

# FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP REORGANIZATION MINUTES

JANUARY 3, 2020  
6:30 PM

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

Deputy Mayor read the following statement:

“In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, (c. 231 P.L. 1975), this meeting was announced on November 27, 2019 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. Salkin asked for a moment of silence and a salute to the flag.

## APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN

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

**VOTE:** **AYES:** Mr. Ammiano Mr. Cook, Mrs. Fasano Mr. Preston, And Mr. Salkin

**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 David Salkin

Absent: None

Also, present Robert Munoz, 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 Committeewoman Maureen Fasano

Judge Cagan administered the Oath of Office to Maureen Fasano

## ELECTION OF MAYOR

Chairman Valesi called for nominations to fill the Office of Mayor for 2020.

Mr. Salkin nominated Lester A. Preston to serve as Mayor of Freehold Township in 2020 seconded by

Mr. Cook There were no other nominations.

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

### **OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MAYOR**

Honorable Judge Cagan administered the oath of office to Mayor Lester A. Preston

Mayor Preston welcomes Dignitaries and special guests

### **ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

Mayor Preston called for nominations to fill the Office of Deputy Mayor for 2020.

Mr. Ammiano nominated Mr. Cook to serve as Deputy Mayor in 2020, seconded by Mr. Fasano  
There were no other nominations.

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

### **OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO DEPUTY MAYOR**

Honorable Judge Cagan, administered the oath of office to Deputy Mayor Cook.

#### **R-20-1 REAPPOINTING ANTHONY J. VECCHIO, ESQ. AS MUNICIPAL COURT PROSECUTOR**

Mr. Ammiano read Resolution R-20-1 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Cook.

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

#### **R-20-2 APPOINTING LORRAINE NIELSON, ESQ. AN PAUL GRANICK, ESQ. AS ALTERNATE MUNICIPAL COURT PROSECUTORS**

Mr. Salkin read Resolution R-20-2 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mrs. Fasano

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

#### **R-20-3 APPOINTING RAYMOND S. SANTIAGO, ESQ. AS MUNICIPAL COURT PUBLIC DEFENDER**

Mr. Cook read Resolution R-20-3 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Ammiano

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

R-20-4 REAPPOINTING ELIZABETH KIERNAN AS TOWNSHIP TAX COLLECTOR

Mr. Ammiano read Resolution R-20-4 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Salkin

**VOTE: AYES:** Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Fasano, Mr. Salkin and Mayor Preston

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

R-20-5 REAPPOINTING CATHERINE M. CAMPBELL AS QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT

Mr. Cook read Resolution R-20-5 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Ammiano

**VOTE: AYES:** Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Fasano, Mr. Salkin and Mayor Preston

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

R-20-6 AUTHORIZING 2020 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS

1. Davison, Eastman, Munoz, Paone, P.A. - Township Attorney and Labor Counsel
2. Acacia Financial Group, Inc. - Financial Advisor
3. Brown & Brown Metro, LLC - Insurance Broker - Property & Casualty
4. McLaughlin Stauffer & Shaklee, P.C. - Planning Board Attorney; Special Counsel - General
5. Gibbons, PC - Bond Counsel
6. Gluckwalrath LLP - Bond Counsel
7. DiFrancesco, Bateman, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum, P.C. - Real Estate and Tax Appeal Legal Counsel
8. F. Clifford Gibbons, Attorney at Law, LLC - Special Counsel - Bankruptcy
9. Jeffrey R. Surenian & Associates, LLC - Special Counsel - Affordable Housing
10. Francis C. Accisano, Attorney at Law - Special Counsel - General
11. CGP&H, LLC - Affordable Housing Administrator
12. Guy J. Renzi & Associates - Court Reporter
13. Phillips Preiss Grygiel Leheny Hughes, LLC - Planner to Township Committee and Planning Board
14. T&M Associates - Engineer to Township Committee and Planning Board; Shade Tree Consultant; and Environmental Engineer
15. Thomas Planning Associates - Planner to Township Committee and Planning Board
16. 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
17. Excel Environmental Resources, Inc. - Environmental Engineer

