

**JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
1033 WELDON ROAD
LAKE HOPATCONG, NJ 07849
973-208-6100
www.jeffersontownship.net**

**APRIL 1, 2020
REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 PM
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Finnegan read the meeting statement as follows: this meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of **April 1, 2020** was included in a list of meetings notice sent to the official newspapers of the Township, the Daily Record and the Star Ledger, on **January 3, 2020** and was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on **January 3, 2020** and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

Council President Finnegan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Mr. Birmingham	X	
Mr. Dunham	X	
Mrs. Merz	X	
Vice President Senatore	X	
President Finnegan	X	
Mr. Ryan, Township Attorney	X	
Ms. Reilly, Township Clerk	X	

Ms. Reilly called the roll. All Council members were present remotely. Also in attendance remotely were Mayor Wilsusen, Administrator Debi Millikin and Chief Financial Officer Bill Eagen. Ms. Reilly and IT Director Dave Van Valer were present at the municipal building. Members of the public were able to be present for the Council Meeting and were able to listen to or view the meeting via a "Zoom" link. Members of the public were able to participate in public comment and public hearings either in person or remotely either through the Zoom webinar or via phone through the "Zoom" link.

3. SALUTE TO THE

Council President Finnegan led the flag salute.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no special presentations for April 1, 2020.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT –

Council President Finnegan opened the public comment portion of the meeting with the consent of the members present and asked speakers to state their name and address for the record.

Robert Caruso - 30 Brady Boulevard

Mr. Caruso stated that he previously attended the March 18th meeting to comment on the increase in his property taxes. He said that he believes property taxes have increased by seven percent (7%) in the past two years. He asked why and where the money is going. Additionally, Mr. Caruso said that in reference to bonds for sewer and water, these are general obligation bonds backed by all taxpayers of the Township and not issued by the authority as stated previously by Mr. Eagen.

Mayor Wilsusen asked CFO Bill Eagen to respond. Mr. Eagen said he believed Mr. Caruso was referring to language in the index or COLA rate Ordinance, which has been set at 3 1/2% for the past two (2) years. He explained that each year the State sets a cap percentage based upon the CPI, and the cap percentage fluctuates between 0 and 2 1/2 percent. He said that the Township is allowed to elect to increase one more percent by Ordinance in order to establish a cap bank, which is there if needed. Mr. Eagen said the Township's appropriations are only increasing by 1.2%, well under the cap, and the budget is not increasing by 3 1/2%.

Mr. Eagen agreed that the Township does not have an authority but said that water and sewer bonds are backed by water and sewer revenues. He said the sewer side has almost no debt and the Township has never had a problem paying its obligations.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Council President Finnegan closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

6. ORDINANCES –PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE FOR ADOPTION - Township Clerk

ORDINANCE #20-06 – Ordinance To Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits And To Establish A Cap Bank For Calendar Year 2020 Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by Ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Jefferson in the County of Morris finds it advisable and necessary to increase its **CY 2020** budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council hereby determines that a **1.0% increase** in the budget for said year, amounting to **\$209,952.45** in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Jefferson, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the **CY 2020** budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Jefferson shall, in accordance with this Ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by **3.50%, amounting to \$734,833.58** and that the **CY 2020** municipal budget for the Township of Jefferson be approved and adopted in accordance with this Ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.
2. A certified copy of this Ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction.
3. A certified copy of this Ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

If adopted this Ordinance shall take effect after publication and passage as provided by law.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council President Finnegan opened the public hearing with the consent of the members present and Ms. Reilly asked speakers to state their name and address for the record.

Robert Caruso - 30 Brady Boulevard

Mr. Caruso asked why the Township can't live within the 2 1/2 percent and needs the extra one percent. He said he doesn't understand why the Township can't live within State guidelines and the taxpayer is not an unending source of wealth for the Township. He asked if the Township needs everything it buys.

Mr. Eagen said the 2 1/2% budget cap allows an increase of \$542,000 but the Township is only increasing appropriations by \$345,000, well within the range. Mr. Eagen said the cap bank money is there if needed, for example if there is a zero percent CPI and the Township has 2% salary increase obligations. He stated that the Cap Bank is an excellent planning tool and a rainy day tool if needed.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Council President Finnegan closed the public hearing.

INTRODUCED: MARCH 18, 2020

ADOPTED: APRIL 1, 2020

Council Member	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham			X						X			
Mr. Dunham			X						X			
Mrs. Merz		X	X				X		X			
Vice President Senatore	X		X					X	X			
President Finnegan			X						X			

ORDINANCE #20-07 - Ordinance Providing For Various Improvements To The Sanitary Sewer System In and By The Township Of Jefferson, In the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, And Appropriating \$222,500 Therefor From The Sewer Capital Improvement Fund Of The Township

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF JEFFERSON, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The improvements described in Section 2 of this Ordinance are hereby authorized to be made or acquired by The Township of Jefferson, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, as general improvements, and there is hereby appropriated therefor the sum of \$222,500, from moneys available in the Sewer Capital Improvement Fund of the Township.

Section 2. The improvements hereby authorized and the several purposes for which said appropriation is made are as follows: the acquisition of a new truck and a tow behind compressor; and the acquisition and installation of a new rotating biological contractor, together with all structures, site work, 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.

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 adoption, as provided by law.

If adopted this Ordinance shall take effect after publication and passage as provided by law.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council President Finnegan opened the public hearing with the consent of the members present and Ms. Reilly asked speakers to state their name and address for the record.

Robert Caruso - 30 Brady Boulevard

Mr. Caruso asked if these monies will be coming from the reserve of half million dollars.

Mr. Eagen said this Ordinance does not involve any borrowing and the projects are being funded from the capital improvement funds in this year's sewer operating budget and from sewer capital reserves. He said the Ordinance funds three (3) projects: \$50,000 for a utility truck, half of the RBC replacement and half of the cost for the tow behind compressor. He explained that the RBC replacement project total is \$320,000, half of which is included in this Ordinance and the other half is included in the bond Ordinance. He also explained that the total project cost for the tow behind compressor is \$25,000, half of which is funded in this Ordinance and half funded from general capital as the equipment will be shared with the DPW. Mr. Eagen said that there is a surplus or fund balance of approximately \$470,000-\$480,000 in sewer operating and this might be the half million dollars Mr. Caruso referred to.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Council President Finnegan closed the public hearing.

