VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 13, 2026 7:00 PM

This Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:00 p.m. on July 13, 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.

PROCLAMATION
Park and Recreation Month

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Rossi recognized the Recreation Department for all of their hard work and keeping the community together. He thanked everyone who participated in the car show.

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

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

MOVED: Ooms
SECOND: Contino

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to open the meeting to the public.

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

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Contino

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

June 22, 2026 – Executive Session

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to approve the June 22, 2026 executive session 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 June 8, 2026 executive session minutes.

June 22, 2026 – Regular Meeting

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to approve the June 22, 2026 regular meeting minutes.

MOVED: Contino
SECOND: Ooms

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approved the June 22, 2026 regular meeting minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution #26-220: To Rescind Resolution #26-87 Replaced by Resolution #26-71
Refund Overpayment (Block 257 Lot 33 – Corelogic)

Resolution #26-221: 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 #26-222: A Resolution Authorizing Non-Fair and Open Contract for Real Estate Auction Services to Max Spann Real Estate & Auction Co. to Conduct Auction & Sale of Real Property

Resolution #26-223: Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Canistear Road Phase III Improvements Project

Resolution #26-224: Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 203 Lot 1)

Resolution #26-225: Refund for Carry Permit Municipal Fee, Tiberio

Resolution #26-226: Chapter 159 Resolution Requesting Approval of Revenue and Appropriation Amending the 2026 Budget as a Revenue and Appropriation of $1,515.07

Resolution #26-227: Refund for Carry Permit Municipal Fee, Debowsky

Resolution #26-228: Approving Active Volunteer Firefighter for Membership in the New Jersey State Firemen's Association (Castner)

Resolution #26-229: To Rescind Resolution #26-157 Replaced by Resolution #26-202
Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 203 Lot 1)

Resolution #26-230: A Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon Rejecting All Bids Submittals for 26-06 AVI Project Vernon Township Council Chambers

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda,

MOVED: Contino
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approved the consent agenda.

RESOLUTION #26-220

To Rescind Resolution #26-87
Replaced by Resolution #26-71
REFUND OVERPAYMENT
(Block 257 Lot 33 – CORELOGIC)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to CoreLogic in the amount of $3244.09 representing refund for overpayment for 2nd qtr. 2025 property taxes for Block 257 Lot 33.

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Robison	**257**	**33**	**$3244.09**
		TOTAL:	**$3244.09**

RESOLUTION #26-221

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 Council 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 - 9’ WESTERN PRO PLUS POWER ANGLE SNOW PLOW 3 PLUG HARNESS

LOT# 2 - 9’ WESTERN PRO PLUS POWER ANGLE SNOW PLOW 3 PLUG HARNESS

LOT# 3 - 9’ WESTERN PRO PLUS POWER ANGLE SNOW PLOW 3 PLUG HARNESS

LOT# 4 - 9’ WESTERN PRO PLUS POWER ANGLE SNOW PLOW 3 PLUG HARNESS

LOT# 5 - 9’ WESTERN PRO PLUS POWER ANGLE SNOW PLOW 3 PLUG HARNESS

LOT# 6 - 9’ WESTERN PRO PLUS POWER ANGLE SNOW PLOW 3 PLUG HARNESS

LOT# 7 - WHELEN LIBERTY SERIES LIGHT BAR

LOT# 8 - WHELEN LIBERTY SERIES LIGHT BAR

LOT# 9 - WHELEN LIBERTY SERIES LIGHT BAR

LOT# 10 - 2012 FORD ESCAPE 40,000 MILES VIN#1FMCU9DG4CKC70169 – UNDERCARRIAGE SEVERELY ROTTED

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 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 July 31, 2026 and the address of the auction site is 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 #26-222

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR REAL ESTATE AUCTION SERVICES TO MAX SPANN REAL ESTATE & AUCTION CO. TO CONDUCT AUCTION & SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13, the Vernon Township Council has, by ordinance, authorized the sale of properties no longer needed for any public purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon ("Township") does not have the ability to adequately market and conduct the necessary public auctions for these properties to ensure that the highest viable sale price is received for the benefit of the taxpayers of the Township; and

