

FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP REORGANIZATION MINUTES

JANUARY 7, 2022
6:30 PM

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

Mayor read the following statement:

“In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, (c. 231 P.L. 1975), this meeting was announced on December 8, 2021 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 for the passing of Joe Louro, Frank Campioni, Bob Munoz the Township Attorney and victims of Covid-19.

Salute to the flag.

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN

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

VOTE: **AYES:** Mr. Ammiano Mr. Preston Mrs. Fasano Mr. Walker and Mayor Cook
 NAYS: None
 ABSENT: None
 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, Committeewoman Maureen Fasano Committeeman Lester A. Preston, Jr, Committeeman Alan C. Walker

Absent: None

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

Chairman Valesi called for the Oath of Office to be administered to Committeeman Cook

Judge Coyle administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Thomas L. Cook

Chairman Valesi called for the Oath of Office to be administered to Committeeman Ammiano

Shaun Golden administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Anthony J. Ammiano

ELECTION OF MAYOR

Chairman Valesi called for nominations to fill the Office of Mayor for 2022.

Mr. Preston nominated Mrs. Fasano to serve as Mayor of Freehold Township in 2022 seconded by Mr. Cook. There were no other nominations.

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

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MAYOR

Honorable Judge Coyle administered the oath of office to Mayor Maureen Fasano

Mayor Fasano welcomed Dignitaries and Special guests

ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Mayor Fasano called for nominations to fill the Office of Deputy Mayor for 2022.

Mr. Cook nominated Mr. Walker to serve as Deputy Mayor in 2022, seconded by Mr. Ammiano
There were no other nominations.

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

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO DEPUTY MAYOR

Judge Coyle administered the oath of office to Deputy Mayor Walker

R-22-1 REAPPOINTING JEFFREY C. ELSASSER AS TOWNSHIP TREASURER

Mr. Ammiano read Resolution R-21-1 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Walker

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

R-22-2 REAPPOINTING ANTHONY J. VECCHIO, ESQ. AS MUNICIPAL
 COURT PROSECUTOR

Mr. Preston read Resolution R-21-2 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Cook

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

R-22-3 APPOINTING LORRAINE NIELSON, ESQ. AND THERESA MCGUIRE, ESQ.
AS ALTERNATE MUNICIPAL COURT PROSECUTORS

Mr. Walker read Resolution R-21-3 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Preston

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

R-22-4 APPOINTING RAYMOND S. SANTIAGO, ESQ. AS MUNICIPAL COURT
PUBLIC DEFENDER

Mr. Walker read Resolution R-22-4 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Ammiano

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

R-22-5 APPOINTING JEFFERY C. ELSASSER AND ANDREA DIGIOVANNI AS
QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENTS AND SETTING BID THRESHOLD

Mr. Preston read Resolution R-21-5 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Ammiano

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

R-22-6 AUTHORIZING 2022 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 Sibilia, 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. Francis C. Accisano, Attorney at Law - Special Counsel - General
13. CGP&H, LLC - Affordable Housing Administrator
14. Renzi Legal Resources - Court Reporter
15. Phillips Preiss Grygiel Leheny Hughes, LLC - Planner to Township Committee and Planning Board
16. T&M Associates - Engineer to Township Committee and Planning Board; Shade Tree Consultant; and Environmental Engineer
17. Thomas Planning Associates - Planner to Township Committee and Planning Board
18. 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
19. Allied Control Services, Inc. - Utilities Instrumentation Programming
20. Shropshire Associates, LLC - Traffic Engineer
21. Netta Architects, LLC - Architectural Services
22. Settembrino Architects - Architectural Services
23. Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc. – Architectural Services
24. Gagliano & Company - Appraisal Services
25. Sockler Realty Services Group – Appraisal Services
26. Greener by Design – Environmental Asset Management Planner
27. Skyline Environmental, Inc. - Safety, Health, PEOSHA, OSHA & Labor-Related Services

MR. AMMIANO MOVED THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS OF OFFICIALS FOR 2022:

MAUREEN FASANO	POLICE COMMISSIONER
KRISTON BARTOLOMEO -	DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK
MARGARET JAHN -	DOG REGISTRAR
PAUL VITALE -	ADA COMPLIANCE OFFICER

MR. WALKER- SECONDED THE MOTION

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

MR. PRESTON MOVED THE FOLLOWING AUTHORIZATIONS FOR 2022:

ALAN C. WALKER– 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. AMMIANO- SECONDED THE MOTION

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

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR

FOR THE RECORD: ALL ONE YEAR TERMS WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2022. ALL TWO, THREE, FOUR, AND FIVE YEAR TERMS WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31 OF SUBSEQUENT YEARS.

MAYOR FASANO ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS/ REAPPOINTMENTS:

A. **PLANNING BOARD**

- * AS MAYOR, I WILL SERVE AS A PLANNING BOARD MEMBER THIS YEAR
- * ALAN C. WALKER – NEW APPOINTMENT – CLASS I MEMBER/MAYOR’S DESIGNEE - 1 YEAR TERM
- * THOMAS L. COOK – NEW APPOINTMENT – CLASS III MEMBER/TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER – 1 YEAR TERM
- * A. RICHARD GATTO – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS IV MEMBER – 4 YEAR MEMBER
- * MARGARET JAHN – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS II MEMBER – 1 YEAR TERM
- * MICHAEL PUCCI – REAPPOINTMENT – ALTERNATE 3 – 2 YEAR TERM

B. **BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

- * ALISSA KEEGAN - REAPPOINTMENT – COMMISSIONER – 5 YEAR TERM

C. **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

- * AS MAYOR, I WILL SERVE AS TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE LIAISON THIS YEAR
- * NEIL CARGUILO - REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS B MEMBER – 4 YEAR TERM
- * CHERYL POLVERINO - REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS A MEMBER - 4 YEAR TERM
- * DAVID SEME – REAPPOINTMENT – ALTERNATE 2 – 2 YEAR TERM

APPOINTMENTS BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

MR. WALKER MOVED THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS:

A. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

- * THOMAS L. COOK – REAPPOINTMENT – TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE LIAISON – 1 YEAR TERM
- * THOMAS COYLE – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER AT LARGE – 2 YEAR TERM
- * JUSTIN HOLLEY – NEW APPOINTMENT – CHIEF – EAST FREEHOLD FIRE COMPANY – 1 YEAR TERM
- * MARGARET JAHN – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER AT LARGE – 2 YEAR TERM
- * FRANK LUCIA – REAPPOINTMENT – SENIOR PROPERTY MANAGER – 2 YEAR TERM
- * CRAIG HAAS – NEW APPOINTMENT – CHIEF – INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY – 1 YEAR TERM

B. FIRE PREVENTION BOARD

- * GEORGE BAUMANN – REAPPOINTMENT – CHIEF OF POLICE – 1 YEAR TERM
- * JUSTIN HOLLEY – NEW APPOINTMENT – CHIEF – EAST FREEHOLD FIRE COMPANY – 1 YEAR TERM
- * MICHAEL MURRAY – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 4 YEAR TERM
- * DENNIS “CHIP” POLO – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 4 YEAR TERM
- * RALPH REIFER – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 4 YEAR TERM
- * SHAUN REILLY – REAPPOINTMENT – FIRE OFFICIAL - 1 YEAR TERM
- * CRAIG HAAS – NEW APPOINTMENT – CHIEF – INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY – 1 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
- * NATHAN ROSEN - REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 3 YEAR TERM* MICHAEL SCHIFF – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 3 YEAR TERM

D. STREET NAME REVIEW COMMITTEE

- * THOMAS L. COOK – NEW APPOINTMENT – MEMBER/PLANNING BOARD – 1 YEAR TERM
- * LESTER A. PRESTON, JR. – NEW APPOINTMENT – MEMBER/TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE - 1 YEAR TERM
- * PATRICIA KONDRUP – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 3 YEAR TERM
- * GEORGE BAUMANN - NEW APPOINTMENT – MEMBER/POLICE – 1 YEAR TERM

E. SHADE TREE COMMISSION

- * GREGORY HANLEY – REAPPOINTMENT – 5 YEAR TERM
- * ALAN C. WALKER – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS III MEMBER/TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER – 1 YEAR TERM

MR. AMMIANO SECONDED THE MOTION

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

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR

MAYOR FASANO ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS/ REAPPOINTMENTS:

A. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

- * ANTHONY J. AMMIANO – REAPPOINTMENT – TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE LIAISON – 1 YEAR TERM
- * BRIAN DOUGHERTY - REAPPOINTMENT – COMMISSIONER – 3 YEAR TERM
- * SARA SAYED - REAPPOINTMENT – ALTERNATE 1 – 2 YEAR TERM

B. MONMOUTH COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS COORDINATORS COUNCIL

- * MARIE BAYERLE – REAPPOINTMENT – ALTERNATE – 1 YEAR TERM
- * PAUL HESSLER – REAPPOINTMENT – DELEGATE – 1 YEAR TERM

C. GYPSY MOTH COORDINATOR

- * THOMAS RITCHIE DESIGNATED FOR 2022

D. HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL

- * AS MAYOR, I WILL SERVE AS TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE LIAISON THIS YEAR
- * STEVEN BOYCE, REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER/BUSINESS - 3 YEAR TERM
- * DON CRUZ - REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER/MINORITY - 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

