

Minutes of the August 25, 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 August 25, 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 Tantom and Labor Attorney Flaum.

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, August 25, 2026. Executive Session, if deemed necessary, to begin at 6:30 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

PBA CONTRACT NEGOTIATION

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 PBA Contract Negotiation
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 Committeeman Robert Britting, the aforesaid Executive Session resolution was unanimously approved upon call of the role. The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 6:33 pm.

Upon a motion by Committeeman Shawn Lipani, seconded by Committeewoman Samantha Hand, the public meeting was re-opened at 7:18 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. JUNE 9, 2026 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Upon a motion by Committeeman Robert Britting, seconded by Committeewoman Samantha Hand, the June 9, 2026 Executive Session Minutes were approved upon the call of the roll.

2. JUNE 23, 2026 REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Shawn Lipani, seconded by Committeewoman Jill Gomez, the June 23, 2026 Regular Session Minutes were approved upon the call of the roll.

3. JULY 28, 2026 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Upon a motion by Committeewoman Samantha Hand, seconded by Committeewoman Jill Gomez, the July 28, 2026 Executive Session Minutes were approved upon the call of the roll.

4. JULY 28, 2026 REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Shawn Lipani, seconded by Committeewoman Jill Gomez, the July 28, 2026 Regular Session Minutes were approved upon the call of the roll.

Committeewoman Hand asked about money being given to the seniors.

Committeeman Britting clarified who the money is being given to.

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

Mayor Payne

Mayor Payne advised that it's Farm Week in Hillsborough and it runs through August 29th. The Mayor encouraged residents to visit the participating farms and to buy local.

Mayor Payne relayed that on August 15th, she was joined by Deputy Mayor Lipani, Committeewoman Gomez, Committeewoman Hand, members of the Rotary Club of Hillsborough, and township staff for the annual Family Fun Day at the Rotary Fair. She thanked Hillsborough Youth Sports, the main sponsor, for covering the costs so that special needs families could enjoy four hours of free fun, UNICO for donating hundreds of prizes, and all the volunteers.

Mayor Payne stated that on August 15th, she visited the splashdown for dogs at Ann Van Middlesworth Park.

Mayor Payne reported that on August 13th, she attended the library's Community Connections Event.

Mayor Payne announced there will be a brief Patriot's Day commemoration ceremony on September 11th at 9:00 am in the Garden of Honor.

Mayor Payne informed residents that Hillsborough Township is keeping America's 250th anniversary celebration going throughout the year by partnering with FirstEnergy and Girl Scouts Service Unit 72 to plant a brand-new "Semiquincentennial Forest" at the Beekman Basin on November 6th. The initiative will see 250 trees—generously donated by FirstEnergy—planted in a single day. Additionally, street trees throughout the area are being replaced to refresh and restore the township's canopy.

Mayor Payne reminded residents that the Hillsborough Township Social Services Department will host its Second Annual Older Adult Resource Fair on Thursday, September 24th from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. The event is designed to connect local seniors and their families with essential tools, expert advice, and community support.

Mayor Payne announced that the Ninth Annual Restaurant Week will run Thursday, September 24th, through Sunday, October 4th.

Mayor Payne stated that starting September 28th, the Scarecrow Festival display area will be open for visitors to view entries and vote throughout October.

Deputy Mayor Lipani

Deputy Mayor Lipani thanked all who volunteered at the Rotary Fair and stated it was a record year for crowds.

Deputy Mayor Lipani reminded residents to notify the Building Department when planning an emergency HVAC replacement and to submit the permit application within 72 hours.

Deputy Mayor Lipani requested that all residents selling their homes to contact the Building Department before selling to ensure all open permits are properly closed out.

Deputy Mayor Lipani instructed residents using sump pumps that they must properly direct discharge pipes. Older gutter-discharging lines are grandfathered, and new construction street discharge is prohibited; however, any line causing hazardous street flooding or icing must be relocated.

Deputy Mayor Lipani advised that under state-mandated Ordinance 2024-16, tree removal requires a permit and may require replacement plantings.

Deputy Mayor Lipani reported that importing fill dirt requires a free Soil Import Permit to certify it is clean.

Deputy Mayor Lipani stated standard 6-foot residential fences do not need permits but cannot be built in easements or rights-of-way. Commercial fences always require Planning & Zoning approval.

Deputy Mayor Lipani further stated that businesses and HOAs must maintain their private stormwater systems to prevent flooding and submit an annual certification report to the Engineering Department.

Committeeman Britting

Committeeman Britting announced that Somerset County reached an agreement to purchase property to expand the county's senior center's footprint. Mayor Payne further explained the county purchased 2 1/2 acres near the senior center across the street from the YMCA. A bigger county senior center will be developed and available for the township's senior citizens.

Committeeman Britting reminded residents that Hillsborough Township enforces a Property Maintenance Ordinance. Common violations include parking vehicles on lawns (must be on an approved driveway), keeping unregistered or unplat vehicles on the property, and maintaining standing dead trees that could fall onto adjacent properties, roadways, or power lines.

Committeeman Britting invited residents to join the annual Water Testing Event on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 9 AM to 12 PM in the Municipal Complex rear parking lot.

Committeeman Britting advised that the recreation fall activities calendar is now live.

Committeeman Britting reminded seniors that the Senior Active Living Initiative programs and communication

survey is still active.

Committeewoman Gomez

Committeewoman Gomez stated she also attended the community connections event.

Committeewoman Gomez stated she, along with Committeewoman Hand, dropped off back-to-school donations collected by the Hillsborough Democratic Alliance Club and the Hillsborough Democratic Organization.

Committeewoman Gomez announced that the NJMVC Mobile Unit is returning to the Municipal Building on September 2nd.

Committeewoman Gomez reminded residents ages 65 and older, as well as those receiving Social Security disability benefits, to complete the PAS-1 form by November 2, 2026. The PAS-1 is a single combined application for the Senior Freeze, ANCHOR, and Stay NJ property tax relief programs.

Committeewoman Gomez reported that only certified funds are accepted for 2025 delinquent taxes and sewer payments. The tax sale public notice is now on the Finance web page.

Committeewoman Gomez relayed that final tax bills will be mailed in September and the tax sale will be held on September 23rd.

Committeewoman Gomez announced that a full-time Library Technician will be retiring at the end of August. To support the transition and fill the vacancy, they have posted two part-time, 20-hour-per-week Library Technician positions.

Committeewoman Gomez advised that the Hillsborough Library is in desperate need of seed donations for their seed library. They are also seeking personal hygiene product donations from the public for the personal care pantry located in the teen space.