INTRODUCED: MARCH 18, 2020

ADOPTED: APRIL 1, 2020

Council Member	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham		X	X					X	X			
Mr. Dunham			X						X			
Mrs. Merz	X		X				X		X			
Vice President Senatore			X						X			
President Finnegan			X						X			

ORDINANCE #20-08 - Ordinance Providing For The Improvement Of The Water Supply and Distribution System In and By The Township Of Jefferson, In the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, And Appropriating \$100,000 Therefor From The Water Capital Improvement Fund Of The Township

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF JEFFERSON, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The improvements described in Section 2 of this Ordinance are hereby authorized to be made or acquired by The Township of Jefferson, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, as general improvements, and there is hereby appropriated therefor the sum of \$100,000, from moneys available in the Water Capital Improvement Fund of the Township.

Section 2. The improvements hereby authorized and the several purposes for which said appropriation is made are as follows: the improvement of the water supply and distribution system of the Township by the upgrade of radio meters, and the acquisition of new and additional water meters, cell communication and computer equipment, together with all 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.

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 adoption, as provided by law.

If adopted this Ordinance shall take effect after publication and passage as provided by law.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council President Finnegan opened the public hearing with the consent of the members present and Ms. Reilly asked speakers to state their name and address for the record.

With no one wishing to be heard, Council President Finnegan closed the public hearing.

INTRODUCED: MARCH 18, 2020

ADOPTED: APRIL 1, 2020

Council Member	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham	X		X						X			
Mr. Dunham			X						X			
Mrs. Merz			X				X		X			
Vice President Senatore		X	X					X	X			
President Finnegan			X						X			

ORDINANCE #20-09 - Ordinance Providing For Recreational Improvements To Be Undertaken By The Township of Jefferson, In The County of Morris, State of New Jersey, And Appropriating \$109,700 Therefor From Various Funds of the Township

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF JEFFERSON, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The improvements described in Section 2 of this Ordinance are hereby authorized as general improvements to be made or acquired by The Township of Jefferson, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey. For the said improvements or purposes stated in said Section 2, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$109,700, to the extent of \$79,700 from moneys available in the Recreation Trust Fund of the Township and, to the extent of \$30,000 from moneys available in the Camp Jefferson Reserve Fund of the Township.

Section 2. The improvements hereby authorized and the several purposes for which said appropriation is made are as follows: the acquisition by purchase of a utility trailer, utility vehicle attachments, a field line painter and an electronic sign board; the installation of new safety fencing at Chamberlain Park; and improvements to Lakeside Field, together with all necessary and appurtenant equipment, accessories, attachments, 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.

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 adoption, as provided by law.

If adopted this Ordinance shall take effect after publication and passage as provided by law.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council President Finnegan opened the public hearing with the consent of the members present and Ms. Reilly asked speakers to state their name and address for the record.

Robert Caruso - 30 Brady Boulevard

Mr. Caruso said he wanted to confirm that the money for this entire project is coming from the Recreation Trust Fund of the Township and the Camp Jefferson reserve and that no money is being taken from other funds to complete these projects. Mr. Eagen confirmed this and said \$79,700 is being taken from moneys available in the Recreation Trust Fund of the Township and \$30,000 is being taken from moneys available in the Camp Jefferson Reserve.

Larry LaSala - 12 Robin Drive

Mr. LaSala said he noticed the Township is planning to receive quarterly tax payments via computer but was wondering about also providing a lock box for residents. Council President Finnegan said Mr. LaSala could address this questions during regular public comment as right now public comment is being taken on Ordinance #20-09.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Council President Finnegan closed the public hearing.

INTRODUCED: MARCH 18, 2020

ADOPTED: APRIL 1, 2020

Council Member	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham			X						X			
Mr. Dunham			X						X			
Mrs. Merz	X		X				X		X			
Vice President Senatore		X	X					X	X			
President Finnegan			X						X			

ORDINANCE #20-10 - Ordinance Providing For Various Improvements Or Purposes To Be Undertaken In and By The Township of Jefferson, In The County of Morris, State of New Jersey, And Appropriating \$473,600 Therefor From Various Funds of the Township

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF JEFFERSON, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The improvements described in Section 2 of this Ordinance are hereby authorized as general improvements to be made or acquired by The Township of Jefferson, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey. For the said improvements or purposes stated in said Section 2, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$473,600, to the extent of \$448,600 from moneys available in the Capital Improvement Fund of the Township and to the extent of \$25,000 from moneys available in the Capital Surplus Fund of the Township.

Section 2. The improvements hereby authorized and the several purposes for which said appropriation is made are as follows: the acquisition of new and additional communications and computer equipment for use by various departments of the Township; the acquisition of new and additional equipment including radar units, computer equipment, light bars, vehicle lights, and police car conversions for use by the Police Department of the Township; an excavator attachment and an air compressor for use by the Department of Public Works of the Township; and an animal control vehicle and dog cages for use by the Health Department of the Township; the improvement of the Historical Society building by the renovation thereof and the upgrade of the window sills; the improvement of the municipal complex by the renovation thereof; the improvement of the White Rock Lake Pavilion by the installation of natural gas heating; the improvement of Berkshire Valley Road by the upgrade of the traffic lights; the improvement of the Police Department firearms range by the remediation thereof; the improvement of Ridge Road by the reconstruction or resurfacing thereof; and the improvement of various roads by the line striping thereof, together with, for all of the foregoing, all necessary and appurtenant equipment, accessories, attachments, work and materials, and 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.

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 adoption, as provided by law.

If adopted this Ordinance shall take effect after publication and passage as provided by law.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council President Finnegan opened the public hearing with the consent of the members present and Ms. Reilly asked speakers to state their name and address for the record.

Robert Caruso - 30 Brady Boulevard

Mr. Caruso said he had a question about the Police Department firearms range remediation. He said he believes other municipalities and other organizations are using the range and asked if they pay a fee. He said that money could be used towards the remediation. Ms. Millikin said the Township is working on a shared service agreement and the plan is to then approach other towns and organizations. Mr. Caruso asked if anyone pays a fee right now and Ms. Millikin said there was never a fee established.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Council President Finnegan closed the public hearing.

