

FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP REORGANIZATION MINUTES

JANUARY 6, 2023
6:30 PM

At 6:30 P.M., Deputy Mayor Walker called the Reorganization Meeting to order.

Deputy Mayor read the following statement:

“In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, this meeting was announced on November 7, 2022 by posting a notice on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building reserved for that purpose; by mailing such notice to the offices of the official newspapers of the Township and by filing such notice with the Township Clerk.”

MOMENT OF SILENCE/SALUTE TO FLAG

Mr. Preston asked for a moment of silence and Salute to the flag.

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN

Mr. Ammiano nominated Peter Valesi to serve as Temporary Chairman, seconded by Mr. Cook

VOTE: **AYES:** Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Preston, Mr. Walker
 NAYS: None
 ABSENT: Mrs. Fasano
 ABSTAIN: None

Temporary Chairman Valesi asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

On roll call, the following Township Committee members were present:

Committeeman Anthony J. Ammiano, Committeeman Thomas L. Cook, Committeeman Lester A. Preston, Jr, Committeeman Alan C. Walker

Absent: Committeewoman Fasano

Also, present Andy Ball, Township Attorney, Peter Valesi, Township Administrator, Sanabel Abouzeina, Township Clerk, and Kristin Bartolomeo, Deputy Clerk

ELECTION OF MAYOR

Chairman Valesi called for nominations to fill the Office of Mayor for 2023.

Mr. Cook nominated Mr. Walker to serve as Mayor of Freehold Township in 2023 seconded by Mr. Preston. There were no other nominations.

VOTE: **AYES:** Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Preston and Mr. Walker
 NAYS: None
 ABSENT: Mrs. Fasano
 ABSTAIN: None

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MAYOR

Honorable Judge Cagan administered the oath of office to Mayor Walker

Mayor Walker welcomed Dignitaries and Special guests

ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Mayor Walker called for nominations to fill the Office of Deputy Mayor for 2023.

Mr. Ammiano nominated Mr. Preston to serve as Deputy Mayor in 2023, seconded by Mr. Cook
There were no other nominations.

VOTE: **AYES:** Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Mrs. Fasano
ABSTAIN: None

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO DEPUTY MAYOR

Judge Cagan administered the oath of office to Deputy Mayor Preston

R-23-1 REAPPOINTING ANTHONY J. VECCHIO, ESQ. AS MUNICIPAL COURT PROSECUTOR

Mr. Ammiano read Resolution R-23-1 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Preston

VOTE: **AYES:** Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Mrs. Fasano
ABSTAIN: None

R-23-2 REAPPOINTING LORRAINE NIELSON, ESQ. AND THERESA MCGUIRE, ESQ. AS ALTERNATE MUNICIPAL COURT PROSECUTORS

Mr. Cook read Resolution R-23-2 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Preston

VOTE: **AYES:** Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Mrs. Fasano
ABSTAIN: None

R-23-3 REAPPOINTING SOPHIA SHALABY AS MUNICIPAL COURT PUBLIC DEFENDER

Mr. Ammiano read Resolution R-23-3 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Cook

VOTE: **AYES:** Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Mrs. Fasano

ABSTAIN: None

R-23-4 REAPPOINTING PAUL VITALE AS CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL

Mr. Preston read Resolution R-23-4 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Cook

AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mrs. Fasano

ABSTAIN: None

R-23-5 APPOINTING JEFFERY C. ELSASSER AND ANDREA DIGIOVANNI AS QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENTS AND SETTING BID THRESHOLD

Mr. Ammiano read Resolution R-23-5 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Preston

VOTE: **AYES:** Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mrs. Fasano

ABSTAIN: None

R-23-6 AUTHORIZING 2023 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS

1. Davison, Eastman, Munoz, Paone, P.A. - Township Attorney and Labor Counsel
2. Acacia Financial Group, Inc. - Financial Advisor
3. Suplee, Clooney & Company - Auditor
4. Antonides and Sibilila, CPA's - Fee Accountant
5. Brown & Brown Metro, LLC – Insurance Broker – Property & Casualty and Health & Prescription
6. McLaughlin Stauffer & Shaklee, P.C. - Planning Board Attorney; Special Counsel - General
7. Gibbons, PC - Bond Counsel
8. Gluckwalrath LLP - Bond Counsel
9. DiFrancesco, Bateman, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum, P.C. - Real Estate and Tax Appeal Legal Counsel
10. F. Clifford Gibbons, Attorney at Law, LLC - Special Counsel - Bankruptcy
11. Surenian, Edwards & Nolan, LLC - Special Counsel - Affordable Housing
12. CGP&H, LLC - Affordable Housing Administrator
13. Renzi Legal Resources - Court Reporter
14. Phillips Preiss Grygiel Leheny Hughes, LLC - Planner to Township Committee and Planning Board
15. T&M Associates - Engineer to Township Committee and Planning Board; Shade

