

**TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN
COUNTY OF OCEAN
WARETOWN, N. J.**

REORGANIZATION MEETING: **January 1, 2024** **12:00 pm**

CALL TO ORDER: by Municipal Clerk, Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC:

JANUARY 1, 2024 **BAULDERSTONE** **X** **DODD** **X** **LOPARO** **X**

FLAG SALUTE: Southern Regional High School JR ROTC, Under the supervision of Technical Sergeant Vasquez, presented the colors and lead the flag salute

INVOCATION: Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio invited Pastor Daniel Ulrich, Lord of Lords Church to give the invocation.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR: Township Administrator/Clerk Ambrosio invited Pastor Dawn R. Corlew, Waretown United Methodist Church, to give the prayer for the New Year.

STATEMENT: Pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting was properly provided by sending copies of the Notice of Meeting to two newspapers The Press of Atlantic City and the Asbury Park Press. The Notice was posted at the office of the Township Clerk and on the bulletin board in the Administration Building.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED:

OATH OF OFFICE to Committeeman Kenneth Boulderstone, who was elected for a three-year term.

Ken Boulderstone is sworn in by Township Clerk Ambrosio.

NOMINATION FOR MAYOR/CHAIRPERSON for the year 2024:

Ben LoParo nominated Lydia Dodd for the office of Mayor/Chairperson for the year 2024.

Committeeman Boulderstone seconded the nomination.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

OATH OF OFFICE administered to Mayor/Chairperson for the year 2024.

Lydia Dodd is sworn in by Township Clerk Ambrosio.

MEETING OFFICIALLY turned over to Chairperson/Mayor:

NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY MAYOR/DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON for the year 2024:

Committeeman Ken Bauldserstone nominated Ben LoParo for the office of Deputy Mayor/Deputy Chairperson for the year 2024. Mayor Dodd seconded the nomination.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

OATH OF OFFICE administered to Deputy Mayor/Deputy Chairperson for the year 2024.

Ben LoParo is sworn in by Township Clerk Ambrosio.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-1 – Resolution appointing Professionals for the year 2024 in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:11-1 et. seq.

Motion to approve was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Mayor Dodd invited Mr. Dasti to join the Committee at the desk as the Township Attorney.

CONSENT AGENDA

The below listed items are considered to be routine by the Township Committee of the Township of Ocean and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no formal discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, this item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered separately

- 2024-2 Resolution authorizing Committeewoman Lydia Dodd as Chairperson/Liaison for Administration, Construction & Zoning, Historical Society Greenbriar Oceanaire Homeowners, Environmental/Green Team, Health Commissioner**
- 2024-3 Resolution authorizing Committeeman Kenneth Boulderstone as Chairperson/Liaison for Department of Public Works, Senior Advisory, Special Events, Fire Department, First Aid, Planning/Redevelopment**
- 2024-4 Resolution authorizing Committeeman Benjamin LoParo as Chairperson/Liaison for Police Department, Municipal Court, Homeowners Association, Municipal Alliance, Recreation, School District**
- 2024-5 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, providing dates of the Township Committee Meetings and designating official newspapers for the year 2024**
- 2024-6 Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC - Redevelopment Secretary, Economic Development Committee Secretary, Election Officer, Employee Insurance Rep/Affordable Care Act Coordinator**
- 2024-7 Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC – Public Agency Compliance Officer**
- 2024-8 Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC, and Jeanne Broadbent Keepers of the Poor**
- 2024-9 Michele Giardino – Deputy Clerk, , Board of Health Secretary, Employee Insurance Rep and Animal Licensing Official**
- 2024-10 Amanda Bonfonti - Administrative Assistant, Special Events, Alternate Economic Development Secretary, and Environmental Commission Recording Secretary**
- 2024-11 Casey Walford – Acting Qualified Purchasing Agent**
- 2024-12 Ericka Ponce – Payroll**
- 2024-13 Mary Ellen Brown – Part-Time Accounting Clerk/Purchasing**
- 2024-14 Amber L. Bird – Principal Billing Clerk**
- 2024-15 David Rossi – Administrative Assistant in the Tax/Utility Office**
- 2024-16 Jeanne Broadbent – Recreation Director- Shared Service Barnegat Township of Ocean Municipal Alliance Coordinator, Secretary to Senior Advisory Committee**
- 2024-17 Lorraine Clune – Zoning Officer, Secretary, Planning Board, Code Enforcement Officer**
- 2024-18 Ashley Harper – Administrative Assistant Construction/Zoning**
- 2024-19 Ronald J. Pizar – Part Time Fire Sub code**
- 2024-20 Elizabeth Copio – Police Records Clerk**
- 2024-21 Mariann Siciliano –Police Administrative Assistant**
- 2024-22 Police Telecommunicators appointments**