18. Allied Control Services, Inc. - Utilities Instrumentation Programming
19. Shropshire Associates, LLC - Traffic Engineer
20. Netta Architects, LLC - Architectural Services
21. H2M Architects & Engineers, Inc. - Architectural Services
22. Settembrino Architects - Architectural Services
23. DRD Appraisals, LLC d/b/a Stuart Appraisal Company - Appraisal Services
24. Gagliano & Company - Appraisal Services
25. Skyline Environmental, Inc. - Safety, Health, PEOSHA, OSHA & Labor-Related Services

Mr. Salkin read Resolution R-20-6 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Ammiano

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

MR. AMMIANO MOVED THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS OF OFFICIALS FOR 2020:

DAVID M. SALKIN -	POLICE COMMISSIONER
KRISTON BARTOLOMEO -	DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK
MARGARET JAHN -	DOG REGISTRAR
PAUL VITALE -	ADA COMPLIANCE OFFICER

MR. COOK- SECONDED THE MOTION

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

MR. SALKIN MOVED THE FOLLOWING AUTHORIZATIONS FOR 2020:

THOMAS L. COOK – 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

MRS. FASANO- SECONDED THE MOTION

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

## **APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR**

**FOR THE RECORD:** ALL ONE YEAR TERMS WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2020. ALL TWO, THREE, FOUR, AND FIVE YEAR TERMS WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31 OF SUBSEQUENT YEARS.

**MAYOR PRESTON ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS/ REAPPOINTMENTS:**

### **A. PLANNING BOARD**

- \* ROBERT KASH - REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS IV MEMBER – 4 YEAR TERM
- \* ANTHONY J. AMMIANO – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS III MEMBER/  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER – 1 YEAR TERM
- \* THOMAS COOK – NEW APPOINTMENT - CLASS I MEMBER/MAYOR'S  
DESIGNEE – 1 YEAR TERM
- \* MARGARET JAHN – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS II MEMBER – 1 YEAR TERM

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

- \* TODD ROWOHLT – NEW APPOINTMENT – COMMISSIONER – UNEXPIRED  
TERM THRU 12/31/22

### **C. HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

- \* MAUREEN FASANO – TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE LIAISON – 1 YEAR TERM

## **APPOINTMENTS BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**MR. AMMIANO MOVED THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS/  
REAPPOINTMENTS:**

### **A. PLANNING BOARD**

- \*LESTER A. PRESTON, JR. – NEW APPOINTMENT – CLASS I MEMBER/MAYOR  
– 1 YEAR TERM
- \* JASON LEVY – REAPPOINTMENT – ALTERNATE 3 – 2 YEAR TERM

### **B. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

- \* THOMAS L. COOK – REAPPOINTMENT – TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE LIAISON -  
1 YEAR TERM
- \* THOMAS COYLE – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER AT LARGE – 2 YEAR TERM
- \* MARGARET JAHN – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER AT LARGE – 2 YEAR  
TERM
- \* FRANK LUCIA – REAPPOINTMENT – RACEWAY MALL SENIOR PROPERTY  
MANAGER – 2 YEAR TERM
- \* LEE BEATON – NEW APPOINTMENT – CHIEF – EAST FREEHOLD FIRE  
COMPANY – 1 YEAR TERM
- \* RAYMOND PICCOLINI – REAPPOINTMENT – COORDINATOR/CHAIRMAN –  
3 YEAR TERM
- \* DANIEL SPICUZZA – NEW APPOINTMENT – CHIEF – INDEPENDENT FIRE  
COMPANY – 1 YEAR TERM

**C. FIRE PREVENTION BOARD**

- \* LEE BEATON – NEW APPOINTMENT – CHIEF – EAST FREEHOLD FIRE COMPANY – 1 YEAR TERM
- \* DANIEL SPICUZZA – NEW APPOINTMENT – CHIEF – INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY – 1 YEAR TERM
- \* ERNEST SCHRIEFER - REAPPOINTMENT – CHIEF OF POLICE – 1 YEAR TERM