WHEREAS, Max Spann Real Estate & Auction Co. is a licensed real estate brokerage and certified auctioneer with substantial experience in conducting municipal property auctions pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13; and

WHEREAS, Real Estate Auctions and possession of a Real Estate License is considered a professional service under N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2, and is exempt from public bidding in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5; and

WHEREAS, the procurement for Real Estate Auctioneer was conducted in a non-fair and open manner, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, Max Spann Real Estate & Auction Co. has provided for a business entity disclosure contribution form, as well as a political disclosure contribution form 10 days prior to the resolution of award, which indicates the vendor has not made any reportable contributions, nor may they during the term of this contract; and

WHEREAS, Max Spann Real Estate & Auction Company has agreed to be paid by way of a buyer's premium, and therefore, not by the Township for the marketing, conducting and assisting in the completion of the property sales; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Vernon Township Council that Max Spann Real Estate & Auction Co. is hereby awarded a non-fair and open contract for professional services by Vernon Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor, and the Township Clerk are hereby authorized to award a non-fair and open contract to Max Spann Real Estate & Company, for real estate auctioneer services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Entity Disclosure form and Political Contribution Disclosure will be on file in the Municipal Clerks Office for inspection.

RESOLUTION #26-223

Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Canistear Road Phase III Improvements project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Vernon Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as **MA-2027-Canistear Road Improvements – Phase 3-00602** to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Vernon Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of Vernon Township and that their signatures constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approve the execution of the grant agreement.

RESOLUTION #26-224

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 #26-225

REFUND FOR CARRY PERMIT MUNICIPAL FEE, TIBERIO

WHEREAS, mayor and township council of the township of Vernon have adopted ordinance 26-04 dated 2/9/2026 allowing the refund of the municipal fee portion of the conceal carry application;

WHEREAS, to ease the financial burden, the Township of Vernon will offer a refund of $150 for the municipal fee to Richard Tiberio.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes the Township of Vernon Finance Department to refund the municipal portion of the conceal carry application fee in the amount of $150 to Richard Tiberio.

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

RESOLUTION #26-226

CHAPTER 159 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION AMENDING THE 2026 BUDGET AS A REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION OF $1,515.07

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount; and

WHEREAS, the Township has been awarded a $1,515.07 National Opioid Settlement; and wishes to amend its 2026 budget for the difference of the awarded amount as a revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Vernon hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2026 in the sum of $1,515.07 which is now available as a revenue,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of $1,515.07 is hereby appropriated under the caption National Opioid Settlement.

RESOLUTION #26-227

REFUND FOR CARRY PERMIT MUNICIPAL FEE, DEBOWSKY

WHEREAS, mayor and township council of the township of Vernon have adopted ordinance 26-04 dated 2/9/2026 allowing the refund of the municipal fee portion of the conceal carry application;

WHEREAS, to ease the financial burden, the Township of Vernon will offer a refund of $150 for the municipal fee to Barry L. Debowsky.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes the Township of Vernon Finance Department to refund the municipal portion of the conceal carry application fee in the amount of $150 to Barry L. Debowsky.

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

RESOLUTION #26-228

APPROVING ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION (Castner)

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, Veronica L Castner, an active firefighter and member of the Highland Lakes 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 Vernonica L Castner for membership in the New Jersey State Firemen's Association.

RESOLUTION #26-229

To Rescind Resolution #26-157
Replaced by Resolution #26-202
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 $4773.12 to Ryan Padilla.