INTRODUCED: MARCH 18, 2020

ADOPTED: APRIL 1, 2020

Council Member	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham		X	X						X			
Mr. Dunham			X						X			
Mrs. Merz			X					X	X			
Vice President Senatore	X		X				X		X			
President Finnegan			X						X			

ORDINANCE #20-11 - Bond Ordinance Providing For The Improvement of the Sanitary Sewer System In and By The Township Of Jefferson, In The County Of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appropriating \$180,000 Therefor and Authorizing The Issuance Of \$180,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township For Financing Such Appropriation

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

Section 1. The improvement described in Section 3 of this Bond Ordinance is hereby authorized as a general improvement to be made or acquired by The Township of Jefferson, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey. For the said improvement or purpose stated in said Section 3, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$180,000, said sum being inclusive of all appropriations heretofore made therefor.

Section 2. For the financing of said improvement or purpose and to meet the said \$180,000 appropriation, negotiable bonds of the Township are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of \$180,000 pursuant to the Local Bond Law of New Jersey. In anticipation of the issuance of said bonds and to temporarily finance said improvement or purpose, negotiable notes of the Township in a principal amount not exceeding \$180,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to and within the limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

Section 3.

(a) The improvement hereby authorized and purpose for the financing of which said obligations are to be issued is the improvement of the sanitary sewerage system in and by the Township, including by the acquisition and installation, as necessary, of a new rotating biological contractor, together with all equipment, appurtenances, 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.

(b) The estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued for said purpose is \$180,000.

(c) The estimated cost of said purpose is \$180,000.

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

(a) The said purpose described in Section 3 of this Bond Ordinance is not current expense and 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 benefitted thereby.

(b) The period of usefulness of said purpose within the limitations of said Local Bond Law, according to the reasonable life thereof computed from the date of the said bonds authorized by this Bond Ordinance, is fifteen (15) 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, while the net debt of the Township determined as provided in said Local Bond Law is not increased by this Bond Ordinance, 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 \$180,000, 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 \$20,000 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.

(e) This Bond Ordinance authorizes obligations of the Township solely for a purpose described in subsection h of section 40A:2-7 of said Local Bond Law, and the said obligations authorized by this Bond Ordinance are to issue for a purpose which is "self-liquidating" within the meaning and limitation of section 40A:2-45 of said Local Bond Law and are deductible, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 40A:2-44 of said Local Bond Law, from gross debt of the Township.

Section 5. 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 (1) 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 N.J.S.A. 40A:2-8. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the notes 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 prices obtained and the name of the purchaser.

Section 6. 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 the Bond Ordinance. Said obligations shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Township and, unless paid from the revenues of the sanitary sewerage system of the Township, the Township shall be obligated to levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable property with the Township for the payment of said obligations and interest thereon without limitation of rate or amount.

Section 7. 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 8. This Bond Ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by said Local Bond Law.

If adopted this Ordinance shall take effect after publication and passage as provided by law.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council President Finnegan opened the public hearing with the consent of the members present and Ms. Reilly asked speakers to state their name and address for the record.

Robert Caruso - 30 Brady Boulevard

Mr. Caruso asked about Section D which references \$20,000 in obligations. He said this \$20,000 exceeds eleven percent (11%) of the total amount of the bond and asked if it was true that the Township could pay up to 11% on an \$180,000 bond.

Mr. Eagen explained that this \$20,000 is what is known as Section 20 costs, or incidental costs associated with the bond Ordinance. He said that local bond law allows the municipality to appropriate funds for the "soft costs" associated with the implementation of the Ordinance and corresponding projects. He gave examples of soft costs, such as the costs for the Bond Counsel, the auditor, newspaper advertising, and any engineering services needed for the projects. Mr. Eagen said in the last few years he hasn't included Section 20 costs in the Ordinance and these costs were covered by general capital.

Mr. Caruso asked if the bond Ordinances could be combined so the municipality doesn't pay individual fees. Mr. Eagen said the bond Ordinances couldn't be combined because the funds are coming from different users and not every person who has water also has sewer.

Mr. Caruso said he finds it unacceptable that it's going to cost the taxpayer eleven percent (11%) to issue the bond. Mr. Eagen explained that when the Township goes to market with a public note sale, there are about half a dozen Ordinances (water, sewer, and general obligation) included.

Mr. Birmingham asked if there is a plan for regular permanent financing so the Township doesn't have to pay the Bond Counsel fee every year, now that interest rates are so low. Mr. Eagen replied that the professional fees are pretty reasonable.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Council President Finnegan closed the public hearing.

INTRODUCED: MARCH 18, 2020

ADOPTED: APRIL 1, 2020

Council Member	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham			X						X			
Mr. Dunham			X						X			
Mrs. Merz	X		X				X		X			
Vice President Senatore		X	X					X	X			
President Finnegan			X						X			

ORDINANCE #20-12 - Bond Ordinance Appropriating \$145,000 And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$145,000 Bonds Or Notes Of The Township, For Various Improvements Or Purposes Authorized To Be Undertaken By The Township Of Jefferson, In The County Of Morris, State Of New Jersey, For The Water Supply and Distribution System Of The Township

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF JEFFERSON, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, (not less than two-thirds of all the members 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 Jefferson, in the County of Morris, State of 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, except as described below, being inclusive of all appropriations heretofore made therefor and amounting in the aggregate to \$145,000.

Section 2. For the financing of said improvements or purposes and to meet the said \$145,000 appropriations, negotiable bonds of the Township are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of \$145,000 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 \$145,000 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:

<u>IMPROVEMENT</u>	<u>APPROPRIATION AND ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>ESTIMATED MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF BONDS AND NOTES</u>
(a) Acquisition by purchase of new and additional vehicular Equipment for use by the Water Utility of the Township, including one (1) utility truck, together with all attachments, appurtenances and equipment necessary therefor or incidental thereto, all in accordance with the specifications therefor on file or to be filed in the office of the Township Clerk and hereby approved, the \$79,000 appropriation hereby made therefor being exclusive of the sum of \$79,000 appropriated under other Ordinances of the Township	\$75,000	\$75,000
(b) Acquisition by purchase and installation, as necessary, of new and additional computer equipment, together with for all the aforesaid 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	\$70,000	\$70,000
TOTALS	\$145,000	\$145,000

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

(a) The said purposes described in Section 3 of the 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 benefitted 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 5.96 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, while the net debt of the Township determined as provided in said Local Bond Law is not increased by this Bond Ordinance, 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 \$145,000, 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 \$20,000 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.

(e) This Bond Ordinance authorizes obligations of the Township solely for purposes described in paragraph (h) of section 40A:2-7 of said Local Bond Law, and the said obligations authorized by this Bond Ordinance are to be issued for a purpose which is self-liquidating within the meaning and limitations of section 40A:2-45 of said Local Bond Law and are deductible, pursuant to paragraph (c) of section 40A:2-44 of said Local Bond Law, from gross debt of the Township.