Committeewoman Hand

Committeewoman Hand, stated she too attended the Community Connections Resource Fair at the Library.

Committeewoman Hand reminded residents that August is the perfect time for families to update emergency contact lists, select an out-of-area family contact, ensure children know how to dial 911, and plan alternative transportation home if school routines are disrupted.

Committeewoman Hand cautioned residents to remember to turn around instead of driving through flooded roads, stay clear of downed power lines, and report dangerous flooding to local authorities promptly.

Committeewoman Hand encouraged residents to gain practical disaster preparedness and response skills through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.

Committeewoman Hand urged locals and visitors driving, biking, or walking, to stay alert and share the road, so everyone can travel safely.

Committeewoman Hand stated that the Hillsborough Police are excited to invite young riders ages 7 to 13 to a free Kids' Bike Safety Event on Saturday, September 12th, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Kids will sharpen their riding skills, navigate a fun obstacle course, learn essential safety tips, and even win some prizes.

Committeewoman Hand invited Hillsborough residents to the Woods Road Firehouse on September 11th at 6:30 p.m. for a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony and Day of Service Showcase.

PROCLAMATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

1. MICHAEL AVOLIO – NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITIES COMMISSIONER OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, Michael Avolio has served for over 23 years with The Township of Hillsborough Municipal Utilities Authority and has been awarded the 2026 NJAEA Commissioner of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Michael Avolio was selected as Vice-Chairman in 2005 and then Chairman 2012 through 2023; and

WHEREAS, Michael Avolio brings a wealth of business sense and fiscal responsibility to the Authority; and

WHEREAS, Michael Avolio, a long time Hillsborough resident has owned and operated United Rent All since 1972. Michael and his wife, Marie are both active at Mary, Mother of God Church serving as lecturers,

Extraordinary Ministers, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society; and

WHEREAS, Michael Avolio proudly served in the U.S. Army Reserves in 1964 and is a Paul Harris Fellow Award recipient from the Rotary Club of Hillsborough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that we, the Mayor and Hillsborough Township Committee, do hereby extend our congratulations to Michael Avolio and thank him for his many years of service to Hillsborough.

2. ARJUN KARRA - TOP 20 FINALIST, US KIDS GOLF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

WHEREAS, Arjun Karra, a rising sixth grader at Auten Road Intermediate School, finished in the top 20 at the 2026 U.S. Kids Golf World Championship in the Boys 11 Division; and

WHEREAS, Arjun Karra competed in the three-day tournament at Talamore Golf Resort in North Carolina, placing 18th among 153 players; and

WHEREAS, Arjun Karra shot a 6-under-par 66 in Round 3, recording the lowest score in the field that day; and

WHEREAS, Arjun Karra began playing golf at age 7, tied for second in the U.S. Kids New Jersey State Invitational, and won the PGA Jr. League sub-regionals with his All-Star teammates; and

WHEREAS, Arjun Karra practices daily at Royce Brook Golf Club under the guidance of a swing coach;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that we, the Mayor and Hillsborough Township Committee, do hereby extend our sincere congratulations to Arjun Karra and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

PRESENTATIONS

PERSONNEL ITEMS/APPOINTMENTS

1. RESOLUTION APPOINTING MARSHALEE DALEY TO THE VACANT POSITION OF ALTERNATE NUMBER 1 ON THE HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2027

WHEREAS, there exists a vacancy on the Hillsborough Township Board of Health

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that it hereby makes the following appointment:

Name	Seat	Term
Marshalee Daley	Alt #1	12/31/2027 (Unexpired term)

2. Resolution Authorizing The Hiring Of Ibrahim Elbanna To The Position Of Public Works Worker III In The Department Of Public Works

WHEREAS, there exists a vacancy in the position of Public Works Worker in the Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Works recommends the hiring of Ibrahim Elbanna as a Public Works Worker III in the Department of Public Works at \$53,225 per year, effective August 31, 2026.

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 Director of Public Works is hereby accepted and approved.

3. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF ISABELLA SZEMAN TO THE POSITION OF PART-TIME OUTREACH SUPPORT SPECIALIST IN THE ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

WHEREAS, due to an employee's resignation, there exists a vacant Part-Time Outreach Support Specialist position in the Economic & Business Development Office, which reports to the Township's Planning & Zoning Department management team; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Planning & Zoning recommends the hiring of Isabella Szeman as a Part-Time Outreach Support Specialist in the Economic & Business Development Office at \$22.00 per hour, for 20 hours per week but not to exceed 25 hours per week, with a start date of August 26, 2026.

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 Director of Planning & Zoning is hereby accepted and approved.

4. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A ONE-TIME STIPEND PAYMENT OF \$1,000.00 TO DANA MARGELIS FOR COMPLETING AND PASSING THE CERTIFIED TAX COLLECTOR EXAM

WHEREAS, Dana Margelis has completed the Certified Tax Collector course and has passed the license exam; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has recommended a one-time stipend payment of \$1,000.00 to Dana Margelis for obtaining her Certified Tax Collector license, as per the AFSCME union contract.

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 Township Administrator is hereby accepted and approved.

5. PERMANENT APPOINTMENT OF LIEUTENANT PHILIP WOLFF AND SERGEANT JAMES SAKERS IN THE HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, Philip Wolff was appointed as Lieutenant and James Sakers was appointed as Sergeant in the Hillsborough Township Police Department on February 10, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police indicates that Lieutenant Wolff and Sergeant Sakers have performed their duties and assignments in a capable and competent manner during their 6-month probationary period and recommends permanent status be conferred upon them in their current positions, effective August 10, 2026.

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 Chief of Police be and hereby is accepted and approved.

Committeewoman Gomez welcomed the new hires.

Committeeman Britting congratulated Lieutenant Wolff and Sergeant Sakers on their permanent appointments. Administrator Ferrera welcomed the new employees and permanent hires in the police department.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Shawn Lipani, seconded by Committeeman Robert Britting, personnel items 1-5 were approved upon the call of the roll.

Stefania Olochwoszcz, 1229 Millstone River Road stated she is against backfilling positions.

Committeewoman Hand explained the police officers have been in those positions for 6 months on a probationary basis for the promotions. Committeewoman Hand congratulated Lieutenant Wolff and Sergeant Sakers.