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

RESOLUTION #26-230

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON REJECTING ALL BID SUBMITTALS FOR 26-06 AVI PROJECT VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL CHAMBERS

WHEREAS, the Township advertised for and received bids for Bid# 26-06 AVI Project Vernon Township Council Chambers, on June 25, 2026, in a fair and open manner (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5); and

WHEREAS, five (5) bids were received; and

WHEREAS, after receiving bids it became apparent the Township required to amend specifications to accurately determine the response and responsibilities of the bidders in order to provide for a responsible and responsive bid; and

WHEREAS the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law at N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3.2(d) allows for a contracting unit to reject all bids to substantially revise specifications.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that all bids submitted in response to Bid # 26-06 AVI Project Vernon Township Council Chambers are hereby rejected in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-13.2(d); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrator and Qualified Purchasing Agent are authorized to immediately rebid.

RESOLUTION

Resolution #26-219: Resolution Authorizing Leasing of Certain Vehicles for the Department of Police Through Sourcewell National Cooperative #112025-EFM Through Enterprise Fleet Management Services Inc. (Quote No. 10028394, 10028414, and 10028490)

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to approve resolution #26-219.

MOVED: Contino
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approved resolution #26-219.

RESOLUTION #26-219

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LEASING OF CERTAIN VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF POLICE THROUGH SOURCEWELL NATIONAL COOPERATIVE #112025-EFM THROUGH ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC. (Quote No. 10028394, 10028414 and 10028490)

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 #112025-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 #112025-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 $168,426.10 (Quote No. 10028394, 10028414 and 10028490); 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 112025-EFM in accord with the provisions of the tenets as established within 40A:11-1 et. Seq.,

PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance #26-12: Ordinance Establishing the Salaries for Certain Officers and Employees of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey

President Higgins asked for a motion to open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #26-12.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Ooms

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to open the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #26-12.

Seeing no members of the public wishing to come forward, President Higgins asked for a motion to close the public hearing on ordinance #26-12.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Contino

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #26-12.

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to adopt ordinance #26-12.

MOVED: Ooms
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #26-12.

ORDINANCE #26-12

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, 2026 and shall be the same until a new salary ordinance is adopted by the governing body.

FULL TIME:	**Minimum**	**Maximum**
General Administration:		
Business Administrator (PT/FT)	$100,000	$175,000
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	$180,000
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 Officer/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 Supervisor of Public Works	$80,000	$105,000

*Assistant Supervisor	$75,000	$100,000
*Director of Automotive Services	$80,000	$100,000
*Supervising Mechanic	$60,000	$85,000
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*

PART-TIME:	**Minimum**	**Maximum**
Municipal Offices:		
Deputy Registrar	$2,500 annually	$5,000 annually
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	$19 per hour	$26 per hour
Public Safety Tele-communicator	$22 per hour	$32 per hour
Police Special II	$25 per hour	$35 per hour
OEM Coordinator	$1,500 annually	$12,000 annually
OEM Deputy Coordinator	$1,000 annually	$3,000 annually
Fire Prevention Specialist	$18 per hour	$35 per hour
Animal Control		
Assistant Animal Control Officer	$15 per hour	$25 per hour
Animal Attendant	NJ Minimum Wage	$20 per hour
Senior Citizens		
Senior Citizen Program Aide	NJ Minimum Wage	$20 per hour
Municipal Court		
Court Administrator (PT Fill-in)	$30 per hour	$45 per hour
Court Security Guard	$25 per hour	$40 per hour
Mayor/Council		
Mayor		$30,000 annually
Council Members		$3,000 annually

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, 2026. Employees must be actively employed upon the adoption of the salary ordinance to receive retroactive pay.

Ordinance #26-14: Bond Ordinance Appropriating $5,700,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of $5,303,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township, For Various Improvements or Purposes Authorized to be Undertaken by the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey

President Higgins asked for a motion to open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #26-14.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Contino

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to open the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #26-14.

Seeing no members of the public wishing to come forward, President Higgins asked for a motion to close the public hearing on ordinance #26-14.

MOVED: Contino
SECOND: Ooms

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #26-14.

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to adopt ordinance #26-14.

MOVED: Contino
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #26-14.

