

Minutes of the June 9, 2026 Township Committee Meeting of the Township of Hillsborough, in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, held in the Municipal Complex at 7:30 PM on June 9, 2026.

CALL OF THE ROLL

Upon call of the roll, the following Committee members were recorded present: Mayor Catherine Payne, Deputy Mayor Shawn Lipani, Committeeman Robert Britting, Jr., Committeewoman Jill Gomez and Committeewoman Samantha Hand. Also in attendance were Township Administrator Anthony Ferrera, Township Clerk Sarah Brake and Township Attorney Matthew Tantum.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

MAYOR STATES

Please be advised that in accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, of the Public Laws of 1975, notice of this meeting was made by the posting on the bulletin board at the Hillsborough Township Municipal Complex and notifying the officially designated newspapers that this meeting would take place at the Hillsborough Township Municipal Complex at Tuesday, June 9, 2026. Executive Session, if deemed necessary, to begin at 6:30 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b) (1-9), Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee is of the opinion that such circumstances exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matters.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - o Affordable Housing
3. The Township Committee may take official action on those items discussed in Executive Session upon completion of the Executive Session.
4. The minutes of the discussions shall be made available to the public as soon as the matters under discussion are no longer of a confidential or sensitive nature.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Upon a motion by Committeewoman Samantha Hand, seconded by Deputy Mayor Shawn Lipani, a Resolution Authorizing Executive Session the aforesaid resolution was unanimously approved upon call of the role. The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 6:35 pm.

Upon a motion by Committeeman Robert Britting, seconded by Committeewoman Samantha Hand, the public meeting was re-opened at 7:25 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES APRIL 28, 2026

Upon a motion by Committeeman Robert Britting, seconded by Committeewoman Jill Gomez, the Executive Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2026 were approved upon the call of the roll.

2. REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MAY 12, 2026

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Shawn Lipani, seconded by Committeewoman Jill Gomez, the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2026 were approved upon the call of the roll. Committeeman Robert Britting abstained.

3. EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES MAY 12, 2026

Upon a motion by Committeewoman Jill Gomez, seconded by Committeeman Robert Britting, the Executive Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2026 were approved upon the call of the roll. Committeeman Robert Britting abstained.

4. EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES MAY 26, 2026

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Shawn Lipani, seconded by Committeewoman Jill Gomez, the Executive Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2026 were approved upon the call of the roll.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE LIAISONS, AND RECEIPT OF REPORTS, PETITIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Payne

Mayor Payne invited all to take part in the Blood Drive hosted by the RWJBarnabas Health Somerset on Tuesday, June 16th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Payne announced that the registration for the fire hydrant painting initiative is officially closed. Details regarding do it yourself painting will be provided shortly.

Mayor Payne advised residents that starting at 5:00 PM, there will be a reenactment by Boy Scout Troop 1776, plus performances by the West Jersey Artillery Brigade's Fife and Drum, Jersey Harmony Chorus, and Somerville School of Rock. There will also be a commemorative photo booth, special souvenirs, food, games, and fireworks.

Mayor Payne relayed that Hillsborough Township is organizing its social services, transit, and recreation into a single, coordinated system. With a senior population of 10,048, the Township is updating its current services to focus directly on healthy aging, everyday mobility, and community connection.

Mayor Payne informed residents that income-qualified homeowners age 62 and older can access up to ten thousand dollars in federal USDA housing grants to fix safety hazards, including total roof replacements. New Jersey offers several ways to lower monthly bills, including the Lifeline utility credit for seniors, winter heating relief through LIHEAP, and the Comfort Partners program, which covers the full cost of energy efficiency upgrades like solar preparation, insulation, and cooling repairs.

Mayor Payne stated that the Rotary Club of Hillsborough is bringing back "Flags for Heroes" at the Municipal Complex from June 27th through July 11th. The display raises funds directly for local veterans and community projects.

Mayor Payne reported that there were two off-site proclamations recently. The Mayor thanked Chris Weniger for

his 36 years of service and welcomed Ryan Giordano as the new Fire Chief of Hillsborough. Committeewoman Hand represented Hillsborough at his farewell lunch and presented him with a proclamation in honor of his service.

Mayor Payne congratulated all the local Girl Scouts and stated she was grateful to be invited back to their annual awards ceremony. At this year's ceremony, 324 girls and 77 adults were recognized through a proclamation for their dedication.

Mayor Payne also congratulated all the Hillsborough graduates who received scholarships this week, and to everyone getting ready to cross the stage in just a few short weeks.

PROCLAMATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

1. MORGAN HODOROWSKI - FULLBRIGHT SCHOLAR

WHEREAS, Morgan Hodorowski, a recent Hamilton College graduate and 2022 Hillsborough High School graduate, has been awarded the prestigious Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Scholarship; and

WHEREAS, Morgan Hodorowski received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hamilton College in May 2026 majoring in English Literature and minoring in Chinese and Philosophy; and

WHEREAS, Morgan Hodorowski studied English Literature abroad for 6 months during her junior year at Oxford University and was then elected to the Hamilton Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa in 2026; and

WHEREAS, Morgan Hodorowski graduated Summa Cum Laude from Hamilton College and interned at the Library of Congress since January 2026; and

WHEREAS, Morgan Hodorowski volunteered at a local library during high school and was in charge of the reading buddy program; and

WHEREAS, Morgan Hodorowski will be teaching English in Taiwan for the upcoming 2026-2027 academic year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that we, the Mayor and the Hillsborough Township Committee, do hereby recognize and extend our sincere congratulations to Morgan Hodorowski for being awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, an honor for both her and for those who have guided her. We wish Morgan all the best in her future endeavors.

PRESENTATIONS

1. WILDLIFE PRESENTATION

Tom Ross provided the Wildlife presentation for the 2025-2026 season.

PERSONNEL ITEMS/APPOINTMENTS

1. RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING SARAH BRAKE, RMC, TOWNSHIP CLERK AND PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER, EFFECTIVE JUNE 14, 2026

WHEREAS, Sarah Brake was appointed to the position of Township Clerk and Public Information Officer for an initial three-year term effective June 14, 2023; and

WHEREAS, said initial three-year term is scheduled to expire on June 13, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Brake is a Registered Municipal Clerk (RMC) in good standing with the State of New Jersey, holding Certificate No. #C-2056; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough desires to reappoint Sarah Brake to the position of Township Clerk and Public Information Officer for a new three-year term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. Sarah Brake is hereby reappointed as the Township Clerk and Public Information Officer of the Township of Hillsborough for a new term commencing June 14, 2026.
2. This reappointment is made pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133 and the municipal code of the Township of Hillsborough.
3. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) within the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs as required by law.

2. RESOLUTION TO RATIFY AND CONFIRM THE HIRING OF MICHAEL CORCORAN, CONNOR ZAKOWSKI AND LANDON HORESCO For The Clean Communities Summer Help Positions In The Public Works and Parks Departments

WHEREAS, there exist 8 positions for Clean Communities Summer Help funded by a NJ Clean Communities Grant; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Works recommends the rehiring of Michael Corcoran as Clean Communities Summer Help for the 8th year, effective May 26, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.00, not to exceed 40 hours per week; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Works recommends the rehiring of Connor Zakowski as Clean Communities Summer Help for the 2nd year, effective May 26, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$17.00, not to exceed 40 hours per week; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Parks and Recreation recommends the rehiring of Landon Horesco as Clean Communities Summer Help for the 2nd year, effective June 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$17.00, not to exceed 40 hours per week.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the Director of Public Works and Director of Parks and Recreation are authorized to hire Michael Corcoran, Connor Zakowski and Landon Horesco as Clean Communities Summer Help for the 2026 season.

3. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE ADJUSTED ANNUAL SALARIES & WAGES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the annual salaries and wages of the following elected officials will be temporarily reduced as follows for the period June 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026: (1) Mayor \$0.00; (2) Deputy Mayor \$0.00; and (3) Committeepersons \$0.00.

4. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP TO ACCEPT THE GREATER RARITAN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD SUMMER YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS AND FILL THE APPROVED POSITIONS

WHEREAS, the Township of Hillsborough applied for the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board (GRWDB) 2026 Summer Youth Work Experience Program, which facilitates work training opportunities between New Jersey employers and Somerset or Hunterdon County residents, between the ages of 16 and 24; and

WHEREAS, the GRWDB program is funded by a grant from the NJ Department of Labor, and the Township would be awarded up to \$13,600.00 in these funds for up to 4 participants for our Recreation Department summer

programs, each receiving a \$3,400 stipend for their completion of the program's 180 work hours on specific projects and 20 hours of GRWDB career-readiness training requirement; and

WHEREAS, GRWDB program participants were interviewed by the Director of Human Resources, Director of Parks & Recreation, and Assistant Director of Recreation, and the recommendation is to bring on Ethan Diogene and Emily Margelis, each receiving a \$3,400 stipend for their completion of the program requirements, starting 6/3/2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that: (1) the Township is authorized to accept the award for up to \$13,600.00 and (2) to hire Ethan Diogene and Emily Margelis to support the projects and fulfill the Township's participation in the GRWDB program with a 6/3/2026 starting date.

5. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE 2026 ANNUAL SALARIES AND WAGES OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL 469 BLUE COLLAR UNIT MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, the annual salaries and wages of Teamsters Local 469 Blue Collar Unit Municipal Employees, effective January 1, 2026, need to be established in accordance with the Bargaining Unit agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the annual salaries and wages of the following employees are to be adjusted as listed below, effective January 1, 2026:

Employee	Title	2026 Annual Salary	1/1/2026 to date
Burke, David	Equipment Operator 2 - DPW	\$82,894.32	current
Caputo, Nicholas	Public Works Worker 4	\$69,933.76	current
Conover, Michael	Arborist	\$71,207.00	current
Dabek, Rafal	Public Works Worker 4	\$69,134.00	current
Deroner, Blair	Sign Shop Operator	\$79,854.32	current
DiFabrizio, Anthony	Public Works Worker 4	\$72,062.00	current
Dos Santos Jr, Wilmar	Public Works Worker 4 - Parks	\$66,962.00	current
Dowches, Robert	Public Works Worker 4- Parks	\$75,534.16	current
Droumbakis, Johnathan	Mechanic 2	\$82,010.00	current
Fritzinger, Garth	Public Works Worker 4	\$72,318.96	5/31/2026
Gilleece, Alex	Public Works Worker 1	\$41,119.00	5/29/2026
Gilpin, Sammy	Public Works Worker 4	\$67,224.00	current
Gonzalez, Ernesto	Public Works Worker 4 - Parks	\$85,744.41	current
Granja, Richard	Public Works Worker 4	\$68,712.00	current
Hartmann, Justin	Public Works Worker 2	\$48,936.00	current
Holodinski, Michael	Public Works Worker 4 - Parks	\$66,962.00	current
Krause, Gary	Mechanic 2	\$77,625.00	current
Lowry, Kevin	Public Works Worker 4	\$66,962.00	current
Mackenzie, Chris	Public Works Worker 4	\$70,590.00	current

Maturin, Joseph	Equipment Operator 2 - Parks	\$13,612.80	2/25/2026
Nill, Ronald	Mechanic 2	\$88,597.51	current
Puleio, Vincent	Public Works Worker 1	\$41,119.00	current
Rodriguez, Jorge	Public Works Worker 4	\$72,490.00	current
Rogalski, Michael	Public Works Worker 4	\$6,279.22	1/31/2026
Staats, Brian	Public Works Worker 4 - Parks	\$70,394.00	current
Strothers, Michael	Public Works Worker 4	\$72,982.00	current
Tenore, Fredrick	Public Works Worker 4	\$74,440.08	current
Trimmer, Kyle	Metal Fabricator/Welder II	\$2,155.95	1/9/2026
Winters, Jay	Public Works Worker 4 - Parks	\$70,551.00	current
Woodrick, Cody	Public Works Worker 4 - Parks	\$69,727.20	current
Zaliwski, Anthony	Public Works Worker 4 - Parks	\$69,640.48	current

6. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP CLERK TO EXECUTE THE 2026-2029 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLSBOROUGH AND TEAMSTERS LOCAL 469 BLUE COLLAR UNIT

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that: (1) the 2026-2029 Collective Bargaining Agreement between Hillsborough Township and Teamsters Local 469 Blue Collar Unit is acceptable and approved; and (2) the Mayor and Township Clerk are authorized to execute the Agreement.

Mayor Payne stated: "We are going to hear all the comments. After that, if any committee member would like to take one of the personnel items separately for voting purposes, I will give you the opportunity to do so. There is no need to take items separately for commenting or questioning.

Committeeman Britting stated Ms. Brake has been fantastic as the Township Clerk.

Administrator Ferrera stated Ms. Brake is invaluable as the Township Clerk, Public Information Officer, behind the scenes IT and everything else. If he could vote he would. The reappointment is for the Clerk position only. Ms. Brake voluntarily agreed to also be the Public Information Officer.

Committeewoman Hand asked if the Clerk and PIO positions were always together and what the implication was around reappointing regarding the issue of tenure.

