

**VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2025 7:00 PM**

This Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:00 p.m. on January 27, 2025 in the Vernon Municipal Center, 21 Church Street, Vernon, New Jersey with Council President Rizzuto presiding.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to the public and the press on January 19, 2025 and was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-7.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Council President Rizzuto led the assemblage in the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Present were Council Members Natalie Buccieri, Jessica DeBenedetto, William Higgins, Bradley Sparta and Council President Patrick Rizzuto. Also, present were Township Attorney Peter King, Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (For Current Agenda Items Only, Limited to 3 Minutes Per Person)

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the meeting to Public Comments.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Sparta

All members were in favor.

Sally Rinker – explained to the Council that the sign that the Mayor had made for the pump track was the wrong font. She had it redone correctly.

Seeing no other members from the public wishing to come forward, President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the meeting to Public Comments.

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

REVIEW OF BILLS LIST

The Council reviewed the bills list.

RESOLUTION

Resolution #25-46: Authorizing Change Order #3 for Vernon Township Pump Station No. 2 Replacement

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to place resolution #25-46 back on the floor for consideration after it was tabled at the last meeting.

MOVED: Higgins

SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to place resolution #25-46 back on the floor for consideration.

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-46.

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approved resolution #25-46.

RESOLUTION # 25-46

Authorizing Change Order #3 for Vernon Township Pump Station No. 2 Replacement

WHEREAS, on November 28, 2022, by way of adoption of Resolution #22-284, the Council of the Township of Vernon awarded a contract to Coppola, 28 Executive Parkway, Ringwood, NJ 07456, for Pump Station No. 2 Replacement which contract provided for an expenditure of \$ 1,584,890.00; and

WHEREAS, the contractor has encountered unforeseen circumstances requiring the change order as proposed (N.J.A.C. 5:34-11-8(c)(1); and

WHEREAS, it became apparent that there was an unforeseen requiring a change order for additional alarm and monitoring conditions in the amount of \$4,196.28; and

WHEREAS the amount of change order requested is a net increase of \$4,196.28, which represents in the aggregate, an increase of 0.3%, less than the aggregate maximum increase of 20% change order as required at N.J.A.C 5:34-11-3(a)(9); and

WHEREAS, the design engineer, in concurrence with the Mayor and Business Administrator, recommends approving Change Order No. 3; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon that it hereby approves and authorizes the Mayor to execute said Change Order No. 3 for said project resulting in the new contract amount of base bid and aggregate change orders to be \$28,970.22 for the project known as Vernon Twp Pump Station No. 2 Replacement.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution #25-49: Resolution Establishing Fourth Round Affordable Housing Present Need and Prospective Need Obligations for Vernon Township

Resolution #25-50: Resolution Appointments to the Vernon Township Municipal Utility Authority

Resolution #25-51: Resolution of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, Granting Authority for Approval of Certain Purchases in Excess of the Bid Threshold Through New Jersey State Contracts and/or Purchasing Cooperative for 2025

Resolution #25-52: Transfer Resolution-Balance Transfers

Resolution #25-53: Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran - Block 448 Lot 13 (Craig)

Resolution #25-54: Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran - Block 448 Lot 13 (Craig)

Resolution #25-55: Block 448 Lot 13 – (Craig) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

Resolution #25-56: Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran – Block 120 Lot 3 (Scarnecchia)

Resolution #25-57: Block 120 Lot 3 – (Scarnecchia) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

Resolution #25-58: Approving a Solicitor's Permit – Planet Networks

Resolution #25-59: Approving a Solicitor's Permit – Planet Networks

Resolution #25-60: Approving a Solicitor's Permit – Planet Networks

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

MOVED: DeBenedetto
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approved the consent agenda.

RESOLUTION #25-49

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FOURTH ROUND AFFORDABLE HOUSING PRESENT NEED AND PROSPECTIVE NEED OBLIGATIONS FOR VERNON TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2024, Governor Murphy signed into law an Amendment to the Fair Housing Act (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 *et seq.*) (hereinafter “Amended FHA”); and

WHEREAS, the Amended FHA requires the Department of Community Affairs (“DCA”) to produce non-binding estimates of fair share obligations on or before October 20, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the DCA issued a report on October 18, 2024 (“DCA Report”) wherein it reported its estimate of the obligation for all municipalities based upon its interpretation of the standards in the Amended FHA; and

WHEREAS, the DCA Report calculates Vernon Township’s Round 4 (2025-2035) obligations as follows: a Present Need or Rehabilitation Obligation of 33 and a Prospective Need or New Construction Obligation of 304; and

