

MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 24, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kula at approximately 8:20 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 Alfano, Councilman Miller, Councilman Kaminski, Manager Carrine Piccolo-Kaufer, Clerk Jane Bakalarczyk, Deputy Clerk Dana Vitz and Township Attorney Robert Rossmeissl of Dorsey & Semrau. Councilman Cicerale was in attendance via Microsoft Teams.

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 – May 2026
2. Tax Collector Report – May 2026
3. Construction Certificate Activity Report – May 2026
4. Construction Permit Activity Report – Hardyston – May 2026
5. Construction Permit Activity Report – Hamburg – May 2026
6. Construction Permit Activity Report – Franklin – May 2026
7. Construction Permit Activity Report – Newton – May 2026
8. Construction Permit Activity Report – Sussex – May 2026
9. Construction Permit Activity Report – Wantage – May 2026
10. Police Department Report – May 2026
11. Municipal Court Report – May 2026
12. Land Use Report – May 2026
13. Zoning Officer Report – May 2026
14. Sussex County Health Department Report – May 2026
15. Department of Public Works – May 2026

Minutes:

1. Workshop Minutes of 4/8/26
2. Regular Minutes of 4/22/26
3. Executive Minutes 4/22/26
4. Workshop Minutes of 5/13/26
5. Executive Minutes of 5/13/26
6. Regular Minutes of 5/27/26
7. Executive Minutes of 5/27/26

Agreements/Applications/Licenses:

1. Raffles – Friends of Robbie, Inc.
2. Amusement License – Anthony Pignataro Corp. (Tony's – Rt. 23)
3. Kennel License Renewal – The Pet Spa & Resort
4. Elizabethtown Gas – Non-Residential Gas Extension Contract

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

MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Landfill Closure
- Fawn Lake Dam Replacement Project

MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 24, 2026

ORDINANCES

1ST READING:

None

ORDINANCES

2nd READING:

2026-12

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDYSTON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING ORDINANCES 2022-12 AND 2025-10, AND AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE ZONING CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDYSTON TO DESIGNATE DATA CENTERS AS A PROHIBITED USE IN ALL ZONES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance 2022-12, the Township Council of the Township of Hardyston (the “Township”) on December 14, 2022 adopted the 2022 Hardyston Vacant Land and Landfill Redevelopment Plan for property located at 3490 Route 94 (the “Redevelopment Plan”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance 2025-10, the Township Council on December 10, 2025 adopted an amendment to the Redevelopment Plan, dated September 15, 2025, establishing data centers as a permitted use for the property; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has determined that data centers have the potential to create an intense and unique form of land use and development, which poses development challenges related to electricity consumption, noise, air quality, water use, and community character; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council is conscious of the community concern regarding the land use challenges posed by large-scale commercial data center operations; and

WHEREAS, Township Council has determined that in the interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Township of Hardyston, it is appropriate at this time to amend the Township Code, as well as Ordinances 2022-12 and 2025-10, to include data centers as a non-permitted use within the geographic boundaries of the Township.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 185 of the Municipal Code of the Township of Hardyston, ‘Zoning,’ is hereby amended and supplemented at Section 26, ‘Definitions,’ of Article V, ‘Prohibited Uses,’ to include the term ‘Data Center,’ which term shall be defined as follows:

DATA CENTER shall mean and include any facility used primarily for the storage, management, and processing of digital or electronic data, which houses computer and network systems, including associated components such as servers, network equipment and appliances, telecommunications, and data storage systems, systems for monitoring and managing infrastructure performance, Internet-related equipment and services, data communications connections, environmental controls, fire protection systems, and security systems and services. Typical accessory components of a data center may include transformers, electrical substations, environmental controls, fire suppression, generators, redundant power supplies, and security facilities.

