

**VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2025 7:00 PM**

This Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:00 p.m. on February 24, 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 Mayor Anthony Rossi, Business Administrator Tina Krause, Township Attorney Peter King, Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio.

Council President Rizzuto honored Ellen Miexner asked for a moment of silence for her.

DISCUSSION ITEM

LOSAP Program

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Rossi wanted to remind everyone about the Hometown Heroes' program. We are looking to send the order in by next week so please submit your applications by end of week.

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: Higgins

All members were in favor.

Cheri Shortway – honored Ellen Miexner.

Carl Cantino – honored Ellen Miexner.

Howard Burrell - honored Ellen Miexner.

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.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #25-72: Authorizing Change Order #1 of Contract for Proposed Improvements of Maple Grange Park Lower Parking Lot with Denville Line Painting, Inc.

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-72.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approved resolution #25-72.

RESOLUTION #25-72

**AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 OF CONTRACT FOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS OF
MAPLE GRANGE PARK LOWER PARKING LOT
WITH DENVILLE LINE PAINTING, INC.**

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2023, by way of adoption of Resolution #23-237, the Council of the Township of Vernon awarded a contract to Denville Line Painting, Inc. for Line Striping the Maple Grange Park Lower Parking Lot which contract provided for an expenditure of \$5,600.00; and

WHEREAS, in a memo dated January 15, 2025, the Township Engineer states that the contract requires a Change Order #1 by the addition of three (3) supplemental items in the amount of \$2,808.35 and by the reduction of one (1) item in amount of \$2,912.00 decreasing contract amount by \$103.65; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer, in concurrence with the Mayor, recommends approving Change Order No. 1 resulting in the decreased contract amount of \$5,496.35.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon that it hereby approves the Township Engineer’s recommendations and authorizes the Mayor to execute said Change Order No. 1 for said project resulting in the adjusted decreased contract amount of \$5,496.35; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Denville Line Painting, Inc. and the Township Engineer.

Resolution #25-73: Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of an Energy Audit Solar Power Purchase Agreement Consultant Through the Competitive Contracting Process

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-73.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approved resolution #25-73.

RESOLUTION #25-73

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING
OF AN ENERGY AUDIT SOLAR POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT CONSULTANT
THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS**

WHEREAS, the Township has a need to provide for an energy audit and solar power purchase agreement consultant to administer its procurement preparation for solar energy public bidding energy procurement program; and

WHEREAS such services are currently available to be provided through the competitive contracting process under the New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1(m).; and

WHEREAS the Township desires to evaluate such service offerings from Vendors within the procedures as set forth in the New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law (N.J.S.A.40A:11-4.1 et. seq. and N.J.A.C. 5:34-4 et. Seq.,) of Price and Other Factors; and

WHEREAS the Township desires to enter into a contract for up to a five (5) year contract that will satisfy the needs of the Township; and

WHEREAS, as per statute the process will be administered by the Qualified Purchasing Agent (N.J.S.A 40A:11-4.5(d)).

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

The Qualified Purchasing Agent is hereby authorized to commence the competitive contract/ procurement as allowable under the New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law for an energy audit and solar power purchase agreement consultant to administer its public bidding energy procurement program, allowing for a minimum of 20 days’ notice after advertisement to receive responses, per Local Publics Contract Law.

Resolution #25-74: Approving a Solicitors Permit – Renewal by Anderson

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-74.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approved resolution #25-74.

RESOLUTION #25-74

APPROVING A SOLICITOR PERMIT – Renewal by Anderson

WHEREAS, Andrew Warren 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 Andrew Warren 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 Andrew Warren 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 #25-75: Resolution Authorizing Fireworks to be Displayed within the Township of Vernon in 2025

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-75.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approved resolution #25-75.

