

**VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 7:00 PM**

This Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:00 p.m. on September 23, 2024 via Zoom Webinar and 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 17, 2024 and was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-7.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Council President Rizzuto led the assemblage in the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Present were Council Members Natalie Buccieri, Jessica DeBenedetto, William Higgins, Bradley Sparta and Council President Patrick Rizzuto. Also, present were Mayor Anthony Rossi, Business Administrator Tina Kraus, CFO Donelle Bright, Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio, Township Attorney Ryan Windels.

ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

Sign Ordinance – Heidi LeBris a member of the Economic Development Advisory Committee presented to the Township Council information on signage.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Rossi appointed Liam Clancy and William Rickey Jr. to the Historic Preservation Commission.

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: Sparta

All members were in favor.

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

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

REVIEW OF BILLS LIST

The Council reviewed the bills list.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 9, 2024 – Executive Session

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the September 9, 2024 executive session meeting minutes.

MOVED: DeBenedetto

SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution #24-244: Authorizing Contracts with Foveonics Document Solutions Through Educational Schools Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) Cooperative Contract #65MCESCCPS

Resolution #24-245: Authorizing Change Order #1 of Contract for Proposed Improvements of Various Roads within Vernon Township with Road Safety Systems, LLC

Resolution #24-246: Resolution of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Contract Through Bergen County Cooperative Pricing System #206BCPS - For Stryker Medical #438-22 Bid #22-14

Resolution #24-247: Authorizing Change Order #1 of Contract for Proposed Improvements of Various Roads within Vernon Township with Riverview Paving, Inc.

Resolution #24-248: Refund Overpayment Due to State Tax Court Judgement (515 Vernon Property LLC) – (Block 413 Lot 10)

Resolution #24-249: 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. 8290694; 1 x Diamond Black)

Resolution #24-250: Authoring Change Order #1 of Contract for Proposed Improvements of Maple Grange Lower Parking Lot with Riverview Paving, Inc.

Resolution #24-251: Resolution Authorizing Agreement with Claims Compensation Bureau to Pursue Class Action Funds for EMV Chip Fees, Discover Card Fees and other Potential Interchange Fees

Resolution #24-252: Resolution Authorizing Award of Contract to Vendor with National Cooperative Contracts HGACBUY

Resolution #24-253: Approving Active Volunteer Firefighter for Membership in the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association (Emmerich)

Resolution #24-254: Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Thomas Van Leuven as Provisional Fire Official for the Township of Vernon

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

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: DeBenedetto

No vote was taken.

Resolution #24-255: Authorizing the Collective Bargaining Agreement with American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and Vernon Township

Council Member Higgins made a motion to table resolution #24-255. Seconded by Council Member Sparta.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

ABSENT:

Motion does not approve to table resolution #24-255.

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda minus resolution #24-255.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approve the Consent Agenda minus resolution #24-255.

RESOLUTION #24-244

**AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS WITH FOVEONICS DOCUMENT SOLUTIONS THROUGH
EDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY (ESCNJ) COOPERATIVE
CONTRACT #65MCESCCPS**

WHEREAS the Township of Vernon may by resolution, and without advertising for bids or obtaining quotations, purchase any goods or services under the Educational Services Commission Cooperative Purchasing System (ESCNJ) Cooperative under the authority of the New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law N.J.S.A .40A: I 1-1 et. seq., and

WHEREAS the Township of Vernon joined the ESCNJ Cooperative; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has the need on a timely basis to purchase goods and services utilizing ESCNJ Contract ESCNJ 22/23-11 expiring June 30, 2025, duly authorized under law to extend contract pricing to local units, per N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 et. seq.; and

WHEREAS the Township intends to enter into for document imaging, destruction, offsite web- based storage and software access of files under ESCNJ Contract ESCNJ 22/23-11 with Foveonics Document Solutions, 88 Grayrock Road, Unit 103, Clinton, New Jersey 08809 and

WHEREAS the Chief Financial Officer certifies funding is available in the amount not to exceed \$40,000.00 from account number: C-04-24-008 Various Purpose Capital Ordinance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Vernon, hereby authorizes the Mayor to purchase certain goods and services from Foveonics Document Solutions, under ESCNJ Contract ESCNJ 22/23-11

