

**VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 10, 2025 7:00 PM**

This Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:00 p.m. on February 10, 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 Jessica DeBenedetto, William Higgins, Bradley Sparta and Council President Patrick Rizzuto. Also, present were Township Attorney Peter King, Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio.

Council Member Natalie Buccieri was not present.

Council President Rizzuto honored Beverly Budz and asked for a moment of silence for her.

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

School Solar Installation

**MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Rossi made the following appointments:

David Killin – Economic Development Advisory Committee – one-year term  
Peter Knipe – Economic Development Advisory Committee – one-year term  
Edward Connell – Environmental Commission – one-year term  
Marissa Rossi – Beautification Committee – one-year term  
Board of Recreation – one year term

Mayor Rossi announced that Vernon Township received the 2024 Safey Excellence Award.

The Mayor also commented that the phones system in the municipal center has been upgraded and are working well and he thanked Plant Networks.

Mayor Rossi will be having a meeting with JCP&L regarding smart meters and the work that JCP&L is doing to upgrade their infrastructure as well as what precautions they are taking to prevent outages.

**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: Higgins

SECOND: Sparta

All members were in favor.

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

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Higgins

All members were in favor.

**REVIEW OF BILLS LIST**

The Council reviewed the bills list.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**January 15, 2025 – Reorganization Meeting**

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the January 15, 2025 reorganization minutes.

MOVED: Higgins  
SECOND: Sparta

All members were in favor.

**January 27, 2025 – Executive Session**

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the January 27, 2025 executive session minutes.

MOVED: Sparta  
SECOND: Higgins

All members were in favor.

**January 27, 2025 – Regular Meeting**

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the January 27, 2025 regular meeting minutes.

MOVED: Sparta  
SECOND: Higgins

All members were in favor.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution #25-61:** Emergency Temporary Appropriations

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-61.

MOVED: Sparta  
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approved resolution #25-61.

**RESOLUTION #25-61**

**Emergency Temporary Appropriations**

**WHEREAS**, an emergent condition has arisen in that the Township is expected to enter in contracts, commitments or payments prior to the 2025 budget and no adequate provision has been made in the 2024 temporary budget for the aforesaid purposes, and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of an emergency temporary appropriation for said purpose, and

**WHEREAS**, the total emergency temporary appropriation resolutions adopted in the year 2025 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20) including this resolution total:  
Current Fund: \$2,116,027.02

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20:

- 1. Emergency temporary appropriations be and the same are hereby made in the amount of:

Current Fund

Description	Emergency Appropriations	
DDEF GRANT 2025	\$	12,818.02
PERS CONTRIBUTION – O/E	\$	702,341.00
PFRS CONTRIBUTION – O/E	\$	1,398,868.00
FIRE PREVENTION O/E	\$	2,000.00
2025 TEMP EMERGENCY IN CAP APPROPRIATIONS	\$	2,116,027.02

- 2. Said emergency temporary appropriations will be provided for in the 2025 budget.
- 3. That one certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Director, Division of Local Government Services.

**Resolution #25-62:** Authorizing Contracts with Certain Approved State Contract Vendors Under T-2809

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-62.

MOVED: Higgins  
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approved resolution #25-62.

**RESOLUTION #25-62**  
**AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS**  
**WITH CERTAIN APPROVED STATE CONTRACT VENDORS**  
**UNDER T-2809**

**WHEREAS**, as provided for within the New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law (N.J.S.A.40A:11-1 et. Seq.) the Township of Vernon may by resolution, and without advertising for bids or obtaining quotations, purchase any goods or services under the State Contract; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township has the need on a timely basis to purchase goods and services utilizing State contracts for the equipping of certain fire department emergency vehicles; and

**WHEREAS** the Township intends to enter into contracts with Gabrielli Truck Sales of NJ, Inc., New Jersey State Contract T-2809 applicable to all the conditions to current State contracts; and

**WHEREAS**, Gabrielli Truck Sales of NJ, Inc. has proposed a Volvo, cab, chassis and accessories, 68,000 GVWR for \$190,395.00 acceptable to the Township.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, authorizes the Qualified Purchasing Agent to purchase certain goods and services from Gabrielli Truck Sales of NJ, Inc., through New Jersey State Contract T-2809 pursuant to all conditions of the individual State contracts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the governing body of Vernon Township pursuant to NJAC 5:30-5.5(b) (the certification of available funds), states that the Chief Finance Officer certifies funds are available in C-04-24-023 24-23 Bond Ordinance DPW Equipment.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

**Resolution #25-63:** Authorizing Contracts with Certain Approved Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Cooperative Contract Vendors

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-63.

