

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING LOCATION: JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
1033 WELDON ROAD
LAKE HOPATCONG, NJ 07849
CONTACT: 973-208-6132/33
www.jeffersontownship.net

OCTOBER 24, 2022
SPECIAL MEETING – 8:00 AM
AGENDA

**DRAFT –
TO
THE EXTENT
KNOWN AS OF
10.20.22**

**** PLEASE SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES

1. CALL TO ORDER – Presiding Officer

This Special Meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notice of this meeting was sent to the official newspapers of the Township, the Daily Record and the Star Ledger, on **October 19, 2022**. In addition, notice was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on **October 19, 2022** and is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

Proper notice having been given, the Township Clerk is directed to include this statement in the minutes of this meeting, as well as the purpose of this meeting, which is to hold a discussions regarding withdrawal from the State Health Benefits Program and enrollment in the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund, as well as to discuss or act upon public business.

2. ROLL CALL – Township Clerk

	Present	Absent
Mr. Birmingham		
Mr. Kalish		
Mr. Smith		
Vice President Dunham		
President Senatore		
Mr. Ryan, Township Attorney		
Ms. Reilly, Township Clerk		

Let the record reflect the following members of the Administration are present: Mayor Eric Wilsusen, Administrator Debi Millikin.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG – Presiding Officer

4. PUBLIC COMMENT – Presiding Officer

Please state and spell your name and address for the record. Each speaker is limited to one (1) comment of no more than five (5) minutes and no yielding of time to another person.

5. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 22-247

“RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF JEFFERSON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, WITHDRAWING FROM THE STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM”

WHEREAS, the State Health Benefits Program (“SHBP”), governed by N.J.S.A. § 52:14-17.25 et seq., offers medical, prescription drug, and dental coverage to qualified state and participating local government public employees, retirees, and eligible dependents; and

WHEREAS, all SHBP plans are self-funded meaning that the money paid out for benefits comes directly from a SHBP account funded by the state, participating local employers, and member premiums; and

WHEREAS, the State Health Benefits Commission, comprised of state officials and union representatives, annually considers the calendar year premium levels for the Local Government Employer Group of the SHBP based on recommendations found in the Rate Setting Recommendation Analysis of the Local Government Employee Group; and

WHEREAS, the rate increases for the 2023 Local Government Employer Group, approved by the State Health Benefits Commission on September 14, 2022, included a 24% increase for Active Medical, a 3.7% increase for Active Pharmacy, a 15.6% increase in Early Retiree Medical, and a 0.7% increase for Medicare. Early Retiree Pharmacy had a 5.7% decrease; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Treasury has reported that rates for active members and early retirees would likely be increased between 12% - 20% across the various plans for the upcoming year; and

WHEREAS, such rate increases will fall upon the local property taxpayer along with the local public employees at a time where there is record inflation and continuing financial uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council finds it unreasonable and unsustainable to impose such increased costs upon Jefferson Township's tax payers and public employees; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Jefferson in the County of Morris has found it is proper to withdraw completely from the SHBP effective December 31, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Jefferson, County of Morris, State of New Jersey:

1. The Township of Jefferson, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, SHBP No. 0019-00, hereby resolves to terminate its participation in the State Health Benefits Program (Medical Plan, Prescription Drug Plan, and Dental Plan) thereby cancelling coverage provided by the SHBP (N.J.S.A. § 52:14-17.28 et seq.) for all its active and retired employees.
2. We shall notify all active employees of the date of their termination of coverage under the Program.
3. We understand that the New Jersey Division of Pensions & Benefits (“NJDPB”) will notify retired employees of the cancellation of their coverage.
4. We understand that all COBRA participants will be notified by the NJDPB and advised to contact our office concerning a possible alternative health, prescription drug, and dental insurance plan.

5. We understand that this resolution shall take effect the first of the month following a 60-day period beginning with the receipt of the resolution by the State Health Benefits Commission.

Council Member	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham						
Mr. Kalish						
Mr. Smith						
Vice President Dunham						
President Senatore						

RESOLUTION 22-248
“NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND RESOLUTION”

WHEREAS, a number of public entities in the State of New Jersey have joined together to form the **North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund**, hereafter referred to as "FUND", as permitted by N.J.S.A. 11:15-3, 17:1-8.1, and 40A:10-36 et seq., and;

WHEREAS, the FUND was approved to become operational by the Departments of Insurance and Community Affairs and has been operational since that date, and;

WHEREAS, the statutes and regulations governing the creation and operation of a joint insurance fund, contain certain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a FUND;

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of Jefferson, hereinafter referred to as "LOCAL UNIT" has determined that membership in the FUND is in the best interest of the LOCAL UNIT.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the LOCAL UNIT hereby agrees as follows:

- i. Become a member of the FUND for the period outlined in the LOCAL UNIT's Indemnity and Trust Agreements.
- ii. Will participate in the following type (s) of coverage (s):
 - a.) Health Insurance and/or Dental and/or Prescription as defined pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17B:17-4, the FUND's Bylaws, and Plan of Risk Management.
- iii. Adopts and approves the FUND's Bylaws.
- iv. Execute an application for membership and any accompanying certifications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body of the LOCAL UNIT authorizes and directs the Mayor and Township Clerk to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the FUND as required by the FUND's Bylaws, and to deliver these documents to the FUND's Executive Director with the express reservation that these documents shall become effective only upon:

- i. Approval of the LOCAL UNIT by the FUND.
- ii. Receipt from the LOCAL UNIT of a Resolution accepting assessment.
- iii. Approval by the New Jersey Department of Insurance and Department of Community Affairs.

Council Member	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham						
Mr. Kalish						
Mr. Smith						
Vice President Dunham						
President Senatore						

6. ADJOURNMENT AT _____ AM - Presiding Officer

Michele Reilly, RMC, CMR
 Township Clerk
 973-208-6133 mreilly@jeffersontownship.net

FUTURE MEETINGS will **begin at 7:00 p.m.** on each of the dates set forth below, at the **Jefferson Township Municipal Building, 1033 Weldon Road, Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey**, unless otherwise noticed below or as amended during the year by a vote of the Township Council.

REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

Wednesday, November 2
 Wednesday, December 14

Wednesday, November 30
 Wednesday, January 4, 2023 - Reorganization