**D. CABLE T.V. ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

**E. STREET NAME REVIEW COMMITTEE**

- \* THOMAS L. COOK – REAPPOINTMENT – TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER – 1 YEAR TERM
- \* THOMAS MCGOWAN – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER/POLICE – 1 YEAR TERM
- \* LESTER A. PRESTON, JR. – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER/PLANNING BOARD – 1 YEAR TERM
- \* STEPHEN SOLOWEY – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER/CHAIRMAN/EAST FREEHOLD FIRE COMPANY – 1 YEAR TERM

**F. SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

- \* TARA MCQUADE – REAPPOINTMENT – COMMISSIONER – 5 YEAR TERM
- \* JEANNE PATTERSON – REAPPOINTMENT – COMMISSIONER – 5 YEAR TERM
- \* DAVID M. SALKIN – NEW APPOINTMENT - TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER - 1 YEAR TERM

**MR. FASANO SECONDED THE MOTION**

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

**APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR**

**MAYOR PRESTON ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS/  
REAPPOINTMENTS:**

**A. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

- \* ANTHONY J. AMMIANO – REAPPOINTMENT – TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER/PLANNING BOARD – 1 YEAR TERM
- \* WILLIAM LOMBARDI - REAPPOINTMENT – COMMISSIONER – 3 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 2020

**D. HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL**

- \* JANIECE KIRTON - REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER/EDUCATOR – 3 YEAR TERM
- \* TENG-TENG CHIN KLEINER - REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER/MINORITIES – 3 YEAR TERM
- \* MAUREEN FASANO – NEW APPOINTMENT – TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE – 1 YEAR TERM
- \* JOANN PRICE – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER/EDUCATOR – 3 YEAR TERM
- \* DANIEL VALENTINE – REAPPOINTMENT – 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**

- \* ROBIN LEMESEVSKI - REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 3 YEAR TERM
- \* ALENE OPATUT - 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**

- \* LINDA ALTINI – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS VI MEMBER/PTA REPRESENTATIVE – 3 YEAR TERM
- \* LESTER A. PRESTON, JR. - NEW APPOINTMENT – CLASS I MEMBER/ TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER – UNEXPIRED TERM THRU 12/31/21
- \* THOMAS MCGOWAN – REAPPOINTMENT – CLASS II MEMBER/POLICE CHIEF DESIGNEE – 3 YEAR TERM

**D. TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

- \* JAMES MAURO - REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 3 YEAR TERM
- \* BARBARA VITALE - REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 3 YEAR TERM

E. LAKE TOPANEMUS COMMISSION

- \* CHRISTOPHER KEAN – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 3 YEAR TERM
- \* JOSEPH REILLY – REAPPOINTMENT – MEMBER – 3 YEAR TERM

F. YOUTH GUIDANCE COUNCIL

- \* GEORGE BAUMANN - REAPPOINTMENT – LIAISON - 3 YEAR TERM
- \* DAVID M. SALKIN - NEW MEMBER – TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER – 1 YEAR TERM

F. TOWNSHIP PHYSICIANS

- \* DR. LESLIE SOJKA, MEDICAL DOCTOR - REAPPOINTED FOR 2020
- \* DR. ROBERT PEDOWITZ, MEDICAL DOCTOR - REAPPOINTED FOR 2020
- \* DR. MARK WHITE, PSYCHOLOGIST - REAPPOINTED FOR 2020

G. OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS

- \* ASBURY PARK PRESS - REDESIGNATED FOR 2020
- \* NEWS TRANSCRIPT - REDESIGNATED FOR 2020

**MR. AMMIANO SECONDED THE MOTION**

**VOTE: AYES:** Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Fasano, Mr. Salkin and Mayor Preston  
**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. AMMIANO MOVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS –**

