

**VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 23, 2026 7:00 PM**

This Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:00 p.m. on March 23, 2026 in the Vernon Municipal Center, 21 Church Street, Vernon, New Jersey with Council President Higgins presiding.

**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to the public and the press on January 22, 2026, 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 Higgins led the assemblage in the salute to the flag.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were Council Members, Carl Contino, Sandra Ooms, Patrick Rizzuto, Bradley Sparta and Council President William Higgins. Also present were Mayor Anthony Rossi, Business Administrator Tina Kraus, CFO Patricia Reiche, Township Attorney Peter King and Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Budget Presentation  
Solid Waste – New Line Item

**MAYOR COMMENTS**

What we are seeing here tonight is politics over progress. If this governing body believes the Mayor should not have a voice, should not communicate directly with residents, and should not challenge the direction of this council, then we need to be honest with the public about that. Because that is not leadership-and it is not what the people elected me to do. I ran on transparency. I ran on communication. And the people of this town have made it clear-they expect both. For years, this town has watched its leadership fight. That's not new. But what did change was when voters chose to directly elect a Mayor- creating a stronger executive and clearer accountability to the public. And ever since that change the council and mayor fought. it has been clear that some on this council still refuse to accept or respect that form of government. I didn't vote for that system. Some of you did. So, the question becomes: are we going to move forward together, or continue repeating the same dysfunction? Because I'm not the first Mayor to face this kind of opposition. The last Mayor-one of the least controversial individuals I've ever known-was publicly disrespected and removed from the dais without justification. The difference is I have a platform that's has a much larger following than this YouTube channel and that's what you want to shut down. I have made every effort to work with the new council members. But it has become clear that their objective is not collaboration-it is political retribution. This censure resolution is a perfect example. It was introduced by Councilman Contino, yet it appeared on a former Mayor's social media before I-and even members of this council-weren't aware of it. I have asked how that is possible. I have received no answer. That should concern everyone. Let me also be clear about something else: it is not the role of the Mayor to control speech or decide which opinions are acceptable. The page in question is not an official government platform. It is a personal page.

As clarified by the Supreme Court in March 2024, a public official must have the authority to speak on any social media only speaks If there is a town ordinance, please let me know, because I have not found one. This page does not meet THAT standard. From the beginning, the rules were clear:

Quote Let me begin by saying I believe in the first amendment, so therefore this page will be uncensored for ALL. I'm too busy to be managing Facebook, therefore I will not control or police Facebook. I will leave that to Mark Zuckerberg to do that. If you do not like something or somebody BLOCK THEM. It's that simple "unquote" It's that simple.

I created that space because too often, public discourse is filtered and controlled by a small group of people who clearly has a negative narrative they want to project. Our community deserves better than that. It deserves open dialogue-even when it's uncomfortable. Not every comment reflects my

views. Not every post benefits me politically. But protecting the right of residents to speak freely matters more than controlling a narrative.

That's leadership. Now let's talk about impact. Since taking office, this administration has worked to change the perception of this town-to make Vernon a place where people want to invest again. And we are succeeding. But since the recent actions of this council, I have personally heard from investors and business owners who are now questioning whether they want to be involved here at all. Ask yourselves: would you invest in this environment?

Recently a resident named Noel Albert was going to fully fund a quarantine room for animal control-something that can cure illness in days instead of months and save an animal's life. That offer was withdrawn because of public attacks by a former mayor, the same one who drafted this resolution. That is a loss for this town, so if you are going to take direction from former mayors who clearly have one objective and that is to silence me or try and see me fail. Remember If I fail Vernon fails. At the same time, decisions made by this council have increased costs- not reduced them. Forcing the CFO to manually sign hundreds of checks-against the advice of our CFO, former CFO, auditor, and legal counsel-has slowed operations and created risk. Failing to approve essential vendors forced us into an emergency meeting just to keep basic services running.

That is not fiscal responsibility. That is dysfunction.

I have repeatedly advised you to send me your questions in advance so we can provide clear, accurate answers and help you make informed decisions. As of today, we didn't hear from anyone about any questions on the budget, garbage etc. instead he submitted an updated censure resolution stating I replaced the word "requires" with "implores" and "urges." This administration is not interested in your got you games and will not play them

So, I'll say this plainly:

When you are ready to govern-when you are ready to work collaboratively, respect, the employees respect the professionals, and put this town first-I will meet you there.

If you think you can silence me by telling me to shut down my personal accounts you are in violation of your oath of office and this will never happen. Because if we start silencing voices simply because we disagree with them, we risk losing something far more important than any single argument-we risk losing the principles this country was founded on.