WHEREAS, the Amended FHA provides that the DCA Report is non-binding, thereby inviting municipalities to demonstrate that the Amended FHA would support lower calculations of Round 4 affordable housing obligations; and

WHEREAS, the Amended FHA further provides that “all parties shall be entitled to rely upon regulations on municipal credits, adjustments, and compliance mechanisms adopted by COAH unless those regulations are contradicted by statute, including P.L. 2024, c.2, or binding court decisions” (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-311(m)); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.3, a municipality’s average allocation factor is comprised of the equalized nonresidential factor, income capacity factor, and land capacity factor, and shall be averaged to yield the municipality’s average allocation factor; and

WHEREAS, the DCA has released Geographic Information Systems spatial data representation of the Land Capacity Analysis for P.L. 2024, c.2 containing the Vacant and Developable land information that serves as the basis for calculating the land capacity factor; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township employees and professionals have reviewed the lands identified by the DCA for the land capacity factor with respect to the MOD-IV Property Tax List data, construction permit data, land use board approvals, configuration, and accessibility to ascertain whether these identified developable lands may accommodate development; and

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, Vernon Township refined the DCA calculations of Vernon Township’s fair share obligations as modified herein to account for Vernon Township’s review of the lands identified by the DCA for the land capacity factor with respect to the MOD-IV Property Tax List data, construction permit data, land use board approvals, configuration, and accessibility to ascertain whether these identified developable lands may accommodate development, and the Township seeks to commit to provide its fair share of affordable housing, subject to any vacant land and/or durational adjustments it may seek as part of the Housing Plan element and Fair Share Plan element it subsequently submits in accordance with the Amended FHA; and

WHEREAS, the Township’s employees and professionals have reviewed the land capacity factor and prospective need obligation determined by the DCA and have recommend that the Township adopt a resolution indicating a fourth-round affordable housing obligation with a present need of 33 units and prospective need obligation of 194 affordable housing units based on finding a reduced land capacity factor which reduced the Township’s average allocation factor; and

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, Vernon Township accepts the DCA calculations as refined as Vernon Township’s fair share obligations and commits to its fair share of 33 units present need and 194 units prospective

need subject to any vacant land and/or durational adjustments it may seek as part of the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan it subsequently submits in accordance with the Amended FHA; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township reserves the right to comply with any additional amendments to the FHA that the Legislature may enact; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township also reserves the right to adjust its position in the event of any rulings in the *Montvale* case (MER-L-1778-24) or any other such action that alters the deadlines and/or requirements of the Amended FHA; and

WHEREAS, in the event that a third party challenges the calculations provided for in this Resolution, Vernon Township reserves the right to take such position as it deems appropriate in response thereto, including that its Round 4 Present or Prospective Need Obligations should be lower than described herein; and

WHEREAS, in light of the above, the Council of Vernon Township finds that it is in the best interest of Vernon Township to declare its commitment to the obligations reported by the DCA on October 18, 2024 subject to the reservations set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the above, the Acting Administrative Director issued Directive #14-24, dated December 13, 2024, and made the directive available later in the week that followed; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Directive #14-24, a municipality seeking a certification of compliance with the FHA shall file an action in the form of a declaratory judgment complaint in the county in which the municipality is located within 48 hours after adoption of the municipal resolution of fair share obligations, or by February 3, 2025, whichever is sooner”; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township seeks a certification of compliance with the FHA and, therefore, directs its attorney Louis I. Karp, Esq. to file a declaratory relief action within 48 hours of the adoption of this resolution in Sussex County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 27th day of January, 2025 by the Council of Vernon Township as follows:

1. All of the above Whereas Clauses are incorporated into the operative clauses of this resolution.
2. Vernon Township hereby commits to an adjusted DCA Round 4 Present Need Obligation of 33 units and the Round 4 Prospective Need Obligation of 194 units described in this resolution, subject to all reservations of rights set forth above.
3. Vernon Township hereby directs Louis I. Karp, Esq., to file a declaratory judgment complaint in Sussex County within 48 hours after adoption this resolution, attaching this resolution.
4. Vernon Township authorizes Louis I. Karp, Esq., to attach this resolution as an exhibit to the declaratory judgment action that is filed and to submit and/or file this resolution with the Program or any other such entity as may be determined to be appropriate.
5. Vernon Township authorizes and directs the Township Planner to prepare a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan for submission to the Dispute Resolution program prior to June 30, 2025.
6. This resolution shall take effect immediately, according to law.