MOVED: Higgins  
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approved resolution #25-63.

**RESOLUTION #25-63**

**AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS  
WITH CERTAIN APPROVED EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY  
COOPERATIVE CONTRACT VENDORS**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Vernon may by resolution, and without advertising for bids or obtaining quotations, purchase any goods or services under the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Cooperative Pricing System; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township has the need on a timely basis to purchase goods and services utilizing Educational Service Commission of New Jersey Contracts, duly authorized under law to extend contract pricing to local units, per N.J.A.C. 5:34-7 et. Seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township intends to enter into contract for procurement of a Truck accessories Class 4-8, through ESCNJ 23/24-04, through Dejana Truck & Utility Equipment authorized under Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing award, dated July 1, 2023, through June, 30, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the quoted cost under contract ECSNJ 23/25-04 from Dejana Truck & Utility Equipment is \$102,632.00.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, authorizes the Qualified Purchasing Agent to purchase certain goods and services from those approved Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Contracts extended to municipal units, pursuant to all conditions of the individual cooperative contracts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the governing body of Vernon Township pursuant to NJAC 5:30-5.5(b) (the certification of available funds), states that the Chief Finance Officer certifies funds are available in C-04-24-023 24-23 Bond Ordinance DPW Equipment.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

**Resolution #25-64:** Amended Resolution of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, Authoring the Procuring of Financial Advisory and Management Services LOSAP Program Competitive Contract

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-64.

MOVED: Higgins

SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Buccieri

Motion carries to approved resolution #25-64.

### **RESOLUTION #25-64**

#### **AMENDED RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE PROCURING OF FINANCIAL ADVISORY AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES LOSAP PROGRAM COMPETITIVE CONTRACT**

**WHEREAS** the Township of Vernon has agreed to the establishment of a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) Deferred Compensation Plan. This plan is to be made available to all bona fide eligible volunteers who are performing qualified services which is defined as fire fighting and prevention services, emergency medical services and ambulance services pursuant to Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, except for provisions added by reason of the Length of Service Award Program as enacted into federal law in 1997. The establishment of this Length of Service Award Program will also comply with New Jersey Public Law 1997, Chapter 388 and the Length of Service Award Plan Document; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Vernon deems it appropriate to act to ensure retention of existing members and to provide incentives for recruiting new volunteer firefighters/first aid organization members; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Vernon has a Length of Service Award Plan Document that implements the Programs objectives; and

**WHEREAS**, certain tax benefits could accrue to eligible volunteer firefighters' organization members;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township of Vernon is adopting a Length of Service Award Program Deferred Plan which is substantially similar to a Plan that has been submitted to the Internal Revenue Service for a Private Letter Ruling. The use of the Ruling is for guidance only and the Township of Vernon acknowledges that for Internal Revenue Service purposes, the Ruling of another sponsoring agency is not to be considered precedent; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Council of the Township of Vernon that, it hereby adopts a Length of Service Award Program Deferred Plan provided by the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company and Lincoln Financial Group, its agent, Plan Identifier: 01-LOSAP-LINCOLN-041123; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company and Lincoln Financial Group, it's agent, has agreed to be the provider for the Township of Vernon Length of Service Award Deferred Program and it eligible volunteers as provided for in it's Length of Service Award Plan Document, Plan Identifier: 01-LOSAP-LINCOLN-041123; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company and Lincoln Financial Group it’s agent, will provide, for the benefit of the participants, a Multi-Fund Variable Annuity contract as its funding vehicle; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-14.37 the Township of Vernon solicited proposals for a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) from 2 or more providers of LOSAP services. The Vendors responding to the request for proposals were Lincoln National Life Insurance Company and Lincoln Financial Group it’s agent. The successful vendor is Lincoln Life Insurance Company and Lincoln Financial Group, it’s agent. The Township of Vernon reviewed both proposals of the responding companies. Lincoln National Life Insurance Company was selected because of the level of service, the financial stability of the company, features of the plan’s investment options and references; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that there has been no collusion, or evidence or appearance of collusion, between any local official and a representative of Lincoln National Life Insurance Company and Lincoln Financial Group, its agent, in the selection of a provider pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-14.29.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor of the Township of Vernon is authorized to execute an Administrative Services Agreement with the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company and Lincoln Financial Group, its agent, Plan Identifier: 01-LOSAP-LINCOLN-041123, and such other agreements as are necessary to implement the LOSAP Deferred Program. It is implicitly understood that there is to be no cost other than the Service Award by the Township of Vernon to the program; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to serve as the “Local Plan Administrator” of the plan, represent the Township of Vernon, and execute individual Participation Agreements between Lincoln National Life Insurance Company and Lincoln Financial Group, it’s agent and bona fide eligible volunteers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Township of Vernon that the Municipal Clerk forwards a certified true copy of this resolution to the Chief Financial Officer; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Financial Officer will submit all necessary documents to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the State Department of Community Affairs for approval.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Resolution #25-65:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran - Block 206 Lot 14 (Redacted)