ORDINANCE #26-14

BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING $5,700,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF $5,303,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP, FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring), **AS FOLLOWS**:

Section 1. The several improvements described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance are hereby respectively authorized as general improvements to be made or acquired by The Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey. For the said several improvements or purposes stated in said Section 3, there are hereby appropriated the respective sums of money therein stated as the appropriations made for said improvements or purposes, said sums being inclusive of all appropriations heretofore made therefor and amounting in the aggregate to $5,700,000 including the aggregate sum of $220,203, as the several down payments for said improvements or

purposes required by law and more particularly described in said Section 3 and now available therefor, to the extent of $120,203 by virtue of provision in a previously adopted budget or budgets of the Township for down payment or for capital improvement purposes and, to the extent of $100,000, from the Reserve for Fire Apparatus/Equipment established by the Township for the purpose set forth in Section 3(e) hereof and including also, in the case of the improvement or purpose described in (i) paragraph (b) of said Section 3, the sum of $176,797 received or expected to be received by the Township from the New Jersey Department of Transportation as a grant-in-aid of financing said improvement or purpose.

Section 2. For the financing of said improvements or purposes, including for the purpose of applicable United States Treasury regulations the reimbursement of expenditures heretofore or hereafter made therefor and to meet the part of said $5,700,000 appropriations not provided for by application hereunder of said down payment and grant, negotiable bonds of the Township are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of $5,303,000 pursuant to the Local Bond Law of New Jersey. In anticipation of the issuance of said bonds and to temporarily finance said improvements or purposes, negotiable notes of the Township in a principal amount not exceeding $5,303,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to and within the limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

Section 3. The improvements hereby authorized and the several purposes for the financing of which said obligations are to be issued, the appropriation made for and estimated cost of each such purpose, and the estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued for each such purpose, are respectively as follows:

IMPROVEMENT OR PURPOSE	**APPROPRIATION AND ESTIMATED COST**	**ESTIMATED MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF BONDS AND NOTES**
(a) Acquisition by purchase of new and additional equipment including, without limitation, equipment for use by the Animal Control Department of the Township, together with all attachments, accessories and equipment necessary therefor or incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the specifications therefor on file or to be filed in the office of the Township Clerk and hereby approved	$5,000	$4,750
(b) Improvement of various streets in and by the Township by the construction or reconstruction therein of a roadway pavements at least equal in useful life or durability to a roadway pavement of Class B construction (as such term is used or referred to in Section 40A:2-22 of said Local Bond Law), including also the paving of the Maple Grange parking lot, together with all guide rails, drainage improvements, structures, appurtenances, milling, curb and sidewalk reconstruction, retaining walls, equipment, work and materials necessary therefor or incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor on file or to be filed in the office of the Township Clerk and hereby approved, the $1,490,000 appropriation hereby made therefor being inclusive of the sum of $176,797 received or expected to be received by the Township from the New Jersey Department of Transportation as a grant-in-aid of financing said improvement	1,490,000	1,303,703

(c) Acquisition by purchase of new and additional vehicular equipment and attachments for use by the Police Department of the Township, together with all attachments and accessories necessary therefor or incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the specifications therefor on file or to be filed in the office of the Township Clerk and hereby approved	50,000	47,500
(d) Improvement of municipally-owned properties and facilities in and by the Township including, without limitation, the Lake Conway Dam by the reconstruction thereof, the Municipal Building by the installation of new flooring, the Municipal Courtroom by acquisition and installation of new audio visual equipment and various municipal facilities and buildings by the installation of new lighting, together with all equipment, structures, site work, work and materials necessary therefor or incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor on file or to be filed in the office of the Township Clerk and hereby approved	963,500	915,122
(e) Acquisition, by purchase, of new and additional fire fighting equipment for the preservation of life and property in the Township, consisting of one (1) ladder truck for use by the Fire Department of the Township, including all equipment, appurtenances, accessories and attachments necessary therefor or incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the specifications therefor on file or to be filed in the office of the Township Clerk and hereby approved	2,000,000	1,900,000
(f) Acquisition by purchase of new and additional computer equipment for use by the Administration Department of the Township, together with all appurtenances, attachments and accessories necessary therefor or incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor on file or to be filed in the office of the Township Clerk and hereby approved	6,500	6,175
(g) Improvement of the first responder communication system by the acquisition and installation of a new radio system for use by the Police Department, Fire Department and Ambulance Squad of the Township, together with all studies, planning and designs, equipment and appurtenances necessary therefor or incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor on file or to be filed in the office of the Township Clerk and hereby approved	1,185,000	1,125,750
Totals	$5,700,000	$5,303,000