SECTION 2. Chapter 185 of the Municipal Code of the Township of Hardyston, ‘Zoning,’ is hereby amended and supplemented to create Section 28, of Article V, ‘Prohibited Uses’ which Section shall be titled titled ‘Data Centers Prohibited,’ and which Section shall read as follows:

§ 185-28 Data Centers Prohibited

Data Centers, as defined in § 185-26 of this Chapter, are hereby prohibited from operating anywhere in the Township of Hardyston.

MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 24, 2026

SECTION 3. Ordinance 2022-12 of the Township of Hardyston, adopting the 2022 Hardyston Vacant Land and Landfill Redevelopment Plan for property located at 3490 Route 94, and Ordinance 2025-10, adopting the September 15, 2025 amendment to the 2022 Hardyston Vacant Land and Landfill Redevelopment Plan for property located at 3490 Route 94, are hereby amended to establish that the 2022 Hardyston Vacant Land and Landfill Redevelopment Plan shall be revised to clarify that Data Centers, as defined in Section 26, 'Definitions,' of Chapter 185, 'Zoning,' of the Township Municipal Code, shall be a prohibited use in the Redevelopment Area.

SECTION 4. Severability. If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance and they shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. Repealer. All existing ordinances or parts of existing ordinances which are inconsistent with the terms of this Ordinance are to the extent of such inconsistency repealed.

SECTION 6. Effect. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage, approval and publication as required by law.

SECTION 7. Availability. A copy of this Ordinance shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Township

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 Kaminski to approve Ordinance 2026-12 on second reading, seconded by Miller. All in favor. Motion carried.

2026-13

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDYSTON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING TAX EXEMPTION AND PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES AND ADOPTING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A FINANCIAL AGREEMENT FOR PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES WITH PILLAR CARE PROPERTIES HARDYSTON URBAN RENEWAL, LLC, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 ET SEQ.

WHEREAS, Pillar Care Properties Hardyston Urban Renewal, LLC ("Pillar") has been qualified by the State of New Jersey to do business as an urban renewal entity ("URE") under the provisions of the Long-Term Tax Exemption Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et seq., as amended and supplemented (the "LTTE Law"); and

WHEREAS, Pillar seeks to effectuate the redevelopment, operation, and maintenance of the Project known as 132 Wheatsworth Road, Hardyston, New Jersey, 07419, Block 63 And Lot 26.01 on the Township Tax Map (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, in order to improve the feasibility of the renovation, operation, and maintenance of the Project, Pillar made application to the Township requesting a long term tax exemption and financial agreement with respect to the Project; and

WHEREAS, there was also submitted as part of the application a form of a financial agreement, pursuant to which Pillar agrees to pay, in lieu of tax payments, an Annual Service Charge in lieu of taxes on the Project based on the gross revenues of the Project, with minimum Annual Service Charges pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:20-12 ("PILOT Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, the Project will conform to all applicable municipal zoning ordinances and will be in conformance with the Township's Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has reviewed the terms of the PILOT Agreement, and wishes to approve Pillar's application on such terms; and

MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 24, 2026

WHEREAS, the Township Council has determined that the Project represents an undertaking permitted by the LTTE Law; and

WHEREAS, the Township hereby finds that the relevant benefits of the Project to the including the creation of affordable housing will outweigh the costs, if any, associated with the tax exemption, which relevant benefits are further described in the PILOT Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Township hereby determines that the assistance provided to the Project pursuant to the PILOT Agreement will be a significant inducement for Pillar to proceed with the Project and contribute to the feasibility of the Project.

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

SECTION 1.

A. General

The aforementioned recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.