Tree Consultant; and Environmental Engineer

16. Thomas Planning Associates - Planner to Township Committee and Planning Board
17. Mott MacDonald, LLC - Engineer to Township Committee and Planning Board; General Engineer to Utilities Department; Water and Sewer Engineer to Utilities Department; and Environmental Engineer
18. H2M Associates, Inc- Water and Sewer Engineer to Utilities Department
19. Maraziti Falcon, LLP- Special Counsel- Redevelopment
20. Rainone Coughlin Minchello, LLC- Special counsel- Eminent Domain & Redevelopment
21. Allied Control Services, Inc. - Utilities Instrumentation Programming
22. Shropshire Associates, LLC - Traffic Engineer
23. Netta Architects, LLC - Architectural Services
24. Settembrino Architects - Architectural Services
25. Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc. – Architectural Services
26. Gagliano & Company - Appraisal Services
27. Sockler Realty Services Group – Appraisal Services
28. Skyline Environmental, Inc. - Safety, Health, PEOSHA, OSHA & Labor-Related Services

Mr. Cook read Resolution R-23-6 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Ammiano

VOTE: AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Mrs. Fasano
ABSTAIN: None

MR. PRESTON MOVED THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS OF OFFICIALS FOR 2023:

ALAN C. WALKER	POLICE COMMISSIONER
KRISTON BARTOLOMEO	DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK
MARGARET JAHN	DOG REGISTRAR
PAUL VITALE	ADA COMPLIANCE OFFICER

MR. AMMIANO- SECONDED THE MOTION

VOTE: AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Mrs. Fasano
ABSTAIN: None

MR. AMMIANO MOVED THE FOLLOWING AUTHORIZATIONS FOR 2023:

LESTER A. PRESTON, JR– TO SIGN CHECKS IN THE ABSENCE OR DISABILITY OF THE MAYOR

PETER R. VALESİ – TO SIGN CHECKS IN THE ABSENCE OR DISABILITY OF THE TOWNSHIP TREASURER

MR. COOK- SECONDED THE MOTION

VOTE: AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mrs. Fasano

ABSTAIN: None

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR

FOR THE RECORD: ALL ONE-YEAR TERMS WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2023. ALL TWO, THREE, FOUR, AND FIVE YEAR TERMS WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31 OF SUBSEQUENT YEARS.

MAYOR WALKER ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS/ REAPPOINTMENTS:

A. PLANNING BOARD

- * AS MAYOR, I WILL SERVE AS A PLANNING BOARD MEMBER THIS YEAR
- * MAUREEN FASANO – NEW APPOINTMENT – CLASS III MEMBER/TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER - 1 YEAR TERM
- * LESTER A. PRESTON, JR – NEW APPOINTMENT – CLASS I MEMBER/MAYOR’S DESIGNEE – 1 YEAR TERM
- * MATTHEW BARBIERI – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS II MEMBER – 1 YEAR TERM
- * JOHN BAZZURRO – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS IV MEMBER – 4 YEAR TERM
- * LEON BRUNO, JR – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS IV MEMBER – 4 YEAR TERM
- * CHRISTOPHER MARION – REAPPOINTMENT – ALTERNATE 2 – 2 YEAR TERM
- * MICHAEL PUCCI – REAPPOINTMENT – ALTERNATE 1 – 2 YEAR TERM
- * ROBERT SHORTMEYER – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS IV MEMBER – 4 YEAR TERM

B. BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

- * ROBERT NITTI - REAPPOINTMENT – COMMISSIONER – 5 YEAR TERM
- * CONSTANCE ROEDER- REAPPOINTMENT – ALTERNATE 2- 5 YEAR TERM
- * TODD ROWOHLT- REAPPOINTMENT – ALTERNATE 1- 5 YEAR TERM

C. HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

- * MAUREEN FASANO WILL SERVE AS TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE LIAISON THIS YEAR
- * MICHAEL BERMAN - REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS A MEMBER – 4 YEAR TERM
- * STEPHEN DOWNEY - REAPPOINTMENT – ALTERNATE 1 - 2 YEAR TERM
- * KEVIN MARSHALL - REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS A MEMBER – 4 YEAR TERM
- * DAVID SEME – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS B MEMBER – 4 YEAR TERM
- * MEG THOMANN – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS A MEMBER – 4 YEAR TERM

D. SHADE TREE COMMISSION

- * AS MAYOR, I WILL SERVE AS TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE LIAISON THIS YEAR
- * KURT DAVIS – REAPPOINTMENT – COMMISSIONER – 5 YEAR TERM

APPOINTMENTS BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

MR. AMMIANO MOVED THE FOLLOWIN APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS:

A. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

- * THOMAS L. COOK – REAPPOINTMENT – TC LIAISON – 1 YEAR TERM
- * GEORGE BAUMANN – REAPPOINTMENT – COORDINATOR/CHAIRMAN – 3 YEAR TERM
- * NEIL DICKSTEIN – REAPPOINTMENT – FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS SYSTEM - 2 YEAR TERM
- * CRAIG HAAS - REAPPOINTMENT – CHIEF – INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY- 1 YEAR TERM
- * JUSTIN HOLLEY – REAPPOINTMENT – CHIEF – EAST FREEHOLD FIRE COMPANY – 1 YEAR TERM
- * STEPHEN SOLOWEY – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER AT LARGE – 2 YEAR TERM
- * DANIELLE VAN WERT – REAPPOINTMENT – CENTRASTATE MEDICAL CENTER SAFETY OFFICER – 2 YEAR TERM

B. FIRE PREVENTION BOARD

- * GEORGE BAUMANN – REAPPOINTMENT – CHIEF OF POLICE – 1 YEAR TERM
- * EVAN BERMAN - REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 4 YEAR TERM
- * CRAIG HAAS - REAPPOINTMENT – CHIEF - INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY – 1 YEAR TERM
- * JUSTIN HOLLEY – REAPPOINTMENT – CHIEF – EAST FREEHOLD FIRE COMPANY – 1 YEAR TERM
- * SHAUN REILLY – REAPPOINTMENT – FIRE OFFICIAL - 1 YEAR TERM
- * LAWRENCE STORY – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 4 YEAR TERM
- * PAUL VITALE – REAPPOINTMENT – CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL – 1 YEAR TERM

C. CABLE T.V. ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- * THOMAS L. COOK – REAPPOINTMENT – TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE LIAISON – 1 YEAR TERM
- * PAUL HESSLER - REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 3 YEAR TERM

D. STREET NAME REVIEW COMMITTEE

- * THOMAS L. COOK – NEW APPOINTMENT – MEMBER/TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE – 1 YEAR TERM
- * LESTER A. PRESTON, JR. – NEW APPOINTMENT – MEMBER/PLANNING BOARD - 1 YEAR TERM
- * GEORGE BAUMANN – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER/POLICE – 1 YEAR TERM
- * MICHAEL CELANO – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER/INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY – 1 YEAR TERM
- * JASON LEVY – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER/PLANNING BOARD – 1 YEAR

TERM

* SHAUN REILLY – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER/EAST FREEHOLD FIRE DEPARTMENT – 1 YEAR TERM

E. LAKE TOPANEMUS COMMISSION

* CHRISTOPHER KEAN – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 3 YEAR TERM

* MICHAEL PHILLIPS – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 3 YEAR TERM

MR. PRESTON SECONDED THE MOTION

VOTE: **AYES:** Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker
 NAYS: None
 ABSENT: Mrs. Fasano
 ABSTAIN: None

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR

MAYOR WALKER ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS/ REAPPOINTMENTS:

A. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

* ANTHONY J. AMMIANO – REAPPOINTMENT – TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE LIAISON – 1 YEAR TERM

* JASON LEVY - REAPPOINTMENT – COMMISSIONER/PLANNING BOARD MEMBER – 3 YEAR TERM

* WILLIAM LOMBARDI – REAPPOINTMENT – COMMISSIONER - 3 YEAR TERM

* LINDA LOPES – REAPPOINTMENT – COMMISSIONER – 3 YEAR TERM

B. MONMOUTH COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS COORDINATORS COUNCIL

* PAUL HESSLER – REAPPOINTMENT – DELEGATE – 1 YEAR TERM

* MARIE BAYERLE – REAPPOINTMENT – ALTERNATE – 1 YEAR TERM

C. GYPSY MOTH COORDINATOR

* THOMAS RITCHIE DESIGNATED FOR 2023

D. HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL

* MAUREEN FASANO – REAPPOINTMENT – TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE – 1 YEAR TERM

* DON CRUZ - REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER/MINORITY - 3 YEAR TERM

* PASTOR MATT JONES – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER/CLERGY – 3 YEAR TERM

* JOANN PRICE – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER/EDUCATION – 3 YEAR TERM

* DANIEL REHBERG - MEMBER/LAW ENFORCEMENT - 3 YEAR TERM

E. MAYOR'S REP. TO GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE

* JAY ROBINSON – NEW APPOINTMENT - 1 YEAR TERM

APPOINTMENTS BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

MR. COOK MOVED THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS/ REAPPOINTMENTS:

A. BOARD OF HEALTH

- * EILEEN ALLEN - REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER - 3 YEAR TERM
- * DEBRA KING - REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 3 YEAR TERM
- * ROBIN LEMESEVSKI – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 3 YEAR TERM
- * ALENE OPATUT – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 3 YEAR TERM
- * LISA PORTH – REAPPOINTMENT – ALTERNATE 1 – 2 YEAR TERM

B. CLEAN COMMUNITIES ADVISORY BOARD

- * SCOTT HIGGINS – REAPPOINTMENT – COORDINATOR - 1 YEAR TERM
- * FRANK LUCIA – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER/BUSINESS - 1 YEAR TERM
- * ROBERT MCDAID - NEW APPOINTMENT – MEMBER/BUSINESS - 1 YEAR TERM
- * PETER VALESİ – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER/GOVERNMENT - 1 YEAR TERM
- * ROBERT ZUPA – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER/NON-PROFIT - 1 YEAR TERM

C. MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE TO PREVENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE

- * LINDA ALTINI – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS VI MEMBER/PTA REPRESENTATIVE - 3 YEAR TERM
- * GEORGE BAUMANN – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS II MEMBER/POLICE CHIEF – 2 YEAR TERM
- * LESTER A. PRESTON, JR. – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS I MEMBER/ TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE – 1 YEAR TERM

D. TRANSPORTATION BOARD

- * JAMES MAURO - REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 3 YEAR TERM

E. YOUTH GUIDANCE COUNCIL

- * ALAN C. WALKER – REAPPOINTMENT- TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER – 1 YEAR TERM
- * WILLIAM KETELAAR – REAPPOINTMENT – LIAISON TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – 3 YEAR TERM

F. TOWNSHIP PHYSICIANS

- * DR. LESLIE SOJKA, MEDICAL DOCTOR - REAPPOINTED FOR 2023
- * DR. ROBERT PEDOWITZ, MEDICAL DOCTOR - REAPPOINTED FOR 2023
- * DR. MARK WHITE, PSYCHOLOGIST - REAPPOINTED FOR 2023

H. OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS

- * ASBURY PARK PRESS - REDESIGNATED FOR 2023

* NEWS TRANSCRIPT - REDESIGNATED FOR 2023

MR. PRESTON SECONDED THE MOTION

VOTE: AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Mrs. Fasano
ABSTAIN: None

CONSENT AGENDA - Note: Matters listed under the items of “Consent Agenda” are required to conduct the day-to-day operations of the Township, and will be enacted by one (1) motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired of any item, that item will be considered separately.

MR. COOK MOVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS –

- R-23-7- APPOINTING ANDREA DIGIOVANNI AS PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER FOR 2023
- R-23-8- APPOINTING SANABEL ABOUZEINA AS FUTURE ASSESSMENT SEARCH OFFICER FOR 2023
- R-23-9- APPOINTING ANDREA DIGIOVANNI AS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE AND TODD BROWN AS ALTERNATE FOR 2023
- R-23-10- APPOINTING CHRISTOPHER BRUNNER AND MARK WODELL AS CLASS II SPECIAL OFFICERS FOR 2023
- R-23-11- APPOINTING GEORGE HEITZ, JOSEPH LYNCH, WILLIAM RODRIGUEZ, JR. AND SALVATORE SIINO AND JEFFREY TITUS AS CLASS III SPECIAL OFFICERS FOR 2023
- R-23-12 ADOPTION OF TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR 2023
- R-23-13 AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF FREEHOLD 2023 CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN
- R-23-14- SETTING SALARIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2023 SALARY ORDINANCE
- R-23-15- AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF CERTAIN TAX SALE CERTIFICATE DURING 2023
- R-23-16- AUTHORIZING VARIOUS ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN THROUGHOUT 2023 BY THE TAX ASSESSOR AND TAX COLLECTOR
- R-23-17- SETTING THE INTEREST RATE ON DELINQUENT TAXES

R-23-18- AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH BROWN & BROWN METRO, INC.
FOR RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT SERVICES

R-23-19- CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT WITH CERTAIN STATE CONTRACT
VENDORS

R-23-20- ESTABLISHING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING DATES FOR 2023

MR. AMMIANO SECONDED THE MOTION

VOTE: **AYES:** Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker
 NAYS: None
 ABSENT: Mrs. Fasano
 ABSTAIN: None

MAYOR WALKER READ THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

LEGAL & JUSTICE

CHAIRPERSONS: Alan C. Walker & Maureen Fasano

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

CHAIRPERSONS: Anthony J. Ammiano & Alan C. Walker

SOCIAL SERVICES & PUBLIC WORKS

CHAIRPERSONS: Thomas L. Cook & Lester A. Preston, Jr.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

CHAIRPERSONS: Maureen Fasano & Anthony J. Ammiano

PLANNING, ZONING & ENGINEERING

CHAIRPERSONS: Lester A. Preston, Jr. & Thomas L. Cook

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

P. Valesi A. Ammiano
T. Cook L. Preston (Alternate)

Mayor Walker opened the meeting to the public and asked for any comments or questions.
There being none,

MAYOR COMMENT

Good evening everyone. On behalf of the members of the Freehold Township Committee, I would like to thank the public, honored guests, our friends and families for attending tonight's reorganization meeting. Your unwavering support for the five of us is greatly appreciated.

Representing our residents in the capacity of Mayor of Freehold Township for the next 12 months in a town that I truly love is something I am looking forward to. Thank you to my fellow committee members for honoring me with this appointment. Freehold Township is a great place to work and live in. We have a phenomenal work force, one that takes tremendous pride in their jobs to deliver exceptional service to our residents. In advance, I want to thank our department heads and all of our employees for your steadfast dedication. We are incredibly lucky to have a team of people that is so caring and thoughtful to your positions. Time after time, you put our residents' concerns first and in the end, the results show. Please continue to follow those values in 2023. Your efforts are to be commended. Thank you for always going above and beyond!

Leading our team of employees is Township Administrator Peter Valesi who refuses to accept where credit is due but deserves this acknowledgement. Peter is well known in the Municipal Arena and he is highly respected among his peers. His level of contacts and breadth of knowledge in municipal leadership greatly benefit Freehold Township residents. I would like to thank him for all that he has done to try to make my acclimation onto the Committee and especially in this position as seamless as possible. Pete's administrative team of Susan, Sanabel, Kristin and Laura have been invaluable resources since I was appointed in 2020. Thank you for always having smiles on your faces, words of encouragement and advice when needed. I would like to acknowledge our Township Attorney Andrew Ball who stepped into the void created by the passing of our previous long time Township Attorney Robert Munoz in 2021. Andrew may still be carded whenever he goes out to an establishment, but his youthful appearance belies his love and passion for municipal law and it is reflected in all he does. The committee appreciates all that you do for Freehold Township and I look forward to continuing to work alongside you. Thank you for being part of our team.

Make no mistake about it, being an elected official is a difficult job, one that none of us sitting up here takes lightly or for granted. The words of encouragement that we receive from our supporters does not go unnoticed and as a team we strive to get things done that benefit all of our residents, there truly is no "I" in this group. Each of us that serves on the committee brings a unique skill set to the table, skills that enable us as a team to work productively to get things done. While all of us have served time at some point on the Freehold Township Parks and Recreation Commission and while I have known them all for many years, you see different sides

to their personalities working side by side with them. I am grateful that Committeeman Ammiano, Committeeman Cook, Committee Member Fasano and Deputy Mayor Preston all have great leadership qualities and have been instrumental in preparing me for this opportunity. I would like to acknowledge Committee Member Fasano and to say how proud of her I was for becoming just the fourth woman to serve as Mayor in the 330 years that Freehold Township has existed. It was an honor to serve as her Deputy this year. I would like to congratulate her on her re-election this past November and I am sorry she was not feeling well enough to attend this evening's meeting.

At this time, I would like to share some of the highlights of what the Township Committee accomplished for our residents in 2022

- Freehold Township continues to be an innovator and a model for other municipalities to replicate in the sharing of services with other governmental agencies. This past year, the Township coffers reaped the benefits of over 1 million dollars in acquired revenue to help offset local property taxes. As I speak to representatives in the towns that we support, those local administrators have remarked at how professional our people are and how it has greatly benefitted their organizations. It is a resource that we will continue to look to improve upon in 2023.
- We have recently hired several new police officers and we will be looking to fortify our department by hiring additional officers in 2023. Thank you to our police force, fire department volunteers and all our first responders for everything that you do to keep our residents safe.
- This year, Freehold Township began construction on the Gravel Hill Road Water Storage Tank, which will provide 1.5 million gallons of storage for pressure stabilization and fire suppression capacity to the Township's water system.
- Freehold Township has designated the Lone Pine Landfill, a federal superfund site on Burke Road, for beneficial reuse as a solar energy facility. This project will protect the integrity of the sites remediated state and provide renewable energy to our community.
- The former 3M Plant and Asbury Park Press Building off Kozloski Road along with the neighboring industrial building are the subject of a redevelopment project, which will eliminate site contamination and underperforming buildings while providing a modernized and properly functioning industrial building in its place.
- While on the topic of redevelopment, we have seen much needed façade improvements at the Freehold Mall property on Route 9 in 2022 and this past year, we have seen long awaited developments to the Shop Rite parcel. I would like to thank the Saker family for hearing the Township Committees' concerns to improve the immediate property and surrounding area and we all look forward to an expeditious completion of what will surely be a beautiful new supermarket for the community.
- The 2022 road improvement project touched many areas and neighborhoods throughout Freehold Township, including Crowne Point, Stonehurst Boulevard, Duchess Court, Polo Club and Lafayette Court. In a year where materials to complete these road projects continued to skyrocket in costs, we were still able to complete what we intended to do and on time. While on the topic of road improvements, 2022 finally saw the completion by Monmouth County of the Halls Mills Road bypass. While it took many, many, many years to complete, the difference in the way traffic moves through the area is considerably noticeable, it is safer, the bridge improvements on Elton Adelphia Road are aesthetically beautiful and is something that Freehold Township residents can be proud of. Committeeman Ammiano was instrumental in working with Monmouth County to ensure it was designed with historical flavor and that it was reflective in the way it pays homage to the waterway it crosses.
- At the Jackson Mills Road Soccer Fields, Freehold Township improved and modernized the concession and restroom facilities, marking the final upgrade to these facilities in our three major sports parks. While on the topic of the area near these fields, Freehold Township is

working with Monmouth County on the imminent improvement of the Jackson Mills Road/Bergerville Road/Stone Hill Road intersection. This project will add a traffic light and make significant roadway alignment changes that will greatly improve sightlines and visibility to drivers.