- R-20-7 APPOINTING ANDREA DIGIOVANNI AS PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER FOR 2020
- R-20-8 APPOINTING SANABEL ABOUZEINA AS FUTURE ASSESSMENT SEARCH OFFICER FOR 2020
- R-20-9 APPOINTING ANDREA DIGIOVANNI AS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE AND PETER R. VALESI AS ALTERNATE FOR 2020
- R-20-10 RESOLUTION APPOINTING CHRISTOPHER BRUNNER AND JEREMY JEFFRIES AS CLASS II SPEICAL OFFICERS FOR 2020
- R-20-11 RESOLUTION APPOINTING GEORGE HEITZ, ADRIENNE KARON, JOSEPH LYNCH, WILLIAM RODRIGUEZ, JR. AND SALVATORE SIINO AS CLASS III SPECIAL OFFICERS FOR 2020
- R-20-12 ADOPTION OF TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR 2020
- R-20-13 AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF FREEHOLD 2020 CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN



- R-20-14 SETTING SALARIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2020 SALARY ORDINANCE
- R-20-15 AUTHORIZING HEALTH CARE BENEFITS BUY OUTS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 47, SUBSECTION 47-26 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FREEHOLD
- R-20-16 AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF CERTAIN TAX SALE CERTIFICATES DURING 2020
- R-20-17 AUTHORIZING VARIOUS ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN THROUGHOUT 2020 BY THE TAX ASSESSOR AND TAX COLLECTOR
- R-20-18 SETTING THE INTEREST RATE ON DELINQUENT TAXES
- R-20-19 AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH BROWN & BROWN METRO, INC. FOR RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT SERVICES
- R-20-20 CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT WITH CERTAIN STATE CONTRACT VENDORS
- R-20-21 ESTABLISHING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING DATES FOR 2020

**MR. COOK** SECONDED THE MOTION

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

**MAYOR PRESTON** READ THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

LEGAL & JUSTICE

CHAIRPERSONS: David Salkin & Maureen Fasano

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

CHAIRPERSONS: Anthony Ammiano & David Salkin

SOCIAL SERVICES & PUBLIC WORKS

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT, SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

CHAIRPERSONS: Maureen Fasano & Anthony Ammiano

PLANNING, ZONING & ENGINEERING

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

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

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

Mayor Preston asked for any comments from the dais

### **Maureen Fasano read her speech**

I am honored and humbled to be sitting here today. As many of you know, I have lived in Freehold Township for nearly all my life. For as long as I can remember, people would joke that one day I would be mayor. I never thought I would be fortunate enough to be elected to the Township Committee.

Freehold Township is truly one of the best places to live, largely due to the people who have served before me. To now be one of the people who will shape the future of this great town is a responsibility I am privileged to hold. I am proud to serve in this important position, and I look forward to continuing the success that Freehold Township has had.

I would like to take this opportunity and say thank you to all the people that assisted and supported me throughout my campaign! The list is very large. Most importantly, my husband Eric, I want to say I could not have done any of this without your support. I want to thank my three boys: Matthew; Nicholas and Mark along with Jess. I am blessed to have such incredible sons. Family means everything to me and they are my pride and joy.

The importance of Family is something that has been instilled in me my entire life. I would not be here without the love and guidance from my parents, Raymond and Joyce Flood. I am lucky to be one of six children who all hold family as dear to their heart as I do. Two of my sisters are here today. Ann Horan, with my nephew Philip and Bri, and my sister Jane Kablaoui with her husband Samir. Thank you for your support!

My husband and I met when we were 11 years old in Laura Donovan School. I am fortunate to have married into a family that has been in my life for as long as I can remember. Thank you to my mother in law Anne Fasano and Keith and Sue Fasano along with my nieces, Carlie, Lex and Drew, for being here.

I would like to thank the other members of the Township Committee, Mayor Lester Preston, Deputy Mayor Tom Cook, David Salkin and Anthony Ammiano for having faith in me to serve our community. I look forward to working with you in the upcoming years. I would also like to thank Tony Garganzio and the County Committee for their support.

I want to wish Barbara McMarrow the best, always, and to say that she will be missed, is an understatement.

I am very fortunate to have large tight knit group of friends, many whom are here tonight. To all of you, I truly appreciate your advice, encouragement, suggestions and congratulations. You are all part of my family.