B. Approval of Exemption from Taxation

An exemption from taxation as set forth in the Agreement for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (attached hereto as “Exhibit A”) is hereby approved and granted to Pillar Care Properties Hardyston Urban Renewal, LLC (“Pillar”) with respect to the Project known as 132 Wheatsworth Road, Hardyston, New Jersey, 07419, Block 63 And Lot 26.01 on the Township Tax Map (the “Project”), in accordance with the terms set forth in the Agreement for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (“PILOT Agreement”); provided that in no event shall the term of the PILOT Agreement exceed the earlier of thirty-five (35) years from the date of execution thereof or (ii) to the extent permitted by the LTTE Law, thirty (30) years from Pillar’s receipt of a Certificate of Occupancy (as defined in the PILOT Agreement) for the Project and only so long as Pillar remains subject to and in compliance with the PILOT Agreement and the LTTE Law and any other agreement related to the Project or the Premises; and provided, further, that in no event shall the resulting property tax obligation in each year the property tax exemption is in effect, when combined with the Annual Service Charge as defined in the PILOT Agreement, be less than the amount of the Land Taxes (as defined in the PILOT Agreement) prior to redevelopment.

C. Execution of PILOT Agreement Authorized

(i) The Mayor, in consultation with legal counsel to the Township, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the PILOT Agreement, substantially in the form as it has been presented to the Mayor and Council, subject to additions, deletions, modifications, or revisions deemed necessary and appropriate in consultation with counsel, and any other agreements necessary to effectuate the PILOT Agreement.

(ii) The Township Clerk is hereby authorized and directed, upon the execution of the PILOT Agreement in accordance with the terms of Section C(i) hereof, to attest to the signature of the Mayor upon such document and is hereby further authorized and directed to affix the seal of the Township upon such document.

(iii) Within thirty (30) days of its execution, the Township Clerk shall file certified copies of this ordinance and the executed PILOT Agreement with the Tax Assessor of the Township and shall forward a certified copy of this Ordinance and the executed PILOT Agreement to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs in accordance with Section 12 of the LTTE Law.

(iv) The executed copy of the PILOT Agreement shall be filed with the Office of the Township Clerk.

MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 24, 2026

D. Entity Obligations

(i) The Project shall conform with all Federal and State laws and ordinances and regulations of the Township relating to its construction and use.

(ii) Pillar shall, in the operation of the Project, require compliance with all laws so that no person because of race, religious principles, color, national origin or ancestry, will be subject to discrimination.

(iii) Pillar shall, from the time the Annual Service Charge becomes effective, pay the Annual Service Charge as set forth in the PILOT Agreement.

E. Action Regarding PILOT Agreement

The Mayor, the Township Manager, the Township Clerk, and any other Township official, officer or professional, including but not limited to, Township legal counsel, and the auditor to the Township, are each hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver such documents as are necessary to facilitate the transactions contemplated hereby, and to take such actions or refrain from such actions as are necessary to facilitate the transactions contemplated hereby, and any and all actions taken heretofore with respect to the transactions contemplated hereby are hereby ratified and confirmed.

SECTION 2. Severability. If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance and they shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. Repealer. All existing ordinances or parts of existing ordinances which are inconsistent with the terms of this Ordinance are to the extent of such inconsistency repealed.

SECTION 4. Effect. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage, approval and publication as required by law.

SECTION 5. Availability. A copy of this Ordinance shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Township.

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 Kaminski to approve Ordinance 2026-13 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. First Aid Squad Building
- C. Solar Project – Lasinski Road
- D. ADA Doors – Municipal Building
- E. Display of Hardystonite in Municipal Building
- F. 250th Celebration

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Resolution #51-26 - Resolution accepting a proposal for an ice cream vendor at the Hardyston Concerts in the Park from VKAT, LLC (The Scoop)

MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 24, 2026

RESOLUTION #51-26

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING PROPOSAL FROM VKAT, LLC (THE SCOOP)

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Hardyston that the following proposal is hereby accepted:

- VKAT, LLC (The Scoop) – Proposal for Ice Cream Vendor at the Hardyston Concerts in the Park

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

B. Resolution #52-26 – Resolution Authorizing the Disposal of Surplus Property

RESOLUTION #52-26

A Resolution Authorizing the Disposal of Surplus Property

WHEREAS, the Hardyston Township is the owner of certain surplus property which is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Hardyston Township Council is desirous of selling said surplus property in an “as is” condition without express or implied warranties.