- 2024-23 **Matt Ambrosio – Superintendent of Public Works, Certified Recycling Coordinator, Community Forestry Clean Communities Coordinator and Storm Water Management Coordinator**
- 2024-24 **Daniel Kehoe – Foreman Department of Public Works, Community Forestry**
- 2024-25 **Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean State of New Jersey authorizing execution of an employment agreement between the Township of Ocean and the Township Superintendent of Public Works starting on February 1, 2024**
- 2024-26 **Department of Public Works appointments**
- 2024-27 **Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, authorizing the Execution of an amendment Employment Agreement between the Township of Ocean and The Township Business Administrator**
- 2024-28 **Steve Millette, Court Administrator, Alexa Eppolito- Deputy Court Administrator,**
- 2024-29 **Raymond Hall – Part-Time -Field Inspector - Tax Assessor’s Office**
- 2024-30 **Martin Lynch – COAH Officer, Laurie Clune, COAH Officer and Township Housing Liaison**
- 2024-31 **Diane Ambrosio Fund Commissioner for the Ocean County JIF and Amanda Bonfanti Alternate JIF Fund Commissioner**
- 2024-32 **Appointing a fill-in Plumbing and Electrical Sub code for the Township of Ocean for the**
- 2024-33 **year 2024**
- 2024-33 **Resolution appointing Diane B. Ambrosio and Amanda Bonfonti as Right-to-Know Officers**
- 2024-34 **Resolution authorizing Policies and Procedures for areas of OSHA**
- 2024-35 **Resolution authorizing Recording Secretary Salaries for 2024**
- 2024-36 **Resolution authorizing fixing salaries for the year 2024**
- 2024-37 **Resolution authorizing Finance Department and Municipal Clerk to work in accordance with the Township of Ocean’s Cash Management Plan**
- 2024-38 **Resolution authorizing Finance Department and Municipal Clerk to work in accordance with the Township of Ocean’s Auditors to re-establish the Township’s escrow accounts**
- 2024-39 **Resolution authorizing Finance Department and Municipal Clerk to work in accordance and authorize money held in trust accounts with New Jersey qualified banks/depositories**
- 2024-40 **Resolution authorizing the Tax Collector to utilize TD Bank for all money collected**
- 2024-41 **Resolution authorizing the Finance Department and Municipal Clerk to authorize resolutions and signature cards required by depositories**
- 2024-42 **Resolution authorizing CMFO, Comptroller, Treasurer of the Township of Ocean to establish escrow account throughout the year**
- 2024-43 **Resolution authorizing Home Depot procurement cards**
- 2024-44 **Resolution authorizing electronic transfers to NJ Div. of Pensions**
- 2024-45 **Resolution authorizing petty cash funds for the year 2024 as approved by New Jersey Division of Local Government Services**
- 2024-46 **Resolution authorizing an agreement with certain approved state contracts for the year 2024**
- 2024-47 **Resolution authorizing house vendor accounts for the year 2024**
- 2024-48 **Resolution authorizing Walmart procurement cards**
- 2024-49 **Resolution authorizing Lowes’s procurement cards**
- 2024-50 **Resolution authorizing Shop Rite account**
- 2024-51 **Resolution authoring electronic procurement with Fedex, UPS, Amazon, State of NJ**
- 2024-52 **Resolution authorizing change accounts for the year 2024**