RESOLUTION #24-245

**AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 OF CONTRACT FOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS
OF VARIOUS ROADS WITHIN VERNON TOWNSHIP
WITH ROAD SAFETY SYSTEMS, LLC**

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2024, by way of adoption of Resolution #24-193, the Council of the Township of Vernon awarded a contract to Road Safety Systems, LLC for Milling & Paving on Various Roads which contract provided for an expenditure of \$183,005.00 and

WHEREAS, in an email dated September 16, 2024, the Township Engineer states that the contract requires a Change Order #1 by the reduction of 2 (two) items in amount of \$7,600.00 and the addition of 3(three) extra items in amount of \$8,180.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer, in concurrence with the Mayor, recommends approving Change Order No. 1 resulting in an increase of \$580.00 to final contract amount of \$183,585.00.

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer of the Township of Vernon has certified that the funds for these contracts are available in Account #C-04-24-010-01.

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 final contract amount of \$183,585.00 for said project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Road Safety Systems, LLC. and the Township Engineer.

RESOLUTION #24-246

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING CONTRACT THROUGH BERGEN COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM #206BCPS – FOR STRYKER MEDICAL #438-22 BID #22-14

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon may by resolution, and without advertising for bids or obtaining quotations, purchase any goods or services as per N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11, under the Bergen County Cooperative Pricing System (#206BCPS); and

WHEREAS, the Township has the need on a timely basis to purchase goods and services utilizing Bergen County Cooperative Pricing System Contract for Stryker Medical #438-22, Bid 22-14, duly authorized under law to extend contract pricing to local units, per N.J.A.C. 5:34-7 et. Seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Township intends to enter into contract for procurement of medical equipment, to wit:

two (2) LUCAS 3, v3.1 Chest Compression System and accessories	\$39,377.30
one (1) 6507 POWER PRO 2 stretcher and accessories	\$67,624.38
;and	

WHEREAS the final proposed cost under cooperative from Stryker is \$107,001.68; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds in the amount of \$107,001.68 are available in line item C-04-24-010 Bond Ordinance 24-10 Various Purposes.

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

- 1. That the Township Administrator hereby is authorized to procure two (2) LUCAS 3, v3.1 Chest Compression System and accessories (\$39,377.30), and one (1) 6507 POWER PRO 2 stretcher and accessories (\$67,624.38) for a total amount of \$107,001.68, for the public safety health and welfare, consistent with the terms and conditions of bid 22-14 Bergen County Cooperative Pricing System

RESOLUTION #24-247

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 OF CONTRACT FOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS OF VARIOUS ROADS WITHIN VERNON TOWNSHIP WITH RIVERVIEW PAVING, INC.

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2024, by way of adoption of Resolution #24-190, the Council of the Township of Vernon awarded a contract to Riverview Paving, Inc. for Milling & Paving on Various Roads which contract provided for an expenditure of \$644,303.68 and

WHEREAS, in a memo dated September 7, 2024, the Township Engineer states that the contract requires a Change Order #1 by the reduction of 4 (four) items in amount of \$34,312.90 and the addition of 2(two) extra items in amount of \$43,547.31 and 1 (one) supplemental item in amount of \$24,880.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer, in concurrence with the Mayor, recommends approving Change Order No. 1 resulting in an increase to final contract amount of \$678,418.09.

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer of the Township of Vernon has certified that the funds for these contracts are available in Account #C-04-24-010-01.

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 final contract amount of \$678,418.09 for said project; and

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

RESOLUTION #24-248

REFUND OVERPAYMENT DUE TO STATE TAX COURT JUDGMENT

(515 Vernon Property LLC) - (BLOCK 413 LOT 10)

WHEREAS, a Tax Court Judgment has been favorably awarded for the year 2023 and,

WHEREAS, such Judgment has resulted in an overpayment of 2023 property taxes for Block 413 Lot 10 also known as 525 Rt. 515, Vernon, New Jersey.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon, to authorize the Tax Collector to refund the 2023 overpayment in the amount of \$6,523.99 to Zipp & Tannenbaum, LLC, Attorney Trust Account.