Section 5. 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 (1) 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 N.J.S.A. 40A:2-8. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the notes 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 prices obtained and the name of the purchaser.

Section 6. 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, unless paid from the revenues of the water supply and distribution system of the Township, the Township shall be obligated to levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable property with the Township for the payment of said obligations and interest thereon without limitation of rate or amount.

Section 7. 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 8. This Bond Ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by said Local Bond Law.

If adopted this Ordinance shall take effect after publication and passage as provided by law.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council President Finnegan opened the public hearing with the consent of the members present and Ms. Reilly asked speakers to state their name and address for the record.

Robert Caruso - 30 Brady Boulevard

Mr. Caruso said his comment is similar to his previous comment about spending \$20,000 in incidental costs on a \$145,000 bond. He asked why the Township has to float a bond for the utility truck and computer equipment and why these purchases can't be made with capital surplus.

Mr. Eagen said his answer is the same, that the \$20,000 is allowable for incidental costs relating to issuing the bonds. He explained that issuing a bond is not necessarily just a one (1) year expenditure. He said in theory, a note can be rolled over ten (10) times and then permanent financing would occur. He said he doesn't anticipate that will happen as the Township typically tries to pay off as much debt as possible in an aggressive manner. Mr. Eagen stated that last year the Township paid off all the water short term debt by moving capital reserves to operating. He commented that the decision was made to bond because paying through capital would leave the reserves too low for his comfort if an emergency were to occur.

Mr. Caruso asked how the Township could roll over the purchase of a utility truck and computer equipment for ten (10) years. He said in his opinion it was unacceptable to be financing these in a bond and the money should be taken out of regular operating funds. He said in his opinion this was a poor use of a bond and will cost the taxpayers a lot of money for something that won't last.

Mr. Eagen said not all taxpayers will be funding this bond and it is a user paid item. He said the useful life of the purchases were calculated based on local bond law. Mr. Eagen stated that the Township tries to strike a balance between bonding and not bonding projects and has been aggressively paying off close to a million dollars in short term notes every year. He said he takes the process very personally and has calculated that for every \$100,000 not bonded or borrowed, the Township probably saves \$35,000 over the life of the bond issue if it was eventually permanently financed. He stated that the Township's goal is to not have any long term bonds in the future but the market may dictate otherwise if interest rates are low and a big project is being considered.

With no one else wishing to be heard, Council President Finnegan closed the public hearing.

INTRODUCED: MARCH 18, 2020

ADOPTED: APRIL 1, 2020

Council Member	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham			X					X	X			
Mr. Dunham			X						X			
Mrs. Merz	X		X				X		X			
Vice President Senatore		X	X						X			
President Finnegan			X						X			

ORDINANCE #20-13 - Bond Ordinance Appropriating \$3,201,700 And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$3,041,700 Bonds Or Notes Of The Township, For Various Improvements Or Purposes Authorized To Be Undertaken By The Township Of Jefferson, In The County Of Morris, State Of New Jersey

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF JEFFERSON, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, (not less than two-thirds of all the members 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 Jefferson, in the County of Morris, State of 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, except as described below, being inclusive of all appropriations heretofore made therefor and amounting in the aggregate to \$3,201,700 including the aggregate sum of \$160,000 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 by virtue of provision in a previously adopted budget or budgets of the Township for down payment or for capital improvement purposes and including also in the case of the improvement or purpose described in Section 3(b) hereof, the aggregate sum of \$350,000 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 (and in particular the improvement of Ridge Road).

Section 2. For the financing of said improvements or purposes and to meet the part of said \$3,201,700 appropriations not provided for by application hereunder of said down payments, negotiable bonds of the Township are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of \$3,401,700 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 \$3,401,700 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:

<u>IMPROVEMENT</u>	<u>APPROPRIATION AND ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>ESTIMATED MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF BONDS AND NOTES</u>
(a) Improvement of municipally-owned properties and facilities In and by the Township, including the Department of Public Works garage and office by the installation of screening and awnings, and the conversion to a natural gas heating system, and the Municipal Complex by the upgrade of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system and the upgrade of the roof, together with for all the aforesaid all equipment, structures, site work, furnishings, work and materials necessary therefor or incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor on file	\$694,000	\$660,900

or to be filed in the office of the Township Clerk and hereby approved

<p>(b) Improvement of various roads in and by the Township by the reconstruction and resurfacing thereof to provide roadway pavements at least equal in useful life or durability to a roadway surface of Class B construction (as such term is used or referred to in Section 40A:2-22 of said Local Bond Law), including and Cozy Lake Road, Chamberlain Road, Legion Road, Milton Road, Pudding Stone Lane and Ridge Road (NJDOT Match) including also, the improvement of various roads in and by the Township by the cape sealing and micro sealing thereof, including Winding Brook Lane, Summer Walk Circle, Kates Turn, Edgewater Avenue, Mansfield Way, Country Lake Drive, Little Doe Run, Fox Chase Road, Wood Duck Cove, Pheasant Walk, Whispering Pines Way and Courtney Drive, together with for all the aforesaid all oil and chipping, guide rails, reflectors, signage, dividers, curbing, milling, drainage structures and improvements, equipment, 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, the \$1,220,000 appropriation hereby made therefor being inclusive of the sum of \$350,000 received or expected to be received by the Township from the New Jersey Department of Transportation as a grant-in-aid of financing the improvement to Ridge Road.</p>	<p>\$1,220,000</p>	<p>\$1,161,000</p>
<p>(c) Acquisition by purchase of new and additional vehicular equipment including one (1) utility vehicle for use by the Office of Emergency Management of the Township, two (2) Dump trucks and one (1) pickup truck for use by the Department of Public Works of the Township, and one (1) Ambulance for use by the Milton First Aid Squad of the Township, together with all attachments, appurtenances 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</p>	<p>\$630,000</p>	<p>\$593,600</p>
<p>(d) Improvement of the storm water drainage system in and by the Township, including the reconstruction of drainage facilities in and along portions of various roads including Notch Road and Laurel Drive, together with all structures, road resurfacing, equipment, 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</p>	<p>\$250,000</p>	<p>\$238,000</p>
<p>(e) Acquisition by purchase and installation, as necessary, of new and additional equipment, including snow removal equipment and an asphalt hot box for use by the Department of Public Works of the Township, one (1) mower and two (2) Toro Workmen for use by the Recreation Department of the Township, and equipment for use by the Fire Companies of the Township, together with for all the aforesaid all attachments, appurtenances and accessories necessary therefor or incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the specifications therefor or file or to be filed in the office of the Township Clerk and hereby approved</p>	<p>\$407,700</p>	<p>\$388,200</p>
<p>TOTALS</p>	<p>\$3,201,700</p>	<p>\$3,041,700</p>

Except as otherwise stated in paragraph (b) above with respect to the said \$350,000 grant-in-aid of financing said improvement to Ridge Road, 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 benefitted 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 13.09 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 \$3,041,700, 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 \$320,000 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 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 costs 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 received may, and all such funds so received which are not required for direct payment of such costs 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 (1) 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 N.J.S.A. 40A:2-8. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the notes 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 prices 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 with 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.