I will continue to stand for open communication.

And I will always stand for the right of our residents to speak freely regardless of what this council thinks. So go ahead the stage is yours.

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

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

MOVED: Contino

SECOND: Sparta

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to open the meeting for public comment.

Christa Gerry – is in agreement with resolution #26-147.

Harris Salomon – expressed concern that the Mayor has a gun and also in regards to the the Mayor's Facebook page.

Matthew Conway – is not in agreement with censuring the mayor.

Peg Distasi – agrees with resolution #26-147.

Cheri Shortway – questioned the garbage program. Ms. Shortway expressed concern with the Mayor’s Facebook page and she agrees with resolution #26-147.

Heidi LeBris – expressed concern with Facebook.

Judy Miller – supports the garbage program.

Marissa Rossi – showed support for the Mayor.

John Warnock – supports that Mayor and Freedom of Speech.

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

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Ooms

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the meeting to the public.

## **REVIEW OF BILLS LIST**

The Council reviewed the bills list.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **March 2, 2026 – Executive Session**

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to approve the March 2, 2026 executive session minutes.

MOVED: Ooms

SECOND: Rizzuto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta, Higgins

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approved the March 2, 2026 executive session minutes.

### **March 2, 2026 – Regular Meeting**

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to approve the March 2, 2026 regular meeting minutes.

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Contino

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta, Higgins

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approved the March 2, 2026 regular meeting minutes.

### **March 9, 2026 – Regular Meeting**

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to approve the March 9, 2026 regular meeting minutes.

MOVED: Sparta  
SECOND: Contino

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta, Higgins  
NAYES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

Motion carries to approved the March 9, 2026 regular meeting minutes.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Resolution #26-118:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 203 Lot 1)

**Resolution #26-119:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 203 Lot 1)

**Resolution #26-120:** (Block 203 Lot 1) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

**Resolution #26-121:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 446 Lot 19)

**Resolution #26-122:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 446 Lot 19)

**Resolution #26-123:** (Block 446 Lot 19) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

**Resolution #26-124:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 458 Lot 143)

**Resolution #26-125:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 458 Lot 143)

**Resolution #26-126:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 427 Lot 112)

**Resolution #26-127:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 427 Lot 112)

**Resolution #26-128:** (Block 427 Lot 112) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

**Resolution #26-129:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 526 Lot 407)

**Resolution #26-130:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 526 Lot 407)

**Resolution #26-131:** (Block 526 Lot 407) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

**Resolution #26-132:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 512 Lot 45)

**Resolution #26-133:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 512 Lot 45)

**Resolution #26-134:** (Block 512 Lot 45) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

**Resolution #26-135:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 337 Lot 5)

**Resolution #26-136:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 463 Lot 26)

**Resolution #26-137:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 480 Lot 20)

**Resolution #26-138:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 560 Lot 11)

**Resolution #26-139:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 527 Lot 20)

**Resolution #26-140:** To Rescind Resolution #26-74 Refund Overpayment (Block 219 Lot 1 – Heidi Castro)

**Resolution #26-141:** To Rescind Resolution #26-75 Refund Overpayment (Block 219 Lot 1 – Heidi Castro)

**Resolution #26-142:** Transfer Resolution – Balance Transfers

**Resolution #26-143:** Resolution of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Disposition or Salvage of Obsolete Equipment in the Possession of the Township at Auction on Govdeals.com

**Resolution #26-144:** Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of a Duplicate Tax Sale Certificate Pursuant to Chapter 99 of the Public Laws of 1997

**Resolution #26-145:** Approving a Solicitors Permit – RJW Exteriors

**Resolution #26-146:** Approving a Solicitors Permit – RJW Exteriors

**Resolution #26-147:** Resolution Formally Censuring Mayor Anthony Rossi for Conduct Inconsistent with the Duties of Office and Public Trust

MOVED: Rizzuto

SECOND: Ooms

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta, Higgins

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approved the consent agenda.