RESOLUTION #25-75

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FIREWORKS TO BE DISPLAYED
WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON IN 2025**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A.21:3-1et seq. Explosive and Fireworks, provides that a Municipal Governing Body must authorize the display of fireworks within its boundaries as a pre-condition to such display in accordance with the New Jersey Fire Prevention Code; and

WHEREAS, the following entities have notified the Township of potential fireworks displays in 2025 and provided tentative dates:

Highland Lakes Country Club – August 3, 2025

Mountain Creek Resort
July 4, 2025 with tentative rain date of July 5, 2025;
December 31, 2025 with a tentative rain date of January 1, 2026;

Tall Timbers – July 12, 2025 with rain date of July 19, 2025

WHEREAS, the Fire Marshal stated the permit application, fee and insurance requirements are to be submitted by the applicant at least 30 days prior to event for review.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, hereby authorizes the fireworks display with special effects, performed on dates listed above upon satisfaction of all statutory and departmental requirements.

Resolution #25-76: A Resolution Renewing the Group Life & Accidental, Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) Policy for Eligible Employees Through the Standard Insurance Company

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-76.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approved resolution #25-76.

RESOLUTION #25-76

**A RESOLUTION RENEWING THE GROUP LIFE & ACCIDENTAL, DEATH &
DISMEMBERMENT (AD&D) POLICY FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES THROUGH THE
STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon, hereinafter referred to as the Township, provides Group Life & Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) benefits coverage for eligible employees as part of the Township's Comprehensive Employee Benefits Program; and

WHEREAS, the Township's Health Benefits Consultant, as a matter of due diligence, engaged in active negotiations for the Renewal of these coverages, administered by The Standard insurance Company and,

WHEREAS, the Consultant was successful in securing a Renewal for each of the coverages noted, as follows and illustrated through the attached spreadsheet analysis:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ LIFE▪ AD&D▪ | <p>Provides a 12-month rate with a Flat Renewal – \$0 increase over expiring.</p> <p>Provides a 12-month rate with a Flat Renewal – \$0 Increase over expiring.</p> <p>Provides for all coverages/benefits to remain unchanged from the expiring respective plans.</p> |
|---|--|

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, hereby authorize the renewal of the Group Life & Accidental, Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) benefits coverage with The Standard Insurance Company for the period **February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2026**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Governing Body does hereby authorize and affirm the implementation of this Renewal, which maintains the current plan design of benefits; thereby ensuring the moral and contractual obligation of the Township; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the contract award for the Renewal Proposal is to a duly licensed and admitted Insurance Carrier within the State of NJ and therefore, such award is exempt from the requirements set forth by P.L. 2004, Chapter 19 (as amended by P.L. 2005, c.51) N.J.S.A.19:44A-20.5 et seq. and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Mayor and Township Administrator are hereby authorized and directed to execute the necessary Renewal documents in accordance with the existing terms and conditions of the Agreement with the Renewal rate provisions, as promulgated herewith; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to PIA Security Programs, A Division of World Insurance Associates, LLC, 429 Hackensack Street, P.O. Box 818, Carlstadt NJ, Health Benefits Consultant to the Township, the Township Chief Financial Officer and Municipal Auditor.

Resolution #25-77: Appointment of a Municipal Housing Liaison

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-77.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approved resolution #25-77.

RESOLUTION # 25-77

APPOINTMENT OF A MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON

WHEREAS, Vernon Township was granted substantive certification of its Housing Element and Fair Share Plan by the Council of Affordable Housing (COAH), second round, on December 15, 2004; and

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, Vernon Township adopted Fourth Round obligations pursuant to the DCA report as refined by the Township for an obligation of 33 units and the Round 4 Prospective Need Obligation of 200 units via Resolution #25-49 and subsequently filed the same with the Dispute Resolution Program via a Declaratory Judgment action with the Superior Court; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5-94-7 and N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1 et. seq., Vernon Township is required to appoint a Municipal Housing Administrator and liaison, as per Chapter 130 Section § 133-3 of the Vernon Township Code and Fair Housing Act Requirements, for the administration of Vernon Township’s affordable housing program to enforce the requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:94-7 and N.J.A.C. 5-80-26.1 et. seq.; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of Vernon Township in the County of Sussex, and the State of New Jersey that Jessica Caldwell, PP, AICP, is hereby appointed by the Governing Body of Vernon Township as the Municipal Housing Administrator and liaison for the administration of the affordable housing program, pursuant to and in accordance with Section § 133-3 of Chapter 130 of the Vernon Township Code.