NOW THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED by the Hardyston Township Council, as follows:

- (1) The sale of the surplus property shall be conducted through Municibid pursuant to State Contract T2581 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the State Contract. The terms and conditions of the agreement entered into with Municibid is available online at Municibid.com and also available from Hardyston Township.
- (2) The sale will be conducted online and the address of the auction site is Municibid.com.
- (3) The sale is being conducted pursuant to Local Finance Notice 2008-9.
- (4) A list of the surplus property to be sold is as follows:

2020	Ford Explorer	VIN# 1FM5K8AB6LGD08568
2014	Ford Explorer	VIN# 1FM5K8ARXEGC61223
- (5) The surplus property as identified shall be sold in an “as-is” condition without express or implied warranties with the successful bidder required to execute a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement concerning use of said surplus property.
- (6) Hardyston Township reserves the right to accept or reject any bid submitted.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

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

MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 24, 2026

C. Resolution #53-26 – 2026 – 2027 Annual Liquor License Renewal

- Stone Hill Recreation SPE LLC - #1911-33-006-012 (The Crystal Tavern, Restaurant La Tour, The Wine Cellar, Vista 180 Café)

**RESOLUTION #53-26
HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP
LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL**

WHEREAS, the following Liquor License is to be renewed effective July 1, 2026, for a one year period; and

WHEREAS, all necessary fees and documentation have been properly filed with the Hardyston Township Municipal Clerk; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liquor License shall be renewed for a period of one year effective July 1, 2026 for the following license holder.

1. Stone Hill Recreation SPE LLC – #1911-33-006-012

A motion was made by Miller to approve the resolution as presented, on the condition that the Township Administration follow up to confirm that the application has been properly made, seconded by Kaminski. All in favor. Motion carried.

D. Resolution #54-26 – 2026 – 2027 Annual Liquor License Renewal

- Stone Hill Recreation SPE LLC - #1911-36-007-004 (Grand Cascades Lodge – The Springs Bistro, The Biosphere Café, The Chef’s Garden)

**RESOLUTION #54-26
HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP
LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL**

WHEREAS, the following Liquor License is to be renewed effective July 1, 2026, for a one year period; and

WHEREAS, all necessary fees and documentation have been properly filed with the Hardyston Township Municipal Clerk; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liquor License shall be renewed for a period of one year effective July 1, 2026 for the following license holder.

1. Stone Hill Recreation SPE LLC – #1911-36-007-004

A motion was made by Alfano, to approve the resolution as presented, on the condition that the Township Administration follow up to confirm that the application has been properly made, seconded by Kaminski. All in favor. Motion carried.

E. Resolution #55-26 – 2026 – 2027 Annual Liquor License Renewal

- Stone Hill Recreation SPE LLC - #1911-33-005-010 (Owen’s Pub)

**RESOLUTION #55-26
HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP
LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL**

WHEREAS, the following Liquor License is to be renewed effective July 1, 2026, for a one year period; and

WHEREAS, all necessary fees and documentation have been properly filed with the Hardyston Township Municipal Clerk; and

MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 24, 2026

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liquor License shall be renewed for a period of one year effective July 1, 2026 for the following license holder.

1. Stone Hill Recreation SPE LLC – #1911-33-005-010

A motion was made by Kaminski to approve the resolution as presented, on the condition that the Township Administration follow up to confirm that the application has been properly made, seconded by Miller. All in favor. Motion carried.

F. Resolution #56-26 – 2026 – 2027 Annual Liquor License Renewal

- Hamburg Golf Course Beverage, Inc. - #1911-33-002-011 (Pocket License)

**RESOLUTION #56-26
HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP
LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL**

WHEREAS, the following Liquor License is to be renewed effective July 1, 2026, for a one year period; and

WHEREAS, all necessary fees and documentation have been properly filed with the Hardyston Township Municipal Clerk; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liquor License shall be renewed for a period of one year effective July 1, 2026 for the following license holder and the license continues to be inactive.

1. Hamburg Golf Course Beverage, Inc. - #1911-33-002-011

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

G. Resolution #57-26 – 2026 – 2027 Annual Liquor License Renewal

- Anthony Pignataro Corp. – #1911-33-004-006 – Tony’s Pizza – Rt. 23

**RESOLUTION #57-26
HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP
LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL**

WHEREAS, the following Liquor License is to be renewed effective July 1, 2026, for a one year period; and

WHEREAS, all necessary fees and documentation have been properly filed with the Hardyston Township Municipal Clerk; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liquor License shall be renewed for a period of one year effective July 1, 2026 for the following license holders.

1. Anthony Pignataro Corp. – #1911-33-004-006

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

MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 24, 2026

H. Resolution #58-26 – 2026 – 2027 Annual Liquor License Renewal

- RBAA, LLC - #1911-44-003-010 – Sussex County Discount Wine & Liquor – Rt. 94

**RESOLUTION #58-26
HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP
LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL**

WHEREAS, the following Liquor License is to be renewed effective July 1, 2026, for a one year period; and

WHEREAS, all necessary fees and documentation have been properly filed with the Hardyston Township Municipal Clerk; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liquor License shall be renewed for a period of one year effective July 1, 2026 for the following license holders.

1. RBAA, LLC - #1911-44-003-010

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

- I. Resolution #59-26 - Resolution awarding contract for Wheatsworth Road Phase 1 to Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council Vendors

RESOLUTION #59-26

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF LOCAL AID
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
RECOMMENDATION OF AWARD
STATE AID PROJECT**

BE IT RESOLVED

that the **Hardyston Township Council**

hereby recommends to the New Jersey Department of Transportation that the contract for

Wheatsworth Road Phase 1
(Name of Project)

in the **Township of Hardyston** County of **Sussex**
(Name of Municipality)

be awarded to **the following 2026 Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council Vendors:**

Tilcon New York, Inc. (MCCPC Contract #6) whose bid amounted to \$ 184,108.75

M.L. Ruberton Construction Co., Inc. (MCCPC Contract #26) whose bid amounted to \$ 19,483.25

Denville Line Painting, Inc. (MCCPC Contract #36) whose bid amounted to \$ 4,719.66

whose bids amounted to **\$ 208,311.66** subject to the approval of the Department.

That the presiding officer of this body be and is hereby directed to sign for and on its behalf the contract in the prescribed form for said construction.

**That the clerk of this body be and Mayor is hereby directed to seal said contract
with the corporate seal of this body and to attest to the same.**

Approved by the Hardyston Township Council on June 24, 2026.

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

MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 24, 2026

- J. Resolution #60-26 – Resolution for approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Scenic Lakes Road Phase 2 project

A motion was made by Kaminski to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Miller. All in favor. Motion carried. A copy of the resolution is on file in the Clerk's office.

- K. Resolution #61-26 – Resolution requesting Governor Mikie Sherrill to restore full funding to the New Jersey School of Conservation

**TOWNSHIP OF HARDYSTON
RESOLUTION #61-26**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING GOVERNOR MIKIE SHERRILL TO RESTORE
FULL FUNDING TO THE NEW JERSEY SCHOOL OF CONSERVATION**

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2022, the State of New Jersey Legislature amended N.J.S.A. 18A:64I-1, et seq. transferring the direction of the New Jersey School of Conservation ("NJSOC") property from Montclair State University to the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation, a tax-exempt nonprofit organization; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:64I-1, NJSOC shall be used in perpetuity as a school for environmental field study under the direction of the Friends of the NJSOC pursuant to a 20-year lease between the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Friends of NJSOC; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:64I-5 provides that the State of New Jersey shall provide all moneys appropriated by an annual appropriations act for the maintenance and support of the NJSOC to the Friends of NJSOC, which shall expend the funds for the expenses necessary for the operation of the NJSOC, including maintenance of the grounds and buildings, purchase of equipment, funding educational programs, and housing students and teachers; and