**RESOLUTION #26-118**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN  
(Block 203 Lot 1)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** awarded Ryan Padilla 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 \$730.54 to Ryan Padilla.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-119**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN  
(Block 203 Lot 1)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** awarded Ryan Padilla 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 2026 property tax in the amount of \$2,046.60 to Ryan Padilla.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-120**

**(Block 203 Lot 1)**

**CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

**WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Awarded Ryan Padilla 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 2026 in the amount of \$2,046.60

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

**RESOLUTION #26-121**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN**

**(Block 446 Lot 19)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

awarded Block 446 Lot 19 100% 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 \$639.75 to Block 446 Lot 19.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-122**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN**

**(Block 446 Lot 19)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

awarded Block 446 Lot 19 100% 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 2026 property tax in the amount of \$1,780.09 to Block 446 Lot 19.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-123**

**(Block 446 Lot 19)**

**CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

**WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

awarded Block 446 Lot 19 100% 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 2026 in the amount of \$1,780.08.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-124**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN  
(Block 458 Lot 143)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** awarded Carlos Game 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 \$777.41 to Carlos Game.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-125**

**(Block 458 Lot 143)  
CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

**WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** Awarded Carlos Game 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 2026 in the amount of \$4,012.04.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-126**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN  
(Block 427 Lot 112)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** awarded Timothy Moffitt 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 \$765.38 to Timothy Moffitt.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-127**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN  
(Block 427 Lot 112)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
awarded Timothy Moffitt 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 2026 property tax in the amount of \$1,979.77 to Timothy Moffitt.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-128**

**(Block 427 Lot 112)**

**CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

**WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
Awarded Timothy Moffitt 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 2026 in the amount of \$1,979.77.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-129**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN**

**(Block 526 Lot 407)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
awarded Jonathan Siemaszkiewicz 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 \$48.86 to Jonathan Siemaszkiewicz.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-130**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN**

**(Block 526 Lot 407)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
awarded Jonathan Siemaszkiewicz 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 2026 property tax in the amount of \$1,483.22 to Jonathan Siemaszkiewicz.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-131**

**(Block 526 Lot 407)**

**CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

**WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Awarded Jonathan Siemaszkiewicz 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 2026 in the amount of \$1,483.21.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-132**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN**

**(Block 512 Lot 45)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

awarded Alicia Ferrante 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 \$7,559.85 to Alicia Ferrante.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-133**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN**

**(Block 512 Lot 45)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

awarded Alicia Ferrante 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 2026 property tax in the amount of \$3,413.15 to Alicia Ferrante.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-134**

**(Block 512 Lot 45)**

**CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

**WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Awarded Alicia Ferrante 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 2026 in the amount of \$3,413.15.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-135**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN  
(Block 337 Lot 5)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** awarded Michael Palmer 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 2026 property tax in the amount of \$2,332.11 to Michael Palmer.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-136**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN  
(Block 463 Lot 26)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** awarded Block 463 Lot 26 100% 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 2026 property tax in the amount of \$1,772.24 to Block 463 Lot 26.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-137**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN  
(Block 480 Lot 20)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** awarded Jorge Rosales 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 2026 property tax in the amount of \$2,639.89 to Jorge Rosales.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-138**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN  
(Block 560 Lot 11)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** awarded Jonathan White 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 2026 property tax in the amount of \$2,155.06 to Jonathan White.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-139**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN  
(Block 572 Lot 20)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** awarded Anthony Ciaburri 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 2026 property tax in the amount of \$2,006.97 to Anthony Ciaburri.

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

**RESOLUTION #26-140**

**To Rescind Resolution #26-74  
REFUND OVERPAYMENT  
(Block 219 Lot 1 – HEIDI CASTRO)**

**BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Heidi Castro in the amount of \$2035.13 representing refund for overpayment for 4th qtr. 2024 property taxes for Block 219 Lot 1.

<b>OWNER</b>	<b>BLOCK</b>	<b>LOT</b>	<b>REFUND AMOUNT</b>
<b>Heidi Castro</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$2035.13</b>
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$2035.13</b>

**RESOLUTION #26-141**

**To Rescind Resolution 26-75  
REFUND OVERPAYMENT  
(Block 219 Lot 1 – HEIDI CASTRO)**

**BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Heidi Castro in the amount of \$4196.79 representing refund for overpayment for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> qtrs. 2025 property taxes for Block 219 Lot 1.

<b>OWNER</b>	<b>BLOCK</b>	<b>LOT</b>	<b>REFUND AMOUNT</b>
<b>Heidi Castro</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$4196.79</b>
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$4196.79</b>

**RESOLUTION #26-142**

**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 Appropriations in the 2025 Municipal Reserve Budget in accordance with N.J.S.A 40A-58/59 are hereby approved.