If adopted this Ordinance shall take effect after publication and passage as provided by law.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council President Finnegan opened the public hearing with the consent of the members present and Ms. Reilly asked speakers to state their name and address for the record.

Robert Caruso - 30 Brady Boulevard

Mr. Caruso asked what the Township is getting and why. He asked about the screening and awning at the DPW and why it was needed. Ms. Millikin stated that this is for the structure over the door entrances and exits. Mayor Wilsusen said the reason for the purchase is that there is a problem with ice coming off the metal roof and since the doorways are unprotected there is a safety issue. He said the screening is needed to keep birds out.

Mr. Caruso asked a question about dump trucks but then said he had misread the Ordinance. He asked about the purchase of the ambulance for the Milton First Aid Squad. He mentioned driving by Jefferson Rescue over the weekend and seeing three (3) ambulances parked outside and wondered why one of those couldn't be moved over to the Milton First Aid Squad. He also said his understanding was that St. Clare's Ambulances are covering Jefferson 5-6 days a week as volunteerism is a problem.

Mayor Wilsusen said that the two (2) squads are independent organizations and the Township funds their ambulances. He said he was confident that Jefferson Rescue will be taking the steps necessary to increase their numbers of volunteers and unless they are disbanding the Township will continue to fund them.

Mr. Caruso said he would like to know what a Toro Workman is since the Township is purchasing two of them. Mayor Wilsusen said it's a utility vehicle, almost an ATV, with a dump body on the back, and it is used to maintain the Township fields.

Council President Finnegan said she was sorry to stop Mr. Caruso but his time was up

With no one else wishing to be heard, Council President Finnegan closed the public hearing.

INTRODUCED: MARCH 18, 2020

ADOPTED: APRIL 1, 2020

Council Member	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham			X						X			
Mr. Dunham			X								X	
Mrs. Merz		X	X						X			
Vice President Senatore	X		X				X		X			
President Finnegan			X					X	X			

ORDINANCE #20-14 - Ordinance Amending Chapter 130 of the Jefferson Township Municipal Code Entitled "Vehicles & Traffic" To Create Article XXV, Municipal Building and Library Parking

WHEREAS, the Township of Jefferson desires to amend Chapter 130 of the Township of Jefferson Code, Vehicles and Traffic, to include regulations regarding municipal building and library parking; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Jefferson is creating Article XXV, Municipal Building and Library Parking, and establishing Chapters 130-64 and 130-65.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Jefferson, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, that the Jefferson Township Municipal Code is hereby amended by the adoption of Article XXV, Municipal Building and Library Parking, Chapters 130-64 and 130-65, as follows:

SECTION I

A new Article XXV, Municipal Building and Library Parking, Chapters 130-64 and 130-65, shall be adopted as follows:

Article XXV Municipal Building and Library Parking

130-64 Reserved and visitors parking.

- A. There is no parking in spaces designated for Township vehicles and Township employees except for Township vehicles and vehicles being used by Township employees.
- B. Parking is permitted in all other spaces for persons using the Public Library during the regular business hours of the Library.
- C. For all other persons, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., visitor parking at the Township Municipal Building shall be limited to a two-hour period and shall only be permitted in front of the Township Municipal Building, Library, creative playground and dog park. All other areas shall be deemed a driveway unless otherwise marked, and there shall be no parking in such areas.

130-65 Violation and penalties

Violations and penalties. Unless another penalty is expressly provided by New Jersey statute, any person or entity convicted of a violation of this section shall be punished, for a first conviction thereof, by a fine of not more than \$100. For a second such conviction, such person or entity shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$200. Upon the third or any subsequent conviction, such person or entity shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500.

SECTION II

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

SECTION III

If any article, section, subsection, paragraphs, phrase or sentence is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, said article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence shall be deemed severable.

SECTION IV

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final publication as provided by law.

If adopted this Ordinance shall take effect after publication and passage as provided by law.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council President Finnegan opened the public hearing with the consent of the members present and Ms. Reilly asked speakers to state their name and address for the record.

With no one wishing to be heard, Council President Finnegan closed the public hearing.

INTRODUCED: MARCH 18, 2020

ADOPTED: APRIL 1, 2020

Council Member	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham		X	X					X	X			
Mr. Dunham			X						X			
Mrs. Merz			X					X				
Vice President Senatore	X		X				X	X				
President Finnegan			X					X				

7. COUNCIL AND MAYOR DISCUSSION

There were no items for Council and Mayor discussion.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS OF MAYOR AND ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Wilsusen gave a Covid-19 update and said as of 7:00 pm tonight the Township has twenty-seven (27) positive cases and one (1) fatality, possibly Covid related. He said the deceased was an 86 years old male with pre-existing health conditions and on behalf of the Township he wanted to extend his deepest condolences to the family and friends. He stated that the Health Department is following protocols and identifying close contacts and family members, who are being asked to self-quarantine.

Mayor Wilsusen said he knows the numbers of infected residents will increase. He said he understands that residents want more information but there are certain things that can't be released to the public, such as identifying information of those infected.

Mayor Wilsusen stated that Health Departments across the country are being overwhelmed and said the Township's Health Officer, Peter Tabbot, is doing a fantastic job. He also mentioned the public health nurses, Gayle Johnson and Desirae Nigro. He thanked the first responders and said right now the Township is doing ok with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). He mentioned that PPE is in short supply throughout the country but right now Jefferson's first responders are prepared, and he thanked OEM Coordinator Ed Mangold for being on top of the situation.