Attorney Tantum stated that if reappointed, Ms. Brake will receive tenure.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Shawn Lipani, seconded by Committeeman Robert Britting, the Personnel Resolutions were approved upon the call of the roll.

OATH OF OFFICE

1. REAPPOINTING SARAH BRAKE, RMC AS HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP CLERK

Mayor Payne administered the oath to Sarah Brake who was accompanied by her family.

CONSENT

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FY27 NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID GRANT PROGRAM FOR BLOOMINGDALE DRIVE ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, each year the Township submits a grant application to receive funding from New Jersey Department of Transportation Municipal Aid Program; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineering Director recommends the submission of a grant application to receive funding from the New Jersey Department of Transportation Municipal Aid Program for the project “Bloomingdale Drive Roadway Improvements” application ID “MA-2027-Bloomingdale Drive Improvements-00160.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that: (1) the Township Committee approves the submission of a grant application for the above-stated project; (2) the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2027-Bloomingdale Drive Improvements-00160 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Hillsborough Township; and (3) the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of Hillsborough Township and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector indicates tax overpayments have been received as indicated below and recommends refunds be issued for such overpayments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to refund the amounts set forth below for tax overpayments.

Block	Lot	Qualifier	Name	Amount	Qtr	Year
11	21		Unity Bank	\$14,919.55	2	2026
150.03	28		Corelogic	\$4,019.82	2	2026
151.09	182		Corelogic	\$4,307.90	2	2026
151.20	1	C0302	Corelogic	\$1,970.01	2	2026
152.03	1		Corelogic	\$2,462.53	2	2026
163.04	11		Corelogic	\$2,630.94	2	2026
163.05	1.05	C3011	Corelogic	\$1,501.89	2	2026
163.21	4	C0108	Corelogic	\$1,919.05	2	2026
163.21	7	C3613	Corelogic	\$2,242.59	2	2026
163.22	45	C3609	Corelogic	\$1,331.26	2	2026
175.09	8		Corelogic	\$3,558.34	2	2026
177.02	48		Corelogic	\$4,174.39	2	2026
178.01	64		Corelogic	\$2,021.54	2	2026
199	144		Corelogic	\$3,782.16	2	2026
200.13	1		Corelogic	\$3,016.53	2	2026

207	1.01	Q0035	Corelogic	\$79.22	2	2026
177.11	20		Argen	\$3,678.00	2	2026

3. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO HOLD AN ELECTRONIC TAX SALE OF UNPAID 2025 TAXES AND OTHER MUNICIPAL CHARGES THROUGH NJ TAX LIEN INVESTORS/REAL AUCTION.COM

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:5-19.1 authorizes electronic tax sales pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Division of Local Government Services has promulgated rules and regulations for electronic tax sales; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Division of Local Government Services has approved NJ Tax Lien Investors/RealAuction.com to conduct electronic tax sales; and

WHEREAS, an electronic tax sale is innovative and provides a greater pool of potential lien buyers, thus creating the environment for a more complete tax sale process; and

WHEREAS, based on the recommendation of the Qualified Purchasing Agent and Tax Collector, the Township of Hillsborough wishes to hold an electronic tax sale for unpaid 2025 taxes and other municipal charges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the Tax Collector is authorized to hold an electronic tax sale for unpaid 2025 taxes and other municipal charges through NJ Tax Lien Investors/Real Auction.com.

4. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO DEER CARCASS REMOVAL SERVICE FOR REMOVAL OF DEBRIS AT THE AUTEN ROAD SITE

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Works has determined there is a need for the removal of debris at the Auten Road Site; and

WHEREAS, Deer Carcass Removal Service was awarded a contract through the Morris County Cooperative which the Township is a member; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Works and Qualified Purchasing Agent recommend the award of a contract to Deer Carcass Removal Service in an amount not to exceed \$14,500.00 for the removal of debris at the Auten Road site through MCCPC Contract #49; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer certifies there are sufficient funds in account #01-201-26-775-290 (requisition #2314249) for these services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that a contract is hereby awarded to Deer Carcass Removal in an amount not to exceed \$14,500.00 for the removal of debris at the Auten Road site.

5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF CASH ESCROW IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200.00 FOR HILLSBOROUGH CROSSINGS, LLC

WHEREAS, a cash escrow was posted from Hillsborough Crossings, LLC, for handicap work to be done; and

WHEREAS, the Engineering Director certifies that all work has been satisfactorily completed; and

WHEREAS, the Engineering Director recommends the Township Committee authorize the release of the cash escrow in the amount of \$200.00 to Hillsborough Crossings, LLC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the recommendation of the Engineering Director is hereby accepted and approved.

6. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF RECREATION PROGRAM FEES

WHEREAS, there are refunds due from Recreation program fees; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has received proof of such refunds being due and payable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, tha the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to refund said amounts as detailed below.

Hannah Fortin	\$210.00
Leigh Brodsky-Schubert	\$350.00

7. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REPAIRS TO VEHICLE #604 FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has requested authorization for the repair of vehicle #604; and

WHEREAS, the services are available from Niro's Auto Body through Somerset County Cooperative Contract #CC-0029-24 in an amount not to exceed \$11,353.38; and

WHEREAS, funds are available and have been certified as such by the Chief Finance Officer through Account #01-201-25-745-880 (Requisition #2314332).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that it hereby authorizes the repairs to vehicle #604 for the Police Department from Niro's AutoBody in an amount not to exceed \$11,353.38.

8. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT TO SOLICIT A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR GRANT WRITING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the current Grant Writing Services contract will expire on August 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, these professional grant writing services provide significant time savings for the research and application process for grants; and

WHEREAS, the Township's Qualified Purchasing Agent requests authorization to solicit a Request for Proposals

for professional grant writing services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the Township Qualified Purchasing Agent is hereby authorized to advertise for Grant Writing Services.

9. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE 2026-2027 SEASON

WHEREAS, Township Ordinance 183-7 requires the Wildlife Management Commission to report annually to the Township Committee and recommend a Wildlife Management Plan for the upcoming year; and

WHEREAS, the Commission reports that the last deer hunting season on public properties in Hillsborough was again safe and successful; and

WHEREAS, Township Ordinance 183-4 provides that the hunting, shooting, killing and removal of white-tailed deer and other wildlife, as approved by the State of New Jersey, on municipally-owned land shall be allowed for the purpose of reducing and managing the Township's deer and other wildlife population, but only with the possession of and under the provisions of a municipal game management permit for such activity; and

WHEREAS, Township Ordinance 183-4 provides that the number of municipal game management permits issued each year for the culling of white-tailed deer, and other wildlife, and the properties for which such permits shall be issued, shall be determined annually by resolution of the Township Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife Management Commission has recommended, in its proposed Wildlife Management Plan for the upcoming hunting season, and the Police Chief has concurred, that nineteen (19) properties be made available for permitted hunting; and

WHEREAS, based upon the recommendation of the Township Health Department, the culling of coyote shall be permitted again in this year's wildlife management program, as part of a pilot program designed to reduce the spread of mange and rabies throughout the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife Management Commission also recommends that in the lottery of available permits, preference be granted first to Hillsborough residents, next to Somerset County residents and finally to New Jersey residents and that three (3) alternate permits be allowed to create a substitute list if an original permit holder is unable to hunt; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further recommends that it be mandatory for all hunters to wear a safety harness while in their tree stands, that all hunters be limited to one (1) fixed style tree stand, that all hunters are to sign a consent form for a NJ Fish and Wildlife license check and that the program for processing and donating harvested deer be continued; and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife Management Commission also recommends that the limited number of days available to hunt with a firearm in Areas 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 16, and 21 coincide with all season dates set forth by the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further recommends that licensed hunters who were permitted to hunt on public properties last season be able to have, if desired, that permit extended on the same terms and conditions for the upcoming season on the same property, without submitting to a lottery; and

WHEREAS, the Commission believes the permit extension privilege provides an added safety feature because continuity of hunters in hunting areas allows those hunters to become more familiar with the property and its

boundaries, with deer habits, and with each other's habits, thereby increasing safety; and

WHEREAS, the Commission also recommends that additional steps be taken to provide non-lethal means of deer damage control.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that deer hunting in accordance with all state and local statutes, rules, regulations, codes and Township Ordinance 183-1 et seq., and as recommended by the Wildlife Management Commission in their proposed Wildlife Management Plan for the 2026-2027 season, is hereby authorized on the following public properties:

Area	Location	Block & Lot	
Area 1	Montgomery Road and Pschorn Lane	Block 169, Lots 27 & 30	
Area 2	Davids Lane	Block 171, Lots 14C, 14L, 14Z & 112.01	
Area 3	Wertsville Road	Block 171, Lot 6	
Area 4	Auten Road	Block 151, Lot 1	Bow Hunting Only
Area 5	Montgomery Road and Amwell Road	Block 166, Lots 1 & 3.02 Block 167, Lot 8 and Block 167, lot 10.01	Bow Hunting Only
Area 6	Dutchtown Zion Road	Block 174, Lot 200	
Area 7	East Mountain Rd (PID Property)	Block 12, Lots 26.01, 33, 47	
Area 8	ELIMINATED FROM PROGRAM		
Area 9	Scott Drive	Block 203, Lot 22 Block 203-5, Lot 1	Bow Hunting Only
Area 10	River Road (Old Main Road)	Block 8, Lot 9	Bow Hunting Only
Area 11	Surrey Drive and Mulford Lane	Block 207.01, Lot 36	Bow Hunting Only
Area 12	River Road and Norz Drive	Block 13.01, Lot 14.18	Bow Hunting Only
Area 13	Horseshoe Drive	Block 205.11, Lots 41 & 58	Bow Hunting Only

Area 14	Raddel Court	Block 205.15, Lot 38	Bow Hunting Only
Area 15	ELIMINATED FROM PROGRAM		
Area 16	Montgomery Road between Wertsville and Amwell	Block 167 Lots 13.01, 13.02 & 13.03 and Block 167 Lots 9 & 12.04	
Area 17	South Branch Road	Block 149.08 Lots 81, 82 & 83	Bow Hunting Only
Area 18	Brooks Blvd.	Block 65, Lot 22	Bow Hunting Only
Area 19	Daval Road	Block 174.04 Lots 48 and 84	Bow Hunting Only
Area 20	River Road East	Block 11, Lot 13.02	Bow Hunting Only
Area 21	Hamilton Road	Block 198, Lot 2	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to the recommendation of the Wildlife Management Commission in its proposed 2025-2026 Wildlife Management Plan, the following steps are taken to provide non-lethal means of deer damage control: Continue to plot all road-killed deer from motor vehicle accidents on a map of the Township to locate where additional signage may be needed; Continue the replacement of worn deer crossing road signs and/or an increase of signs at key points around the Township; Continue the trimming of brush on public properties further back from the road to allow motorists improved vision of deer at the roadside; Provide “Wildlife Tips” throughout the year on the Township’s website on such topics relating to deer such as deer-resistant plants, leaving wildlife alone in the wild, driving tips during peak times when deer are most active and the negative issues of feeding deer and other wildlife issues; Make available a detailed list that can be obtained at the Townships Clerk’s office on landscape plants rated by deer resistance.

10. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP TAX COLLECTOR TO REQUEST APPROVAL FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES TO EXCEED THE 105% CALCULATION OF ESTIMATED BILLING AND TO PREPARE AND MAIL ESTIMATED TAX BILLS

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.2 permits the Tax Collector to issue an estimated tax bill for the third installment of taxes in a calendar year when the tax rate has not yet been certified; and

WHEREAS, the County Tax Board of Taxation has not certified the tax rate at this time and the Tax Collector will be unable to mail the tax bills on a timely basis; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, has computed an estimated tax levy in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Chapter 72, P.L. 1994, the Township Committee request the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the estimated tax levy since it exceeds the 105% allowable range; and

WHEREAS, approval of the estimated tax levy will enable the Township to meet its financial obligations, maintain the tax collection rate, and provide uniformity for tax payments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that:

1. The Hillsborough Township Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and issue estimated tax bills for the Township for the third installment of 2026 taxes;
2. The Tax Collector shall proceed upon approval from the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, and take such actions as are permitted and required by P.L. 1994, c. 72 (N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.2 and 54.4-66.3);
3. The entire estimated tax levy for 2026 is hereby set at \$218,255,553.42 and the estimated tax rate is set at 2.288;
4. In accordance with the law, the third installment of 2026 taxes shall not be subject to interest until the later of August 10th or the twenty-fifth calendar day after the date the estimated tax bills are mailed; and
5. Certified copies of this Resolution shall be filed with the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services and with the Somerset County Board of Taxation.

11. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH EPLUS FOR RENEWAL OF SECURITY SERVICES PROFICIO

WHEREAS, there exists a need for continued security services for the Township's Technology Department; and

WHEREAS, EPlus currently provides this security service to the Township and offers the renewal in the amount of \$9,655.00; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Technology and Qualified Purchasing Agent recommend the award of a contract to EPlus for continued security service of the Township's Technology Department in an amount not to exceed \$9,655.00 for the period 12 months, per the sales agreement signed on August 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the 2026 Budget through account #01-201-20-709-290 in an amount not to exceed \$9,655.00 certified as such by the Chief Finance Officer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that a contract in an amount not to exceed \$9,655.00 is hereby awarded to EPlus for the provision of continued security services for Hillsborough Technology Department is hereby authorized.