**Resolution #25-66:** Block 206 Lot 14 (Redacted) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

**Resolution #25-67:** Approving a Solicitor Permit – Renewal by Anderson

**Resolution #25-68:** Approving a Solicitor Permit – Renewal by Anderson

**Resolution #25-69:** Approving a Solicitor Permit – Renewal by Anderson

**Resolution #25-70:** Resolution to Support Publishing Legal Notices on Official Government Websites

**Resolution #25-71:** Resolution in Support of Referendum for 10 Years Extension of Sussex County Farmland Preservation, Recreation and Open Space Trust Fund

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

MOVED: Sparta  
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto  
NAYES:

ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT: Buccieri

Motion carries to approved the consent agenda.

**RESOLUTION #25-65**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN  
Block 206 Lot 14 (Redacted)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** awarded Block 206 Lot 14 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 \$8,747.53 to Block 206 Lot 14.

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

**RESOLUTION #25-66**

**Block 206 Lot 14 (Redacted)  
CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

**WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** on awarded Block 206 Lot 14 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 \$4,373.77.

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

**RESOLUTION #25-67**

**APPROVING A SOLICITOR PERMIT – Renewal by Anderson**

**WHEREAS,** Austin Wicks has made an application for a Solicitor Permit for the purposes of scheduling free consultations for new windows or doors; and

**WHEREAS,** upon receipt of the application for a Solicitor Permit, by Austin Wicks of Renewal by Anderson, 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 Austin Wicks of Renewal by Anderson.

**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 #25-68**

**APPROVING A SOLICITOR PERMIT – Renewal by Anderson**

**WHEREAS**, Ala Abuazz has made an application for a Solicitor Permit for the purposes of scheduling free consultations for new windows or doors; and

**WHEREAS**, upon receipt of the application for a Solicitor Permit, by Ala Abuazz of Renewal by Anderson, 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 Ala Abuazz of Renewal by Anderson.

**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 #25-69**

**APPROVING A SOLICITOR PERMIT – Renewal by Anderson**

**WHEREAS**, Ryan Gibb has made an application for a Solicitor Permit for the purposes of scheduling free consultations for new windows or doors; and

**WHEREAS**, upon receipt of the application for a Solicitor Permit, by Ryan Gibb of Renewal by Anderson, 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 Ryan Gibb of Renewal by Anderson.

**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 #25-70**

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PUBLISHING  
LEGAL NOTICES ON OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITES**

**WHEREAS**, the sunset provision of March 1, 2025 imposed under P.L. 2024 c.106 is fast approaching in what was a temporary solution that allowed local governments to comply with the public notice requirements under the law in time for annual reorganization meetings in January; and,

**WHEREAS**, local government officials serve as the stewards of property taxpayer dollars and should no longer be required to subsidize the newspaper industry with revenues collected from publishing legal notices in the press; and,

**WHEREAS**, long before NJ Advanced Media’s announcement that it was terminating daily print publications in January of 2025, local government officials found it increasingly difficult to comply with the public notice requirements under the law as the media has become almost exclusively digitized and struggled to retain staff, resources, and publications; and,

**WHEREAS**, legislation that will authorize local governments to publish legal notices on a local government’s official website will streamline an antiquated and overly burdensome process and save valuable time, resources, and property taxpayer dollars; and,

**NOW, THERFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Township of Vernon does in



fact, hereby urge state leaders to pass legislation that will authorize municipalities, counties, school districts, and all local governments to publish legal notices in a clear, transparent, and timely manner on a local government’s official website.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to Governor Phil Murphy, Senate President Nicholas Scutari, Speaker of the General Assembly Craig Coughlin, Senator Parker Space, Assemblymembers Dawn Fantasia and Michael Inganamort and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

**RESOLUTION #25-71**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REFERENDUM FOR 10 YEARS EXTENSION OF SUSSEX COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND**