CONSENT (1-25)

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF BATTERY BACK-UP FOR THE IT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM HOWARD TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, the Director of Information Technology has determined there is a need to replace the aging battery back-up for the IT Infrastructure for the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Howard Technology Solutions was awarded a contract through the Bergen County Coop, which Hillsborough Township is a member of, contract #CK04 24-38; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police and Qualified Purchasing Agent recommend the battery back-up for the IT Infrastructure be purchased from Howard Technology Solutions in an amount not to exceed \$13,435.00; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer certifies there are sufficient funds in Capital Account 04-225-55-005-000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the purchase of battery back-up for the IT Infrastructure for the Police Department from Howard Technology Solutions in an amount not to exceed \$13,435.00 through Bergen County Coop Contract #CK-04 24-38 is hereby authorized and approved.

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF ENGINEERING INSPECTION FEES FOR WALGREENS PROJECT

WHEREAS, engineering inspections fees were posted for the Walgreens project; and

WHEREAS, the Engineering Director indicates all work has been satisfactorily completed and recommends the following: (1) release of \$104.85 to the Township for engineering inspections performed; and (2) release of \$6,884.65 balance to Walgreens c/o Asset Management per the attached letter.

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

3. Resolution Authorizing Submission Of FY-2027 Grant Application To The New Jersey Department Of Community Affairs For Recreation Opportunities For Individuals With Disabilities

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs provides funding for governmental entities to develop or expand recreational programs for individuals with disabilities within their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs in the amount of \$3,450 with a \$690 match to create recreational programs for individuals with disabilities within the Hillsborough Community.

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

1. It hereby authorizes the submission of an application for such a grant.
2. It recognizes that a 20% match is required.
3. It recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the Township of Hillsborough and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.
4. The Township Administrator is authorized to sign the application, agreement and all documents required to obtain said grant.

4. 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, that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to refund said amounts as detailed below.

Alexis Ozieblo

\$320.00

5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF THE MUNICIPAL PORTION OF THE PROPERTY TAXES FROM 08/19/22 THROUGH 12/31/25 AND A FULL REFUND FOR TAXES PAID IN 2026 FOR A QUALIFIED 100% DISABLED VETERAN

WHEREAS, the Township Committee by Resolution adopted on September 11, 2007 and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 authorized a tax exemption from local property taxes for veterans who have suffered a 100% permanent disability resulting from war time service in the United States military; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee authorized the date for qualification for the municipal portion of the property tax exemption to be the date on which the United States Veterans' Administration determined the 100% service connected disability; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has received proof of such information from the Tax Assessor for the following property effective August 19, 2022:

Carroll, Patrick J & Janeen M

Block 204.06 Lot 2

\$14,436.77

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that, in recognition of the serious and debilitating nature of 100% permanent service connected disabilities suffered by our veterans while serving in war time and in fairness to those disabled veterans, the Chief Finance Officer is authorized, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32, to reimburse the municipal portion of property taxes from 08/19/22 to 12/31/25 and a full refund for taxes paid in 2026 to the above referenced property owner.

6. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PENNONI ENGINEERING TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE RECERTIFICATION OF QUIET ZONES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLSBOROUGH

WHEREAS, there is a necessity for professional engineering services to perform services associated with the Quiet Zone Re-certification of Beekman Lane, Auten Road, Roycefield Road and Valley Road in the Township of Hillsborough, in an amount not to exceed \$7,100.00, as described in a proposal dated July 21, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that Pennoni Engineering is authorized to perform professional services as outlined in the July 21, 2026 proposal in an amount not to exceed \$7,100.00 for Quiet Zone Re-certification of Beekman Lane, Auten Road, Roycefield Road and Valley Road.

7. Resolution Approving The Request From Courtney Newman To Hold The Chase 5K On The Bypass In Hillsborough Township On Saturday, September 26, 2026

WHEREAS, Courtney Newman has requested permission to hold the Chase 5K on the Bypass on Saturday, September 26, 2026, in Hillsborough Township; and

WHEREAS, Courtney Newman has produced a certificate of insurance naming the Township of Hillsborough as an insured; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police and Hillsborough Township Police Department's Traffic Safety Bureau have determined that the planned route will provide an acceptable level of safety for the runners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that Courtney Newman is hereby authorized to hold the Chase 5K on the Bypass in Hillsborough Township on September 26, 2026.

8. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REQUEST FROM LINDA WALTON TO HOLD JASON'S MEMORIAL 5K RUN IN HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026, PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED BY THE CHIEF OF POLICE

WHEREAS, Linda Walton has requested permission to hold the Annual Jason's Memorial 5K Run on Sunday, August 30, 2026, in Hillsborough Township; and

WHEREAS, Linda Walton has produced a certificate of insurance naming the Township of Hillsborough as an insured; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police and Hillsborough Township Police Department's Traffic Safety Bureau have determined that the planned route will provide an acceptable level of safety for the runners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that Jason's Memorial 5K Run is hereby authorized to hold a race in Hillsborough Township on August 30, 2026.

9. Resolution Approving The Request From Major Taylor Cycling Club Of New Jersey To Hold The New Hope Bicycle Ride In The Township Of Hillsborough

WHEREAS, Major Taylor Cycling Club of New Jersey requested permission to hold the New Hope Bicycle Ride in Hillsborough on August 9, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the planned route, Certificate of Liability Insurance and Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement were provided for this event; and

WHEREAS, the Hillsborough Police Department reviewed the request and the Chief of Police recommends approval of the event.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that it hereby grants the Major Taylor Cycling Club of New Jersey permission to hold the Annual New Hope Ride within the Township of Hillsborough on August 9, 2026.

10. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW ESCROW FOR FILE 24-PB-09-MSV (GRNCAREPB)

WHEREAS, a development review escrow was posted by Green Care Farms, LLC, for File 24-PB-09-MSV, Block 204, Lot 45.01; and

WHEREAS, Green Care Farms sold the property to VYRA Growth, LLC, which has established a new escrow account with the Township for the project; and

WHEREAS, the Township Planning Director indicates all work related to the review of the project for the original Applicant/Owner has been completed through the sale of Property and recommends the Township Committee authorize the release of the prior development review escrow in the amount of \$2,110.24 to Green Care Farms, LLC (Rajiv Singh).

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 Township Planning Director is hereby accepted and approved.

11. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REDUCTION OF PERFORMANCE BONDS FOR GATEWAY AT SUNNYMEAD SECTION 6

WHEREAS, Premier Development provided the Township with Performance Bond No. FP0019791 in the current amount of \$589,007.00, and a Cash Bond in the current amount of \$65,495.00 for Gateway at Sunnymead - Section 6; and

WHEREAS, the Engineering Director certifies that sufficient progress in the work has been made warranting a reduction in the posted Performance Bond and Cash Bond; and

WHEREAS, the Engineering Director recommends the Township Committee authorize a reduction in the current amount of the Performance Bond FP0019791 from \$589,007.00 to \$440,181.00 and the reduction of the current amount of the Cash Bond from \$65,495.00 to \$44,018.00 for Gateway at Sunnymead - Section 6.