Resolution #25-78: Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Amended Res. #24-297) Block 73 Lot 4 (Williams)

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-78.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approved resolution #25-78.

RESOLUTION #25-78

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN (Amended Res. #24-297)
Block 73 Lot 4 (Williams)**

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
awarded Craig Williams 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 \$6,874.89 to Craig Williams.

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

Resolution #25-79: Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran Block 73 Lot 4 (Williams)

Resolution #25-80: Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran Block 120 Lot 3 (Scarnecchia)

Resolution #25-81: Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran Block 448 Lot 13 (Craig)

Resolution #25-82: Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran Block 206 Lot 14 (Redacted)

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolutions #25-79, #25-80, #25-81 and #25-82.

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approved resolutions #25-79, #25-80, #25-81 and #25-82.

RESOLUTION #25-79

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN
Block 73 Lot 4 (Williams)**

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
awarded Craig Williams 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 2025 property tax in the amount of \$2,392.79 to Craig Williams.

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

RESOLUTION #25-80

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

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
awarded Block 120 Lot 3 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 2025 property tax in the amount of \$1,559.55 to Thomas Scarnecchia.

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

RESOLUTION #25-81

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

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
awarded Block 448 Lot 13 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 2025 property tax in the amount of \$1,731.89 to Jason Craig.

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

RESOLUTION #25-82

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 2025 property tax in the amount of \$2,186.89 to Block 206 Lot 14.

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

Resolution #25-83: Resolution of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, Amending the Award of Bid 12R-2024 Fire Suppression Bid

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-83.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approved resolution #25-83.

RESOLUTION #25-83

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING THE AWARD OF BID 12R-2024 FIRE SUPPRESSION BID

WHEREAS, the Township public advertised and sought bids for Bid 12R-2024 Fire Suppression Bid, in a fair and open manner, consistent with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Township awarded Bid 12R-2024 Fire Suppression Bid to Encore Fire Protection, in the amount of \$47,894.00; and

WHEREAS, the actual bid amount in response to bid 12R-2024 was \$75,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the resolution in preparation by the qualified purchasing agent in advertently inserted the incorrect number of bid; and

WHEREAS, this resolution amends prior resolution #R25-22 from the amount of \$47,894.00 to the correct amount of \$75,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Vernon Township Council, that:

The bid submitted by Encore Fire Protection, 70 Bacon Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island, 02860 is hereby amended from \$47,894.00 to the correct amount of \$75,000.00 fir bid 12R-2024.

The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute all contracts and agreements in furtherance of Bid 12R-2024 Fire Suppression Bid.

Resolution #25-84: Resolution Adopting and Establishing a Police Department Rules and Regulations Policy

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-84.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approved resolution #25-84.

RESOLUTION #25-84

RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND ESTABLISHING A POLICE DEPARTMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS POLICY

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon Police Department has a Department Rules and Regulations Policy and it has determined that the adoption of a revised Rules and Regulations Policy is necessary as it plays a critical role in Police Department operations and the due process of officers for disciplinary matters; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administration has prepared a revised Vernon Township Police Department Rules and Regulations Policy and has determined that the revised policy would be in the best interests of the Township as a public employer; and

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

1. The Township Council adopts and approves the attached Vernon Township Police Department Rules and Regulations Policy.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

A copy of this Resolution will be placed on file with the Clerk of the Township.

Resolution #25-85: Resolution Authorizing Leasing of Certain Vehicles for the Department of Public Works Through Soucewell National Cooperative #060618-EFM Through Enterprise Fleet Management Services Inc. (Quote No. 8390830, 8390894, 8411952, 8390827 and 863373)

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-85.

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approved resolution #25-85.

RESOLUTION #25-85

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LEASING OF CERTAIN VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC WORKS THROUGH SOURCEWELL
NATIONAL COOPERATIVE #060618-EFM THROUGH ENTERPRISE
FLEET MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.
(Quote No. 8390830, 8390894, 8411952, 8390827, and 863373)**

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

WHEREAS, the governing body of Vernon Township approved in Resolution 19-164 authorizing leasing of certain vehicles through Sourcewell National Cooperative #060618-EFM through Enterprise Fleet Management Services, Inc., and this is an extension of that resolution; and

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WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Public Contract Law P.L. 2011, C.139 (the “Law” or “Chapter 139” and N.J.S.A.52:34-6.2 the regulations promulgated there under in Local Finance Notice LFN 2012-10, the following purchase without competitive bids from vendor with a National Cooperative Contract is hereby approved for municipalities, and;

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has the need to procure certain vehicles through lease program for Township services in accord with the Local Publics Contract Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et. Seq., and;

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has previously acted in accord with New Jersey public procurement statutes and regulations as promulgated by formally joining a recognized and compliant national cooperative, being the Sourcewell National Cooperative, and;

WHEREAS, the regulations as set forth within Local Finance Notice LFN 2012-10 have been fully complied with, and;

WHEREAS, the equipment and corresponding Sourcewell National Cooperative contract is #060618-EFM for Enterprise Fleet Management Services Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the cost savings determination as required under LFN 2012-10 is the cost of contract as there is currently no cooperative lease program in effect under the New Jersey Division of Purchase and Property; and

WHEREAS, the quoted cost under the Sourcewell National contract is \$352,795.80 (Quote No. 8390830, 8390894, 8411952, 8390827, and 863373); and

WHEREAS, 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 shall either certify the full maximum amount against the budget at the time the contract is awarded, or no contract amount shall be chargeable or certified until such time as the goods or services are ordered or otherwise called for prior to placing the order, and a certification of availability of funds is made by the Chief Finance Officer; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Business Administrator is hereby directed to effectuate the contract with Enterprise Fleet Management Services Inc. under Sourcewell contract #060618-EFM in accord with the provisions of the tenets as established within 40A:11-1 et. Seq.,

Resolution #25-86: Approving a Charitable Solicitor’s Permit: Vernon Emergency Medical Services, Inc.

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-86.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approved resolution #25-86.

RESOLUTION #25-86

APPROVING A CHARITABLE SOLICITOR'S PERMIT: VERNON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES INC.

WHEREAS, Vernon Emergency Medical Services Inc. has made application for a Charitable Roadside Solicitor's Permit for the purposes of soliciting funds on April 26th and April 27, 2025 8:00 am to 6:00 pm (alternate weather dates May 3rd and May 4th 2025); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Ordinance 18-12, the Vernon Township Police Department has reviewed the necessary application found that 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 Charitable Roadside Solicitor's Permit for Vernon Emergency Medical Services Inc., Route 94 and Route 515; subject to the approval of the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey as needed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to issue a Charitable Roadside Solicitor's Permit to the aforesaid applicant in accordance with Chapter 428 of the Code of the Township of Vernon upon receipt of the approval from the County of Sussex.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE/PUBLIC HEARING

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 open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #25-04.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Sparta

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to open the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #25-04.

Carl Cantino – questioned the salary ranges and how raises are determined.

Seeing no else one from the public wishing to come forward, President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the public hearing on ordinance #25-04.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Higgins

All members were in favor.

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

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #25-04.

ORDINANCE #25-04

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARIES FOR
CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

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

Section 1. The salary ranges for hereinafter listed Township Officers, employees, and positions shall be and are hereby fixed for the year, commencing January 1, 2025 and shall be the same until a new salary ordinance is adopted by the governing body.