Finally, I would like to thank the residents of Freehold Township. You have entrusted me with a great responsibility that I do not take lightly. I look forward to having the opportunity to serve you. I will work hard every day to continue to make Freehold Township the best possible place to live and raise a family.

A happy and healthy New Year to all!

### **David Salkin read his Speech**

Good evening, friends. As you probably know by now, I've accepted a position that doesn't allow me to hold elected office, and so I must step away from what has been a major part of my life. I have officially tendered my resignation to the Township Clerk.

Sitting here tonight, knowing it's the last time I'll address my family, friends, and the residents of Freehold Township from this dais, is certainly bittersweet. It was never my intention to serve for 25 years, it just sort of happened. The timing of my exit is perfect, however; because for 25 years I was the youngest member of the governing body, and Maureen screwed that up tonight.

When I entered public life, at the age of 28, I had no idea I'd one day be the senior member of the governing body. Tonight, I hand the legacy of our local government to those who follow, knowing that we're in good hands. Seeing Maureen join this lineage of public servants is reassuring, because she's a lifelong resident like me, and has been fully immersed in our community. Her motives for serving are honorable, just as every person I've ever served with have been. To our new Mayor, Lester Preston, my running-mate and friend, congratulations on holding the best title in the country.

There are some people I need to acknowledge tonight. If not for Romeo Cascaes, I never would have sat here. It was Romeo who told me to get involved when I graduated Rutgers and returned to Freehold Township. What started as a volunteer post on the Historic Preservation Commission somehow morphed into the last 25 years. Romeo has been a life-long friend, mentor, confidant and my political father. Another key figure in my career is Duane Davison, Township Attorney for most of my time here. Duane is one of the most honorable and intelligent guys I've ever known. I'm sad that he isn't a US Senator. People like him should be running the country, not advising local officials. But thank God we had him for so many years. Without the public ever realizing it, Duane's wise council has had a permanent mark on this town we love. Bob Munoz now fills that position, also with great wisdom, which is always reassuring. It's nice to know, as a committee member, that our attorney can beat up your attorney.

Another key figure in my tenure here is missing. The late Tom Antus, Township Administrator for many years. He was my friend, civics teacher, mentor, and advisor. He would have been my soccer coach, too – if he hadn't cut my ass from the Eisenhower soccer team. Twice. In all fairness, I wasn't that good. I've been fortunate to serve with some amazing elected officials in my 25 years. Each person with whom I served offered a unique perspective and distinctive voice; and each was worthy of the office they held. My peers up here represent the fine history of local government Freehold Township residents have come to expect, and certainly deserve. To say I've loved serving with you is an understatement. I will miss our laughs and arguments, some of which happened simultaneously. Sometimes, after a really good blow out, Anthony would call me the next morning to make up.

When I think back to my greatest accomplishments of the last 25 years, they're sitting in front of me. Somehow, in the chaos that was life and career, Patty and I managed to raise two fantastic kids – now young adults. They literally played on the floor of this building while I attended meetings. They amaze us every day. No matter what faults I have, Rachael and Alex represent everything good inside me. Patty – somehow we managed to juggle everything and make it all work. You're amazing in so many ways. Thanks for the last 30 years. Patty is the senior member of our governing body at home.

To the residents of Freehold Township, thank you for returning me to office for two and a half decades. I think it was 9 elections. I never took that for granted, and did everything I could to protect my hometown, and plan for its future. Most folks will never understand the difficulty and frustration of governing in New Jersey. COAH, State Government, and a liberal State Supreme Court that likes to legislate from the bench make our jobs extremely difficult, with terrible policies that force development we don't want, usurp our Master Plan, and waste countless taxpayer dollars. While I love my town, my county and my country, I find this state to be an example of everything that is wrong with government.