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

RESOLUTION #24-249

**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. 8290694; 1 x Diamond Black)**

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

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 \$43,406.88 (Quote No. 8290694); 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 #24-250

**AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 OF CONTRACT FOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS
OF MAPLE GRANGE LOWER PARKING LOT
WITH RIVERVIEW PAVING, INC.**

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2024, by way of adoption of Resolution #24-192, the Council of the Township of Vernon awarded a contract to Riverview Paving, Inc. for Milling & Paving of Maple Grange Park Lower Parking Lot which contract provided for an expenditure of \$57,247.50 and

WHEREAS, in a memo dated August 29, 2024, the Township Engineer states that the contract requires a Change Order #1 by the reduction of 3 (three) items in amount of \$6,333.97 and the addition of 1 (one) supplemental item in amount of \$1,425.00 resulting in decreased contract amount of \$52,338.53; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer, in concurrence with the Mayor, recommends approving Change Order No. 1 resulting in decreased final contract amount to \$52,338.53.

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 final contract amount of \$52,338.53 for said project; and

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

RESOLUTION #24-251

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH CLAIMS COMPENSATION BUREAU
TO PURSUE CLASS ACTION FUNDS FOR EMV CHIP FEES, DISCOVER CARD FEES AND
OTHER POTENTIAL INTERCHANGE FEES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon (“Township”) has been notified by Claims Compensation Bureau, LLC (“CCB”) that it may be eligible to recover class action settlement funds in connection with improper EMV Chip and Discover Card interchange fees; and

WHEREAS, the Township has received a proposed Claim Services Agreement from CCB that would allow CCB to seek out said settlement funds on behalf of the Township, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**; and

WHEREAS, the Claim Services Agreement would allow the Township to approve its participation in additional cases brought by CCB electronically and without additional governing body approval; and

WHEREAS, the Township finds that electronic approval by the Township Administrator of the Township’s participation in additional cases regarding interchange fees, without the need for separate governing body approval, is acceptable.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a Claim Services Agreement between the Township and CCB in substantially the format attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption by the Township Council.

RESOLUTION 24-252

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO VENDOR WITH
NATIONAL COOPERATIVE CONTRACTS HGACBUY**

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

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 specialized ambulance vehicle and equipment 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 Houston Galveston Area Cooperative, and;

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

WHEREAS, the Business Administrator has complied with the public notification provisions of public advertisement and has received no protests in accord with law and regulation, and;

WHEREAS, the equipment and corresponding Houston Galveston Area Cooperative contract proposal from First Priority Vehicles an authorized dealer under HGAC contract AM10-23, in the amount of \$229,949.00; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer certifies that funds are available in the amount of: \$229,949.00 through Line Item C-04-24-010 titled 24-10 Various Purpose Bond Ordinance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mayor is hereby authorized to effectuate the purchase of herein approved equipment for the approved cost of \$229,949.00 through First Priority Vehicles an authorized under HGAC contract AM10-23.

RESOLUTION #24-253

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

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, Michael G Emmerich, an active firefighter and member of the Vernon Township Fire Department Co.1, 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 Michael G Emmerich for membership in the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association.

RESOLUTION #24-254

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT
OF THOMAS VAN LEUVEN AS PROVISIONAL FIRE OFFICIAL
FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON**

WHEREAS, due to a vacancy, the Township of Vernon is in need of appointing a Provisional Fire Official; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Van Leuven is currently serving as the Acting Fire Marshall for the Township of Vernon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, authorizes the appointment of Thomas Van Leuven as Provisional Fire Official for the Township of Vernon.

RESOLUTION

Resolution #24-255: Authorizing the Collective Bargaining Agreement with American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and Vernon Township

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #24-255.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve resolution #24-255.

RESOLUTION #24-255

**AUTHORIZING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL
EMPLOYEES AND VERNON TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has agreed to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees ("AFSCME"), which shall govern the terms of employment and compensation for the Department of Public Works for the calendar years 2025 through 2029; and

WHEREAS, AFSCME, has agreed to enter in.to a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Township of Vernon and has been voted upon by its members adopting said Agreement.

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

1. The Township Council authorizes a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Township and the AFSCME.
2. The Mayor and Township Business Administrator are authorized to sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement on behalf of the Township.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

A copy of this resolution as well as the referenced Collective Bargaining Agreement shall be placed on file with the Clerk of the Township.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance #24-21: An Ordinance of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 275 of the Township Code to Repeal Chapter 275 and Replace Same: to Adopt Flood Hazard Maps: To Designate a Floodplain Administrator; and Providing for Severability and an Effective Date.

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to introduce ordinance #24-21.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to introduce ordinance #24-21.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance #24-18: An Ordinance of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey Amending Certain Portions of Chapter 250 Entitled “Fees and Escrows” and Chapter 330 Entitled “Fees” of the Township Code

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #24-18.

MOVED: DeBenedetto
SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to come forward, President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the public hearing on ordinance #24-18.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Higgins

All members were in favor.

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to adopt ordinance #24-18.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #24-18.

ORDINANCE #24-18

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY
AMENDING CERTAIN PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 250 ENTITLED
“FEES AND ESCROWS,” AND CHAPTER 330 ENTITLED “FEES” OF
THE TOWNSHIP CODE**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey that Chapter 250 Entitled “Fees and Escrows,” of the Township Code are hereby amended as follows:

SECTION I. Chapter 250 entitled “Fees and Escrows” and Chapter 330-228 “Fees” is hereby amended, supplemented, and revised or by replacing same as follows:

§ 250-9 ~~Receptionists and~~ Township miscellaneous.

- A. Street maps: \$6.
- ~~B. Notary service: \$2.~~
- C. ~~Receptionist and~~ Township miscellaneous; copies.

A copy or copies of a government record may be purchased by any person upon payment of the fee prescribed by law or regulation. Except as otherwise provided by law or regulation, the fee assessed for the duplication of a government record embodied in the form of printed matter shall be \$0.05 per letter size page or smaller, and \$0.07 per legal size page or larger. A special service charge shall be imposed, in addition to the actual cost of duplicating the record, with the nature, format matter, collation, or volume of printed matter is such that it cannot be produced by ordinary document copying equipment in ordinary business size or where such record involves an extraordinary expenditure of time and effort to accommodate the request. The requester shall have the opportunity to review and object to this special service charge prior to it being incurred.

§250-12. Building.

- C. Building subcode.
 - (1) (a) Per cubic foot for all use groups: ~~\$0.05~~ \$0.06
 - (1)(b) Per cubic foot for structures on farms, including commercial farm buildings under N.J.A.C 5:23-3.2(d) use exclusively for the storage of food or grain, or the sheltering of livestock, for such structures on farms with a minimum fee of \$100: ~~\$0.015~~ \$0.02.
 - (2) Renovations, alterations and repairs. Per \$1,000 of estimated cost of work: ~~\$33~~ \$35.
- D. Electric subcode.
 - (1) Receptacles and fixtures:
 - (a) First to 25: ~~\$60~~ \$65
 - (2) Motors, electrical devices and motor control center:
 - (a) One hp up to 10 hp: ~~\$30~~ \$35
 - (4) Services, panels, entrances and subpanels
 - (a) Up to 200 amps: ~~\$75~~ \$85
- H. Certificates and other permits.
 - (2) Other Permits
 - (b) Swimming pool
 - (1) All R-3, R-4 and R-5 above ground pools: ~~\$150~~ \$165.

- (2) All R-3, R-4 and R-5 in-ground pools: ~~\$200~~ \$250.
- (j) Change of Contractor fee per subcode: ~~\$25~~ \$30.
- (k) Installation of Park Model Trailers, flat fee: ~~\$200~~ \$225.
- (l) Construction Records Clearance Application
 - \$40.00 Requests received more than 10 calendar days from change of occupancy/closing
 - \$75.00 Requests received within 10 calendar days from change of occupancy/closing
 - \$125.00 Requests received within 4 calendar days from change of occupancy/closing

§ 250-15 Animal control.