Except as otherwise stated in paragraph (b) above with respect to the said grant-in-aid for financing the improvement or purpose described in said paragraph (b), the excess of the appropriation made for each of the improvements or purposes aforesaid over the estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued therefor, as above stated, is the amount of the said down payment for said purpose.

Section 4. The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) The said purposes described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance are not current expenses and each is a property or improvement which the Township may lawfully acquire or make as a general improvement, and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be specially assessed on property specially benefited thereby.

(b.) The average period of usefulness of said purposes within the limitations of said Local Bond Law and taking into consideration the respective amounts of the said obligations authorized for the several purposes, according to the reasonable life thereof computed from the date of the said bonds authorized by this bond ordinance, is 14.49 years.

(c.) The supplemental debt statement required by said Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the office of the Township Clerk and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey, and such statement shows that the gross debt of the Township as defined in said Local Bond Law is increased by the authorization of the bonds and notes provided for in this bond ordinance by $5,303,000, and the said obligations authorized by this bond ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

(d.) Amounts not exceeding $550,000 in the aggregate for interest on said obligations, costs of issuing said obligations, engineering costs and other items of expense listed in and permitted under Section 40A:2-20 of said Local Bond Law may be included as part of the costs of said improvements and are included in the foregoing estimate thereof.

Section 5. The funds from time to time received by the Township on account of the $176,797 grant referred to in Section 1 of this bond ordinance shall be used for financing the improvement or purpose described in Section 3(b) of this bond ordinance by application thereof either to direct payment of the cost of said improvement or purpose, or to payment or reduction of the authorization of the obligations of the Township authorized by this bond ordinance. Any such funds so received may, and all such funds so received which are not required for direct payment of such cost shall, be held and applied by the Township as funds applicable only to the payment of obligations of the Township authorized by this bond ordinance.

Section 6. All bond anticipation notes issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer, provided that no note shall mature later than one year from its date. The notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer. The Chief Financial Officer shall determine all matters in connection with the notes issued pursuant to this bond ordinance, and the Chief Financial Officer's signature upon the notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. All notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time subject to the provisions of Section 40A:2-8 of said Local Bond Law. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the notes at no less than par from time to time at public or private sale and to deliver them to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price plus accrued interest from their dates to the dates of delivery thereof. The Chief Financial Officer is directed to report in writing to the governing body of the Township at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the notes pursuant to this bond ordinance is made. Such

report must include the principal amount, interest rate and maturities of the notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

Section 7. The full faith and credit of the Township are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the said obligations authorized by this bond ordinance. Said obligations shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Township, and the Township shall be obligated to levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable property within the Township for the payment of said obligations and interest thereon without limitation of rate or amount.

Section 8. The capital budget or temporary 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 or temporary capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, are on file with the Township Clerk and are available for public inspection.

Section 9. This bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by said Local Bond Law.

Ordinance #26-15: Ordinance Providing for Various Improvements or Purposes to be Undertaken by the Township of Vernon, In the County of Sussex, New Jersey, and Appropriating $281,280 Therefor from Various Funds of the Township

President Higgins asked for a motion to open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #26-15.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Rizzuto

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to open the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #26-15.

Seeing no members of the public wishing to come forward, President Higgins asked for a motion to close the public hearing on ordinance #26-15.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Contino

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #26-15.

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to adopt ordinance #26-15.

MOVED: Contino
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #26-15.

