

The minutes of the Regular Public Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook held on September 21, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Saddle Brook Municipal Complex, 55 Mayhill Street, Saddle Brook, NJ 07663.

Council President Gierak called the meeting to order.

The Township Clerk called the roll:

Councilman Cimiluca – present
Councilman Accomando – present
Councilwoman Sanchez – present
Councilwoman Mazzer – absent
Council President Gierak – present

Mayor White – present
Mr. Schettino – Twp. Attorney – present
Ms. Ruane – Interim Township Administrator – present
Mr. Klein – Twp. Engineer – present
Mr. Dickerson – Twp. Planner – present

Council President Gierak asked all to rise for the salute to the flag.

Council President Gierak announced that adequate notice of this meeting has been sent to all council members and to all legal newspapers in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

The Township Clerk announced that the public is hereby advised that any statements made during the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook may not be privileged or protected, and that persons or entities who take issue with such comments, or are offended by same, may and have in the past sought legal redress through the courts.

Any member of the public who addresses the Council speaks for themselves and not for the Council.

Council President Gierak asks for a motion to open the meeting to the public.

Motion: Councilwoman Sanchez

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca – yes
Councilman Accomando – yes
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes
Councilwoman Mazzer – absent
Council President Gierak – yes

Council President Gierak – Anyone wishing to address the Council please come up.

Thomas Van Winkle of 128 Lincoln Avenue comes forward. I'm going to start out by talking about the Mayor's Youth Group as I do every month. We're going to have our next meeting our first meeting during the school year on Saturday October 14th at 10:30 am. It will be right here in this Council Chamber Room so anybody who's going to attend please enter through the court side entrance in the middle. We hope to see everyone in attendance. We're open to anybody in Saddle Brook in grades 4 through 12 and we'll be discussing all the things we'll be doing going forward as we head into Halloween and to the Holiday Season. The next thing I want to talk about is I'm on the Saddle Brook Community Partnership so I along with the Saddle Brook Community Partnership we take part in Tomorrow's Children Fund 5K Race. Tomorrow's Children Fund for those who don't know is a charity that supports children who have a rare blood disorder or cancer. Every year this organization they do a race at the county park so it'll be on Sunday October 1st. The Partnership does have a page up to accept donations and to sign up to join the team which is runsignup.com/saddlebrookcpc. Thank you.

Neal Fadul of 189 Schepis Avenue comes forward. I'm here representing my neighbors. Gary is here with me he's the neighbor across the street. Mayor Robert White and the engineer Bob they are aware of the flooding issue that's been happening on Schepis Avenue. It's coming past the property line and it's been like this for about two years. Luckily Mayor White has helped out with giving some barricades so we can temporarily close the street as the water collects. It eventually goes down but it creates a big hazard for myself and the neighbors on the street. I'm not sure if you guys are aware of it if you have plans of action that could happen that could help remedy the issue.

Mayor White – Through the chair the Council is aware of it. I was waiting for you because I know you've been trying to come to a meeting.

Mr. Fadul – Yeah.

Mayor White – I wanted to get you at a work session and maybe perhaps we need a little bit more time. We could grant that to Mr. Fadul because he really has been making an effort.

Council President Gierak – We can give you a couple of more minutes at this meeting or if you want to come to the work session in October you're more than welcome as well.

Mr. Fadul – Okay and what's the difference between the work session and this?

Council President Gierak – You'd have more time to speak at the work session.

Mr. Fadul – Okay.

Council President Gierak – Our next meeting is October 5th 5:30 here.

Mr. Fadul – Okay.

Councilman Cimiluca – I just had one question. You said it's been a flooding situation for two years have you just lived there for two years?

Mr. Fadul – No I lived there for ten years.

Councilman Cimiluca – This started happening two years ago?

Mr. Fadul – It happened once when I first moved in but it wasn't terrible. I know that the rain has gotten more hazardous and it comes down more torrential now but the first time that it happened it did come on my property. No water in the house but the last couple of years it's been bad when it's the whole street is completely flooded. It's like a river.

Councilman Cimiluca – Has anything else changed on your street in the last you know just trying to figure out why it's been eight years with nothing.

Mr. Fadul – I'm not sure either that's what we're all trying to figure out. I know last year they paved Schepis. That was the only change recently. Other than that I mean the engineer's come out he's witnessed it. He talked about the piping infrastructure on Midland Avenue and I'm not sure where to go from there.

Mayor White – I know that last July that torrential rain that we had eight inches of rain in about forty minutes did you flood?

Mr. Fadul – Not the house thank God because of the barricade. What happens is the street floods cars continue to drive down the street creating waves pushes the water onto my property and his property and other houses around me. The water will eventually go down but it needs time to go down the drains. It needs six to ten minutes. The barricades are the only thing preventing the water from coming in the house.

Mayor White – Some of the neighbors got it with that real bad storm I believe.

Mr. Fadul – Yeah they got it and we recently like two weeks ago the heavy rain that came the street flooded again very bad.