WHEREAS, any monies appropriated under N.J.S.A. 18A:64I-5 shall pass through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to the Friends of NJSOC; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has eliminated funds for the operation and maintenance of the NJSOC thus forcing the NJSOC to close; and

WHEREAS, such a closing will hurt the local Sussex County economy, where the NJSOC has worked with 9 local businesses contributing \$1.7 million to the local economy over the past three years; and

WHEREAS, partnerships, associations and programs with numerous local community organizations including Sussex County ARC, Sussex County Library, Sussex County Self Sufficiency - NJ Youth Corps, Sussex County Chamber of Commerce will be curtailed; and

WHEREAS, eight Sussex County elementary schools who rely on their environmental education programming through field trips at the NJSOC will be halted; and

WHEREAS, a dozen Sussex County teachers who have attended teacher professional development training on conservation, stewardship and climate change will no longer have the benefit of this necessary training; and

WHEREAS, the Sussex County Community College has recently entered into a partnership to allow for field study, research and interns at the NJSOC for their students; and

WHEREAS, if not funded, the NJSOC would be forced to layoff of 30 dedicated professionals many who live in Sussex County,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hardyston Township Mayor and Council in full consideration of the negative impact to the economy of Sussex County, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the students, educators and researchers of the state of New Jersey, call upon Governor Mikie Sherrill to immediately restore the New Jersey School of Conservation's budget request of Three Million (\$3,000,000.00) Dollars.

MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 24, 2026

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk is directed to forward a certified true copy of this resolution to the Office of Governor Mikie Sherrill; Assemblywoman Dawn Fantasia, Assemblyman Michael Inganamort; and the New Jersey School of Conservation.

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

L. Board Appointment – Municipal Drug Alliance Committee

A motion was made by Miller to appoint Lisa Vallacchi to the Municipal Drug Alliance Committee with a term expiring 12/31/26, seconded by Kaminski. All in favor. Motion carried.

M. Lake Stockholm Association – Land Use Board Application Fee Waiver Request

A motion was made by Miller to approve the fee waiver request by Lake Stockholm, seconded by Kaminski. All in favor. Motion carried.

N. Correspondence

1. Lafayette Township
2. Jefferson Township
3. Jefferson Township
4. Vernon Township
5. Vernon Township
6. Franklin Borough
7. Sparta Township
8. Sparta Township
9. Sparta Township
10. Aqua
11. Archer & Greiner, P.C.
12. Saul Ewing, LLP
13. NJDEP

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Deputy Mayor Alfano suggested selling a portion of the old Pilz property on Rt. 94 to Green Acres. Township Manager stated that the subcommittee will discuss options. Mayor Kula asked for an update regarding Habitat for Humanity's interest in properties that could potentially be developed by them. Township Manager stated that she has a meeting scheduled with them in July.

BILLS TO BE PAID: A motion was made by Kaminski to approve the bill list of 6/10/26 in the amount of \$1,880,543.92, and the bill list of 6/24/26 in the amount of \$368,866.25 which includes payroll for pay-period ending 6/15/26 as presented, seconded by Alfano. 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. Brian Tobachnick thanked the Council for adopting the ordinance banning data centers and also for approving the resolution to request restoration of funding to the New Jersey School of Conservation and for moving forward with the new community center. Jaime Milette asked when the sweepers would be sweeping up the grit from the roads. Laurel Schnurr asked for clarification regarding the landfill closure project. A motion was made and seconded to close the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Kaminski to adjourn at approximately 9:06 p.m., seconded by Miller. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jane Bakalarczyk, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk