

The Executive Session meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Richard Wolfe, Deputy Mayor Mark Castellano, Committee members Tara Ramsey (7:02pm) and John Mills. Committee member Chris Sobieski was absent. Also present via telephone was Frank Whittlesey, Township Attorney.

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:32 p.m. Present were Mayor Richard Wolfe, Deputy Mayor Mark Castellano, Committee members Tara Ramsey and John Mills. Committee member Chris Sobieski was absent.

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Acting Clerk Krista Parsons announced that this is a regularly scheduled meeting, pursuant to the resolution adopted on January 4, 2021 with a meeting notice published in the Hunterdon County Democrat issue of January 14, 2021. A copy of the agenda for this meeting was forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Times of Trenton, Star Ledger, Courier News, posted on the Township website, and filed in the Township Clerk’s Office on January 11, 2021.

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**RESOLUTION #29-21**

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, East Amwell Township Committee is of the opinion that circumstances presently exist; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing body of the Township of East Amwell wishes to discuss litigation and to receive advice from the Township Attorney; and

**WHEREAS**, minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then minutes can be made public; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the public be excluded from this meeting.

**CERTIFICATION**

*I, Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell at a regular and duly convened meeting held on January 14, 2021.*

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*Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk*

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A motion made by Mayor Wolfe, seconded by Tara Ramsey to enter into executive session was unanimously approved by voice vote.

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Executive Session took place from 7:00pm-7:28pm

The regular meeting commenced at 7:32pm

**Agenda Review**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**Announcements**

The East Amwell Township Committee will hold their regular scheduled meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm at the Municipal Building. The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

The 2021 Reorganization dates for Boards and Committees are posted on the bulletin board and listed on the Township website.

The 2021 Calendar created by the Historical Society is now available at the Municipal Building.

Christmas trees can be dropped off at the Grit Yard during regular operating hours, Monday-Friday from 7am-2pm.

Municipal Offices will be closed on Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Annual dog licenses are due. \$17 for neutered/spayed and \$20 for non-neutered/non-spayed. Late fees begin March 1<sup>st</sup>.

The annual free rabies clinic is scheduled for January 16<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm in the Municipal Garage. Contact the Clerk's Office for details.

There will be a joint meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee and the East Amwell Planning Board on January 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm, to discuss in detail, and to receive input from the public regarding, our Farm Project. Because we anticipate a large turnout, the meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format, with the Township Committee and members of the public who reserve a limited number of spaces in advance, attending the meeting live at the municipal building, and the Planning Board and the remainder of the public attending the meeting via Zoom. Please check the Township's website for more details.

The Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church, located at 37 John Ringo Road in the Ringoes Village, has installed a small food pantry, called "The Blessing Box," halfway up its driveway, for those who are in need of non-perishable food and toiletries. For those who wish to help their neighbors, you can place non-perishable food (for example, canned goods) and toiletries in the large container by the side door, opposite the food pantry."

**Acknowledgements by the Mayor**

Mayor Wolfe recognized a member of the Recycling Committee, Chantal Napoleon, for her commitment and dedication to the Recycling Committee. Mayor Wolfe also congratulated Chantal on the arrival of her baby boy, Andrew.

Mayor Wolfe announced the passing of Bill Reiter and discussed how much Mr. Reiter has done in the township. Mayor Wolfe extended his condolences to Mr. Reiter's family on behalf of the Township Committee and the residents of East Amwell.

**Approval of Minutes**

**December 23, 2020 Regular Minutes**

A motion made by John Mills, seconded by Deputy Mayor Castellano to approve the December regular minutes was unanimously approved by voice vote.

**January 4, 2021 Reorganization Minutes**

A motion made by Tara Ramsey, seconded by John Mills to approve the January Reorganization minutes was unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Special Discussion/Presentations**

**Interview of Diane Harrington for the Planning Board and/or the Board of Health.**

Diane Harrington was interviewed by the Township Committee for a position on one of these boards.

**Special Committee Reports**

There were no items for discussion.

**Standing Committee Reports**

There were no items for discussion.

**Open to the Public**

A motion made by Deputy Mayor Castellano, seconded by John Mills to open the meeting to the public was unanimously approved.

Alison Castellano, 9 Prall Court, Ringoes, NJ- Alison Castellano announced the Virtual Bingo being held on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, the Electronics Recycling Event taking place at the next Recycling Depot and discussed recycling wine corks.

A discussion also took place regarding a potential shredding event and process to recycle batteries.

**Consent Agenda Items**

*All matters listed below are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will not be a separate discussion of these items. If a discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered immediately after approval of the Consent Agenda.*

**RESOLUTION #30-21**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF FOURTH QUARTER  
2020 TAXES DUE TO 100% DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION ON MERGED  
PROPERTIES**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 et. seq. provides for one-hundred percent (100%) disabled veterans and their spouses to be exempt from property taxes on their principal residences; and

**WHEREAS**, the property owner listed below has received such designation by the U.S. Veterans Administration and has subsequently applied and been approved for such exemption from the Township of East Amwell Tax Assessor; and

**WHEREAS**, this designation can result in the overpayment of property taxes and require the cancellation of future tax payments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Tax Collector, as a result of recently approved one-hundred percent (100%) disabled veteran status, recommends the cancellation of the first and second quarter 2020 tax payments listed.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the following first and second quarter taxes be cancelled due to one-hundred percent (100%) disabled veteran exemption.

<u><b>Taxpayer</b></u>	<u><b>Amount</b></u>	<u><b>Block</b></u>	<u><b>Lot</b></u>
Bela J. Kamensky (Route 31)	\$376.29	27	1.06
Bela J. Kamensky (Route 31)	\$374.94	27	1.07
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$751.23</b>		

**CERTIFICATION**

*I, Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell at a regular and duly convened meeting held on January 14, 2021.*

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*Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk*

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**RESOLUTION #31-21**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER 2021 TAXES DUE TO 100% DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 et. seq. provides for one-hundred percent (100%) disabled veterans and their spouses to be exempt from property taxes on their principal residences; and

**WHEREAS**, the property owner listed below has received such designation by the U.S. Veterans Administration and has subsequently applied and been approved for such exemption from the Township of East Amwell Tax Assessor; and

**WHEREAS**, this designation can result in the overpayment of property taxes and require the cancellation of future tax payments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Tax Collector, as a result of recently approved one-hundred percent (100%) disabled veteran status, recommends the cancellation of the first and second quarter 2020 tax payments listed.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the following first and second quarter taxes be cancelled due to one-hundred percent (100%) disabled veteran exemption.

<u>Taxpayer</u>		<u>Amount</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>
Bela J. Kamensky (485 Route 31)	Qtr. 1	\$2,268.37	27	1.01
	Qtr. 2	\$2,268.37		
Bela J. Kamensky (Route 31)	Qtr. 1	\$355.82	27	1.06
	Qtr. 2	\$355.81		
Bela J. Kamensky (Route 31)	Qtr. 1	\$354.55	27	1.07
	Qtr. 2	\$354.54		
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$5,957.46</b>		

**CERTIFICATION**

*I, Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell at a regular and duly convened meeting held on January 14, 2021.*

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*Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk*

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**RESOLUTION #32-21**

**WHEREAS**, NJSA 40A:4-58 permits appropriation transfers during the last two months of the current fiscal year and reserve appropriation transfer to be made during the first three

months of the following fiscal year between line items of the municipal budget; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined that certain line items are in excess of the sums needed and certain line items have insufficient funds to complete the operations of the fiscal year;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the following sums be transferred as follows:

	Transfer To:	Transfer From:
Planning Board O/E	\$ 5,000.00	
Health Benefits O/E		\$ 5,000.00

**CERTIFICATION**

*I, Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell at a regular and duly convened meeting held on January 14, 2021.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk*

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A motion made by Deputy Mayor Castellano, seconded by John Mills to approve the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by voice vote.

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**Resolutions**

There were no resolutions for consideration.

**Ordinances- Public Hearing and Second Reading**

There were no ordinances for approval.

**Ordinances- Introduction and First Reading**

**TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL  
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
ORDINANCE #21-05**

**AN ORDINANCE ADDING ARTICLE 1,  
ENTITLED "COMPENSATION OF TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS,"**

TO CHAPTER 35 OF THE CODE OF EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of East Amwell Township believes that the members of the Township Committee should not be paid a salary or provided other compensation, including health insurance, by the Township for serving on the Township Committee.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The following is hereby added as Article I of Chapter 35 (Salaries and Compensation) the Code of the Township of East Amwell:

“Article 1 Compensation for Members of Township Committee

§ 35-1 No Compensation.

The Township of East Amwell shall not pay any salary or provide other compensation, including health insurance, to any member of its Township Committee for serving on the Township Committee.”

Section 2. If any provision in this Ordinance is, or is held to be, invalid or unlawful, (i) such provision shall, if possible, be deemed amended to the extent necessary to make it valid and lawful, and (ii) such invalidity or unlawfulness shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 3. Any Ordinance or portion thereof that is inconsistent or in conflict with this Ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency or conflict.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its final passage and publication as required by law.

By Order of the Township Committee,

Richard Wolfe, Mayor

ATTEST: Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk

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A motion made by Tara Ramsey, seconded by Deputy Mayor Castellano to introduce the ordinance was unanimously approved by voice vote.

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Take notice that the above ordinance was duly passed on first reading at the regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee held on January 14, 2021, and will be considered for final

adoption on second reading and public hearing at a regular meeting of the Committee to be held on February 10, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., at the Municipal Building, 1070 Route 202/31, Ringoes, NJ 08551.

PUBLISHED: January 21, 2021, Issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat.

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**Unfinished Business**

There were no items for discussion.

**New Business**

**RESOLUTION#33-21**

**GRANTING AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL OF CERTAIN PURCHASES THROUGH NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACTS AND/OR PURCHASING COOPERATIVES FOR THE YEAR 2021**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq. and P.L.2011, c.139, the governing body may delegate the power to award purchases, contracts and/or agreements through New Jersey State Contracts and/or Purchasing Cooperatives to which the Township of East Amwell is a member; and

**WHEREAS**, in the interest of streamlining Township operations and improving efficiency, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council to authorize the Purchasing Officer/Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) to approve purchases, contracts and agreements through New Jersey State Contracts and/or Purchasing Cooperatives, subject to provisions and requirements of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq. and P.L.2011, c.139 below the \$44,000.00 threshold in individual purchases and the aggregate as defined by N.J.S.A.40A:11-2(19);

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of East Amwell that the Purchasing Officer/Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) upon receipt of an identified need and direction from the Township is hereby authorized to approve purchases, contracts and/or agreements through New Jersey State Contracts and/or Purchasing Cooperatives to which the Township of East Amwell is a member without further action from Council, provided that funds are available to cover the expenditure.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Purchase approvals made by the Purchasing Officer/Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) by virtue of the adoption of this Resolution shall be subject to the provisions and requirements of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq. and that no amount of any contract shall be in excess of the bid threshold in a single purchase or the aggregate without express individual resolutions authorizing such cooperative purchases by contract number.

**CERTIFICATION**

*I, Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell at the reorganization meeting held on January 14, 2021.*



*Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk*

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A motion made by Deputy Mayor Castellano, seconded by John Mills to approve the resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Tara Ramsey inquired why a resolution was needed if we already order through cooperatives and State Contracts.

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**Open to the Public**

A motion made by Tara Ramsey, seconded by Deputy Mayor Castellano to open the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Seeing no members of the public come forward, a motion made by Tara Ramsey, seconded by John Mills to close the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Approval of Bills**

Bills of the Evening- 1/14/2021

A motion made by John Mills, seconded by Tara Ramsey to approve the bills of the evening were unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Approval of Administrative Reports**

Tax Collector

December 2020 Disbursements & Receipts Report

No discussion was held.

Municipal Court

December 2020 Municipal Court Report

No discussion was held.

DPW Superintendent

December 2020 Monthly Report

No discussion was held.

NJSP- Kingwood

No Report Provided

John Mills provided the Committee with a report he received from the State Police for the month of December. John Mills will be meeting with the surrounding Police Departments to discuss traffic enforcement in East Amwell.

West Amwell Construction

December 2020 Monthly Report

Acting Clerk Krista Parsons informed the Committee the report was not received for this month.

**Correspondence**

12/31/2020- NJDEP Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification  
Case Number 20-12-30-1513-14  
No discussion was held.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion made by Deputy Mayor Castellano, seconded by Tara Ramsey to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm was unanimously approved.

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Krista M. Parsons, Acting Municipal Clerk