded \$9,065 from Sussex County Municipal Alliance and the State of New Jersey as part of Memorandum of Agreement between the State of New Jersey and Local Governments on Opioid Litigation Recoveries, and wishes to amend its 2025 budget to include this amount as a revenue;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Township of Hardyston hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2025 in the sum of \$9,065.00 which is now available as a revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues:

Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

Public and Private Revenues Off-Set with Appropriations:

Memorandum of Agreement between the State of New Jersey and Local Governments on Opioid Litigation Recoveries, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum of 9,065.00 be and hereby appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations

(a) Operations Excluded from "CAPS"

Public and Private Programs Off-Set by Revenues:

Memorandum of Agreement between the State of New Jersey and Local Governments on Opioid Litigation Recoveries

A motion was made by Miller to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Kula. All in favor. Motion carried.

F. Resolution #35-25 - Resolution authorizing the award of a non-fair and open professional service contract for the position of employee benefit consultant and appointment of the Vozza Agency for same

## A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDYSTON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR THE POSITION OF EMPLOYEE BENEFIT CONSULTANT & APPOINTMENT OF THE VOZZA AGENCY FOR SAME

**WHEREAS,** the Township of Hardyston is a member of the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund (the 'Fund'); and

**WHEREAS,** the bylaws of the Fund require the Fund Program Manager (the 'Program Manager') to perform certain consulting, field and marketing services for Fund members; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that a member municipality may have a relationship with a licensed broker/consultant, a member municipality may appoint another firm to perform the portion of the professional producer, consulting & field service (the 'Services') normally provided by the Program Manager to the member municipality, as detailed in the 'Producers Agreement' attached hereto; and

**WHEREAS,** the Vozza Agency has provided these Services for the Township for a number of years and possesses significant knowledge and institutional memory of the Township's Medical, Prescription, and Dental plans, and overall employee benefits programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the judgmental nature of the Services renders comparative bidding impractical.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Hardyston, County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey as follows:

- 1. The Township of Hardyston hereby appoints the Vozza Agency, Inc. as Its Producer of record for the term of May 1st 2025 through December 31st 2025, in connection with its membership in the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund.
- 2. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the consultant's agreement annexed hereto and to cause a notice of decision to be published according to N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-5(1) (a) (l).
- 3. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because said services are performed by a person licensed under law to practice a recognized profession.
- 4. The total fee authorized for this contract shall not exceed \$7,200 without the prior written approval of the Township Council.
- 5. Notice of this action shall be published once in the Township's official newspaper as required by law.
- 6. A copy of this resolution shall be provided to the Township Treasurer and to the Vozza Agency, Inc., at 77 Market Street, Suite 1, P.O. Box 100, Park Ridge, New Jersey, 07656, for their information and guidance.
- 7. Pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. §40A:11-1 et seq.), this Resolution and the contract hereby authorized shall be available for public inspection.

A motion was made by Kula to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Miller. All in favor. Motion carried.

G. Resolution #36-25 - Resolution authorizing the award of a professional services contract to LawSoft, Inc. for IT Maintenance and Support Services

#### **RESOLUTION #36-25**

# A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDYSTON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO LAWSOFT, INC. FOR IT MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Hardyston has a need for IT Maintenance and Support Services ('IT Services'); and

**WHEREAS**, the Township, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq., solicited proposals from qualified firms interested in providing professional services related to same during calendar year 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township received a proposal from LawSoft, Inc., of Bloomingdale, NJ ('Proposal') for IT Services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Administration reviewed this Proposal on the basis of several criteria, including Technical Experience, Individual and Firm Experience & Reputation, Availability & Response Time, and Cost; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Administration determined that this Proposal is acceptable pursuant to the Township's review criteria; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Attorney reviewed the Proposal, and confirms, from a legal standpoint, that LawSoft, Inc. has submitted all mandatory documents, properly completed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 40A:11-1, et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "professional services" and the contract itself must be made available for public inspection.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Hardyston, in the County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

- 1. The Township of Hardyston hereby awards and authorizes the Township Manager to execute a professional services agreement with LawSoft, Inc., located at 15 Hamburg Turnpike, Suite #2, Bloomingdale, NJ, 07403, to provide IT Maintenance and Support Services pursuant to the service rate schedule in Appendix A, attached to this Resolution.
- 2. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a professional service in accordance with the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because said service is performed by a person authorized by law to practice a recognized profession.
- 3. The total fee authorized for this contract shall not exceed \$49,000 without the prior written approval of the Township Council.
- 4. Notice of this action shall be published once in the Township's official newspaper as required by law.
- 5. A copy of this Resolution shall be provided to LawSoft, Inc., located at 15 Hamburg Turnpike, Suite #2, Bloomingdale, NJ, 07403, for its information and guidance.
- 6. A copy of this Resolution shall be available for public inspection in the office of the Clerk of the Township of Hardyston.

7. Final execution of any contract pursuant to this Resolution is subject to the review and approval of the Township Manager and Township Attorney.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

A motion was made by Miller to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Kula. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### H. HTMUA Appointment

A motion was made by Verrilli to appoint William Marotta to the Hardyston Township Municipal Utilities Authority as Alternate 2, with a term expiring 1/31/30, to fill the unexpired term of Debra Card due to her resignation, seconded by Kula. All in favor. Motion carried.

I. 2025 Municipal Budget Public Hearing/Adoption

Township Manager Carrine Piccolo-Kaufer gave a verbal and written presentation of the 2025 Municipal Budget.

A motion was made and seconded to open the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried. No one from the public wished to be heard. A motion was made and seconded to close the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kula to approve the 2025 Municipal Budget as presented, seconded by Miller. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### J. Correspondence

- 1. West Milford Township
- 2. Lafayette Township
- 3. Sparta Township
- 4. Hamburg Borough
- 5. Frankford Township
- 6. Vernon Township
- 7. State of NJ
- 8. Dykstra Walker Design Group
- 9. Dykstra Walker Design Group
- 10. SRG Remediation Group
- 11. Beattie Padovano, LLC

A motion was made by Kula to approve the correspondence as presented, seconded by Miller. All in favor. Motion carried.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Councilman Verrilli asked about the cost of the new fire truck. Councilman Kula wanted to recognize and thank the Recreation Committee for all of their hard work on the Easter Egg Hunt that was held on April 19, 2025.

**BILLS TO BE PAID:** A motion was made by Kula to approve the bill list of 4/9/25 in the amount of \$296,919.92 and the bill list of 4/23/25 in the amount of \$3,914,508.07, which includes payroll for pay period ending 3/30/25 and 4/15/25 as presented, seconded by Verrilli. All in favor. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC PORTION:** A motion was made and seconded to open the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried. Tony Alfano, resident and Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Hardyston Township Board of Education gave an update on the Board of Education budget. He also asked if the Township Manager could send a letter to the Homeowner's Associations regarding political signs on private property during the election season. Township Manager stated that she will work on a letter with the Township Attorney. A motion was made and seconded to close the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Kula to adjourn at approximately 8:01 p.m., seconded by Verrilli. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jane Bakalarczyk, RMC/CMC Municipal Clerk