- A newly constructed bike/walking path through Wynnefield Park has connected the Three Brooks Road area and the Wynnefield and Juniper Developments, allowing for easy access for all types of recreational and foot traffic.
- On the historical front and out of view of the eyes of nearly all that pass it, the Township and Historical Preservation Commission has protected and restored a revolutionary war era barn that was deeded to Freehold Township adjacent to the Wal-Mart/Sam's Club complex. A long-term plan of making a publicly accessible site to tour and enjoy this historical building is in motion. It will eventually be called Henderson Park in honor of its namesake Thomas Henderson, who was a 35-year-old lieutenant colonel in George Washington's army during the Battle of Monmouth in 1778 and who eventually served as the Governor of NJ in 1793.
- In a show of strong support to preserve open space this past November, Freehold Township voters approved a 33% increase in the available funds to purchase, preserve and maintain these important parcels. You have our promise that the Township Committee will continue to be as aggressive as fiscally possible to protect the character of our rural areas. This year we preserved the largest tract of land ever in the history of Freehold Township. Our purchase of 150 acres of what is known as the Baldachino Tract on Ely Harmony Road, confirms our ongoing commitment to our residents to preserving open space, farmland and the Township's critical environmental areas.

I would like to recognize a few individuals that made significant contributions to Freehold Township during the last several years. I would like to thank former Planning Board Chairman Richard Gatto and Vice Chairman Rob Kash for their many years of service before leaving the Planning Board in 2022. I would like to congratulate Township Engineer Tim White on his impending retirement, thank you for your many years of service to Freehold Township. It has been a pleasure to work with you and all of us wish you the best of luck in your next chapter. I have appreciated your friendship. Raymond Santiago, who I served several years with as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, was recently named as the Prosecutor for Monmouth County. Ray, thank you for your service to the community and best of luck. It is great to see one of our own appointed to this position and I know you will make us proud. This past year we said goodbye to two longtime pillars of the Freehold Township community. Former and first-ever Freehold Township Administrator, Frederick Jahn, passed away in April. Fred was a pioneer in local government serving for 27 years during the 1970's until his retirement in the 1990's and his steady hand created the foundation for the way local government is run in New Jersey. We also sadly lost Committee Member Fasano's father Raymond Flood this past October. Mr. Flood was a Life Member of the Freehold Township Independent Fire Company #1 as a volunteer firefighter from 1976 to 2006. He also served as the Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners. Our condolences go out to the families of both of these gentlemen.

I am a proud son of Freehold Township having moved here with my family at the age of four from Queens, NY. I attended the old West Freehold School, Clifton T. Barkalow Middle School and I am just the third person to attend Freehold Township High School to assume the position of Mayor in Freehold Township. There are several people in attendance that I would like to recognize tonight. I hope that I will not miss anyone but if I do please accept my apologies in advance and I promise to get through this quickly. Thank you to my Black Sox softball family. I made it clear before joining the committee that meetings on Wednesday and Friday nights were off the table for me so as to not conflict with my games. These are all Freehold guys who grew up and remained here, they love this town as much as anyone in this room. After we finish, they all want to know what is going on in town, what is new, why is this happening, when is that getting done etc. I appreciate that they are civically-minded and care about Freehold Township as much as any of the committee members that are sitting up

here. Thank you for your support. To all of my friends that are here, people I have known from my childhood, middle school, high school through others I have met through my own children. As mayor of Freehold Township, it is an honor to represent all of you. I would not be me without my association to you. Ask anyone who grew up here, they will tell you that roots run deep in Freehold Township and we never forget where we come from and the relationships we build. Thank you for caring enough to be here to support me. I would also like to include in that discussion the people I have met during my professional career that are here tonight. I am lucky to get to work with some of the brightest financial minds in the school business and government arena. I appreciate your friendship, insight and knowledge in what you do. Thank you for being a part of my life. To the spouses of my fellow committee members, Maria, Kim, Debbie and Eric, thank you for letting us devote the time we all give for the betterment of the residents of Freehold Township. We could not accomplish what we do without you in our corners. Finally thank you to my family, my mother Carol, brother Michael, my late father Len, my mother in law Jan, my brothers in-law Jason and Matt Spector and their families, my daughter Darien, my son Jake and especially my wife Jennifer who I have no idea where I would be in life without her. She is a special person whose outward beauty pales in comparison to the person she is on the inside. I could not think of anyone else I would want to do life with more than you. To steal Tom Cruise's line from the movie Jerry McGuire, "you complete me". I love all of you very much.

In closing, on behalf of my entire family and the other members of the governing body, I would like to wish all of you, your families and friends a 2023 filled with good health, great memories and lots of happiness.

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Sanabel Abouzeina, Township Clerk