Mayor Payne stated: "We are going to hear all the comments first. After that, if any committee member would like to take an item from the consent agenda for separate voting, I will give you the opportunity to do so. There is no need to take items separately for commenting or questioning."

Committeeman Britting stated applying for grants allows the township to continue to pave roads at a reduced cost to taxpayers.

Deputy Mayor Lipani stated they started applying for grants for the larger roads in the township to offset the cost to taxpayers.

Committeewoman Hand asked for backup and explanations on resolution 3 and 10. Mayor Payne explained the process as provided by the Finance Department for #10. Administrator Ferrera explained the tax liens are very low, the tax collection rate is at approximately 99.3%.

Susan Gulliford, Hunt Club Road asked the role of the Deer Carcass Removal service.

Deputy Mayor Lipani explained that the name is confusing. The company is used to remove debris.

Upon a motion by Committeeman Robert Britting, seconded by Deputy Mayor Shawn Lipani, the consent agenda was unanimously approved upon the call of the roll.

BUDGET

1. RESOLUTION AMENDING THE APPROVED 2026 BUDGET. FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND PUBLIC HEARING ON JUNE 23, 2026.

WHEREAS, the local municipal budget for the year 2026 was approved on April 28, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on said Budget was held as advertised on May 26, 2026; and

WHEREAS, it is desired to amend said approved budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the following amendments to the approved Budget of 2026 be made:

3. Miscellaneous Revenues-Section G: Special Items of Revenue Anticipated With Prior Written Consent Director Of Local Government Services-Other Special Items:

Contribution from Somerville Business Park	600,000.00	640,000.00
Total Section G: Special Items of Revenue Anticipated With Prior Written Consent Director Of Local Government Services-Other Special Items	1,573,397.00	1,613,397.00

Summary of Revenues:

3. Miscellaneous Revenues		
Total Section G: Special Items of Revenue Anticipated With Prior Written Consent Of Director Of Local Government Services-Other Special Items	1,573,397.00	1,613,397.00

Total Miscellaneous Revenues	9,870,286.04	9,910,286.04
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Subtotal General Revenues	12,270,286.04	12,310,286.04
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6. Amount To Be Raised By Taxes For Support Of Municipal Budget

A) Local Tax For Municipal Purposes Including Reserve For Uncollected Taxes		
Total Amount To Be Raised By Taxes For Support Of Municipal Budget	30,792,776.73	30,755,397.33

7. Total General Revenues	43,063,062.77	43,065,948.77
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	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
8. General Appropriations:		
a. Operations Within "CAPS":		
Fire Hydrant Service	967,000.00	952,500.00

Contribution to Fire District	0.00	14,500.00
Solid Waste - (Recycling)	455,000.00	440,898.69
Contribution to Senior Citizens Organizations	0.00	1.00
 Total Operations (Items 8 (A)) Within "CAPS"	 29,426,924.41	 29,412,824.10
 Total Operations Including Contingent - Within "CAPS"	 29,426,924.41	 29,412,824.10
 Detail:		
Other Expenses	12,622,835.91	12,608,735.60
 Deferred Charges and Other Statutory Expenditures:		
Deferred Charges		
Prior Years Bills		
Hillsborough Fire District	0.00	14,101.31
 Total Deferred Charges and Other Statutory Expenditures	 5,705,487.00	 5,719,588.31
 H-1. Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes Within "CAPS"	 35,132,411.41	 35,132,412.41
 (E) Deferred Charges - Excluded From "CAPS"		
Deferred Charges to Future Taxation - Ordinance 2009-15	0.00	200,000.00
Deficit in Assessment Budget	197,115.00	0.00
Total Deferred Charges-Excluded From "CAPS"	328,671.72	331,556.72
 (H-2) Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes Excluded From "CAPS"	 6,462,023.64	 6,464,908.64
 (O) Total General Appropriations-Excluded From "CAPS"	 6,462,023.64	 6,464,908.64
 (L) Subtotal General Appropriations {Items (h-1) and (o)}	 41,594,435.05	 41,597,321.05
 9. TOTAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS	 43,063,062.77	 43,065,948.77

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be filed forthwith in the Office of the Director of Local Government Services for his certification of the local municipal budget so amended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this complete amendment or summary, has been published in accordance with the State of New Jersey L. 2025 c.72: on the designated legal notice webpage located on the Hillsborough Township website <https://www.hillsboroughnj.gov> on the following date: June 10, 2026, and that a public hearing on said amendment will be held at the Municipal Building on June 23, 2026 at 7:30 (p.m., at which time and place objections to this amendment resolution for the year 2026 may be presented by any interested party.