Council President Gierak – Our next meeting is October 5th. It's a Thursday night here at five thirty.

Omar Rodriguez of Saddle Brook comes forward to speak. First and foremost I hope that Councilwoman Mazzer is doing well I haven't seen her in a few months. I hope everything is well with her. Hope to see her back soon. I just provided copies to Council President of the cannabis ordinances. Since Mr. Attorney is here I would just like to point out a couple of things but before doing that I just got a couple of questions. Who pays for the armed guards inside the school system? The school district or we the Town?

Council President Gierak – The Township.

Mr. Rodriguez - Yesterday I was at a meeting but if we pay for the guards I don't know how many. What is the budget for that I don't want to elaborate on that I just needed to know at the next meeting work shop I will explain myself better. Right now into another subject going on. In thirty years I've never seen that much traffic when the parents pick up their kids from school, specifically Franklin School. Lanza is going all the way the traffic up to Fifth Street then they take the Seventh Street and they taking Madison for the first time ever never seen this explosion of cars. It's becoming an issue because once they picking up the kids they just leave the bottles, garbage, sandwiches whatever on the front lawn of other houses but I was surprised by the number of cars and especially on the corner of North Seventh and Lanza. We don't have a specific crossing guard there and it's near to hit. Corner people going in and out and some kids walk from school to their homes. Let's just be careful with that corner North Seventh and Lanza. Moving along I don't want an answer now but I just would like to know how we are doing with a search for a Business Administrator?

Council President Gierak – We'll be discussing that in closed session tonight.

Mr. Rodriguez – Then also I happened to notice on the agenda for today maybe it was overlooked. I don't see nothing referring to Hispanic Heritage Month and I believe that it should be.

Council President Gierak – I believe we do have a proclamation on that.

Mr. Rodriguez – Oh okay I don't see it on the agenda. Oh Okay that will satisfy then. Now going back to the main issue which is economics. I can distribute this. I am referring right now to the ordinance 1726-22 and I'm reading the second paragraph where it says whereas. It is the intent of the Governing Body the class two manufacturing operation up to 5000 square feet be permitted in the B2 zone within the Township. Then we move forward and it comes another amendment. My problem is when we read that language in the first ordinance he just mentioned that it will be done adjacent to Route 46. However when they pull just the new one which was extended to 12,500 square feet I believe for manufacturing he leave on the top B2 but then on the language he mentioned the adjacent to Route 46 which I was just having a discussion with Councilman Cimiluca at the last workshop meeting. I believe that we should have a uniform language for these type of things because let's go to retail class five cannabis is class five retail. It was said right here that it will just be sold on the corridor of Route 46 but if you go into the ordinance 1718-22 it's not so. It says CH1 and CH2 and B2. Why can't we just have a uniform language for everything. Not to open any windows for any litigation if any in the future because I'm pretty sure that depending on how it goes now the type of license is going to be extended in the future, might be extended but then let's just go back to the drawing board and just have one language for every single line item on the cannabis issue. That's all I requested and I just left a copy for your perusal.

Council President Gierak – I gave it to our attorney so I appreciate it.

Mr. Rodriguez – Thank you very much.

Council President Gierak – Anyone else wish to address the Council?

There are no other comments from the public.

Council President Gierak – Motion to close the meeting to the public.

Motion: Councilwoman Sanchez

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca – yes

Councilman Accomando – yes

Councilwoman Sanchez – yes

Councilwoman Mazzer – absent

Council President Gierak – yes

Council President Gierak – Mayor you have some proclamations.

Mayor White – Yes. I have three proclamations I'm only going to read the one in the interest of time. Hispanic Heritage Month, National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and also it's Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Thomas alluded to Tomorrow's Children Walk on October 1st in Saddle River County Park. There's also a few other cancer types that this month they want to bring awareness to. Prostate cancer, ovarian cancer, thyroid cancer and leukemia. I'm going to read the Hispanic Heritage Proclamation.

Whereas Hispanic Heritage Month is the time to honor and celebrate the many ways that Hispanic America contribute to the success of our country. Saddle Brook's Hispanic population is strong, vibrant and a fabric of our community. Hispanic Heritage Month was created to showcase and highlight Hispanic contributions throughout our nation and a reminder that Hispanics have been part of the history of this nation since the beginning. Hispanics of all generations and recent immigrants continue to make great contributions to this nation and to the great community of Saddle Brook. Now therefore on this 21st day of September I Robert D. White Mayor of the Township of Saddle Brook do here proclaim September as Hispanic Heritage Month and call upon the people of Saddle Brook to join in supporting this observance. Thank you.

Council President Gierak – Thank you Mayor. We're going to move on to Council comments. We're going to give the Mayor a chance to catch his breath.