I've often been asked how I lasted 25 years in public office. The answer is simple. The residents of Freehold Township are just different. In 25 years, the number of rude encounters can be counted on one hand. If we have one rough meeting a year, that's a lot. Our residents place their faith in us to do the right thing, and we've respected that sacred trust by always working on their behalf. Very little we do will ever be unanimous, but we've proven for almost 50 years that this 5-0 Republican body doesn't do politics, we do government – and this place is run like a business. I remember when Eagleton Institute chose Freehold Township as a model of good local government. We've also appeared on the "best places to live" in America over the years. And this past year, we received our Triple-A Bond Rating. The work we do here, as a team, both elected officials and employees, has paid off.

As I step away and return to private life, I leave with a sense of satisfaction. I had the privilege of chairing our Open Space Masterplan Committee, and ours was the first municipal plan adopted in NJ. When we started, we had 3,000 acres of Permanent Open Space. Today, we have more than 10,000. Trips I took to Boston and Colonial Williamsburg were the inspiration for what would become the architectural controls ordinance. I remember looking around Quincy Market and thinking, "Why can't we do this?" And then *we did*. Instead of ugly big boxes, new construction reflects our colonial heritage. We can't stop development, but I think we did a great job in making it more palatable. The creation of Durand Park's Memorial Arboretum, the parks on Jackson Mills Road and Opatut Park, and the 9-11 Memorial outside were also projects I worked on with dedicated folks who genuinely care about this

town. While my name is merely a footnote in Township history, I'm satisfied with my part in these 25 years. I can actually *see* it.

The toughest part of retiring from government service will be missing the many friends I've made over the years. Our staff is dedicated, and equally important, extremely talented at what they do. They take pride in their work, and it shows. Pete Valesi does an amazing job running day to day operations. Administrator is a difficult and unique job, but Pete has been masterful. It's going to be sad when I have to call Pete on the outside line, and Susan doesn't put me through because I'm not his boss anymore. Pete's dying to have me call and ask a question so he can say, "I'm sorry, I'm not at liberty to discuss that with you anymore."

There are so many individuals I want to personally thank, but when I made my list, I realized it was impossible. Whether its friends in our outstanding Police Department, this building, DPW, construction, or the Water Department, I want to sincerely thank each of you for your dedication and hard work. I'd like to think you never acted like the awful clichéd civil servants because you were treated with respect and gratitude. Our residents constantly write letters praising our staff, and for good reason. You're the best anywhere. I will miss working with you all. Thank you for making our jobs easier.

In closing, let me say it's been an honor and privilege to serve my town, and in a small way, and most importantly to me, to serve my country. I bleed red, white and blue, and I believe it's up to every American to do their part. Dad always said, "Public service is the rent we pay for the space we take up on earth." I hope I've paid my fair share.

My friends on the dais and in the audience thank you – for your votes, your support, your good work, and your friendship. I wish you all good health and continued success.

I will now attempt to write a NY Times Best Seller in my newly-found free time, because Patty really wants a beach house.

The sun will always shine a little brighter in Freehold Township. Thank you all for allowing me to be a part of the greatest local government in the USA.

Thank you, Mayor.

### **Mayor Preston read his Speech**

I would like to start by offering my congratulations to Committeewoman Fasano on her election to Township Committee. I speak for all of us when I tell you how excited we are to have you join the team. I would also like to recognize and congratulate our retiring members, Mayor Barbara McMorrow and Mayor David Salkin. Thank you to Committeeman Ammiano for your continued support and your vote of confidence in me to serve as mayor. Congratulations to our new Deputy Mayor Tom Cook. Growing up, Mrs. Cook was one of a few second mothers that I had. I laugh when I think of some of the dumb things we did and I can't imagine that she would have ever thought Tom and I would one day serve together as Mayor / Deputy Mayor, but I do know that she is pretty proud of both of us right now. To our Administrator, Peter Valesi, our CFO Catherine Campbell and all the outstanding township employees, professionals and volunteers who work so hard on our behalf, thank you for all that you do.

All too often, we are asked how we are able to do all of the things required as committee members. While it is difficult at times, we are only able to do what we do because of the unconditional support we all have at home. A very special thank you to Deb, Kim, Patty, Maria and Patrick for your support this past year and a special welcome to Eric as you join our band of merry warriors!