- 2024-53 Resolution authorizing fixed assets**
- 2024-54 Resolution authorizing fixing the rate of interest to be charged on delinquent taxes of assessments to include new provisions of the law**
- 2024-55 Resolution authorizing tax receivership pursuant to N.J.S.A 54:4-123**
- 2024-56 Resolution authorizing Tax Collector N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-17 allows for the cancellation of property tax refunds or delinquent amounts in the amounts of less than \$10.00**
- 2024-57 Resolution authorizing the hiring of temporary personnel**
- 2024-58 Resolution authorizing the prompt payment of bills and other mandatory expenses**
- 2024-59 Resolution establishing Rules and Regulations for Meetings of the Township Committee of the Township of Ocean**
- 2024-60 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey Adopting Procedures for remote public meetings held during a declared emergency**
- 2024-61 Resolution authorizing the Township Tax Assessor or the Township Attorney as agents in filing petitions of appeal/complaints to the Ocean County Tax Board**
- 2024-62 Resolution authorizing Jason Worth as Assistant Zoning Officer and Bulkhead Engineer for Calendar year 2024**
- 2024-63 Resolution authorizing James Oris as a consultant for Construction/Zoning/Department of Public Works for Calendar year 2024**
- 2024-64 Resolution authorizing the appointments to the Board of Health**
- 2024-65 Resolution authorizing the appointments of the Environmental Commission**
- 2024-66 Resolution authorizing the appointments of the Green Team**
- 2024-67 Resolution authorizing the appointments of the Senior Advisory**
- 2024-68 Resolution authorizing the appointments of the Municipal Alliance**
- 2024-69 Resolution authorizing the appointments to the Board of Adjustment**
- 2024-70 Resolution authorizing the appointments to the Planning Board**
- 2024-71 Resolution authorizing the appointments to the Plan Endorsement Advisory Committee for 2024**
- 2024-72 Resolution appointing members to the Pinelands Municipal Council**
- 2024-73 Resolution authorizing Waretown, New Jersey through Township of Ocean, Ocean County/Ocean Township Police Department to participate in the defense logistics agency law enforcement support office, 1033 program to enable the Township of Ocean/Ocean Township Police Department, to request and acquire excess Department of Defense Equipment**
- 2024-74 Resolution to affirm the Township of Ocean civil rights policy with respect to all officials, appointees, employees, prospective employees, volunteers, independent contractors, and members of the public that come into contact with municipal employees, officials, and volunteers.**
- 2024-75 Resolution authorizing the Police Chaplains for 2024**
- 2024-76 Resolution authorizing the appointments to the Special Events Committee**
- 2024-77 Resolution authorizing the Appointment of Municipal Judge Miller**
- 2024-78 Resolution authorizing the Municipal Clerk to advertise for the positions of Laborer in Department of Public Works and Administrative Assistant/Technical Assistant in Construction and Zoning Office**

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Resolutions 2024-2 through 2024-78

Motion to approve was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone
Roll Call: Bauldserstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-79 Authorizing the hiring of part-time employees.

Motion to Approve Resolution 2024-79 was moved by Committeeman Boulderstone, seconded by Mayor Dodd.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Abstain, Dodd: Yes

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-80 Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk to execute a Retirement and Separation Agreement between the Township of Ocean and Matthew Ambrosio, Superintendent of Public Works, retirement to commence February 1, 2024.

Motion to Approve Resolution 2024-80 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-81 Authorizing the 2024 Temporary Operating Budget for the Current fund in the amount of \$2,900,000.00 and Utility operating budgets \$898,000.00.

Motion to Approve Resolution 2024-81 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-1 First Reading – Title Only

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO REPEALING ORDINANCE 2023-23 AND REMOVING THE AMENDMENT TO THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AND DELETING CANNABIS OVERLAY ZONE NUMBER 3

Ordinance 2024-1 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR & TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE:

Mayor - Lydia M. Dodd

Good afternoon. Happy New Year. Thank you for attending the Reorganization Meeting for the Township of Ocean, which marks the beginning of a new year for our municipal government. I wish to thank Pastor Daniel Ulrich of the Lord of Lords Bible Community Church for his invocation today, Pastor Dawn Corlew of the Waretown United Methodist Church for the Prayer for the New Year and the Southern Regional High School JR ROTC and Sergeant Vasquez for the Flag Salute.

I would like to congratulate Ken Boulderstone on his re-election to another three-year term and welcome Ben LoParo to the position of Deputy Mayor. I would like to thank my fellow Committee Members for appointing me as Mayor/Chairperson for the year 2024. I am honored and humbled to be able to serve. I have enjoyed working with my colleagues and with the Township staff, our Professionals and our Volunteer First Responders. I look forward to continuing to working with all of them to keep Waretown a great place to call home.

In our current economic climate, it is a constant challenge to maintain essential services while keeping property taxes as low as we safely and reasonably can. Each year we get a high score on the New Jersey State Best Practices Survey on Municipal Budgeting and Management Procedures, and we adhere strictly to the 2% cap on revenues and expenditures. We work very hard to hold the line when it comes to municipal tax increases. Our municipal tax rate for 2023 was \$0.76 but the school tax did add \$0.08,

almost \$0.09, over and above that. We will continue to be vigilant and work very hard to keep the municipal tax rate as low as possible.