RESOLUTION #25-50

RESOLUTION APPOINTMENTS TO THE VERNON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITY AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Vernon Township Municipal Utilities Authority (“VTMUA”) is a duly established utilities authority pursuant to the Municipal and County Utilities Authorities Law, N.J.S.A. 40:14B-1, et seq.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, and STATE OF NEW JERSEY, that the following individuals are hereby appointed as a member of the Vernon Township Municipal Utility Authority, effective 02/01/2025, for a term specified as follows:

David McDermott
Expiring 01/31/2030

Seat 2

Patrick Rizzuto
Unexpired Term 1/31/2027

Seat 3

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Township Clerk shall send a certified copy of this resolution to the following:

Vernon Township Municipal Utilities Authority

RESOLUTION #25-51

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, GRANTING AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL OF CERTAIN PURCHASES IN EXCESS OF THE BID THRESHOLD THROUGH NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACTS AND/OR PURCHASING COOPERATIVES FOR 2025

WHEREAS, a need exists for the acquisition of various goods and services contained within cooperative contracts and over the bid threshold as aggregation of commodities, for the daily operations of the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon may, without advertising for bids, purchase such materials through the New Jersey State Purchase and Property State Contracts and other approved Regional Cooperative Purchasing Systems of which the Township of Vernon is a member, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12, and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29 et. Seq., and

WHEREAS, under the state cooperative contract, or designated regional cooperative contract award, the following vendors hold valid cooperative contracts in accord with the New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law.

Vendor	Contract #	Source Co Op	Description	Expiration
Advanced Auto Parts	R-LD-23013-01	Omnia	Auto Parts	10/31/2028
Amazon	#RTC- 17006	Omnia	General merchandise	1/31/2026
American Hose & Hydraulic	40866	NJ State	T0126 - OEM & NON-OEM MAINTENANCE & REPAIR SERVICES FOR LIGHT/MEDIUM DUTY VEHICLES	3/17/2025
Applied Concepts, Inc, dba Stalker Radar	17-FLEET-00726	NJ State	T0106 - Law Enforcement Firearms Equipment and Supplies	5/14/2025
Atlantic Salt	BC-BID-24-48	Bergen	Roadway Rock Salt	9/30/2025
AXON Enterprises	17-FLEET-00738	T0106	Police Equipment/ Tasers	5/14/2025
Bergen Fence	BC 24-07	Bergen Co Op	Fencing	3/19/2026
CDW	ESCNJ/AEPA-22G		Technology Supplies & Services	5/24/2026
Campbell Freightliner LLC, Gabrielli, Hudson, MTE, On-Site, WE Timmerman	24-36	Bergen Co Op	Large vehicle repair	12/3/2026
Cintas Corporation	99297	Bergen	NOI - Facilities Management Products and Solutions – Uniform Rentals	10/31/2025
Continental Fire & Safety	17-FLEET-00802	T0790	Firefighter Protective Clothing and Equipment	6/14/2025
CONTINENTAL FIRE & SAFETY INC New Jersey Fire Equipment Co	17-FLEET-00805		FIREFIGHTER GEAR	6/14/2025