Mayor Wilsusen thanked Township employees, who are now working staggered hours. He said it's possible the municipal offices may end up staffed by essential employees only. He thanked Ms. Millikin, the Administrator, and said he doesn't do this alone but has an awesome team trying to keep local government moving forward in spite of difficult conditions. Mayor Wilsusen mentioned that the Building Department is still taking permit applications. He responded to Mr. LaSala's earlier query about the drop box by stating that one had been installed outside the municipal building and this had been planned prior to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Mayor Wilsusen said he is trying to push out as much information as he can and thanked Social Media Coordinator Aimee Hannon, who he said is working overtime and keeping the resource page updated. He said he forwards to her anything he receives, such as small business information, or information about the CARES act, and she includes the information on the website. He stated that anything he receives that might assist residents and/or small businesses, he will be putting out.

Mayor Wilsusen mentioned that it's sometimes difficult to make sure the senior population is included in the communications because they don't necessarily have technology and/or computers. He said that Cheryl at the Senior Center has been reaching out and making contact with seniors and that Ed Mangold had spoken to the Presidents of both senior organizations. He also mentioned that the retired senior volunteer program is reaching out to seniors and reading them the RAVE messages, as well as encouraging Rave sign-ups.

Mayor Wilsusen commended the Recreation Department and Aimee Hannon for their video. He said Recreation has also asked the Fire Departments if they would be willing to do Easter Bunny visits, much like the Santa visits. He said that a schedule will be coming out and Fire Company #2 will be starting this weekend to bring residents some cheer. He also mentioned that Fire Company #1 is starting birthday drive-byes.

Mayor Wilsusen reported that Fire Company #1 received their new truck and brought it by the municipal building and that the other truck is being traded in.

Mayor Wilsusen updated Council on Mason Street and said residents had requested the Township install a gate at the end of the street where the trailhead meets the end of Mason Street. He said it's being installed and will prevent those trying to enter Liffy Island and the Prospect Point Preserve from accessing private property.

Mayor Wilsusen reported that Dial A Ride operations are a little slow at present, so the services have been cut back but are still available to those who need it.

Mayor Wilsusen thanked residents for their cooperation. He said the Police Department reports that most people are compliant, with some issues reported with kids using the playgrounds on nicer days. He reminded people to self-isolate, wash hands, and not to touch your face.

Ms. Millikin said it was the Administration's recommendation that the Township continue to waive online fees along with fire prevention fees through July 1st, and that there is a resolution on the agenda to memorialize what was decided at the last Council meeting. Mr. Ryan stated that the resolution formalizes what was presented at the last Council meeting and facilitates the waiver of the credit card fee as well as waives the enhanced fee for emergency fire inspections for the remainder of the state of emergency or through July 1, 2020, whichever comes first.

Ms. Millikin mentioned the municipal building has been closed but people are still being allowed to make appointments as long as they pass a criteria of questions. She offered thanks to the public for their patience and understanding and said the hope is to prevent employees being exposed to Covid-19 if possible. She stated that the staggered hours which began last week are working well, and that now everyone, including DPW, Parks, and Water and Sewer Utilities employees are all staggering. She reiterated working hours are Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm and Friday from 8:00 am - 2:30 pm.

Ms. Millikin said she and Mr. Eagen have been working on the power point budget presentation, which will be emailed out to Council the Friday prior to the next meeting. She said it will also be put on the website for the public to view and she will make sure it's available that night to share at the meeting.

Ms. Millikin told Council that the Tax Collector brought up that the Township is still paying County and school taxes on seventy-eight (78) properties which could be foreclosed on. She proposed to work on these properties in batches with Mr. Ryan's firm, to do a quick title search and foreclose so the Township doesn't have to pay the other taxes any longer. She said as long as Council had no objection she would start the process with Mr. Ryan's office.

Ms. Millikin said she expected the proposed Mason Street Ordinance to be ready for the first meeting in May.

9. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Birmingham said there have been no functions to attend. He said one of his college aged daughter's friends made a list of all the things that have taken place over the past four (4) weeks, like cancelling sports, and it's almost unbelievable. He thanked the Mayor, Police Department, and Emergency Management and everyone involved for stepping up and going beyond the call of duty.

Councilwoman Merz mentioned that April is Autism Awareness Month and tomorrow is "light up your lights for Autism" so she asked residents to put on their porch lights. She said she has family members on the spectrum and wanted to bring this up to increase public awareness.

Councilwoman Merz talked about the all the great resources available digitally through the Library, like E books and magazines, streaming movies, and Tumble E books for kids. She said parents are also sharing a lot of great resources over social media.

Councilwoman Merz asked the Mayor to clarify the situation with County parks, and Mayor Wilsusen replied that County trails and open space areas are open to the public but recreation playing fields and basketball courts are closed. Councilwoman Merz said she thinks a lot of people from different municipalities are coming to Jefferson to use the parks and she's happy that Jefferson has chosen to preserve County and open space property as it's a wonderful resource.

Councilwoman Merz thanked the Administrator and Mayor and especially the emergency services. She asked Mayor Wilsusen if there were other volunteer opportunities for residents. Mayor Wilsusen said there are a lot of people asking to volunteer. He mentioned that the Recreation Department will be putting virtual activities online. He said that in reference to Autism Awareness, the Police Department has magnets on their cars showing support for the cause.

Councilman Dunham offered a shout out to the administration, particularly OEM, and said there has been lots of communication and he appreciates it. He mentioned that he has been to the hospital with patients three to four (3-4) times now and it's not a pretty sight and reminds him of some bad things he saw in Vietnam. He said he was glad to hear that the citizenry is cooperating.

Councilman Dunham said it was nice to see Barbara Shepherd recognized on her sixteen (16) years of service and retirement even under these conditions.

Councilman Dunham thanked Ms. Reilly, the Township Clerk, for working above and beyond the normal routine. He wished everyone the best of health.

Council Vice President Senatore said she enjoyed the Recreation Department video and it was nice to see everyone again. She reiterated that it is Autism Awareness month and mentioned the light up tomorrow night. She said it's a challenging and stressful time for parents who have kids home from school, some of them with special needs, and she encouraged parents to reach out to the schools and communicate with the teachers.

Council Vice President Senatore thanked the Police, Fire, and Rescue Departments for going above and beyond. She said she has seen lots of people taking advantage of fishing on the lake and has been meeting new neighbors while out walking but being socially distant. She said Jefferson is a great community and hopes everyone stays safe.