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 Engineer Director is hereby accepted and approved.

12. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF CASH ESCROW IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150.00 TO ROY RIGIE FOR ROAD OPENING PERMIT NO. 2025-26

WHEREAS, a cash escrow in the amount of \$150.00 was posted for Road Opening Permit No. 2025-26; and

WHEREAS, the Engineering Director certifies 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 \$150.00 to Roy Rigie for Road Opening Permit No. 20205.26.

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.

13. AMENDED RESOLUTION TO RENEW TOWNSHIP LIQUOR LICENSES FOR THE 2026-2027 LICENSE TERM

WHEREAS, the Hillsborough Township Police Department has conducted an investigation of each retail licensee and club licensee to ensure that criminally disqualified and other unfit persons do not acquire or hold direct interests in the retail alcoholic beverage industry; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the aforementioned investigations, the Hillsborough Police Department has confirmed that the applicants are not subject to any of the disabilities set forth in Title 33 of New Jersey Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Township Clerk has certified that each licensee has posted the required municipal fee of \$2,500 for a Plenary License and \$188 for the Club License; and

WHEREAS, the Township Clerk has further certified that each licensee has been granted a New Jersey State Tax Clearance Certificate as required by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that Plenary Retail Consumption Licenses are hereby renewed to the following license holders for the year 2026-2027, effective July 01, 2026:

License No	Establishment	Licensee
1810-33-001-004	Royce Brook 201 Hamilton Road	ROYCE BROOK BEVERAGE LLC. 12700 Sunrise Valley S300 Reston, VA 20191
1810-33-005-004	Applebee's 315 Route 206 UNIT 300, HILLSBOROUGH NJ 08844	Apple Food Service of Hillsborough LLC 7 Pearl Court Allendale, NJ 7401
1810-33-019-001	AMA Cucina 236 South Branch Road	AMA CUCINA LLC 236 S. Branch Rd. Hillsborough, NJ 08844
1810-44-014-001	Bottle King 626 Route 206	HILLSBOROUGH BOTTLE KING INC 626 Route 206 Hillsborough, NJ 8844

1810-44-018-003	Bottle and Barrel 856 ROUTE 206 BUILDING E, HILLSBOROUGH, NJ 08844	Little Investors, LLC 856 Route 206, Building E Hillsborough, NJ 08844
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14. RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE ANNUAL AUDIT FOR THE YEAR 2025 OF HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP, SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2025 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Township of Hillsborough's Municipal Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6 and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall, by resolution, certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations"; and

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have been provided with the Annual Report of Audit and have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the Annual Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations" as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:27BB-52, to wit:

A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that it hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit through the New Jersey FAST system to show evidence of said compliance.

15. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR THE 2025 TOWNSHIP AUDIT

WHEREAS, in accordance with Local Finance Notice 92-15, the Township Chief Financial Officer has prepared a Corrective Action Plan pertaining to the 2025 Township Audit for submission to the Division of Local Government Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that it hereby accepts and approves the Corrective Action Plan pertaining to the 2025 Township Audit and the submission of the same electronically to the Division of Local Government Services through the New Jersey FAST system.

16. RESOLUTION AWARDING A ONE YEAR CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL GRANT SERVICES TO BRUNO ASSOCIATES, INC.

WHEREAS, the Township solicited proposals for Professional Grant Services for the period September 1, 2026, to August 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Township received one (1) response to the solicitations as follows:

1. Bruno Associates, \$36,000.00 for a 1-year contract Inc.

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator and the Township Qualified Purchasing Agent recommend the award of a one (1) year contract to Bruno Associates, Inc., in a total amount not to exceed \$36,000.00 for the provision of Professional Grant Services for the period September 1, 2026, to August 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in account 01-201-20-713-280 in the amount of \$36,000.00 and have been 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 one (1) year contract is hereby awarded to Bruno Associates, Inc., in a total amount not to exceed \$36,000.00 for the provision of Professional Grant Services for the period September 1, 2026, to August 31, 2027.

17. RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT TO GOVPILOT (FORMERLY KNOWN AS SPATIAL DATA LOGIC) FOR THE RENEWAL OF MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT PLATFORM

WHEREAS, the Township of Hillsborough utilizes a Municipal Management Platform through GovPilot (formerly known as Spatial Data Logic); and

WHEREAS, there is a requirement for an annual renewal of those existing services; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator and Qualified Purchasing Agent recommend that a contract be awarded to GovPilot (formerly known as Spatial Data Logic) for the Municipal Management Platform Services in an amount not to exceed \$6,183.00 for the remainder of 2026, \$135,000.00 for year 2027, \$139,050.00 for year 2028, and \$143,221.00 for year 2029 in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(dd); and

WHEREAS, the Chief Finance Officer certifies that funds are available in the 2026 budget account #01-201-20-703-700 in the amount of \$6,183.00 and additional amounts are to be appropriated in subsequent budget years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the Township Committee authorizes the awarding of a contract for the Municipal Management Platform to GovPilot in an amount not to exceed \$423,454.00 for years 2026-2029.

18. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT TO SOLICIT REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS THROUGH THE FAIR AND OPEN SELECTION PROCESS FOR PLUMBING SUBCODE SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Construction Official indicates there is a need for Plumbing Subcode Services for the Building Department and the Township has experienced difficulty in attracting qualified applicants to fill the position; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Official requests the Township Committee authorize the Township Qualified Purchasing Agent to solicit Requests for Proposals through the Fair and Open Selection Process for Plumbing Subcode 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 solicit Requests for Proposals through the Fair and Open Selection Process for Plumbing Subcode Services.

19. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PENNONI ASSOCIATES TO PROVIDE GIS MAPPING UPDATES TO THE MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT PLATFORM

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2026, as a result of the Fair and Open Selection Process, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4-5 et seq., Pennoni Associates was awarded a professional services contract designating them as the Township of Hillsborough Engineer; and

WHEREAS, there is now the necessity for professional engineering services, namely, to perform GIS Mapping and training as described in a proposal from Pennoni Associates, dated July 21, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00; and

WHEREAS, funding for these services will be provided through account #01-201-20-715-280 as certified by the Chief Financial Officer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that: (1) Pennoni Associates is authorized to perform Aerial Topographic Mapping for Hillsborough Township as outlined in its proposal, dated July 21, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00; (2) the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an amendment to the Professional Services Contract with Pennoni Associates for these services in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 .00; and (3) this Contract is awarded, as a result of the Fair and Open Selection Process as "Professional Services" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)a of the Local Public Contracts Law and the New Jersey Local Unit Pay to Play Law (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4-5 et seq.) because these services will be performed by persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession, whose practice is regulated by law, the performance of which service requires knowledge of an advance type in a field of learning acquired by a prolonged formal course of specialized instructions as distinguished from general academic instruction or apprenticeship and training.

20. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) FORD POLICE INTERCEPTOR UTILITY THROUGH THE ESCNJ COOPERATIVE CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the Police Department has identified the need to replace a police vehicle and has requested authorization to purchase One (1) Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle; and

WHEREAS, Nielsen of Morristown Dealership offers the vehicles through ESCNJ Contract #23/24-11, of which the Township is a member, in the amount of \$50,371.29; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the 2026 Municipal Budget and have been certified as such by the Chief Finance Officer through Account #01-201-25-745-880 in the amount of \$50,371.29 (requisition #2315173).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the purchase of the One (1) Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle from Nielsen of Morristown Dealership through ESCNJ Contract 23/24-11 in an amount not to exceed \$50,371.29 is hereby authorized.

21. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE UPFITTING OF ONE (1) POLICE VEHICLE

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has requested authorization for lighting and electrical upfitting of one (1) police vehicle; and

WHEREAS, the service is available from Elite Vehicle Solutions through New Jersey State Contract #17-FLEET-00749 in an amount not to exceed \$30,064.00; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the 2026 municipal budget and have been certified as such by the Chief Finance Officer through Account #01-201-25-745-260 in an amount not to exceed \$21,000.00 and #01-201-25-745-880 in an amount not to exceed (Requisition #2315174).

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 and approves the lighting and electrical upfitting of one (1) police vehicle by Elite Vehicle Solutions in an amount not to exceed \$30,064.00.

22. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) ALL BAND MOBILE RADIO WITH PROGRAMMING FOR NEW POLICE VEHICLE FROM MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, the Police Department needs to purchase One (1) All Band Mobile Radio with Programming for a new Police Vehicle; and

WHEREAS, Motorola Solutions was awarded a contract through the State of New Jersey Contract #25-TELE-132995 for the provision of radio communications equipment and accessories; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police received a quote from Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$8,364.00 in accordance with the State Contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police and Qualified Purchasing Agent recommend the purchase of One (1) All Band Mobile Radio with Programming for a new Police Vehicle from Motorola Solutions in accordance with the State Contract and quote submitted; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer certifies there are sufficient funds available through account #01-201-25-745-245 (Requisition #2315177).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the purchase of One (1) All Band Mobile Radio with Programming for a new Police Vehicle from Motorola Solutions through State of New Jersey Contract #25-TELE-132995 in an amount not to exceed \$8,364.00 is hereby authorized and approved.

23. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CRUSHED STONE AND SAND FROM TILCON NEW YORK THROUGH THE MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE CONTRACT #9

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Public Works requests permission for the purchase of Crushed Stone and Sand for Montgomery Road; and

WHEREAS, Tilcon New York provides this product through the Morris County Cooperative Purchasing Agreement Contract #9, of which the Township of Hillsborough is a member, in an amount not to exceed \$15,750.00; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer certifies there are sufficient funds in account #04-215-55-241-900 for this purchase (requisition #2315198).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the purchase of Crushed Stone and Sand from Tilcon New York through the Morris County Cooperative Contract #9 in an amount not to exceed \$15,750.00 is hereby authorized.

24. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ROAD STRIPING SERVICES FROM SOMERSET COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Works has requested authorization to purchase road striping services for municipal roads from Somerset County in an amount not to exceed \$141,750.00; and

WHEREAS, funds are available and have been certified as such by the Finance Director through account #04-215-55-241-900 in an amount not to exceed \$141,750.00 (requisition #2315199).

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 and approves the purchase of road striping services from Somerset County in the amount not to exceed \$141,750.00.

25. Resolution Authorizing The Township Qualified Purchasing Agent To Solicit Requests For Proposals Through The Fair And Open Selection Process For Special Counsel Services

WHEREAS, periodically the Township requires legal services from alternate counsel due to conflicts of interest and other circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee wishes to solicit such services through the fair and open selection process.

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 solicit Requests for Proposals through the Fair and Open Selection Process for the provision of Special Counsel legal services on behalf of the Township as may be necessary due to conflicts of interest and other circumstances as assigned by the Township Administrator for the remainder of 2026.

Committeewoman Hand asked questions regarding the audit, resolution #14, pointed out discrepancies in resolution #15, asked when corrective action would be undertaken, and inquired into GovPilot 3 year contract, resolution #17. CFO Bushell provided explanations.

Srikanth Atluri, 10 French Drive asked if the \$6000 bill could be paid at a later date but before it is due. Mayor Payne replied that is what Committeeman Britting suggested.

Stefania Olochwoszcz, 1229 Millstone River Road disagreed with Mayor Payne's statement and inquired into numerous resolutions.

Judy Haas, 2 Titus Court made comments regarding the audit, resolution 15.

Ravi Pidaparthi, 1 Lucas Drive made comments regarding SDL, resolution 17.

Administrator Ferrera stated the contract would be reviewed for a cancellation clause.

Upon a motion by Committeewoman Samantha Hand, seconded by Committeeman Robert Britting, to table resolution 15, the motion was approved upon call of the roll.

Upon a motion by Committeeman Robert Britting, seconded by Committeewoman Samantha Hand, the consent agenda 1-14, 16, 18-25 was unanimously approved upon the call of the roll.

Upon a motion by Committeewoman Samantha Hand, seconded by Committeewoman Jill Gomez, to take resolution 17 separately, was approved upon the call of the roll.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Shawn Lipani, seconded by Committeeman Robert Britting, the consent agenda resolution 17 was approved upon the call of the roll. Committeewomen Gomez and Hand voted no.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. 2026-08 CAPITAL ORDINANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$43,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW PHONE SYSTEM FOR THE TOWNSHIP AND POLICE DEPARTMENT AND BATTERY BACKUP FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Whereas, there are funds available in both the Hillsborough Township Capital Improvement Fund (04-225-55-000-000) in the amount of \$33,000 and in the Reserve for Emergency Generator (04-226-55-005-000) in the amount of \$10,000.00; and

Whereas, the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough wishes to appropriate the aforesaid Capital Funds for the following purposes and amounts: (1) the Purchase Of A New Phone System For The Township And Police Department in the amount of \$28,000; and (2) Battery Backup For The Police Department in the amount of \$15,000.