Tasc Fire Apparatus Inc. Globe Manufacturing Company LLC State Line Fire & Safety Inc MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVICES Witmer Public Safety Group Inc. AAA Emergency Supply Co Inc				
Custom Bandag (Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.)	socCC- CC-0016- 23		Tires, Tubes and Services	6/22/2025
Dell	20-TELE-01510	M0003	Software License & Related Service	5/24/2026
Dell	24-TELE-71883	M0483	Computer Equipment and Peripherals	6/30/2025
Eagle Point Gun	17-FLEET-00721	T0106	Law Enforcement Firearms Equipment and Supplies	5/31/2025
East Coast Emergency Lighting	23-FLEET-68813	NJ State	T0106 - Law Enforcement Firearms Equipment and Supplies	3/31/2027
East Coast Salt Distribution	24-49	Bergen	Bagged Ice melt Products	4/30/2025
ELITE EMERGENCY SERVICES	17-FLEET-00749		EMERGENCY LIGHTING AND OTHER VEHICLE ACCESSORIES	5/14/2025
Ex Tech Building Materials	Sussex		Calcium Chloride De-Icing Chemicals (Sussex County Cooperative)	9/21/2025
Firefighter One LLC	17-FLEET-00807	T0790	Police Security Equipment and Supplies	6/14/2025
Firefighter One LLC	17-FLEET-00734	T-0106	Police Security Equipment and Supplies	5/14/2025
Firefighter One LLC HAIX north america All Hands Fire Equipment Witmer Public Safety Group Inc. Skylands Area Fire Equipment & Training LLC DiVal Safety & Equipment	17-FLEET- 00809/00810/ 00810	NJ State	T0790 Firefighter Protective Clothing and Equipment	6/14/2025
Foveonics	ESCNJ 22/23-11	ESCNJ	Document Imaging	6/30/2025
Gabrielli Truck Sales	97568		BC-BID-21-60 - Automotive Parts and Accessories - COOP	8/13/2025
Goosetown Communications	BID - CK04 COOP	Bergen Co op	Vehicle upfitting	Jan 2026
Goosetown Enterprises	83892	NJ State	T0109 - RADIO COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES	4/30/2025
Home Depot/ Lowes	18-FLEET-00234	NJ State	Hardware and buildin supply	12/31/2026
Majestic Oil	19-FOOD-01098	NJ State	T1845 Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel and Biodiesel Fuel	04/01/2020 03/31/2025
Majestic Oil	19-FLEET-00972	NJ State	T0083 Unleaded Automotive Gasoline	11/01/2019- 10/31/2025
Millennium Strategies	120904	Bergen	BC-RFP-22-008 - Grant Writing Services Coop	6/14/2025
Morton Salt	CONTRACT #3: ROCK SALT &		MCCPC	10/31/2025

	CALCIUM CHLORIDE			
Morton Salt	Sussex		Rock Salt	5/31/2025
Motorola Solutions	83909	T0109	Radio Communications Equipment and Accessories	4/30/2025
Motorola Solutions	83925	T0109	Radio Communications Equipment and Accessories	4/30/2025
Motorola Solutions	23-FLEET-33791	T0106	Law Enforcement Firearms Equipment and Supplies	5/31/2025
Municipal Emergency Services	17-FLEET-00818	T0790	Firefighter Protective Clothing and Equipment	6/2025
North Church Gravel	Sussex		Ice Control Material (Snow Grits) (Sussex County Cooperative)	8/10/2025
NORTHEAST COMMUNICATIONS	83898	T0109	RADIO COMMUNICATIONS	4/30/2025
Rapid Pump & Meter		Bergen	BC-BID-21-13 - Pump and Meter Repair Services - Catalog – COOP	10/18/2025
Rapid Pump & Meter		Bergen	BC-C-23-017 24 MONTH ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICE CONTRACT	10/19/2025
Riverview Paving	Sussex		2024 Sussex County Road Resurfacing - Sussex County Cooperative	11/25/2025
SHI International	New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance	CK-04/ BC Bid 22-24	Computer equipment, software and peripherals	6/1/2026
STAVOLA CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, INC	Sussex		Bituminous Concrete Aggregates & Broken Stone (Sussex County Cooperative)	4/27/2025
Tony Sanchez Ltd	83906		T2108 - MAINT. & REPAIR FOR HEAVY DUTY VEHICLES (CLASS 5 OR HIGHER, OVER 15,000 LB GVWR)	11/20/2025
Tree King Inc	MCCPC # 18		Tree Removal and Brush Grinding	12/31/2025
WB Mason	ESCNJ 21/22-22	ESCNJ	Office Supplies	1/31/2025
WB Mason	33-OCCPS-2024-003	Stafford	Office supplies	8/31/2026
WB Mason	24-COMG-78752	State Contract	T0052 Office Supplies and Recycled Copy Paper Statewide	2/28/2027
Griffith-Allied Trucking, LLC (dba Allied Oil)	CONTRACT #1: MOTOR GASOLINE	MCCPC	Gasoline	12/31/2025
Griffith-Allied Trucking, LLC (dba Allied Oil)	Contract #12: #2 Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel	MCCPC	Diesel	12/31/2025
Rachle Micheles	Gasoline, Diesel, Fuel Oil: Bergen County Coop	Bergen	23-34	Mar 2nd 2026,

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

1. The Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) upon receipt of an identified need and direction from the Township is hereby authorized to approve purchases in the aggregate over the bid threshold from the list of approved cooperative contract, through New Jersey State Contracts and/or Purchasing Cooperatives to which the Township of Vernon is a member without further action from Council, provided that funds are available to cover the expenditure.