We have had a number of successes throughout Freehold Township this past year. Early this year, we were honored to attend the swearing of one of our own - former Recreation Commission Chairman, the Honorable Judge Chad Cagen to the Monmouth County Superior Court. Congratulations your honor!

Freehold Township has long been a leader in shared service agreements. We currently have approximately 60 shared service agreements with 22 different municipalities, other government agencies and private quasi-public service providers that for 2019 generated over \$1,000,000 in revenues to help offset our residents' tax burden.

Last month, the Committee was pleased to announce the acquisition of over 54 acres of farmland on Rt. 33 that will forever be preserved as open space as well as a final settlement with Fair Share Housing that avoided a prolonged court battle and establishes a reasonable fair share housing obligation.

In what was clearly a highlight, Moody's Investor Services recognized the "township's strong management and the policies that were implemented to ensure that the township's finances remain healthy." Based on our strong operating results due to conservative budgeting practices, tight management controls, strong debt management policies and the stability that results from a lower than usual reliance on property taxes, we were awarded a "AAA" bond rating, one of a limited number of municipalities in the state to be awarded such designation.

Unfortunately, it was not all good news. In 2019 we lost the services of several long-term "family members" who have decided to retire to spend more time with their other family. Frank Accisano is leaving the Planning board having faithfully served as our attorney for over 40 years. Jayne Morrale retired in November having served for 24 years in various administrative roles with the Police Department and FTPD Chief Ernie Schriefer, has announced his retirement and will be leaving shortly having served for 40 years, the last 19 as chief. And as you all know Mayors McMorro (9 years) and the longest serving elected official in FT history, Mayor Salkin (25 years) are leaving and most importantly, leaving on their own terms. Every day, I am amazed at Barbara's ability stand in front of an audience, often-times unexpectedly and to embrace an audience with her words. As an educator, a principal, a County Freeholder, a Township Committee member and countless other service roles, Barbara has served with grace and dignity and has been a role model to the young women of our community.

For those of us who know him, Dave has been, well, Dave! Over 25 years (6 as Mayor), he has as much as any of our predecessors, shaped the vision and future of Freehold Township. He is the Committee's resident historian, our Master Plan expert, on at least some subjects he is a voice of reason and is the one person that you could always count on that Mr. Munoz would have to admonish. He was my running mate (but as Anthony would say "Not my walking mate"). More importantly, they both became our friends and they will be sorely missed.

Thank you for your many years of service and your contributions to the success of our community. We wish you and your families all the best as you move to the next phase of your life.

This past year was a very difficult one for every one of us not only in the Township but in many surrounding communities. It started with the unexpected death of Denise Bartone and ended with the continued unexplained events surrounding Stephanie Parze. These unfathomable events have shocked us to our core and bear the heaviest burden on those closest to them. It would have been very easy to have two events like this so close together define our community. Instead, our community chose to define these events. In both cases, they were defined by immeasurable acts of kindness, compassion and support irrespective of your relationship with the effected families. Whether it was a fundraiser, a bowl-a-thon, a coffee house, a meal train, a search party or a note, our community came together in an overwhelming show of support for two families suffering unimaginable grief.

We are fortunate to live in a community where so many people go out of their way to help one another, whether it's a close friend, a casual acquaintance or a complete stranger. It is the collective efforts of all our citizens who work to weave the fabric of our community and it is why Freehold Township is the family town that it is. For that, we should all be grateful.

On behalf of my entire family and my extended family here on the dais, I would like to extend my very best to each of you and yours for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Thank you.

## **MOTION**

Mayor Preston noted that he have the official letter of resignation from Mr. David Salkin.

Mr. Ammiano made a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Salkin, seconded by Mr. Cook

## **VOTE: AYES:**

**NAYS:** Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Fasano, and Mayor Preston

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Mr. Salkin

Mayor Preston noted that the Township Committee members denied Mr. Salkin's resignation which is more symbolic in nature and wished Mr. Salkin good luck in the next chapter of his career.

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:24

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Sanabel Abouzeina, Township Clerk