Now, Therefore, Be It Ordained by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The sum of \$43,000 is hereby appropriated from the Hillsborough Township Capital Improvement Fund (04-225-55-000-000) in the amount of \$33,000 and in the Reserve for Emergency Generator (04-226-55-005-000) in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the following purposes and amounts: (1) the Purchase Of A New Phone System For The Township And Police Department in the amount of \$28,000; and (2) Battery Backup For The Police Department in the amount of \$15,000.

Section 2. The purchase of the New Phone System and Battery Backup are lawful capital improvement expenditures of the Township and not a current expense.

Section 3. The capital budget of the Township is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of an inconsistency therewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services is on file with the Municipal Clerk and available for public inspection.

Section 4. After introduction, the Township Clerk, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 35:3-2a is hereby directed to publish this Ordinance in its entirety or by title and summary together with a notice of the introduction thereof,

the time and place when and where it will be further considered for final passage on the Township's official internet website. The publication shall include a clear and concise statement prepared by the Clerk setting forth the purpose of this Ordinance and a time and place when and where a copy of this Ordinance can be obtained without cost by any member of the general public. The publication shall be at least one week prior to the scheduled hearing.

Section 5. If adopted, the Township Clerk, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 35:3-2a is further directed to publish this Ordinance, in its entirety or by title and summary, together with a notice of the date of passage or approval, at least once on the Township's official internet website.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption, passage and publication according to law.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Shawn Lipani, seconded by Committeeman Robert Britting, to open the public hearing on Ordinance 2026-08, the motion was unanimously approved upon the call of the roll.

Stefanie Olochwoszcz, 1229 Millstone River Road inquired about the math of the ordinance.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Shawn Lipani, seconded by Committeeman Robert Britting, to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance 2026-08, the motion was approved upon the call of the roll.

CONSENT (26-27)

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF DESK PHONES RELATED TO A NEW PHONE SYSTEM FOR TOWNSHIP AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS

WHEREAS, the Information Technology Director has determined that the current on-premise phone system is expiring for support and lifespan and therefore there is a need to replace the current system; and

WHEREAS, a solicitation for quotes was prepared and distributed for phones related to a new cost-savings phone system to replace the current system; and

WHEREAS, the following responses were received in response to the solicitation:

Monmouth Telecom	\$23,985.00
Voip Supply	\$26,337.40
Howard Technology Solutions	\$32,688.00

WHEREAS, the Information Technology Director and the Qualified Purchasing Agent recommend the purchase of phones related to a new cost-savings phone system from Monmouth Telecom in an amount not to exceed \$23,985.00; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the 2026 Municipal Budget and have been certified as such by the Chief Finance Officer through Capital Account 04-225-55-000-000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the purchase of phones related to a new cost-savings phone system from Monmouth Telecom in an amount not to exceed \$23,985.00 is hereby authorized.

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REPLACEMENT OF TELEPHONE SYSTEM AND TELEPHONE CIRCUITS FOR A NEW PHONE SYSTEM FOR THE TOWNSHIP AND POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Information Technology Director has determined that the current on-premise phone system is expiring for support and lifespan and therefore there is a need to replace the current system; and

WHEREAS, a solicitation for quotes was prepared and distributed for the replacement of the Township and Police Department telephone system and telephone circuits for a cost-savings phone system to replace the current system; and

WHEREAS, the following responses were received in response to the solicitation:

Monmouth Telecom \$27,733.00 (one-time cost) / \$1,860.00 monthly phone service / \$842.00 monthly circuit connectivity

Xtel \$41,863.24 (one-time cost)/ \$2,649.20 monthly (includes monthly circuit connectivity)

Hunter Carrier Svc No quote for one-time cost/ \$4,495.85 monthly (includes monthly circuit connectivity)

WHEREAS, the Information Technology Director and the Qualified Purchasing Agent recommend the replacement of the Township and Police Department telephone system and telephone circuits for a cost-savings phone system from Monmouth Telecom in an amount not to exceed \$27,733.00 (one-time cost) and \$1,860.00 monthly; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the 2026 Municipal Budget and have been certified as such by the Chief Finance Officer through Capital Account #01-201-31-839-501.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that replacement of the Township and Police Department telephone system and telephone circuits with a cost-savings phone system from Monmouth Telecom in an amount not to exceed \$27,733.00 (one-time cost) and \$1,860.00 monthly is hereby authorized.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Shawn Lipani, seconded by Committeewoman Samantha Hand, the consent agenda resolutions 26-27 was unanimously approved upon the call of the roll.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

1. 2026-09 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 287 "WRECKER SERVICE AND VEHICLE STORAGE", SECTION 287-6 "ISSUANCE OF LICENSE; TERMINATION; DURATION", SECTION 287-9 "TOWING AND STORAGE FEE SCHEDULE," AND SECTION 287-11 "VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLSBOROUGH, SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY. FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2026.

Whereas, Chapter 287 "Wrecker Service and Vehicle Storage" of the Code of the Township of Hillsborough provides for the proper licensing, storage, availability and other controls over persons and firms providing wrecker services and tow vehicles at police request within the Township in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.49; and

Whereas, the fees contained in Chapter 287 have not been updated since 2006; and

Whereas, representatives from the Traffic Unit of the Township of Hillsborough Police Department have undertaken a review of the current Township Code as compared to other municipalities and the State of New Jersey, as well as solicited feedback from licensed towers permitted to operate in the Township; and

Whereas, the representatives of the Traffic Unit have recommended amendments to Chapter 287 of the Township Code to reflect current conditions and costs; and

Whereas, the recommendations of the Traffic Unit have been provided to and approved by the Chief of Police.

Now, Therefore, Be It Ordained by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 287 "Wrecker Service and Vehicle Storage", Section 287-6 "Issuance of license; termination; duration", Section 287-9 "Towing and storage fee schedule," and Section 287-11 "Violations and penalties" of the Code of the Township of Hillsborough are hereby amended as follows: **New language is underlined thus and deletions are indicated with strikethroughs ~~thus~~.**

§287-6 Issuance of license; termination; duration

A. Upon receipt of notice by the Chief of Police that the applicant has been approved and upon compliance by the applicant with § **287-7**, Insurance and hold harmless agreement, herein and upon payment by the applicant of the license fee of ~~\$75~~\$200, the Township Clerk shall issue a license.

