

**WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS WAS
HELD THIS EVENING IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

Monday, December 9, 2024

Council President Sgobba called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Christine Hablitz, Michael Murphy, Jayna Patel and Christopher Vancheri. Also present were Township Attorney Joseph Wenzel, Administrator Vincent Quatrone, Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus, and Deputy Clerk Melissa DePiro.

Absent: Mayor James Damiano.

Township Employees present: None.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE: Take notice that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-8 and N.J.S.A. 10:4-10 as follows: A notice of the meeting was prominently posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building, located at 225 Main Street, Little Falls, N.J. on January 4, 2024. A copy of the notice was mailed to the North Jersey Herald and News and The Record on the same date. Additionally, a copy of the notice was filed in the office of the Township Clerk on said date. **A link and a telephone number to join the meeting virtually can be accessed on the Township website at www.lfnj.com. Electronic provisions have been established for the public to participate during the public comment portion of the meeting.**

At this time John Biegel and Jennifer Kidd provided a Health Department report. Topics covered included a Respiratory Report, Nursing Report, and Social Services. Ms. Kidd reviewed the new Facebook page and podcast, the Mindfulness program in the schools, WISE wellness program for seniors, an Alzheimer's presentation, and upcoming events including a breast cancer presentation, a Paint and Sip and vein screening.

Norman Scherzer – commented on comparing services offered to Clifton and Little Falls residents. Mr. Scherzer further elaborated on vaccines and a change in the leadership in public health. Mr. Biegel clarified that there is no difference in services provided to Clifton or Little Falls residents.

MAYOR'S REPORT

PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS AND AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to address the Township Council may do so through the Council President. It is preferred if you give your name and address for the record. Comments are to be limited to three minutes, however, if appropriate, you may be granted additional time in the sole discretion of the Council President.

Members of the public who have joined the meeting virtually and desire to provide comment shall raise their virtual hand in the Zoom application. The Meeting moderator will queue the members of the public that wish to provide comment and the Council President will recognize them in order. Members of the public who have joined the meeting by calling in must press *6 to mute and unmute themselves and *9 to raise their hand. Members of the public who have joined the Meeting via the Zoom application must click the Reactions icon and then the Raise Hand icon. Once the process is complete, we will return to the regular order of business.

It was moved by Councilmember Vancheri, seconded by Councilmember Murphy, that the meeting be and it was opened to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

No one having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Hablitz, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the meeting be and it was closed to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
 Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR:

1. TAX APPEAL SETTLEMENT RESOLUTION- Council President SGOBBA explained the nature of the Resolution.
2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION IN LITIGATION TO ADDRESS AFFORDABLE HOUSING MANDATES - Council President SGOBBA reviewed the Resolution.

ACTION ITEMS:

It was moved by Councilmember Murphy, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, to approve Resolutions A-C:

Meeting of December 9, 2024

Tax Appeal Settlements on Several Properties

**RESOLUTION [A] 24-12-09 - #1
TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS
PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, appeals of the real property tax assessments of the following properties have been filed in the Tax Court of New Jersey ('Tax Appeals'):

PROPERTY OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	ADDRESS
1755 Rt 46 Little Falls LLC	217	17.02	
Local 464 Welfare & Pension Bldgs	89	5.01	245 Paterson Ave
Little Falls La Sala LLC/La Sala Developers LLC	168	35	201 E Main St

And;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Little Falls have been advised as to proposed settlements for the above Tax Appeals, and as to the merits thereof, by legal counsel, the Township Appraiser, and the Township Tax Assessor, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed Tax Appeal settlement components are set forth in the Schedule 'A' attached hereto and made part hereof, and;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Township to settle the subject Tax Appeals in accordance with the settlement proposals set forth in Schedule 'A.'

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Little Falls, that the proposed settlements of the aforesaid Tax Appeals be approved, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that with respect to the same, the Mayor, Township Administrator, Township Tax Attorney, Township Tax Assessor, Tax Collector Treasurer and/or any other appropriate Township official is hereby authorized to perform any act necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth in this Resolution.