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has enacted legislation allowing counties to establish a County Farmland Preservation, Recreation, and Open Space Trust Fund pursuant to P.L. 1997, c. 24; and

WHEREAS, in November 2000, again in November 2005, and again in November 2015 the voters of Sussex County approved public questions in a general election referendum creating a Farmland Preservation, Recreation, and Open Space Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, in the 25 years of the existence of the County program, the County has preserved in excess of 19,425 acres of farmland and 4,845.3 acres of open space, these accomplishments being achieved in cooperation with municipal, state, and private partners; and

WHEREAS, both prior public authorizations provided for the expiration of the authorization after a period of 10 years, with the November 2000 authorization expiring on January 1, 2011, the 2005 authorization scheduled to expire on January 1, 2016, and the 2015 authorization scheduled to expire on January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, there still exists a significant need for Farmland and Open Space preservation in Sussex County; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of a stable source of funding, land preservation efforts within Sussex County will cease;

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

We call upon the Board of Chosen Commissioners to adopt the necessary resolution pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40:12-15-15.2, to authorize a public referendum to appear on the November 4, 2025, general election ballot to seek voter approval to continue the Sussex County Farmland Preservation, Recreation, and Open Space Trust Fund for an additional 10-year time period.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Clerk of the Board of Chosen Commissioners of the County of Sussex and the Governing Bodies of all Sussex County Municipalities.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**Ordinance #25-03:** Ordinance of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter 330, “Nonconforming Buildings and Uses” of the Code of the

Township of Vernon to Allow for the Reconstruction of Existing Dwellings within the Existing Footprint

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to introduce ordinance #25-03.

MOVED: Sparta  
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to introduce ordinance #25-03.

**Ordinance #25-04:** Ordinance Establishing the Salaries for Certain Officers and Employees of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to introduce ordinance #25-04.

MOVED: Sparta  
SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to introduce ordinance #25-04.

#### **ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE/PUBLIC HEARING**

**Ordinance #25-02:** Capital Ordinance Providing for Various Improvements by the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, Appropriating Therefore the Sum of \$55,000.00 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 open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #25-02.

MOVED: Sparta  
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to open the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #25-02.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to come forward, President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the public hearing on ordinance #25-02.

MOVED: Higgins  
SECOND: Sparta

All members were in favor.

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

MOVED: Sparta  
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #25-02.

**ORDINANCE #25-02**

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE**

**Capital Ordinance providing for various improvements by the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, appropriating therefore the sum of \$55,000.00 and providing that such sum so appropriated shall be raised from General Capital Reserves and the Capital Improvement Fund of the Township**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, that the following capital projects be hereby authorized but not limited to include acquisition and installation of computer equipment and improvements for the Police Department; for a total Improvement Authorization of \$55,000.00.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that the financing for the above projects be as follows:

General Capital Reserves- Police Department	\$42,000.00
General Capital Improvement Fund	\$13,000.00

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that the capital budget of the Township is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing all detail of the amended capital budget and capital improvement program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, are on file with the Township Clerk and are available for public inspection.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that the period of usefulness of the capital projects are in excess of the five (5) year statutory requirement, and that no debt shall be incurred by the Borough for this authorization. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as required by law.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 5 Minutes Per Person)**

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

MOVED: Sparta  
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: Sparta  
SECOND: Higgins

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the floor to public comments.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Council Member Higgins had no comments.

Council Member Sparta commented that State Assemblyman, Mike Inganamort introduced a small-town rescue plan that would reimburse towns for Sate mandated property tax refunds. It’s going to directly benefit towns by increasing State aid, which would ultimately allow municipalities to lower property taxes for their residents. Council Member Sparta appreciates Assemblyman Inganamort’s efforts

Council Member Sparta called the police non-emergency number to report a tour bus on Route 515 and the Vernon Police turned the bus around and sent him back the right way. Council Member Sparta encourages people to call the non-emergency police number if they see anything like this in the future. He feels that there should be a heftier fine and more signage for the speed limit and weight limit.

Council Member DeBenedetto had no comments.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS**

Council President Rizzuto commented on the cost for legal notices that the township has to advertise. He feels that if we could get the passage of having legal notices on our website instead of the newspaper, it would save the town a substantial amount of money and time.

Council Member Higgins asked about the budget process.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:20 pm Council Member Sparta made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Higgins.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marcy Gianattasio, RMC, CMR  
Municipal Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick Rizzuto  
Council President

Minutes approved: March 24, 2025