ACCOUNT	TRANSFER OUT	TRANSFER IN
FROM: CURRENT FUND:		
WORKERS' COMP INSURANCE – O/E	18,000.00	
TO: CURRENT FUND		
LOSAP – LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM		15,000.00
FINANCE – O/E		3,000.00
<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS</b>	<b>18,000.00</b>	<b>18,000.00</b>

**RESOLUTION #26-143**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OR SALVAGE OF OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT IN THE POSSESSION OF THE TOWNSHIP AT AUCTION ON GOVDEALS.COM**

**WHEREAS**, the Township has requested that the Township Council authorize the disposition of equipment currently in the possession of Vernon Township and also request to salvage the equipment should the asking price and second offer be rejected; and,

**WHEREAS**, such surplus items may be sold at public auction to the highest bidder in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township has reviewed a request which describes the items aforesaid to be sold at the auction; and

**WHEREAS**, the items to be sold are:

LOT# 1

2005 FORD F-450 DIESEL 4X4 6-SPEED UTILITY BODY      VIN# 1FDXF47P85EB95651

LOT# 2

2006 STERLING L8500 SINGLE AXLE DUMP                      VIN# 2FZAAWDJ06AV29889

LOT# 3

2006 STERLING L8500 SINGLE AXLE DUMP                      VIN# 2FZAAWDJ36AW47113

LOT# 4

2012 FORD ESCAPE V-6 AUTOMATIC                              VIN# 1FMCU9DG2CKC70168

LOT# 5  
3 POINT HITCH HOPPER FERTILIZER SPREADER

LOT# 6  
GOOSSEN BALE CHOPPER MODEL BCG-3

LOT# 7  
ERSKINE BACKHOE ATTACHMENT MODEL# BH780

LOT# 8  
CURB MAKER

LOT# 9  
CUMMINS POWER GENERATOR (DIESEL) MODEL: DSGAC-1206007 SERIAL: F120346817

LOT# 11  
2000 4X8 TRAILER VIN# 1S9BA111XY1307031

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

1. That the Division of Purchasing, or its designee, be and hereby is authorized to sell at auction to the highest bidder, any and all surplus items as described.
2. The sale of the surplus property shall be conducted through [Govdeals.com](https://www.govdeals.com) in accordance with the terms and conditions at <https://www.govdeals.com/en/content/site-terms>: and
3. The sale will be conducted online with proposed live date of April 13, 2026 and the address of the auction site is [www.govdeals.com](https://www.govdeals.com).
4. The sale is being conducted pursuant to Local Finance Notice 2019-15.
5. The surplus property as identified shall be sold in an “as-is” condition without express or implied warranties with the successful bidder required to execute a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement concerning use of said surplus property.
6. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any bid submitted. That the Division of Purchasing, or its designee, be and hereby is authorized to sell at auction to the highest bidder, any and all surplus items as described.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36 that formal public notification will be provided by the publication of a Legal Notice on the Official Township Website: <https://www.vernontwp.com/index.php/government/legal-notices>, not less than seven (7) or more than fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled auction.

#### **RESOLUTION #26-144**

### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A DUPLICATE TAX SALE CERTIFICATE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 99 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 1997**

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector of Vernon Township has previously issued a tax sale certificate to US BankCust/Empire Tax Fund I which certificate is dated June 21, 2010 covering premises commonly known and referred to as Block 74.10 Lot 16 as set out on the municipal tax map then in use which certificate bears number 10/007.

**WHEREAS**, the purchaser of the aforesaid tax sale certificate has indicated to the Tax Collector that they have lost or otherwise misplaced the original tax sale certificate and have duly filed the appropriate Affidavit of Loss with the Tax Collector, a copy of which is attached hereto.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Governing Body of the Township of Vernon that the Tax Collector of the municipality be and is hereby authorized upon receipt of the appropriately executed and

notarized Loss Affidavit and the payment of a fee of \$100.00 per certificate, to issue an appropriate duplicate tax sale certificate to the said purchaser covering the certificate lost as previously described all in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 99 of Public Laws of 1997.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution and the Loss Affidavit be attached to the duplicate certificate to be issued to said purchaser and that said duplicate certificate shall be stamped or otherwise have imprinted upon it the word “Duplicate” as required by law.

**RESOLUTION #26-145**

**APPROVING A SOLICITOR PERMIT – RJW EXTERIORS**

**WHEREAS**, Sebastian Bennett has made an application for a Solicitor Permit for the purpose of Home Improvement Services; and

**WHEREAS**, upon receipt of the application for a Solicitor Permit, by Sebastian Bennett of RJW Exteriors 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 Sebastian Bennett.