Councilman Cimiluca – Since the last meeting we had our Township Picnic which was a great time. Our Township photographer took six or seven billion photographs which are on the Township website then he also led everyone in the Cotton Eyed Joe he should get an award just for that. I also happened to see him at the St. Joseph Festival Labor Day weekend where he was also doing the Cotton Eyed Joe so he's the expert so go to him if you ever want lessons in that. It's Spanish Heritage Month for those who don't know Mr. Rodriguez was a Councilman here for eight years I believe it was eight years Council four years Council President. He used to say that but he doesn't say that anymore. I believe he was the first man of Spanish heritage to be elected to the Council here and I was honored to serve with him and I'm honored to serve with Sarah Sanchez who is the first woman to be elected to Council of Spanish heritage. I really don't have a lot to say this month but I will make it easy on everyone by just welcoming everyone and inviting everyone to go to the UNICO Street Parade which is Sunday October first the first Sunday in October. It's always a great time. The Town supports it we do provide some assistance to the fine men and women who run that organization. Thank you.

Councilwoman Sanchez – This past Sunday was Saddle Brook Soccer Day so it was a beautiful day. I brought my kids they play soccer in Town. It was nice to see all the children all the parents. It was a nice time. Also I just want to take a moment and congratulate Dave DeGennaro on his retirement so I wish him the best of luck and a happy and healthy retirement.

Councilman Accomando – I too would like to thank everybody who came out for the picnic the supporters everybody who volunteered. It's a tough day although it's only five hours it's not easy dealing with so many different personalities and I hate to say ungratefulness but it's usually one person out of everybody complains about whether the cotton candy wasn't big enough there wasn't enough salt on the popcorn or water was warm but it only takes one to kind of take the wind out of your sail but it was a great time. I look forward to it next year. Coming up is Trunk or Treat I'm not sure of the date I apologize for that but we do need volunteers we need cars. It's a great time for parents to get together and do something for the kids other than sporting events. It's a good time to come out and just meet the neighbors, meet your kids' friends, and just have a good time. If you want to volunteer you can let us know. Contact myself, Pete Lo Dico or my wife Shannon Accomando and that's it thank you.

Council President Gierak – I too would like to mention the Township Picnic. I'd like to thank all of our sponsors that are on the board there. They gave over twenty thousand dollars which helped to pay for everything and without them it couldn't have happened. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers who gave their time coming out and supporting the event to make it very successful. I'd also like to mention our September 11th Ceremony that was held here on September 11th and it was another very successful event. I'd like to thank the Mayor and his secretary Christine Genuario for putting it together. I'd also like to thank our first responders some which spoke. Our Fire Chief Jason Sibani, Deputy Fire Chief Dave Mielnicki. I'd like to thank our Police Officer in Charge John Zotollo. I'd also like to thank the Ambulance Corps John Puzino for being in

attendance and participating and making it a super successful event and Saddle Brook will never forget. Finally I'd just like to mention our Flood Committee will be meeting next Tuesday here in the conference room September 26th at 6:30. Any of our residents are welcome we have a Flood Committee so we'll be meeting on Tuesday you're more than welcome to attend. Thank you very much.

Mayor White – I want to talk a little bit about capital improvements our 2023 Road Program is underway. We recently finished Cambridge Avenue currently working on Victor Street, Kern Place, Alberta Drive and we will be starting Avon Lane and Strathmore Terrace. That's paving and doing cement work, curbs and anything else that needs to be restored on the street. We're also starting a water main replacement on two locations one on Hobson and the other on Midland Avenue. That will be in a couple of weeks. Midland Avenue is going to create a traffic problem but there will be detours. That will be listed on the Town Website and the Town Facebook. Also the Police department they have a Facebook page and Instagram. The events that we had we had plenty of them as my colleague mentioned. The Town Picnic was Saturday August 26th I want to thank everyone who participated and contributed especially the organizers Shannon Accomando Christine Genuario they're both they lead the Projects and Activities Committee also Town Clerk Peter Lo Dico does a lot of work. If you see straight ahead I'm looking at it right now there's a large sign that was posted. It's a thank you sign for all of the donors the people that sponsored and contributed to the picnic. That was hanging on the pavilion the day of the picnic. We couldn't have had it without their generous contributions. The same morning of the picnic Saturday August 26th was the Mayor's Walk in the morning. I want to thank everyone who attended. Special thanks to Christine Genuario my secretary and Rec Director Andy Gallo for their assistance. Also the walk sponsor was Powerhouse Gym at the Saddle Brook Mall so I want to thank them. On August 26th that same night I was busy I was tired from the picnic and the walk but I gladly went to George Miller Saddle Brook Volunteer Fire Department member we celebrated his 50th anniversary so that was a nice event at the Brownstone. On Saturday September 9th Saddle Brook Angels Opening Day. Saddle Brook Angels is a recreation program a soccer program they also do cheerleading and some other events. This is for children with special needs. That program was started eleven years ago now by the Maniscalco family so I want to thank them James and Monica their children Michael and Samantha. Every year they've been improving the program. It gets bigger and better. I also want to thank Rec Director Andy Gallo, Coach Chris Alfieri and John Stefano volunteer coaches and assistant coaches from Saddle Brook High School boys and girls soccer teams. They help out and do a great job. This year Girl Scout Troop 97480 before this their opening day they went to the park and did a cleanup and they really did a great job in some planting of flowers. They also did some seeding of another field they did a great job we appreciate that. Council President brought up 911 Patriot Day Remembrance Ceremony that was Monday September 11th. I want to thank everyone who took time out of their busy schedule to attend. Special thanks to Father Bruce Janiga of St. Philips Church who did an opening prayer. Lydya Diaz a Saddle Brook resident a vocalist sang the Star Spangled Banner. Frank Ortega in the Saddle Brook Middle School High School Marching Band they played as well. Saddle Brook Boy Scout Troop 213 they presented the colors. Also