It is hereby certified that this is a true copy of a resolution amending the budget, adopted by the governing body on the 9th day of June, 2026.

Certified by me

June 9, 2026

Sarah Brake, Municipal Clerk

Upon a motion by Committeeman Robert Britting, seconded by Deputy Mayor Shawn Lipani, on the Resolution introducing an Amendment to the Approved 2026 Budget. Further consideration and Public Hearing on June 23, 2026, the motion was unanimously approved upon the call of the roll.

CFO Christaan Bushell read the amendment in full into the record.

Committeeman Britting read a statement surrounding the senior population and services offered to them.

Committeewoman Hand asked why \$1 was added for the senior chapter clubs.

Administrator Ferrera explained the \$1 allotment is there as a place holder to allow for money to be potentially placed back in at the end of the year. The legal/illegality of providing money is no longer the issue.

Mayor Payne stated the Township is no longer solely focused on Chapters A and B but the entire senior population of over 10,000 individuals.

Committeewoman Hand stated she cannot support the introduction of the amended budget for the second time. Her decision is based upon the concerns of the immediate impact on residents and the long-term budget issues.

Committeewoman Hand also disagreed with the elimination of funding for the senior chapters.

Mayor Payne asked what Committeewoman Hand would propose.

Committeewoman Gomez stated she shares Committeewoman Hand's concerns, and clarified that she did not advocate for the removal of funding for the senior chapters. Committeewoman Gomez stated she reached out to Congresswoman Coleman and the Rotary Club as potential funding sources.

Deputy Mayor Lipani stated that Committeewoman Gomez ran her campaign on affordability yet taxes were increased, lost employees, cut social services, and took money away from the senior groups. Deputy Mayor Lipani stated there is no extra spending going on, no work on any roads unless through grants, no purchases of any trucks, and no capital spending budget. He further stated that he took exception to Committeewoman Gomez taking credit for the Rotary Club donation. As a Rotarian, Deputy Mayor Lipani quietly reached out to the Administration office 3 weeks ago without any intention of announcing it to the public.

Committeewoman Hand stated the committee should look at fees paid to consultants and legal fees to save money. Mayor Payne stated she agreed with her.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

None

CLAIMS LIST

1. CLAIMS LIST 26-10

Mayor Payne asked to approve Claims List 2026-09.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Shawn Lipani, seconded by Committeeman Robert Britting, Claims List 2026-09, was approved upon the call of the roll.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW BUSINESS AND MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Township Clerk Sarah Brake stated the following. The Township Committee now opens the floor for public comment. To ensure a productive and civil environment for all, please approach the microphone, state your name and address, and spell your name for the record.

The Township of Hillsborough maintains a strict standard of decorum; please ensure your remarks remain respectful and focused on township business. Each speaker is limited to a single three-minute allotment. This is a forum for public comment rather than a dialogue. Please address all remarks directly to the Mayor. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and for treating your neighbors, Township employees and this committee with courtesy.

Georgann Valis, 208 S. Branch Road stated she has never seen any notices about services offered and suggested a newsletter.

Township Brake encouraged seniors to check out the Mayor's enewsletter and to sign up on the website.

Michael Izzo, 102 Roycebrook Road corrected Committeeman Britting stating that any resident could join Chapter A, no one is excluded.

Philomena Cellilli, 24 Roycebrook Road stated she is concerned and disappointed about the budget and the conduct of the Township Committee members on the dais.

Maria Janucik, 720 E Frech Ave, Manville NJ stated her property record card indicates a multi-family 3 unit dwelling yet the Planning and Zoning Department is stating that it cannot be considered a 3 family dwelling without a certificate of non-conforming use.

Mayor Payne stated she would call her at 8am tomorrow morning.

John Ciccarelli, 14 Southland Drive, former Mayor, stated that in 2024 was the first municipality enrolled in age-accessible communities through AARP. He inquired into the status of the Pennoni report and urged the committee to advocate for a repeal of the gas tax.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Committeeman Robert Britting, seconded by Committeewoman Samantha Hand, the meeting duly adjourned at 8:57 pm. Said motion was unanimously carried upon voice vote.

Attested:



Sarah Brake
Township Clerk