As I say every year to you, the residents of Waretown, I encourage your input and participation at our public meetings. This helps us understand how you feel about current issues and answer your questions so that we can act accordingly. If you cannot make a meeting and have a question or concern, please call Town Hall. If I am not in, I will get back to you. With the hope that a new year brings, I am confident that this Committee will continue representing the best interest of the residents of Waretown. I am excited with the promise that 2024 holds.

I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year and may God bless you, the Township of Ocean and this country of ours.

Deputy Mayor - Ben LoParo

Good afternoon. Happy New Year. Thank you for spending your holiday with us. I am looking forward to working with Mayor Dodd this year. Congratulations to Mrs. Dodd for being Mayor. Congratulations to Mr. Boulderstone on being re-elected. Many changes are happening this year in the Township for the positive. We are hiring a Public Works Superintendent, a new Police Officer and making staff changes. Everything is moving in a positive direction. We are keeping taxes low. We have worked together on cost savings in all areas and still maintain one of the lowest municipal tax rates in Ocean County, especially Southern Ocean County. Our school tax is also one of the lowest rates also. I am thankful to the Professionals we have rehired this year that we have worked with very closely. I am also grateful and privileged to share in Waretown's future as Deputy Mayor again.

Thank you for coming. Happy New Year.

Committeeman - Ken Boulderstone

Thank you for coming to the Township of Ocean Reorganization meeting. I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

I was honored and humbled to be able to serve the Township in my second term as Mayor. I thank all of the people who voted for me this past November so I can continue to serve the people as a member of the Township Committee. I look forward to continuing to work with our new Mayor, Lydia Dodd, and Deputy Mayor, Dr. Ben LoParo. During this past year we have continued to work at making the Township an even better place to live. Some of the achievements include the installation of the new playground equipment with the addition of grass in the surrounding area, six (6) new pickleball courts and the resurfacing of the existing tennis courts at Corliss Park Lake & Recreation Area. The Pickleball Courts at Sands Point Park were also resurfaced.

With the continued support of Ocean County Senior Services, congregate meals continue to be offered with even more seniors enjoying these meals at the Senior Center. Together with the entertainment and education programs that are funded by Ocean County, the County has also added a monthly food bank distribution at the Community Center.

Several new businesses have opened in the Township including new restaurants, increasing the choices available in the Township. The Township has embarked on a new venture that may result in benefits for

businesses and homeowners. The Township has applied to be certified as film-ready that could possibly result in the Township being selected as a location for movies, television shows or commercials.

I would like to thank the Township Employees for their efforts in meeting the needs of residents. From time to time, the Township receives feedback. I am going to share information from a phone call that was recently received from a resident of Oak Leaf Drive in the Laurelwyck section. She wanted to say thank you to the Department of Public Works for their outstanding job collecting leaves in her section of town. She said the men were great and very kind. She further stated it was a cold and rainy day and they still did a fantastic job. She also said it is the same group of men who do the various pickups in town as well as the snow plowing and she really appreciates all they do.

I want to thank all the Township employees and Professionals for their efforts to provide services to the residents and meet their expectations. I would also like to thank my wife, Glenys, for her constant support. The Superintendent of Public Works, Matt Ambrosio, has announced his intention to retire at the end of January after a career of 27 years. I want to thank him for his many years of service and wish him happiness in his well-earned retirement.

Thank you again for coming today and I wish you the best for 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Motion to open Public Comment was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Joan Tredy, 131 Englewood Avenue, discussed congratulations to everyone on your appointments and thank you and all the previous Committees for continuing to select me to serve on the Board of Health for the last 24 years. This year I asked not to be selected. It is time to pass the baton and give new people the opportunity to learn and serve. Mrs. Tredy discussed she served on 28+ committees over the years. Thank you for the opportunity to serve over the years, especially putting in 50 years with the First Aid and Fire Auxiliaries. Wishing you all a great term and a happy, healthy and productive year. God bless you all.

Motion to close Public Comment was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Next Scheduled Meetings – Township Committee

Thursday, January 4, 2024 – 11:00 am

Tuesday – January 16, 2024 – 6:00 PM

Thursday – February 1, 2024 – 10:00 AM

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 – 6:00 PM

Adjourn Reorganization Meeting

Motion to adjourn Reorganization Meeting was moved by Deputy Mayor Dodd, seconded by Committeeman LoParo.

Roll Call: LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes, Boulderstone: Yes.

Signed and Submitted:

Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Date