MRS. FASANO MOVED THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS/ REAPPOINTMENTS:

A. BOARD OF HEALTH

- * DR. FABIO APOLITO - REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER - 3 YEAR TERM
- * MICHAEL CHUDKOWSKI - REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 3 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

- * GEORGE BAUMANN – NEW APPOINTMENT – CLASS II MEMBER/POLICE CHIEF – UNEXPIRED TERM THRU 12/31/22
- * KRISTIN CLYNE - REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS V MEMBER/COUNSELOR – 2 YEAR TERM
- * MARY COZZOLINO - REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS III MEMBER/BOARD OF EDUCATION – TWO YEAR TERM
- * MARGARET JAHN – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS VI MEMBER/CITIZEN – 3 YEAR TERM
- * LESTER A. PRESTON, JR. – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS I MEMBER/TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE – 1 YEAR TERM
- * JAY ROBINSON – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS VI MEMBER/CENTRASTATE MEDICAL CENTER – 3 YEAR TERM

D. TRANSPORTATION BOARD

- * JEFF KERNS – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 3 YEAR TERM

E. YOUTH GUIDANCE COUNCIL

- * ALAN C. WALKER – REAPPOINTMENT- TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER – 1 YEAR TERM
- * CATHERINE RUPNER - MEMBER – 3 YEAR TERM

F. MANASQUAN RIVER REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

- * A. RICHARD GATTO – REAPPOINTMENT – FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP MEMBER – 5 YEAR TERM

G. TOWNSHIP PHYSICIANS

- * DR. LESLIE SOJKA, MEDICAL DOCTOR - REAPPOINTED FOR 2022
- * DR. ROBERT PEDOWITZ, MEDICAL DOCTOR - REAPPOINTED FOR 2022
- * DR. MARK WHITE, PSYCHOLOGIST - REAPPOINTED FOR 2022

H. OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS

- * ASBURY PARK PRESS - REDESIGNATED FOR 2022
- * NEWS TRANSCRIPT - REDESIGNATED FOR 2022

MR. AMMIANO SECONDED THE MOTION

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

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. WALKER MOVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS –

- R-22-7- APPOINTING ANDREA DIGIOVANNI AS PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER FOR 2022
- R-22-8- APPOINTING SANABEL ABOUZEINA AS FUTURE ASSESSMENT SEARCH OFFICER FOR 2022
- R-22-9- APPOINTING ANDREA DIGIOVANNI AS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE AND TODD BROWN AS ALTERNATE FOR 2022
- R-22-10- APPOINTING CHRISTOPHER BRUNNER AND JEREMY JEFFRIES AS CLASS II SPECIAL OFFICERS FOR 2022
- R-22-11- APPOINTING GEORGE HEITZ, JOSEPH LYNCH, WILLIAM RODRIGUEZ, JR. AND SALVATORE SIINO AS CLASS III SPECIAL OFFICERS FOR 2022
- R-22-12 ADOPTION OF TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR 2022
- R-22-13 AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF FREEHOLD 2022 CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN
- R-22-14- SETTING SALARIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2022 SALARY ORDINANCE

- R-22-15- AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF CERTAIN TAX SALE CERTIFICATE DURING 2022
- R-22-16- AUTHORIZING VARIOUS ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN THROUGHOUT 2022 BY THE TAX ASSESSOR AND TAX COLLECTOR
- R-22-17- SETTING THE INTEREST RATE ON DELINQUENT TAXES
- R-22-18- AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH BROWN & BROWN METRO, INC. FOR RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT SERVICES
- R-22-19- CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT WITH CERTAIN STATE CONTRACT VENDORS
- R-22-20- ESTABLISHING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING DATES FOR 2022

MR. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION

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

MAYOR COOK 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 Fasano opened the meeting to the public and asked for any comments or questions. There being none,

MAYOR COMMENT

On behalf of the Township Committee, I would like to thank everyone for attending tonight's meeting. Your continued support is always appreciated and never goes unnoticed.

I am honored to represent the people of Freehold Township as mayor of a town that I truly love. To be appointed Mayor is a privilege that I do not take lightly. In the 329 years that Freehold Township has existed, there have only been four other women to have been elected to Freehold Township's Committee, three serving as mayor. It is monumental to me to join this prestigious club of women leaders - Frances Mayrose, Clare Farragher, Dorothy Avallone, and Barbara McMorrow – who faithfully served the residents of Freehold Township with great commitment and passion.

All the members of the Township Committee serve our community with great commitment, always putting first what is best for, not only the town, but for the people of our town. I would like to congratulate Anthony Ammiano and Tom Cook on their re-elections this past fall. Anthony and Tom have served our community for 21 and 9 years, respectfully. I am grateful for the guidance and support from every committeeman. I would also like to thank the spouses of the Township Committee (Maria, Deb, Kim, and Jen) for their unyielding commitment to Freehold Township.

And a very special thank you to my own family (Eric, Matt, Nick, Mark, Jess and Nicole) for your unconditional love and support. I would also like to recognize and thank my parents, Raymond Flood and Joyce Flood. They instilled in me and my siblings the importance of civic responsibility and giving back to our community, principles I take with me every day and in everything I do. As your mayor, I will use these values to guide decisions that benefit the residents of Freehold Township.

I want to thank the heads of Freehold Township's many departments and every town employee. Freehold Township is fortunate to have an incredible group of people availing their skills for the betterment of Freehold Township and its residents - professional, focused, hardworking, resourceful, kind and caring. They consistently put residents first in all of their decisions. Thank you for an outstanding job year after year!

Leading this professional team of employees is Freehold Township's Administrator, Peter Valesi. Overseeing all facets of Township operations, Mr. Valesi has invaluable insight, all-important people skills and a natural business sense. He is aided by his indispensable Administrative Assistant, Susan Mladinov. 2022 is Susan's 40th anniversary as a township employee. Susan has proven over and over again that she is a critical asset to our town.

I'd like to share some brief highlights of your Freehold Township government at work.

Our Health Department continues to guide us through this unprecedented health crisis. Their tireless efforts have kept our community informed, healthy and safe.

Our Parks and Recreation Department continues to make our community shine. Our summer camp program surpassed pre-pandemic enrollment while adding an 8th week. Our magnificent parks and facilities have come to represent what Freehold Township stands for. This past fall saw the grand opening of "My Playground Two" at Opatut Park, an all inclusive playground for children of all abilities and their parents. Our Senior Center is reopened and is planning to return to a full slate of programs for 2022.

The Department of Public Works keeps our town pristine. No matter the season or storm, our town is ready and comes through. No other DPW compares to ours!

I also want to thank you to all our first responders. Our Police Department continues to serve our community with professionalism and pride preserving public safety and the law. Freehold Township hired 7 new recruits in 2021, we are fortunate to have another generation of committed police officers in Freehold Township. Our volunteers in the Fire Department and First Aid have continued to protect our residents with genuine care and concern.

In August, Catherine Campbell retired as the Township's CFO, after 12 years, making us all wonder if her shoes could ever be filled. We found our answer in Jeff Elsasser. Welcome to the team, Jeff!

The Township also suffered an incredible loss with the passing of long-time Township Attorney, Bob Munoz. Bob will always be remembered for his diligence in his pursuit of the law, his quick wit and charm, and his intent to always do the right thing. He will be sorely missed and is a great loss to the Township of Freehold. We are fortunate that Andy Ball has stepped into Bob's role without missing a step.

The Township will offset taxpayer costs by over \$1 million dollars in revenue in the 2022 budget with over 40 shared services with area municipalities. Adding to the shared services list, we have a new, shared service agreement with Manalapan Township for Health Services. This brings together our two neighboring communities to continue addressing COVID-19 and other public health issues in a cooperative and cost-saving effort. The Township increased their presence in the area with Shared Services for Information Technology with Spring Lake, Englishtown, Sea Girt and Mantoloking.

Putting your utility dollars to work, we accepted bids on the Township's new Gravel Hill Road Water Tank, which is a \$4.5 million dollar upgrade to our water system. This will ensure proper pressure and reliability throughout the Township. We worked with Monmouth County on a \$20 million upgrade to Halls Mill Road, which was partially funded through a Federal Grant. The Township designated Lone Pine Landfill as an area in need of redevelopment in an attempt to

generate a beneficial reuse of the site as a solar field, putting to work a current Federal Superfund Site that has been dormant for decades.

And finally,

This past September 11th marked the 20th Anniversary of 9/11. The lives lost that day are forever in our hearts, as that day forever changed our community and our world. Mayor Cook reminded all of us of what happened the next day, on September 12th. That day, we came together as Americans and we stood as one. We put our differences aside. We chose to respect, love and care for each other.

I am asking everyone to make 2022 the year that we choose to do the same. We are all different. We come from different backgrounds, have different thoughts and beliefs. But, we are all Americans. And we do actually share many of the same thoughts and beliefs. Let's work together for our community. Let's stand together as one.

On behalf of the Freehold Township Committee, I want to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:07 PM.

Sanabel Abouzeina, Township Clerk