EXHIBIT 'A'

PROPERTY OWNER	YEAR	ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT	PROPOSED SETTLEMENT ASSESSMENT
1755 RT 46 Little Falls LLC	2022	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000-Withdraw
	2023	\$2,700,000	\$2,250,000
Local 164 Welfare & Pension Bldgs	2021	\$6,400,000	\$6,400,000-Withdraw
	2022	\$6,400,000	\$6,400,000-Withdraw
	2023	\$6,400,000	\$5,750,000
	2024	\$6,400,000	\$5,400,000
Little Falls La Sala LLC/LaSala Developers LLC	2021	\$3,055,200	\$3,055,200-Withdraw
	2022	\$3,055,200	\$2,700,000
	2023	\$3,055,200	\$2,450,000
	2024	\$3,055,200	\$2,200,000

Authorizing Participation in Litigation to Address New Jersey's Affordable Housing Mandates

RESOLUTION [B] 24-12-9 - 2

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION IN LITIGATION TO ADDRESS THE CONSTITUTIONALITY AND/OR VALIDITY OF NEW JERSEY'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING MANDATES

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls (Passaic County) is coordinating litigation or potential litigation to review, challenge and/or declare unconstitutional certain mandates from the State of New Jersey concerning the obligations of municipalities relating to affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, affordable housing can be a benefit to every municipality within the State of New Jersey if such obligation is shared fairly and proportionately among all municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Falls is seeking additional municipalities to join in such litigation in order to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of same; and

WHEREAS, participation in such litigation would permit each municipality to benefit from any relief awarded by the Court; and **WHEREAS**, the Township of Little Falls has provided a preliminary cost estimate for such litigation of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for each year of 2024 and 2025 for an estimated commitment from each participating municipality of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00); and

WHEREAS, the public interest favors participation in such litigation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by and Mayor and Council of the Township of Little Falls, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, that the Township of Little Falls is hereby authorized to join as a party the above referenced litigation and is hereby authorized to contribute \$10,000.00 in 2024 and another \$10,000.00 in 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized to execute such Agreements with Counsel to be selected by the Township of Little Falls so as to effectuate participation in such litigation, including but not limited to any Retainer Agreement, Confidentiality Agreement, or such other documents as may be necessary to effectuate participation in said litigation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that participation in such litigation shall not be deemed a rejection of any currently obligation while such litigation is pending.

This Resolution was adopted by the Township Council at a public meeting on December 9, 2024.

Bill List

RESOLUTION [C] 24-12-9 - 3

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Little Falls the Council having received the Treasurer's certification of the availability of funds for payment of all bills presented, that payment of all bills approved by the Finance Committee be and is hereby authorized, subject to the availability of funds and subject to the appropriate and available appropriation in the line item.

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Murphy, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, to approve the following:

APPLICATIONS

RAFFLE, UNICO PASSAIC VALLEY, 3/12/2024, 7: 00 P.M., 75 MAIN STREET, LITTLE FALLS, NJ

Meeting of December 9, 2024

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 1505- The public hearing on Ordinance No. 1505, “**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 218, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS,**” be and it was opened.

As no comments from the public were received, the public hearing on Ordinance No. 1505 be and it was closed.

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Murphy, Patel, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba

Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

It was moved by Councilmember Patel, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that Ordinance No. 1505 be and it was adopted.

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Murphy, Patel, Vancheri, and Council President Sgobba

Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Councilmember MURPHY announced the upcoming Domestic Violence Committee meeting on December 10th.

Councilmember VANCHERI reported on the success of the recent tri-town parade and provided an update from the County regarding changing the speed limit on all roads to 25 mph as well as next steps. Lastly, Councilmember VANCHERI announced the PBA will hold a Breakfast with Santa this weekend at PVHS.

Councilmember HABLITZ reviewed Library events including a Polish Cultural Christmas on Dec. 15th, “Read with Daisy” on Dec 11th, and the Cookbook Club on Dec. 16th. Councilmember HABLITZ reminded residents to register for the Light up Little Falls light decorating contest and announced the annual Menorah lighting will take place on Dec. 30th. Lastly, Councilmember HABLITZ recalled the recent Christmas tree lighting.

Councilmember PATEL announced there will be blood lead testing for children 6 years and under on Dec. 18th and the first meeting of the Public Health Committee will take place on January 15th

At this time, Council President SGOBBA requested Mr. Wenzel explain the meaning of a stay in relation to Resolution B.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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It was moved by Councilmember Murphy, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the meeting be and it was opened to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

No one having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Patel, seconded by Councilmember Vancheri, that the meeting be and it was closed to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Hablitz, Patel, Vancheri and Council President Sgobba
Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Murphy, seconded by Councilmember Hablitz, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk