

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

This Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:00 p.m. on March 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 Natalie Buccieri, Jessica DeBenedetto, and Council President Patrick Rizzuto. Also present were Mayor Anthony Rossi, Business Administrator Tina Krause, Township Attorney Matthew Moench and Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio.

Council Members William Higgins and Bradley Sparta were not present.

**MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Rossi thanked Vernon Animal Control for their hard work at the rabies clinic. Mayor Rossi announced that the Council was given the 2025 budget and a date for introduction will be set.

**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: DeBenedetto

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: Buccieri

SECOND: DeBenedetto

All members were in favor.

**REVIEW OF BILLS LIST**

The Council reviewed the bills list.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**February 24, 2025 – Regular Meeting**

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the February 24, 2025 regular meeting minutes with corrections.

MOVED: DeBenedetto

SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Rizzuto

NAYES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT: Higgins, Sparta

Motion carries to approve February 24, 2025 regular meeting minutes with corrections.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Resolution #25-87:** Authorizing Change Order #1 of Contract for Proposed Improvements to Glenwood Mountain Road-Section II with Denville Line Painting, Inc.

**Resolution #25-88:** Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder Fiscal Grant Cycle October 2020-June 2026

**Resolution #25-89:** Resolution Authorizing Leasing of Certain Vehicles for the Department of Police Through Sourcewell National Cooperative #060618-EFM Through Enterprise Fleet Management Services Inc. (Quote No. 8693623, 8693629, 8693625 and 8710453)

**Resolution #25-90:** Resolution Authorizing Change Order to Contract for Bid #13-2024-Tanker Repair to County Classic Auto Body LLC

**Resolution #25-91:** Refund for Totally Disability Veteran (Block 576 Lot 87 (Gratton)

**Resolution #25-92:** Refund for Totally Disability Veteran (Block 576 Lot 87 (Gratton)

**Resolution #25-93:** (Block 576 Lot 87 (Gatton) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

**Resolution #25-94:** Refund for Totally Disability Veteran (Block 512 Lot 25 (Soler)

**Resolution #25-95:** Refund for Totally Disability Veteran (Block 512 Lot 25 (Soler)

**Resolution #25-96:** (Block 512 Lot 25 (Soler) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

**Resolution #25-97:** Approving Active Volunteer Firefighter for Membership in the New Jersey State Fireman’s Association (Hayward)

**Resolution #25-98:** Approving Active Volunteer Firefighter for Membership in the New Jersey State Fireman’s Association (Pohan)

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

MOVED: Buccieri  
SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve the consent.

**RESOLUTION #25-87**

**AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 OF CONTRACT FOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS  
TO GLENWOOD MOUNTAIN ROAD- SECTION II  
WITH DENVILLE LINE PAINTING, INC.**

**WHEREAS**, on October 17, 2024, by way of adoption of Resolution #24-264, the Council of the Township of Vernon awarded a contract to Denville Line Painting, Inc. for Line Striping Glenwood Mountain Road – Section II which contract provided for an expenditure of \$8,311.80; and

**WHEREAS**, in a memo dated February 24, 2025, the Township Engineer states that the contract requires a Change Order #1 by the reduction of two (2) items decreasing the contract amount by \$121.68; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Engineer, in concurrence with the Mayor, recommends approving Change Order No. 1 resulting in the decreased contract amount of \$8,190.12.

**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 \$8,190.12; and

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

**RESOLUTION #25-88**

**Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder  
Fiscal Grant Cycle October 2020-June 2026**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder (GCSUD) established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Substance Use Disorder in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent substance use disorder in communities throughout New Jersey.