a resident this was a big surprise I didn't know this was going to happen but a resident Hank Vladica came and he presented two handmade 911 remembrance pieces which were you saw the pictures. I want to thank Thomas Van Winkle for taking the photos. We also want to recognize all the amazing emergency services personnel on our police, fire and ambulance corps you do a great job keeping us safe every day. On September 17th Sunday this past Sunday Mount Virgin Church did a car and motorcycle show here in the parking lot. It was a very nice day did a great job. Also last night here at our complex the Bergen County Board of Commissioners held one of their meetings. They were doing this prior to COVID and they take their meetings on the road. They go to different municipalities. There's seventy municipalities in Bergen County this was the first on they did in a long time they chose here because they knew it was a new building and they actually helped us out a lot in the sense that the money that we borrowed the bond was done through their Improvement Authority. We got a really good rate so it helped out a lot and it was nice to have them here. Upcoming events this Saturday September 23rd 10:00 am for seniors Breakfast Bingo at the Senior Center. On Friday September 29th at 7:00 we have another outdoor concert right here in the parking lot Tuned Up is playing. As Mr. Cimiluca mentioned the UNICO Street Fair October 1st ten o'clock in the morning until five. The whole road is blocked off on Market Street from Westminster to Mayhill Street. They've been doing that now for probably the last six or seven years and it's a really nice event. The Clerk's Office Mr. Lo Dico is going to be open for voter registration on Tuesday October 17th until 9:00 pm that's right here. We also have a town wide garage sale. This is the second one we did this year. The first one was so well liked that we're doing another one. It's the weekend of Friday October 20th to Sunday October 22nd. The Trunk or Treat is Saturday October 28th. That's 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm here in the Municipal Complex. Leaf bags we have a lot of residents asking about leaf bags. Every fall we hand out ten leaf bags per household and they're distributed here at the Municipal Complex. The notice we put out on the website and on Facebook. It should be the first or second week in October and we'll make sure we post that as I said. It's important for residents that lived in District six that polling location is going to be changed from the Saddle Brook Middle School High School to the Municipal Complex here at 55 Mayhill Street. Residents who live there will be registered voters will be receiving a notice in the mail of the change and that change goes into effect for this upcoming general election. COVID-19 is again on the rise so please take precautions especially if you're in one of those high risk groups and lastly I want to thank our Interim Business Administrator Maureen Ruane. This is probably her last meeting here. One more okay she's got one more. I won't be able to publicly thank you so thank you for your service. You've been here almost a year and you helped us out tremendously so we're going to miss you.

Council President Gierak – Thank you Mayor. We don't have any ordinances this evening so we're going to move on.

The Township Clerk reads the following:

All items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered routine and non-controversial by the Township Council and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Council member(s) so requests it, in which case the item(s) will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda. The one motion signifies adoption of all resolutions, receive and file letters, correspondence, reports and approval of minutes and applications.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll call:

Councilman Cimiluca – yes

Councilman Accomando – yes

Councilwoman Sanchez –yes

Councilwoman Mazzer – absent

Council President Gierak – yes

*** MINUTES**

The following is not part of the consent agenda:

Minutes of the August 17, 2023 Regular Public Meeting

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilwoman Sanchez

Roll call:

Councilman Cimiluca – yes

Councilman Accomando – yes

Councilwoman Sanchez –yes

Councilwoman Mazzer – absent

Council President Gierak – abstain

* Minutes of the August 28, 2023 Special Public Meeting

*** RESOLUTIONS**

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK
Resolution
Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day October 6, 2023**

CR# 923-142

WHEREAS, New Jersey is in the midst of a life-threatening opioid abuse epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey has designated October 6, 2023, as Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day – an initiative with a multiple purposes: to raise awareness of the potential for dependency on prescribed pain medicine and its link to heroin and fentanyl use in our state; to reduce stigma of addiction and shine a light on the need for recovery support; and to communicate to physicians information on safer prescribing messages found in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for prescribing opioids, which include considering other therapies, setting realistic treatment goals with patients and discussing with patients the positives and negatives of opioids; and