RESOLUTION #25-52

TRANSFER RESOLUTION- BALANCE TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon Municipal Budget requires certain modifications to cover potential expenses that may occur in excess of the original budget;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that the following Transfer of Appropriation Reserves (2024 Municipal Budget) in accordance with N.J.S.A 40A-58/59 are hereby approved.

ACCOUNT	TRANSFER OUT	TRANSFER IN
FROM CURRENT FUND:		
LEGAL SERVICES O/E	20,000.00	
TO: CURRENT FUND		
RECYCLING O/E		3,000.00
FLEET MAINTENANCE O/E		17,000.00
TOTAL TRANSFERS	20,000.00	20,000.00

RESOLUTION #25-53

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN
Block 448 Lot 13 (Craig)**

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS awarded Jason Craig a 100% permanent and totally disabled veteran: and,

WHEREAS, the law exempts said property from taxation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes the Tax Collector to refund 2023 property tax in the amount of \$549.95 to Jason Craig.

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

RESOLUTION #25-54

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN
Block 448 Lot 13 (Craig)**

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS awarded Jason Craig a 100% permanent and totally disabled veteran: and,

WHEREAS, the law exempts said property from taxation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes the Tax Collector to refund 2024 property tax in the amount of \$6,927.56 to Jason Craig.

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

RESOLUTION #25-55

**Block 448 Lot 13 – (Craig)
CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS on awarded Jason Craig a 100% permanent and total disabled veteran; and

WHEREAS, as of said date the law exempts said property from taxation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon authorizes the Tax Collector to cancel the taxes for 2025 in the amount of \$3,463.78.

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

RESOLUTION #25-56

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN
Block 120 Lot 3 (Scarnecchia)**

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS awarded Thomas Scarnecchia a 100% permanent and totally disabled veteran: and,

WHEREAS, the law exempts said property from taxation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes the Tax Collector to refund 2024 property tax in the amount of \$1,534.19 to Thomas Scarnecchia

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

RESOLUTION #25-57

**Block 120 Lot 3 – (Scarnecchia)
CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS on awarded Thomas Scarnecchia a 100% permanent and total disabled veteran; and

WHEREAS, as of said date the law exempts said property from taxation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon authorizes the Tax Collector to cancel the taxes for 2025 in the amount of \$3,119.09.

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

RESOLUTION #25-58

APPROVING A SOLICITOR PERMIT – Planet Networks

WHEREAS, Steven Miquez has made an application for a Solicitor Permit for the purposes of fiber optic internet service and phone; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that approval be granted for a Solicitor Permit for Steven Miquez of Planet Networks.

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

RESOLUTION #25-59

APPROVING A SOLICITOR PERMIT – Planet Networks

WHEREAS, Avelino Jacinto has made an application for a Solicitor Permit for the purposes of fiber optic internet service and phone; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that approval be granted for a Solicitor Permit for Avelino Jacinto of Planet Networks.

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

RESOLUTION #25-60

APPROVING A SOLICITOR PERMIT – Planet Networks

WHEREAS, Jack Jacinto has made an application for a Solicitor Permit for the purposes of fiber optic internet service and phone; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that approval be granted for a Solicitor Permit for Jack Jacinto of Planet Networks.

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

Ordinance #25-02: Capital Ordinance Providing for Various Improvements by the Township of and Providing that Such Sum So Appropriated Shall be Raised from General Capital Reserves and the Capital Improvement Fund of the Township

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve ordinance #25-02.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to introduce ordinance #25-02.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE/PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance #25-01: 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)

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #25-01.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to open the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #25-01.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to come forward, President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the public hearing on ordinance #25-01.

MOVED: DeBenedetto
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #25-01.

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to adopt ordinance #25-01.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #25-01.

ORDINANCE #25-01

**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 up to 2.5% 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 of Vernon 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 governing body hereby determines that a 1% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$204,545.83 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the governing body 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 of Vernon, 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 Vernon shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$715,910.41 and that the CY 2025 municipal budget for the Township of Vernon 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 5 Minutes Per Person)

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the meeting to Public Comments.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Higgins

All members were in favor.

Seeing no members of the public wishing to speak, President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the meeting for Public Comments.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: DeBenedetto

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the floor to public comments.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Higgins had no comments.

Council Member DeBenedetto had no comments.

Council Member Sparta had no comments.

Council Member Buccieri had no comments.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council President Rizzuto had no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:17 pm Council Member Buccieri made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Sparta.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcy Gianattasio, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Patrick Rizzuto
Council President

Minutes approved: February 10, 2025