Council President Finnegan thanked the Mayor for keeping the residents abreast of what's going on. She said the emergency services family and OEM have been wonderful. She thanked OEM for making sure the emergency services volunteers have everything they need because EMS is now the first man in. She also thanked the EMS volunteers for their willingness to be there for their Township.

Council President Finnegan mentioned that there is a group of people making masks for the hospital and emergency workers and their goal is to make one thousand (1,000) masks. She said there is another group of people who are willing to go shopping for seniors. She stated that Jefferson is a wonderful community and everyone should stay safe.

10. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #20-95 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF JEFFERSON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING OR WAIVING SERVICE FEES AND ENHANCED FIRE INSPECTION FEES"

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67, et seq., authorizes the Governing Body of a municipality, by resolution, to fix and adjust charges and interest for assessments, municipal liens or other charges, unless otherwise provided by law; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Jefferson wishes to temporarily suspend or waive fees or charges otherwise established by Local Ordinance during the period of a State of Emergency declared by the State or Federal government; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the Honorable Philip D. Murphy, has declared such a State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, at its regularly scheduled meeting held on March 18, 2020, the Township Council of the Township of Jefferson unanimously and by voice vote agreed to temporarily suspend or waive service fees charged to residents using a credit card to pay their utility and/or property taxes until April 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, at its regularly scheduled meeting held on March 18, 2020, the Township Council of the Township of Jefferson unanimously and by voice vote agreed to reduce the enhanced fees for emergency home fire inspections to \$50.00 until April 1, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Jefferson extends the waiver of the service fees charged to residents for using a credit card to pay their utility and/or property taxes during the current State of Emergency declared by Governor Murphy and until the State of Emergency is declared ended by the Governor, or until July 1, 2020, whichever occurs first.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Jefferson also extends the reduction of the enhanced fees for emergency home fire inspections to \$50.00 until the current State of Emergency is declared ended by the Governor or until July 1, 2020, whichever occurs first.

Council Member	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham			X			
Mr. Dunham			X			
Mrs. Merz	X		X			
Vice President Senatore		X	X			
President Finnegan			X			

11. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

There were no Ordinance for first reading on April 1, 2020.

12. CONSENT AGENDA*

***Matters listed on the Consent Agenda Resolution are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion of the Council and one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member requests an item be removed for consideration.**

***PERMITS/LICENSES**

- None

***APPOINTMENTS**

- None

***CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

- 20-91 Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills
- 20-92 Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Overpayment(s) of Recreation Fees
- 20-93 Resolution Authorizing a Disabled Veterans Exemption and the Cancellation of Taxes - Mooney, Block 224, Lot 27
- 20-94 Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Overpayment(s) of Taxes

Council Member	By	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham		X	X			
Mr. Dunham			X			
Mrs. Merz	X		X			
Vice President Senatore			X			
President Finnegan			X			

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Wilsusen stated that Assemblywoman Betty Lou DeCroce has been listening in to the meeting and he wants to recognize her and thank her for all the help she gives to Township residents.

Council President Finnegan opened the public comment portion of the meeting with the consent of the members present and asked speakers to state their name and address for the record.

Robert Caruso - 30 Brady Boulevard

Mr. Caruso said he would appreciate it if the Township would send someone over to Prospect Point and pick up the bags of dog poop and trash that is being left behind by those using the trails. Mr. Caruso asked how many times a day the drop box is emptied. Mayor Wilsusen said every day. Mr. Caruso asked if it is emptied multiple times and Ms. Millikin said it is normally emptied in the morning but that someone watches the door and will check the box again if they see something placed in it.

Mr. Caruso addressed Mr. Eagen and said he wanted to apologize if Mr. Eagen thought that some of the comments he made were personal. He said he makes his comments because of the amount of taxes he pays. He mentioned that Senate President Steve Sweeney stated that thirty percent (30%) of New Jersey residents are leaving the state because of property taxes and he will probably have to do so when he retires because he won't be able to afford to live here. Mr. Caruso said in the private sector he has to justify everything he buys all the time and so his comments were about making sure the effect on the taxpayer is considered. He said there was no personal attack on Mr. Eagen or his abilities intended.

Mr. Eagen thanked Mr. Caruso and said he applauded him for all his comments and for attending budget meetings. He said what he takes personally is the policy of trying to bond as little as possible and paying for projects out of funds available. He commented that out of the \$345,000 appropriations increase, \$270,000 is earmarked to reduce the overall debt of the Township, to pay down short terms notes and to increase capital improvement funds so more projects can be completed without bonding. Mr. Eagen said that many people don't ask about the budget until they get their tax bills, so he welcomes the comments and values the input from residents.

Council Vice President Senatore told Mr. Caruso that Council also asks a lot of questions and requires justification for budget requests. She said people just listening in for the vote don't hear all the why, what and where questions Council has asked previously.

Councilman Birmingham remarked that the bond Ordinance includes an aggressive paving plan. He said many of the roads being paved are going to be handled by New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) and that the administration has been very aggressive in trying to bring natural gas into town. He stated that the infrastructure improvements, such as the addition of natural gas and paved streets, will be beneficial to homeowners and they will see the results of the bond.

Larry LaSala - 12 Robin Drive

Mr. LaSala asked if there has been discussion about an additional extension for people who have property taxes due, because of the fiscal crunch. Ms. Millikin said the Division of Local Government Services is not recommending the extension of the grace period at this point and no municipal authority exists to extend the grace period past ten (10) days.

Mayor Wilsusen stated that Assemblywoman DeCroce is having technical difficulties but would like to speak before the meeting is over. Council President Finnegan recommended finishing public comment first then allowing the Assemblywoman the chance to speak.

Gabe Maffei - 30 Shore Road

Mr. Maffei asked about the rules for quarantine and said his neighbors, who live in California, rent their house through Air B&B. He stated that over the weekend, people from New York started staying there and he witnessed the person leaving in the morning and coming back at night. He said he thought people were supposed to self-quarantine for fourteen (14) days if they were crossing state lines. He commented that he is upset and this feels wrong and he doesn't really know what the rules are for renting in town and also for the quarantine.

Mayor Wilsusen said the Township is aware of the situation and the Health Department and Police Department have received calls. He said this is not an illegal situation. He commented that there is no quarantine from state to state at this time and people are free to travel if they are essential employees. Mayor Wilsusen mentioned that the Township has a draft Air B&B Ordinance which he hopes to bring to Council this year.