B. The Township Committee shall terminate a license under the following circumstances:

- (1)** When it is found that the license was secured by fraud or concealment of material facts by the wrecker, which facts, if known, would have caused the refusal of the license.
- (2)** When it is found that the wrecker owner has violated any of the rules and regulations contained in this chapter.
- (3)** When the Township is not satisfied with the general services of the owner and/or employees or with the cooperation it has received in rendering services.
- (4)** When it is found that the wrecker/owner has violated New Jersey Department of Insurance regulations as contained in N.J.A.C. 11:3-38 or any other state or federal law.

C. A license issued to a person or business firm under this chapter shall not be transferable. No official tower shall subcontract any work to be performed pursuant to this chapter without first having obtained prior written approval from the Chief of Police. Any official tower to whom such contract work has been given shall be responsible for the services performed by the subcontractor and shall remain liable for any violations of this chapter by the subcontractor.

D. Each licensee shall produce his license when called upon to do so during the course of any police towing as authorized under this chapter. Every tow vehicle or flat vehicle shall display the official tower's license and shall have the name of the official tower displayed on the vehicle in such manner and of such lettering as conforms to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:4-46.

E. Any license under this chapter shall be valid for a period of one year.

§287-9 Towing and storage fee schedule

A. Basic towing service.

- (1) Day rate: \$75.
- (2) Night rate: \$85.
- (3) Mileage charge: None unless the vehicle owner or driver requests that the vehicle be towed to a location other than the tower's facility, which would be subject to a rate of \$3 per mile from the scene to the specified destination.
- (4) Flatbed service: Vehicles that require flatbed wrecker service are subject to an additional \$25 charge.

B. Extraordinary towing service.

- (1) Day rate: \$250 per hour.
- (2) Night rate: \$300 per hour.
- (3) For a recovery that requires more than one recovery vehicle, the hourly rate shall be charged for each recovery vehicle used.
- (4) The hourly rate begins when the wrecker arrives on location. There shall be a minimum one-hour charge and additional time beyond the first hour shall be charged in fifteen-minute increments.
- (5) When extraordinary towing service is required for vehicles with a registered weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less, only the extraordinary towing service rate shall apply.

C. Speedy dry or other similar absorbent.

- (1) For cleanups requiring speedy dry or other similar absorbent material, there shall be a \$20 charge for each vehicle that is leaking fluids.

D. Storage fees:

- (1) Vehicles up to 10,000 pounds registered vehicle weight: \$25 per day.
- (2) Vehicles over 10,000 pounds registered vehicle weight: \$100 per day.

A. Hillsborough Township's fee schedule will be set in accordance with the maximum NJ state police rates set by the Garden State Towing Association, Inc. The rates can be found at <https://gsta.org/state-police-rates/> or by proceeding to <https://gsta.org/> and clicking the link labeled "State Police Rates". These rates are recalculated annually based on a random sample of reasonable fees used by commercial and municipal towers. Operators are encouraged to review the rates regularly as changes may be made throughout the year.

B. In addition to the towing and storage fees, the operator will collect a \$50 per vehicle processing fee on all released vehicles. This fee will be paid to the Hillsborough Township Police Department by the operator no later than the 15th of each month from the release date of the vehicle. This fee applies only to vehicles towed at the request of Hillsborough Township. It excludes all vehicles abandoned in the operator's yard for which a junk title must be obtained, or where the vehicle's owner turns over the title to the operator in lieu of payment. Operators will note on the bill: "Fee of \$50 to Hillsborough Township for administrative charges." The vehicle processing fee shall be included and described in the annual fee schedule provided by the Township to all towers.

C. If the Township of Hillsborough specifically requests the storage of any vehicle, the fees charged to the Township of Hillsborough shall be governed by N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.50, as amended.

D. Notice of Rates: Prior to hookup or flat bedding of a motor vehicle, the tower shall present a copy of the fee

schedule to the owner or operator of the motor vehicle. The fee schedule shall also contain the name, address, and telephone number of the tower, its hours of operation, and a statement of when the motor vehicle may be claimed. The fee schedule shall also be prominently displayed at the storage facility.

§287-11 Violations and penalties

~~A. Municipal penalties. Any person violating the provisions of this chapter or of any rules and regulations adopted hereunder shall, upon conviction, be deemed guilty of a Class B violation, punishable as provided in Chapter 1, General Provisions, Article II, of the Hillsborough Township Municipal Code.~~

~~B. State penalties imposed by New Jersey Department of Insurance.~~

~~(1) Failure of a person to abide by the requirements of the Department of Insurance Regulations, N.J.A.C. 11:3-38 may be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$5,000 for the first violation, \$10,000 for the second violation and \$15,000 for any subsequent violation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5.~~

~~(2) Violators who are licensed as an automobile repair facility will be reported to the New Jersey Department of Motor Vehicles. Insurers may also report violators under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 17:23-8 to 17:23-15.~~

~~(3) Request for interpretations of N.J.A.C. 11:3-38 may be directed to the New Jersey Department of Insurance.~~

~~(4) Day-to-day questions regarding the interpretation and enforcement of Department of Insurance rules should be referred to the New Jersey Department of Insurance.~~

A. Any operator unable to respond to four or more Police Department dispatch requests per month will be subject to removal from the approved list with the approval of the Mayor or their designee.

B. Municipal penalties.

(1) Operators shall be subject to the following penalties in certain circumstances. Violators of this section, at the discretion of the Chief of Police, will be issued a summons which will be heard in the Township's Municipal Court.

(a) Failure to arrive on scene with the required equipment as directed by Township Police in the dispatch will result in a fine of \$250.

(b) Responding to scene with an unauthorized driver will result in a fine of \$250.

(2) For a violation of §287-8, regarding wrecker response times, operators shall be subject to the following penalties:

(a) The first and second violation in any given calendar year will result in a warning letter sent via certified mail from the Chief of Police, with a copy to the Mayor and Township Administrator, to the business owner at their registered place of business.

(b) The third violation in any calendar year will result in a seven-day suspension from the police tow list and a fine of \$250.

(c) The fourth violation in any calendar year will result in a fourteen-day suspension from the police tow list and a fine of \$300.

(d) The fifth violation in any calendar year will result in a suspension from the police tow list for 30 days and a fine of \$350.

(e) The sixth violation in any calendar year will result in a suspension from the police tow list for the remainder of the calendar year. The operator will be ineligible to apply for a wrecker license the following calendar year. If the applicant chooses to reapply in the future with the same corporate structure and business address, a \$300 surcharge, payable to the Township, must be included with the application.