ORDINANCE #26-15

ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS IMPROVMENTS OR PURPOSES TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, AND APPROPRIATING $281,280 THEREFOR FROM VARIOUS FUNDS OF THE TOWNSHIP.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The improvement described in Section 2 of this ordinance are hereby authorized as general improvements to be made or acquired by The Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, and there is hereby appropriated therefor the sum of $281,280, to the extent of $129,500 from moneys available in the Reserve for DPW Capital Projects of the Township, to the extent of $17,500, from moneys available in the Reserve Ambulance Corps of the Township, and, to the extent of $134,280, from moneys available in the Reserve for Fire Apparatus/Equipment of the Township.

Section 2. The improvements hereby authorized and the purposes for the financing of which the appropriation is made as provided in Section 1 of this ordinance are as follows: the improvement of the Department of Public Works garage in and by the Township by the upgrade of the heating system thereof; the acquisition, by purchase, of new and additional equipment, including without limitation, a plow, a trailer tilt deck, track pads, a sand blast cabinet, rims, a post hole digger and mini splits for use by the Department of Public Works of the Township, training equipment for use by the Ambulance Squad of the Township, and self-contained breathing apparatus, hoses, hose washers, Ipads, saws, a boat motor and various equipment for use by the Fire Department of the Township, together with for all the aforesaid, all appurtenances, attachments and equipment necessary therefor or incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the specifications therefor on file or to be filed in the office of the Township Clerk and hereby approved.

Section 3. The capital budget or temporary 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 or temporary capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, are on file with the Township Clerk and are available for public inspection.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect after publication after final passage as provided by law.

Ordinance #26-16: An Ordinance Amending the Vernon Township Administrative Code Chapter 250, Fees and Escrows Section 250-16, Zoning and Land Use

President Higgins asked for a motion to open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #26-16.

MOVED: Contino
SECOND: Ooms

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to open the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #26-16.

Seeing no members of the public wishing to come forward, President Higgins asked for a motion to close the public hearing on ordinance #26-16.

MOVED: Contino
SECOND: Ooms

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #26-16.

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to adopt ordinance #26-16.

MOVED: Contino
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #26-16.

ORDINANCE #26-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VERNON TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHAPTER 250, FEES AND ESCROWS SECTION 250-16, ZONING AND LAND USE

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

SECTION 1.
Section 250-16 is hereby amended to read as follows:

~~**D.** Zoning permit: $25.~~

The fee for a zoning permit for additions, accessory buildings and garage alterations for existing single-family owner-occupied dwellings shall be: $50.

Decks, fences, pools, sheds, walls and signs: $50.

Home occupation: $50.

Change of use: $50.

New homes: $100.

Commercial: $200.

Commercial additions: $150.

SECTION 2.
All Ordinances of Vernon Township which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 3.
If any section, subsection, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such a decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4.
This Ordinance shall take effect as provided by law.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 5 Minutes Per Person)

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

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Contino

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to open the meeting to the public.

Angelina Banini – expressed concern with Burgher Road.

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: Ooms

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the meeting to the public.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Contino expressed concern with professional service invoices for Burgher Road. He asked why this is continuing after the Council voted no. He is uncomfortable with the whole situation because he feels that this is now a neighbor dispute.

The Council discussed the Burgher Road situation.
Council Member Rizzuto had no comments.

Council Member Sparta questioned the bid rejection for the AV system in the Council Chambers.

Council Member Ooms questioned the money that was not used from a bond ordinance for the pickle ball courts. Council Member Ooms requested that the Council could get a list of what is being spent from the Open Space fund and bond ordinance.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council President Higgins questioned where the money came from for the gazebo.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Sparta made a motion to enter into executive session. Seconded by Council Member Contino. All members were in favor

Council Member Rizzuto made a motion to exit executive session. Seconded by Council Member Contino. All members were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:20 Council Member Sparta made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Contino.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

_____
Marcy Gianattasio, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

_____
William Higgins
Council President

Minutes approved: September 14, 2026