Assemblywoman Betty Lou DeCroce -

Assemblywoman DeCroce congratulated the Council on a great meeting. She reviewed some of the Covid-19 statistics shared by the Governor earlier in the day and said that all twenty-one (21) counties have been affected. She reminded everyone to take this seriously, to take precautions, to be cautious of what you are doing and to social distance.

Assemblywoman DeCroce said the State income tax filing date has been moved from April 15th to July 15th and that the State fiscal year has been extended from July 1st to September 30th. She mentioned that the DEP is keeping parks and wildlife management areas open throughout the State, although restrooms and other facilities are not open and social distancing applies.

Assemblywoman DeCroce reported that trout season is starting early although fishermen can't keep what is caught until the start of the season on April 11th and they must have a trout stamp and current license. She said licensed firearms dealers can operate through appointment only, auto dealerships can conduct business through online or remote sales and offsite pickup of vehicles, real estate agents can meet one on one but no open houses, and craft breweries can deliver.

Assemblywoman DeCroce mentioned that the small business emergency assistance program grant information will be posted on the State's Covid-19 business information hub on April 3rd. She said that the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development is encouraging employers to keep employees on the payroll and to utilize the payroll tax credits being provided by the federal stimulus package. She said there is a moratorium on water shutoffs.

Assemblywoman DeCroce said her staff is working staggered hours and there is no public access to her building but she is available via phone and email and is pushing out updates via social media. Mayor Wilsusen said he receives her updates and posts them for residents and thanked her for keeping him in the loop. She thanked the Council and Mayor for all they are doing and said she felt confident we will all get through this together.

Councilman Dunham asked if there has been any mention or discussion of pushing back the date for the collection of property taxes. Assemblywoman DeCroce said she has asked the question but hasn't really received an answer.

Councilman Birmingham asked about the status of the Homestead Rebate and Assemblywoman DeCroce said all items will be on the table during budget discussions. She mentioned that she also has concerns about the money allocated for Lake Hopatcong. She stated that all legislators are working together to get through this crisis but she will be fighting for her constituents when it comes down to making budget decisions.

Council President Finnegan thanked the Assemblywoman for spending the time with Jefferson this evening.

Council President Finnegan announced that she would be closing the second public comment session as there are some problems with many bogus calls coming through and there is no way to differentiate between legitimate calls and pranks. She said if anyone has any questions or comments to please email the Council and they will be happy to answer.

Township Clerk Michele Reilly offered a thank you to IT Director Dave Van Valer and to Matt Beekman for making tonight's meeting possible. Council also thanked the IT Department.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session for April 1, 2020.

15. ADJOURNMENT AT 9:00 PM

Motion made by Councilman Birmingham, second by Council Vice President Senatore to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, with all members in favor signifying by "Aye".

ATTEST: April 1, 2020

Michele Reilly, Township Clerk

Kim Finnegan, Council President

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

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTION #20-91

"RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF BILLS"

WHEREAS, the Business Administrator has reviewed and approved purchase orders requested by the Township Department Heads; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Office has certified that funds are available in the proper account; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Office has approved payment, upon certification from the Township Department Heads that the goods and/or services have been rendered to the Township; and

WHEREAS, purchases under State Contract or under Morris County Cooperative Purchasing Agreement were made where applicable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Jefferson, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, that the current bills, dated April 1, 2020 and on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Treasurer and approved by him/her for payment, be paid.

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTION #20-92

"RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT(S) OF RECREATION FEES"

WHEREAS, there appears on the Recreation Department records overpayment(s) as shown below; and

WHEREAS, said overpayment(s) were created by the reasons indicated; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Department recommends the refund(s) of such overpayment(s).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Jefferson, County of Morris, State of New Jersey that the proper officers are hereby authorized and directed to issue checks and refund such overpayment(s) as hereafter shown below:

CODE OF REASONS

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Incorrect Payment | 2. Duplicate Payment | 3. Withdrawal from Program |
| 4. Program Cancelled | 5. Expelled Participant | |

PAYEE	PROGRAM	AMOUNT	CODE
Robyn Swankie 229 South New Jersey Avenue Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849	2020 Bowling Program W/out Meals	\$63.00	3
Billie Burke Meeker 44 Espanong Road Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849	2020 Bowling Program W/Meals	\$90.00	3
	TOTAL REFUNDS:	\$153.00	

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTION #20-93

“RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A DISABLED VETERANS EXEMPTION AND THE CANCELLATION OF TAXES – MOONEY, BLOCK 224, LOT 27”

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor has approved an application for a totally Disabled Veteran Exemption for **Mr. Roger P. Mooney**; and

WHEREAS, based on the approved permanently Disabled Veterans application date of **March 12, 2020**, **Mr. Roger P. Mooney** is entitled to a refund of his 2020 1st Quarter taxes in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the Township of Jefferson does recommend a refund of 2020 1st Quarter taxes paid based on date of approved permanently Disabled Veterans application, **March 12, 2020**.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Jefferson, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, that the Chief Financial Officer be and is hereby authorized to issue checks for the payments appearing on the tax records as follows:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>QUARTER/YR</u>
Roger Mooney	25 Long Rd, Block 224, Lot 27	\$1,751.12	1 st 2020

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Tax Collector be and is hereby authorized to cancel said taxes as follows:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>QUARTER/YR</u>
Roger Mooney	25 Long Rd, Block 224, Lot 27	\$1,751.11	2 nd 2020
		To Be Billed	3 rd 2020
		To Be Billed	4 th 2020

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTION #20-94

“RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT(S) OF TAXES”

WHEREAS, there appears on the tax records overpayment(s) as shown below; and

WHEREAS, said overpayment(s) were created by the reasons indicated; and

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes recommends the refund(s) of such overpayment(s).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Jefferson, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, that the proper officers are hereby authorized and directed to issue checks to refund such overpayment(s) as hereafter shown below:

CODE OF REASONS

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Incorrect Payment | 2. Adjustment of Assessment | 3. Homestead Rebate | 4. Overbilled | 5. Third Party Lien |
| 6. Duplicate Payment | 7. Exempt | 8. County/State Board Appeal | 9. Overpayment | |
| 10. Return of Premium | 11. New Jersey Saver | 12. Return of Recording Fee | 13. Vets, Senior Citizen Deduction | |

BLOCK	LOT	NAME	AMOUNT	CODE	YEAR
447.01	4	US BANK C/F PC7, FIRSTRUST BANK	\$25,412.36	5	2020
20	37.032	Spiotti & Esposito -2012 Appeal Jarvis	\$601.50	8	2020
			TOTAL	\$26,013.86	