- A.** Dog license, local \$12.80.
- B.** Dog license, state \$1.20.
- C.** Non-neutered or spayed, state fee: \$3.
- D.** After March 1 additional late fee required for issuance of dog license: \$5.
- E.** Dog and cat adoption.
 - (1) Dog adoption:
 - (a) Puppies under one year: \$130.
 - (b) Dogs over one year to six years: \$110.
 - (c) Dogs over six years: \$50.

- (2) Cat adoption:
 - (a) Kittens under one year: \$85.
 - (b) Cats one year to six years: \$75.
 - (c) Cats over six years: \$30.
- F.** Small, feathered and furry adoption: \$20.

~~G. Euthanasia:~~

- ~~(1) Dog: \$25.~~
- ~~(2) Cat: \$15.~~

~~H. Disposal of remains:~~

- ~~(1) Dog: \$25.~~
- ~~(2) Cat: \$15.~~

G. Pickup/redemption:

- (1) First offense: \$25.
- (2) Second offense: \$35.
- (3) Third offense: \$45.
- ~~(4) Maintenance: \$4. per day~~
- ~~(5) Overnight Stays: \$4. per day~~

H. Boarding, Maintenance and Care per day:

- (1) Dog: \$35.00
- (2) Cat: \$25.00

I. Quarantine Boarding, Maintenance and Care per day:

- (1) Dog: \$60.00
- (2) Cat: \$50.00

J. Kennel license.

- (1) 10 or fewer dogs: \$10.
- (2) More than 10 dogs: \$25.

K. (Reserved)^[1]

L. Pet shop, initial: \$10.

- M. (Reserved)^[2]
- N. Kennel or pet shop construction plans review: \$150.
- O. Animal shelter or pound, annual license: no fee.
- P. Surrender Fee:
 - (1) Dog: \$50.
 - (2) Cat: \$20.
- Q. Potentially dangerous dog license: \$700.

§250-16 Zoning & Land Use

M. Lot development plan review.
~~Vernon Township shall provide for soil erosion inspections and enforcement, which as previously handled by Sussex County Soil Conservation Office. The fee for such services shall be \$250, which shall be added to the current fee of \$450 for a total of \$700. This fee shall apply to new single family residential development only.~~ **Review and Inspection Fee for New Residential lots or commercial development is \$500.00 or \$300 for Existing Residential lots.**

Vacant and Abandoned Properties

A registration fee of \$500 per property shall be assessed annually for any property that is required to be registered because a summons and complaint in action to foreclose was filed by a creditor. An additional \$2,000 per property shall also be assessed annually for vacant and abandoned properties when the summons and complaint in an action to foreclose is filed, or becomes vacant and abandoned as defined in § 130-1B.

Public assembly license: \$1,000. per day.

§330-228 Fees

Upon submission of a lot development plan to the Township of Vernon, the applicant shall furnish a review and inspection fee in the amount of \$700 **\$500** for new residential or commercial development or **\$300** for existing residential lots ~~(unless an LDP is required under § 330-222, in which case an additional fee of \$200 shall be required)~~, payable to the Township of Vernon. In the event that more than three plan revisions or three site visits are required by the Engineer or his representative, the Township of Vernon shall bill the developer directly in accordance with the Engineer's hourly rate schedule approved by the Township. All outstanding fees shall be paid prior to issuance of a final zoning approval.

§ 250-17 Township Clerk.

- A.** Alarm Registration: \$10.
- B.** Raffle and bingo licenses: \$10 to the municipality for every \$20 collected on behalf of the state (Raffle and bingo license applications are liable for the fees payable to the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission, N.J.A.C. 13:47-4.1 et seq.).
- C.** Peddlers and Solicitors License: ~~\$125~~ \$20 Application Fee and \$125 License Fee. Plus, an additional \$50. for each vehicle used in connection therewith. Renewal application fee \$25 if renewed by December 31st of the licensing year. (See Chapter 428, Peddling and Soliciting, for license fees for solicitors and canvassers.)
- D.** Taxi or limousine license: \$35.
- E.** Assessment search: \$10.
- F.** Alcohol Beverage Licenses:
 - (1)** Plenary retail consumption:
 - ~~Effective January 1, 2010 — \$712.80~~
 - ~~Effective January 1, 2011 — \$855.36~~
 - ~~Effective January 1, 2012 — \$1026.43~~
 -
 - Effective January 1, 2025 \$1231.72
 - Effective January 1, 2026 \$1478.06

Effective January 1, 2027 \$1773.67
Effective January 1, 2028 \$2128.40
Effective January 1, 2029 \$2500.00

(2) Club license: \$188.00

(3) Plenary retail distribution:

~~Effective January 1, 2010 \$296.40~~
~~Effective January 1, 2011 \$355.68~~
~~Effective January 1, 2012 \$426.81~~
~~Effective May 1, 2018 \$512.17~~
~~Effective May 1, 2019 \$614.60~~
~~Effective May 1, 2020 \$737.52~~
~~Effective May 1, 2021 \$855.02~~
~~Effective May 1, 2022 \$1026.43~~

Effective January 1, 2025 \$1231.72
Effective January 1, 2026 \$1478.06
Effective January 1, 2027 \$1773.67
Effective January 1, 2028 \$2128.40
Effective January 1, 2029 \$2500.00

(4) Limited retail distribution: \$ 63.00

(5) Hotel/motel:

~~Effective January 1, 2010 \$594.00~~
~~Effective January 1, 2011 \$712.80~~
~~Effective January 1, 2012 \$855.36~~
~~Effective May 1, 2018 \$1026.43~~
Effective January 1, 2025 \$2500.00

~~**G.** Public assembly license: \$1,000. per day.~~

H. Marriage and Civil Union Fees, Reimbursements and Procedures.

(1) A person who is married or joined in a civil union by an authorized official of the Township, as established by N.J.S.A. 37:1-13 et seq., shall pay a fee according to the following schedule. An administrative fee of \$25. shall be paid in addition to the fee. All fees shall be paid to the Township of Vernon prior to the ceremony and shall be deposited in the current fund of the Township.

(a) Ceremonies Performed in Vernon: ~~\$75~~ \$100.

(b) Ceremonies Performed outside of Vernon: ~~\$100~~ \$150.

SECTION II. If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance and they shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION III. In the event of any inconsistencies between the provisions of this Ordinance and any prior ordinance of the Township, the provisions hereof shall be determined to govern. All other ordinances of the Township are hereby ratified and confirmed, except where inconsistent with the terms hereof.

SECTION IV. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication according to law.

Ordinance #24-19: Ordinance Amending the Vernon Township Municipal Code Chapter 428 “Peddling and Soliciting”

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #24-19.

MOVED: DeBenedetto
SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to come forward, President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the public hearing on ordinance #24-19.

MOVED: DeBenedetto
SECOND: Higgins

All members were in favor.

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to adopt ordinance #24-19.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #24-19.

ORDINANCE #24-19

**ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VERNON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 428
“PEDDLING AND SOLICITING”**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon (“Township”) maintains regulations regarding Peddling and Soliciting in Chapter 428 of the Township Code; and

WHEREAS, the Township seeks to clarify the requirements for peddling, soliciting, and charitable soliciting in the Township to the extent permitted by applicable federal and state law.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 428, titled “Peddling and Soliciting” is hereby amended and supplemented as follows:

Article II Solicitors and Canvassers

§ 428-15 Application for license; fee.

The application for a solicitor's license shall be the same as is required to be completed and filed for the peddler's license in § 428-10. Said application shall request the same information, be filed in the same way, and be accompanied by a fee of \$20. ~~An application may include the names of multiple solicitors in the event same are employed by the applicant and their names and information as required by § 428-10 are individually included with the application.~~

§ 428-16 License fee.

The license fee which shall be charged by the Township Clerk for each solicitor's and canvasser's license shall be ~~\$100~~ **\$125**. ~~One license fee of \$100. shall apply to all licenses issued under one application in the event all solicitors included in the application are employed by the same applicant.~~

§ 428-18A No Solicitation List.

- A. [No changes].
- B. [No changes].
- C. [No changes].
- D. [No changes].
- E. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the Township's "No Solicitation List" shall supersede the right of any solicitor to conduct door-to-door solicitation for any person or address included on the "No Solicitation List."

Article IV Provisions Applicable to All Peddlers, Solicitors, and Charitable Solicitations

§ 428-26 Investigation of applicant; issuance or denial of license or permit. ~~permanent records to be kept.~~

~~A. Upon receipt of an application, the Township Police Chief shall cause an investigation of the applicant's business and moral character to be made as he deems necessary for the protection of the public good. In addition, he shall obtain a copy of the applicant's motor vehicle operating record for at least the past 10 years and check on all types of criminal convictions since the applicant was 18. Such investigation shall be completed within 10 days after the application is filed, and that, together with the application, shall be forwarded to the Mayor and Township Council for their review and decision on said application. They shall provide a decision within 25 days of the date the application was submitted.~~

All applicants must be fingerprinted through a recommended company at their own expense before any license will be issued with the exception of N.J.S.A 45:24-9 - Professions and Occupations Section 45:24-9 - Eligibility for peddler's license.

~~**B.** If, as a result of such investigation, the applicant's character or business responsibility is found to be unsatisfactory, the Mayor and Township Council by resolution shall endorse on such application its disapproval and the specific reasons for its disapproval, and then notify the applicant that his application was disapproved and that no license or permit shall be issued.~~

~~**C.** If, as a result of such investigation, the character and business responsibility of the applicant are found to be satisfactory, the Mayor and Township Council shall endorse on the application its approval, and the Township Clerk shall deliver to the applicant his license or permit. Such license or permit shall contain the signature and seal of the issuing officer and shall show the name, address, and photograph of said licensee or permittee, the class of license or permit issued, and the kind of goods to be sold thereunder, the date of issuance and the length of time the same shall be operative, as well as the license or permit number and other identifying description of any vehicle used in such peddling, soliciting, or charitable solicitations.~~

D. The Clerk shall keep a ~~permanent~~ record of all licenses and permits issued.

§ 428-31 Revocation of permit; hearing.

- A. Permits issued under the provisions of this chapter may be revoked by the Mayor and Township Council after notice and hearing before the Mayor and Township Council for any of the following causes:
 - (1) [No change].
 - (2) [No change].

- (3) [No change].
- (4) [No change].
- (5) [No change].
- (6) [No change].

SECTION 3. Severability.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be severable. In the event that any portion of this Ordinance is found to be invalid for any reason by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be limited in its effect only to the portion of the Ordinance actually adjudged invalid and shall not be deemed to affect the operation of any other portion thereof, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. Repealer.

All ordinances and resolutions, and parts of ordinances and resolutions which are inconsistent with provisions of this ordinance shall be, and are hereby, repealed to the extent of any such inconsistency.

SECTION 5. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect upon final adoption and publication in accordance with law.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 5 Minutes Per Person)

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: DeBenedetto

All members were in favor.

James Raperto – on behalf of Local 3181, thanked the Council for approving their contract as well as Donelle Bright and their management team.

Scott Cassell – expressed concern with the comments regarding the pump track memorial. He commended the Mayor for his actions with the memorial. Mr. Cassell commented that he is unhappy with the annual assessment program. Mr. Cassell commended the town on how well Maple Grange Park is maintained.

Ann Larsen – expressed concern with the annual assessment program. Ms. Larsen asked if Zoom could be brought back for the Council meetings. Ms. Larsen commented on the sign ordinance.

Tom Troncone – expressed concern with the Township’s lack of a food truck ordinance.

Seeing no other members of the public wishing to speak, President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the meeting for Public Comments.

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Higgins asked if the township is leasing or buying the new phone equipment. Township Administrator Kraus and CFO Bright answered his question.

Council Member DeBenedetto inquired if the Council could have information regarding the tax assessment program as part of a Council meeting.

Council Member Sparta asked for clarification on the laws regarding trucks on Route 515. Council Member Sparta also inquired about the intersection of Route 517 and Vernon Crossing.

Council Member Buccieri had no comment.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council President Rizzuto commented that he and the Mayor will be meeting with JCP&L regarding the high electric bills.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:43 pm Council Member Sparta made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Buccieri.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcy Gianattasio, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Patrick Rizzuto
Council President

Minutes approved: October 17, 2024