**WHEREAS**, The Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey recognizes that substance use disorder is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent substance use disorder in our community; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder through the County of Sussex;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

- 1. The Township Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Vernon Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2026 in the amount of:  

GCSUD GRANT FUND	\$ 7472.00
Cash Match	\$ 1868.00
In-Kind	\$ 5604.00
- 2. The Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

**RESOLUTION #25-89**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LEASING OF CERTAIN VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF  
POLICE THROUGH SOURCEWELL**

**NATIONAL COOPERATIVE #060618-EFM THROUGH ENTERPRISE**

**FLEET MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.**

**(Quote No. 8693623, 8693629, 8693625, and 8710453)**

**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 \$224,742.84 (Quote No. 8693623, 8693629, 8693625, and 8710453); 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 #25-90**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER TO CONTRACT FOR  
BID#13-2024-TANKER REPAIR TO COUNTRY CLASSIC AUTO BODY LLC**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution No. 24-275 and after public bidding, the Township Council authorized an award of contract to Country Classic Auto Body LLC for Tanker Repair; and

**WHEREAS**, the contractor identified unforeseen items of repair, agreed to by the Joint Insurance Funds appraisal company, unforeseen at time of bid and proposed a change order to address additional items totaling \$10,908.73, representing an increase less than 20%; and

**WHEREAS**, the amount of change order was for an unforeseen circumstance in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5:30-11.7; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council has determined that the proposed change orders and reasonable and necessary for completion of this public project; and

**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 averments of the preamble are hereby incorporated.
2. Township Council hereby authorizes the Change Order to the contract for project known as Bid#13-2024 Tanker Repair, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract specifications, and in accordance with EXHIBIT A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. The Contract shall be amended as follows:

Original Award Amount:	\$60,068.17
Change Orders	\$10,908.73
<b>Total Contract including Change Order(s):</b>	<b>\$70,976.90</b>

3. The Mayor and all other appropriate Township officials are authorized to execute the change orders and further authorized and directed to take all other steps necessary to effectuate this Resolution.

4. The Chief Financial Officer has certified the availability of adequate funds to pay this contract.

5. This resolution shall take effect immediately, according to law.

### **RESOLUTION #25-91**

#### **REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN (Block 576 Lot 87 (Gatton))**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
Awarded Michael Scott Gatton 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 \$624.30 to Michael Scott Gatton.

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

### **RESOLUTION #25-92**

#### **REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN (Block 576 Lot 87 (Gatton))**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
Awarded Michael Scott Gatton 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 \$1,928.39 to Michael Scott Gatton.

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

### **RESOLUTION #25-93**

#### **(Block 576 Lot 87 (Gatton)) CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

**WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** on  
awarded Michael Scott Gatton 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 \$1,928.39.

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

**RESOLUTION #25-94**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN  
(Block 512 Lot 25 (Soler))**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
Awarded Johnathon Soler 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 \$5,971.23 to Johnathon Soler.

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

**RESOLUTION #25-95**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN  
(Block 512 Lot 25 (Soler))**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
Awarded Johnathon Soler 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 \$1,987.59 to Johnathon Soler.

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

**RESOLUTION #25-96**

**(Block 512 Lot 25 (Soler))  
CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

**WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** on  
awarded Johnathan Soler 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 \$1,987.58.

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

**RESOLUTION #25-97**

**APPROVING ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE**

**NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION (Hayward)**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council recognizes the extraordinary contributions made by volunteer firefighters to our community and seeks to encourage their full participation in professional organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, Matthew R Hayward, an active firefighter and member of the Vernon Township Fire Department, is requesting approval to submit an application for membership to the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, Sussex County, New Jersey hereby approves Matthew R Hayward for membership in the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association.

**RESOLUTION #25-98**

**APPROVING ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE  
NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION (Pohan)**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council recognizes the extraordinary contributions made by volunteer firefighters to our community and seeks to encourage their full participation in professional organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, Justin J. Pohan, an active firefighter and member of the Vernon Fire Department, is requesting approval to submit an application for membership to the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, Sussex County, New Jersey hereby approves Justin J. Pohan for membership in the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association.

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

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

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: DeBenedetto

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to open the floor to the public.

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 DeBenedetto had no comments.

Council Member Buccieri had no comments.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS**

Council President Rizzuto will save his comments about a program starting at the school until the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:16 pm Council Member DeBenedetto made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Buccieri.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marcy Gianattasio, RMC, CMR  
Municipal Clerk

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Patrick Rizzuto  
Council President

Minutes approved: March 24, 2025