WHEREAS, the State Senate and General Assembly jointly resolved in 2016 that October 6 shall be permanently designated as Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day in New Jersey in order to raise awareness about the dangers of, and the link between, prescription opioid abuse and heroin addiction and to educate health care providers, community leaders, state lawmakers and members of the public about the opioid abuse epidemic and its effects throughout the State of New Jersey and across the country; and

WHEREAS, Children’s Aid and Family Services, The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources, and the Bergen County Prevention Coalition support initiatives designed to raise awareness about opioid abuse in New Jersey and take steps to prevent addiction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that October 6, 2023, be recognized as Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day in Saddle Brook.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Councilwoman Sanchez - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - absent
Council President Gierek - yes

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE BERGEN COUNTY FIRE MUTUAL AID PLAN IN THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

CR# 923-143

WHEREAS, the Township of Saddle Brook provides fire protection resources for ordinary emergency response requirements within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS the Fire Departments in Bergen County have a day-to-day responsibility to provide for the safety and security of lives and property; and

WHEREAS, local resources can become exhausted during the small percentage of large magnitude fire or disaster occurrences; and

WHEREAS, mutual aid is the most cost-effective method of providing sufficient resources to a local jurisdiction for those extraordinary occurrences; and

WHEREAS, it is of mutual benefit for fire departments located within the County of Bergen to provide supplemental resources to each other in the event of a local emergency or disaster;

WHEREAS this plan will provide a uniform procedure for the coordination of the requesting, dispatching, and utilization of fire department personnel and equipment whenever a local fire department requires mutual aid assistance from any other jurisdiction, both contiguous and non-contiguous, in the event of a fire or emergency; and

WHEREAS, a county area mutual aid plan is encouraged by, and is compatible with the State of New Jersey Resource Deployment Act; and

WHEREAS, participation in a county area mutual aid plan will not impose liability on the local entity; and

WHEREAS it is the desire of the governing body of the Township of Saddle Brook to participate in fire mutual aid plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THE Township of Saddle Brook does hereby agree to authorize their fire department to provide mutual aid assistance to each participating municipality, district, state or federal organization, as identified in the Bergen County Fire Mutual Aid Plan (ESF 4) and as may be amended from time to time by Participating Units and ratified by this body; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management for filing.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Councilwoman Sanchez - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - absent
Council President Gierek - yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK
RESOLUTION**

CR# 923-144

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of NJSA 40A:68-1 et seq., the “Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act” local units may share services, and

WHEREAS, Municipalities throughout the State of New Jersey have been encouraged to enter into such shared services agreements in order to consolidate and preserve economic resources, and

WHEREAS, the Township of Saddle Brook and Bergen County have entered into a shared services agreement, and

WHEREAS, Bergen County has offered a shared service agreement with the Township of Saddle Brook for tree removal along county roads, and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of this resolution to authorize an agreement for the sharing of such services starting upon signing of contract for one year to be extended annually unless terminated or modified by the parties.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. A Shared Services Agreement Addendum with Bergen County for tree removal along county roads be and is hereby authorized.
2. This agreement shall be in the form annexed hereto or in such other form as approved by the Township Council after consultation with the Township Attorney.
3. The agreement shall be in compliance with and this resolution shall be in furtherance of the provisions of the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, NJSA 40A:65-1, et seq.
4. This contract shall be for a period commencing upon the execution of the contract and shall be subject to a review, revision, modification or renewal at the end of each calendar year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to sign said agreement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to forward certified copies of the within resolution to Bergen County for their execution of agreement.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes

Councilman Accomando - yes

Councilwoman Sanchez - yes

Councilwoman Mazzer - absent

Council President Gierek – yes

TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK RESOLUTION

CR# 923-145

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that it hereby wishes to enter into a grant agreement with the County of Bergen for the purpose of using \$123,747.00 in 2023-2024 Community Development Block for Sterling Place and Orchard Lane Road Improvements, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council hereby authorizes Mayor Robert D. White to be a signatory to aforesaid grant agreement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council hereby authorizes Peter Lo Dico, Township Clerk to sign all county vouchers submitted in connection with the aforesaid project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council recognizes that the Township of Saddle Brook is liable for any funds not spent in accordance with the grant agreement, and that the liability of the Township Council is in accordance with HUD requirements.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes

Councilman Accomando - yes

Councilwoman Sanchez - yes

Councilwoman Mazzer - absent

Council President Gierek - yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK
RESOLUTION**

CR# 923-146

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY THAT THE PROPER WARRANTS BE DRAWN AND THAT THE ATTACHED BILLS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE BILLS NOT APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL, BE PAID TOTALING **\$826,317.62** PROVIDING FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE AND ALL BILLS SUBMITTED COMPLY WITH N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-1 ET. SEQ AND ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE STATUTES.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Councilwoman Sanchez - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - absent
Council President Gierak - yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK
RESOLUTION**

CR# 923-147

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY THAT THE PROPER WARRANTS BE DRAWN AND THAT THE ATTACHED BILLS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE BILLS NOT APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL, BE PAID TOTALING **\$12,408,844.12** PROVIDING FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE AND ALL BILLS SUBMITTED COMPLY WITH N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-1 ET. SEQ AND ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE STATUTES.