**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 #26-146**

**APPROVING A SOLICITOR PERMIT – RJW EXTERIORS**

**WHEREAS**, Riley Laughlin has made an application for a Solicitor Permit for the purpose of Home Improvement Services Windows, Doors, Roofing; and

**WHEREAS**, upon receipt of the application for a Solicitor Permit, by Riley Laughlin of RJW Exteriors 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 Riley Laughlin.

**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 #26-147**

**RESOLUTION FORMALLY CENSURING MAYOR ANTHONY ROSSI FOR CONDUCT INCONSISTENT WITH THE DUTIES OF OFFICE AND PUBLIC TRUST**

**WHEREAS**, Anthony Rossi was elected Mayor of Vernon Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor of Vernon is a position that requires the confidence of the public; and

**WHEREAS**, harassment of private individuals, unlawful blocking, demonstration of Nazi ideology, and racist depictions of Vernon residents and have caused harm to the residents of the township by perpetuating posts on Facebook groups under the control of the Mayor; and

**WHEREAS**, the conduct described above is attributable to Mayor Anthony Rossi and was undertaken through platforms under his control; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor's administration of the Facebook group *The Real Inside Vernon* does not represent the views of this council or the people of Vernon; and

**WHEREAS**, these actions expose the township to liability; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council of Vernon Township condemns the imagery, speech and messaging contained in Mayor Anthony Rossi's administration of *The Real Inside Vernon*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor has since replaced the appearance of administrative controls of *The Real Inside Vernon* to an unknown individual operating under an alias as opposed to disbanding or archiving the group as requested at prior council meetings, and

**WHEREAS**, the council condemns Mayor Anthony Rossi's behavior at the 3/9/26 council meeting that interrupted council business and required the acting president to adjourn for a 5-minute recess due to the mayor's continued attempts to interject his opinion, and

**WHEREAS** the council also condemns the Mayor's pattern of violating Robert's Rules of Order by interjecting himself without being recognized by the presiding officer at multiple meetings prior to 3/9/26, and

**WHEREAS**, the Council rejects any attempt by Mayor Rossi to justify such conduct by an elected official; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council stands firm in the belief that elected officials must be held to a higher standard to adequately represent the public that has entrusted them with such responsibility.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. The Township Council of Vernon hereby formally censures Mayor Anthony Rossi for his conduct.
2. The Township Council of Vernon hereby formally urges Mayor Anthony Rossi to discontinue such behaviors.
3. The Township Council of Vernon hereby formally implores Mayor Anthony Rossi to unblock all persons currently blocked from all Facebook platforms that he conveys township business on to the public, thereby preventing liability to the township for such unlawful acts.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution be entered into the official minutes of the Township Council and visible to the public.

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

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

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Ooms

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to open the meeting to the public.

Harris Salomon - expressed concern that the Mayor has a gun.

Heidi LeBris – commented on Facebook posts. Ms. LeBris is in favor of the garbage program.

Peg Distasi – expressed concern about the Vernon Township website.

Scott Cassell – expressed concern that the meeting was all about the Mayor and Facebook.

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

MOVED: Contino  
SECOND: Rizzuto

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the meeting to the public.

Mayor Rossi commented on the MUA and the CO that was given to the developer. The Mayor said he will be filing an ethics complaint with the DCA for the resolution that was approved.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Council Member Contino commented that he wrote the resolution by himself. He added to the resolution regarding the Mayor’s behavior at the last meeting because it is not in respect to Robert’s Rules or the fact that it is a Council meeting. There is a time and a place for the Mayor to speak. Council Member Contino never wants to speak about Facebook at a meeting again. He is concerned by what is being posted is libelous. He is worried the Township could be sued.

Council Member Rizzuto had no comments.

Council Member Ooms commented that concerns are taken seriously and are worked on. Council Member Ooms explained that our code states that the CFO is required to sign all checks after all of the back and forth.

Council Member Sparta had no comments.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS**

Council President Higgins reinforced what Council Member Contino spoke about and the resolution is a censure and has no legal authority. He feels that the Mayor is above all of the Facebook posts. He also stated that some towns use weapon detection devices and Vernon could do the same if we felt the need but there would be a cost. Council President Higgins spoke about the fifty-five and older building on Theta Grove and that there can possibly be 15% of the people in the building that are under fifty-five if there are not enough people over fifty-five. The PILOT payments are based on the number of people living in the building. Council President Higgins the said that the budget was spoken about tonight and will be discussed again before it is introduced.

The Council spoke about the salary census and a date for a budget workshop hearing.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:18 pm Council Member Rizzuto made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Ooms.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
William Higgins  
Council President

Minutes approved: April 20, 2026