FULL TIME:	Minimum	Maximum
General Administration:		
Business Administrator	100,000	150,000
Confidential Aide to the Mayor	55,000	90,000
Tax Assessor	100,000	140,000
Clerk’s Office:		
Municipal Clerk	85,000	130,000
Finance and Tax:		
Chief Financial Officer	100,000	140,000
Tax Collector	75,000	115,000
Construction and Land Use:		
*Construction Code Official	105,000	145,000
*Sub Code Official-All	80,000	115,000
Land Use Department Head	65,000	100,000
Zoning Code Enforcement Officer	60,000	90,000
Public Works		
*DPW-Department Head	90,000	150,000
*Assistant Director of Public Works	85,000	105,000
*General Road Supervisor	80,000	100,000
*Assistant Supervisor	75,000	100,000
*Director of Automotive Services	80,000	100,000
Municipal Court		
Municipal Court Administrator	70,000	105,000
Judge of Municipal Court	25,000	50,000
Police:		
*Chief of Police	165,000	215,000
Fire Prevention:		
Fire Marshal	65,000	95,000
Community Affairs/Senior Citizens:		
Director of Community Affairs	70,000	100,000

**Work week is 40 hours*

<u>PART-TIME:</u>	Minimum	Maximum
Municipal Offices:		
Deputy Registrar	\$2,500	\$5,000
Keyboarding Clerk (All Depts.)	NJ Minimum Wage	\$30 per hour

Construction and Land Use:

Sub Code Officials/Inspectors (All)	\$25 per hour	\$55 per hour
Code Enforcement Officer (Zoning)	\$25 per hour	\$45 per hour
Public Works		
Laborer/Driver- Winter Seasonal	NJ Minimum Wage	\$30 per hour
Laborer- General	NJ Minimum Wage	\$25 per hour
Garage Attendant	NJ Minimum Wage	\$28 per hour
Police		
Public Safety Trainee	\$18 per hour	\$25 per hour
Public Safety Tele-communicator	\$18 per hour	\$25 per hour
Police Special I	\$25 per hour	\$35 per hour
Police Special II	\$25 per hour	\$35 per hour
OEM Coordinator	\$1,500	\$12,000
OEM Deputy Coordinator	\$1,000	\$3,000
Fire Prevention Specialist	\$18 per hour	\$30 per hour
Animal Control		
Assistant Animal Control Officer	\$15 per hour	\$25 per hour
Animal Attendant	NJ Minimum Wage	\$20 per hour
Senior Citizens		
Food Service Worker	NJ Minimum Wage	\$18 per hour
Municipal Court		
Court Administrator (PT Fill-in)	\$30 per hour	\$45 per hour
Court Security Guard	\$25 per hour	\$40 per hour

Section II: All ordinances of the Township of Vernon which are inconsistent with the provisions of the Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of each inconsistency.

If any chapter, article, division, section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or provision of the Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect all remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section III. The Ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after final passage, approval and publication after adoption by the Township Council and shall be retroactive to January 1, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 5 Minutes Per Person)

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

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to open the floor to public comment.

Carl Cantino – questioned resolution #25-76 and why the town did not go out to bid. Mr. Catino questioned the salary ranges and the determination for raises.

Seeing no other 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 asked when the Council is going to see the budget.

Council Member Sparta explained that he will not be at the next Council meeting.

Council Member DeBenedetto commented that on resolution #25-73 she voted no because she feels we should explore a free option first. She voted no to the salary ordinance because she did not receive the salary information until that morning also at a previous meeting, before she was on Council, there was a vote for this and she was hoping that it would have been a “no vote”. Council Member DeBenedetto thanked the volunteer firefighter for their continued service and training.

Council Member Buccieri had no comments.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council President Rizzuto had no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:24 pm Council Member Sparta made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Buccieri.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcy Gianattasio, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Patrick Rizzuto
Council President

Minutes approved: March 10, 2024