THESE ARE BILLS PAID THROUGH OFF LINE CHECKS.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Councilwoman Sanchez - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - absent
Council President Gierak - yes

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPRAISAL PROPOSAL FOR
THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK**

CR# 923-148

WHEREAS, it is upon the advice and recommendation of the Township Tax Counsel, and Tax Assessor to seek formal approval for the preparation of an appraisal report for the property with matters pending before the Tax Court of New Jersey; to wit

- Block 512, Lot 3 and Lot 4 on the Township Tax Map, with an address of 49 Finnigan Avenue, owned by AO Associates for the 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 tax years.

- The fee for preparation of the appraisal report will be \$12,500, including out of pocket costs. In the event the matter proceeds to trial, the hourly rate is \$100 per hour.

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Township to approve the appraisal report proposal as the Tax Court has set an appraisal exchange date in this matter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor & Council of the Township of Saddle Brook, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey that the Township Tax Counsel is hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all documents necessary in order to facilitate the payment for the above stated tax appeal settlement.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Councilwoman Sanchez - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - absent
Council President Gierak - yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK
RESOLUTION**

CR# 923-149

WHEREAS, the Township of Saddle Brook advertised for bids for Hutter Street Storm Sewer Repairs; and

WHEREAS, 2 bids were received and opened on August 16, 2023; and

WHEREAS, in a letter dated September 19, 2023, the Township Engineer has recommended all bids be formally rejected.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that it hereby formally rejects all bids for the Hutter Street Storm Sewer Repairs project.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes

Councilman Accomando - yes

Councilwoman Sanchez - yes

Councilwoman Mazzer - absent

Council President Gierak – yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK
RESOLUTION
HUNGER ACTION MONTH SEPTEMBER 2023**

CR# 923-150

WHEREAS, hunger and food insecurity are a reality for far too many of our neighbors; and

WHEREAS, those who are food insecure are without reliable access to an adequate amount of affordable, nutritious food. Food insecurity can affect anyone, whether they are recently unemployed, underemployed, or supporting a large family; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity is a symptom of broader challenges, such as unemployment, disability, retirement or unforeseen financial hardships; and

WHEREAS, those who do not have their basic needs met are further hampered in their path toward self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, ongoing economic instability has increased food insecurity amongst individuals and families throughout Bergen County and across the country; and

WHEREAS, food pantries in Bergen County have experienced and approximately 22% increase in need for food assistance compared to last year, and a 40% increase in need from the unprecedented levels seen in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, there are residents in every municipality in Bergen County who receive SNAP benefits, illustrating that this is an issue impacting residents all across Bergen County; and

WHEREAS, the economic coattails of the pandemic are long, and despite the end of Federal and state emergency declarations, tremendous need still exists within our community; and

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Food Security Task Force was established to support food pantries in Bergen County by increasing the supply of healthy food options, connecting those in need to vital services, and investing in long term infrastructure to build a more resilient pantry network to ensure no one in Bergen County goes hungry; and

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Food Security Task Force has been incorporated into the department of Human Services as the new Office of Food Security to reaffirm that the county's commitment to fighting hunger continues past the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the energy, philanthropy, and hands-on efforts of a multitude of volunteers throughout the county make a tremendous impact in combating hunger in our community, and are vital in meeting the struggles of our neighbors with compassion; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Saddle Brook hereby recognize the month of September 2023 as “Hunger Action Month” in the county of Bergen, New Jersey, and encourages all Bergen County residents to support their local food pantries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council are committed to ending hunger in Bergen County and will spread awareness and increase engagement in our community to solve this problem.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Councilwoman Sanchez - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - absent
Council President Gierek - yes

*** CORRESPONDENCE**

1. THOMAS DUCH, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
TO: MAYOR WHITE

RE: SHARED SERVICES AGREE.
TREE REMOVAL-COUNTY ROADS
DATE: AUGUST 28, 2023



COUNTY OF BERGEN
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
One Bergen County Plaza, Room 580, Hackensack, NJ 07601-7076
(201) 336-7300 Fax: (201) 336-7304
countyexecutive@co.bergen.nj.us

James J. Tedesco III
County Executive

Thomas J. Duch, Esq.
County Administrator/County Counsel

August 28, 2023

Re: Tree Removal Along County Roads

Dear Mayors, Administrators, Clerks and Municipal Engineers:

Bergen County has long had a policy that it is responsible for county roads from curb to curb. Despite that policy, in the past, municipalities have applied to the County to have trees in municipal rights of way along county roads removed as a courtesy and that service has been provided. It has become necessary to revise that policy.

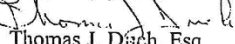
In the future, while the County will still provide this service subject to inspection and determination by the County that the tree is dead or dying within the public right of way, it will now be necessary for each municipality to sign a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement for the removal of any tree along a county road. Each removal request will require a separate inspection, and the execution of a separate agreement for each tree. Unfortunately, this change in policy has been made necessary by virtue of recent litigation involving tree removal. While the County will provide the service, the County will not accept any liability by virtue of the tree removal request or the completion of the tree removal itself.

For your convenience, a copy of a sample Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement is attached to this communication. The procedure will remain the same. The request will be made to Forestry Superintendent Steve Jocks via email SJocks@co.bergen.nj.us. He will inspect and then advise if removal is approved. The municipality will then need to take whatever action is necessary to sign the Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement, which must be fully executed prior to any tree removal.

In the event of an emergency tree removal, to the extent practicable, the municipality shall sign the Hold Harmless Agreement. If the emergency does not allow time for signature, the County shall provide services when called upon in an emergency situation (i.e. tree blocking County road access). The municipality shall then hold harmless and indemnify the County from and against any and all claims by anyone in such circumstance.

Questions regarding the change of policy can be directed to Thomas Connolly, County Road Supervisor. He can be reached at 201-336-7676 or via email at TConnolly@co.bergen.nj.us.

Very truly yours,

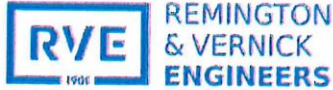

Thomas J. Duch, Esq.
County Administrator/County Counsel

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2. ROBERT KLEIN, TWP. ENG.

TO: MAUREEN RUANE, INT BUS AD.

RE: REJECT BIDS-HUTTER STREET
STORM SEWER REPAIRS
DATE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2023



One Harmon Plaza, Suite 600
Secaucus, NJ 07094
O: (201) 624-2137
F: (201) 624-2136

September 19, 2023

Maureen Ruane, Township Administrator
Township of Saddle Brook
55 Mayhill Street
Saddle Brook, New Jersey 07663

Re: Township of Saddle Brook
Hutter Street Storm Sewer Repairs
Recommendation to Reject
RVE File No. 0257-T-112

Dear Ms. Ruane,

The bid opening for the above-captioned project was held on August 16, 2023. Two (2) bids were received for this project and both were higher than the Engineer's Estimate. Therefore, we recommend that all bids be formally rejected by resolution.

A copy of the tabulation is enclosed for your review.

The recommendation to reject bids should be conditioned upon review and concurrence by the Township Attorney's office.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (201) 624-2137.

Sincerely,
REMINGTON VERNICK ENGINEERS, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Klein'.

Robert J. Klein, PE, CME
Township Engineer

cc: Mayor White
John Schettino
Pete Lo Dico
Frank Barrale
Vincent Buono

C-2



REMINGTON
& VERNICK
ENGINEERS

BID TABULATION

PROJECT NAME: HUTTER STREET STORM SEWER REPAIRS
 PROJECT NUMBER: 02577112
 CLIENT: TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK

MONTANA CONSTRUCTION CORP, INC.
 80 Coniant Avenue
 Lodi, NJ 07644
 (973) 478-5200

ZUCCARO, INC.
 64 Commerce Street
 Garfield, NJ 07020
 (973) 472-9554

BASE BID		DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY & UNITS	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL	AS BID
#						
1	LS	MOBILIZATION	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	
2	LS	CLEARING SITE	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	
3	CY	FLOWABLE FILL	10	\$1,000.00	\$10,000.00	
4	LF	CI PP LINING, MH TO MH, 36" DIAMETER	500	\$450.00	\$225,000.00	
5	LS	SITE RESTORATION	1	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	
6	UN	MANHOLE REHABILITATION	3	\$7,500.00	\$22,500.00	
BASE BID SUBTOTAL:					\$312,500.00	
					\$420,500.00	\$ 423,500.00

*** APPLICATIONS**

Raffles

1. **RL# 1375 Saddle Brook UNICO - 50/50 – 1/16/24**

*** REPORTS**

1. **MUNICIPAL COURT MONTHLY REPORT - JULY 2023**
2. **BERGEN COUNTY SANITARIAN MONTHLY REPORT – JULY 2023**
3. **GRANT WRITER REPORT – JULY 2023**
4. **POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT – JULY 2023**
5. **DPW MONTHLY REPORT – JULY 2023**
6. **CONSTRUCTION CODE OFFICIAL’S REPORT – JULY 2023**
7. **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE OFFICIAL’S REPORT – JULY 2023**
8. **WATER BILLING MONTHLY REPORT- JULY 2023**
9. **TAX COLLECTOR’S MONTHLY REPORT – JULY 2023**
10. **HOTEL ROOM TAX – JULY 2023**
11. **BUDGET STATUS REPORT - AUGUST 2023**

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor White – Through the Chair I just want to mention Mr. Rodriguez brought up about the SLEOs class three police officers that are in the schools. That is paid by the Town. That was a program we started we’re in our third year now third or fourth year but again the Town does pay for it but it’s something that we’re very proud of here and it’s something that the school parents are very happy with. With all the school shootings and the violence going on in this country it’s nice to know that there’s an armed officer and they’re retired officers that get paid a lot less money to be in the schools yet they have the training that they need to be there and do the job. It’s just another layer of protection in the school district. They’re happy with it because the parents are. They’re not paying for it but it’s money well spent it really is. Just to have that peace of mind knowing that you have that protection there in this day and age is something that you can’t spend enough money for that. We’re really not spending a lot I think it’s about a hundred thousand that’s total. We have six officers five of them are regular I guess permanent you’d say and one of them he fills in. Thanks for the question.

Councilman Cimiluca – Just to piggyback something I forgot before on Hispanic Heritage Month. We have two new businesses that are going to be opening in Town both of them

are food related. Made in the Dominican Republic is going to open soon. It's on Floral Lane in the Center over there. It's taking over for the gelato place Brother's Pizza and the gelato place. That's going to be there we welcome them and hopefully we'll be invited to their Grand Opening Ceremony and I may have mentioned this in the past Adriani Café and Flowers is opening up at the site of the old Township Fountain. That's at 514 Saddle River Road and that's being run by Gloria Broussard. Those may know that she is a disc jockey for 93.1 Amor Radio in New York so we welcome them and hopefully they will be opening up shortly also.

Council President Gierak – At this time I would like a motion to open the meeting to the public for agenda items only.

Motion: Councilwoman Sanchez

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes

Councilman Accomando - yes

Councilwoman Sanchez - yes

Councilwoman Mazzer - absent

Council President Gierak - yes

Mr. Rodriguez comes forward looking to speak about cannabis.

Mayor White – Through the Chair. Mr. Rodriguez I know you've been going to a lot of Board of Education meetings as well but they do it the other way around.

Mr. Rodriguez – There's nothing on the agenda I'm totally confused about that but I just wanted to elaborate on the cannabis. Maybe Mr. attorney can see that line specifically.

Council President Gierak – I gave him what you gave me and I pointed out the lines that you highlighted so we'll take a look at it. Thank you.

Motion: Councilman Accomando

Second: Councilwoman Sanchez

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes

Councilman Accomando - yes

Councilwoman Sanchez - yes

Councilwoman Mazzer - absent

Council President Gierak - yes

Council President Gierak – Motion to go into closed session for legal and personnel issues.

Motion: Councilwoman Sanchez

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes

Councilman Accomando - yes

Councilwoman Sanchez - yes

Councilwoman Mazzer - absent

Council President Gierak - yes

Mr. Schettino – Through the Chair we need to advise the public how long approximately we'll be in closed session and that we will be reopening the meeting and may be taking further action when the meeting reopens. Do you know how long we'll be in closed session?

Council President Gierak – I was going to ask you how long counselor.

Mr. Schettino – Let's say thirty minutes if it's going to be longer someone will come out and let you know it will be a little longer. The meeting will reopen to the public and the Governing Body may take further action when the meeting reopens.

TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK RESOLUTION

CR# 923-150A

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook desires to meet for the purpose of a closed session to discuss personnel, and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act does make an exception and allows a public body to hold a closed session to discuss litigation and personnel,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that the closed session to take place on September 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as the matter can be reached at the Municipal Building **be closed to** the public and the press and that the results of the discussion at the closed session will be released to the public when the reasons for discussing and acting on it in closed session no longer exists.

MOTION: Councilwoman Sanchez

SECOND: Councilman Accomando

ROLL CALL:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Councilwoman Sanchez - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - absent
Council President Gierak – yes

Council President Gierak – Motion to go back into open session.

Motion: Councilman Accomando

Second: Councilwoman Sanchez

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Councilwoman Sanchez - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - absent
Council President Gierak - yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK
RESOLUTION APPROVING AGREEMENT**

CR# 923-151

WHEREAS, the Township of Saddle Brook and Police Chief Robert J. Kugler desire to resolve and reach a full and final resolution of all matters relating to the employment relationship between them; and

WHEREAS, the Township and Chief Kugler have negotiated and reached a settlement in accord with the Agreement attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Saddle Brook, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey that the Agreement between the Township and Chief Kugler attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference with regard to the within referenced matter be and is hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk be and he is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution and Agreement to Kenneth Ralph, Esq., the attorney representing Chief Kugler, upon its passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be placed in the personnel file of Police Chief Robert J. Kugler upon its passage.

Motion: Councilwoman Sanchez

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca – yes
Councilman Accomando – yes
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes
Councilwoman Mazzer – absent
Council President Gierek – yes

Council President Gierek – Motion to adjourn tonight's meeting.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Councilwoman Sanchez - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - absent
Council President Gierek - yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Lo Dico, RMC, CMC
Township Clerk

David Gierek
Council President

Approved: December 21, 2023