(3) For a violation of any of the provisions of this chapter not addressed above, such as discourteous or unruly operator behavior, owners/operators shall be subject to the following penalties:

(a) The first violation in any given calendar year will result in a warning letter.

(b) The second violation in any calendar year will result in a fifteen-day suspension from the police tow list and a fine of \$250.

(c) The third violation in any calendar year will result in a thirty-day suspension from the police tow list and a fine of \$300.

(d) The fourth violation in any calendar year will result in a suspension from the police tow list for the remainder of the calendar year. The operator will be ineligible to apply for a wrecker license for the following calendar year and be subject to a \$300 surcharge if applying in the future.

C. The decision to issue summons(es) which would be heard in the Township's Municipal Court for alleged violations of this chapter shall not in any way impugn the Chief of Police's discretion, with approval of the Mayor, to suspend an operator's license as outlined in §287-12 and shall constitute a separate and distinct proceeding.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall be construed so as not to conflict with any provision of New Jersey or Federal law. The provisions of this Ordinance shall be cumulative with, and not in substitution for, all other applicable regulations. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the provisions of this Ordinance or other local requirements, the provisions of this Ordinance shall apply.

Section 3. If any provisions of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions which shall be deemed severable therefrom.

Section 4. After introduction, the Township Clerk, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:49-2 and N.J.S.A. 35:3-2a is hereby directed to publish this Ordinance in its entirety or by title and summary on the Township's official internet website, together with a notice of the introduction thereof, and the time and place when and where it will be further considered for final passage. The publication shall include a clear and concise statement prepared by the Clerk setting forth the purpose of this Ordinance and a time and place when and where a copy of this Ordinance can be obtained without cost by any member of the general public. The publication shall be at least one week prior to the scheduled hearing.

Section 5. If adopted, the Township Clerk, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:49-2 and N.J.S.A. 35:3-2a is hereby directed to publish this Ordinance, in its entirety or by title and summary, together with a notice of the date of passage or approval, on the Township's official internet website.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption, passage and publication according to law.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Shawn Lipani, seconded by Committeewoman Samantha Hand, to introduce Ordinance 2026-09, further Consideration and a Public Hearing will be held on September 22, 2026. The motion was unanimously approved upon the call of the roll.

CLAIMS LIST

1. CLAIMS LIST 26-13

Mayor Payne asked to approve Claims List 2026-13.

Committeewoman Hand inquired as to the Public Assistance Trust.

Administrator Ferrera stated Hillsborough Township is now out of the food pantry business but continues to offer other services including the Holiday giving event, holiday food bags, emergency food and shelter among others.

Upon a motion by Committeeman Robert Britting, seconded by Deputy Mayor Shawn Lipani, Claims List 2026-13, was approved upon the call of the roll.

Stefania Olochwoszcz, 1229 Millstone River Road inquired as to the Flock Safety line item.

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.

Joyce Eldridge, 75 Weber Avenue expressed concerns over the numerous police cars parked in a residence on Amwell Road.

Mayor Payne stated the township is in the process of doing something about this.

Balaji Chintamani, 4 Boorum Drive asked for the short and long-term tax plan.

David Warner, 34 Beverly Drive inquired as to ordinances for roosters and bamboo.

Ritwik Chatterjee, 400 Conover Road expressed concern for streets in his/her neighborhood.

Deputy Mayor Lipani explained the prioritization of paving roads.

Veliko Bekir, 163 Chandler Court thanked the committee for accessibility areas throughout the town.

Gulshan Singh, 3 Mersher Court expressed concerns about the transparency of the township and the budget.

Stefania Olochwoszcz, 1229 Millstone River Road provided her knowledge of the assessment program, expressed concerns over political donations and thanked the administration for its work on opora's.

1. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ANSWERED

Mayor Payne stated "After the last meeting, we received a ton of questions from Hillsborough residents. As there were so many questions, rather than read them aloud with the responses, we are attaching those questions to the agenda for everyone to read." Mayor Payne highlighted the PILOT program question and explained that there are only 2 active pilot programs. Questions and answers were uploaded to the agenda and can be found here: <https://hillsboroughnj.portal.civicclerk.com/event/1306/files/attachment/38902>.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Shawn Lipani, seconded by Committeeman Robert Britting, the meeting duly adjourned at 10:09 pm. Said motion was unanimously carried upon voice vote.

Attested:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sarah Brake', with a stylized, flowing script.

Sarah Brake
Township Clerk

Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset
2025 Corrective Action Plan

Finding/Condition # 1:

There are outstanding receivable and reserve balances in the Current, Grant, Trust, and General Capital funds that should be reviewed for liquidation and/or cancellation.

Recommendation:

That outstanding receivable and reserve balances be investigated for liquidation or cancellation.

Explanation & Corrective Action:

It is the Treasurer's policy to investigate each receivable and reserve account to determine (if possible) the true intention and purpose of the account. If the purpose of the account is no longer valid, then resolutions will be prepared to cancel these remaining balances (in all mentioned funds).

Implementation Date: 1/1/2026

Finding/Condition # 2:

There are Deferred Charges to Future Taxation-Unfunded balances as of year-end, over 5 years old, where the projects have been completed, however the costs remain unfunded.

Recommendation:

That Deferred Charges to Future Taxation over 5 years old, where the projects have been completed, be funded.

Explanation & Corrective Action:

Ordinance #'s 2008-49 & 2009-15 contain projects that been completed. However, the entire issuance of debt was never realized in order to fully fund the completed projects. Amounts will be raised in future budget(s) in order to fund these deferred charges to satisfy this finding.

Implementation Date: 4/1/2026 (during 2026 budget preparation)

Finding/Condition # 3:

An updated fixed asset inventory was not prepared for 2025.

Recommendation:

That an updated fixed asset inventory report be prepared on an annual basis.

Explanation & Corrective Action:

New Jersey Administrative Code and the Division of Local Government Services require all local government units to maintain a fixed assets accounting and reporting system. This system takes inventory on all fixed assets that have a useful life of at least 5 years and a minimum acquisition value of \$5,000. By taking inventory of and documenting such assets, it minimizes the occurrence of theft or careless misuse resulting in damage. We have contacted a vendor that has been used in the past, and we are scheduled to start the process in the Fall/Winter of 2026

Implementation Date: 10/1/2025

Questions from Public Answered

Source of Questions: 7/28/2026 Public Comment and Submitted via Email to Mayor and Clerk and Ask the Mayor

Why are property taxes increasing, and who approves the budgets that make up my total bill?

Answer: Property taxes are determined by three separate entity budgets: the Hillsborough Board of Education (~66%), Somerset County (~19%), and Hillsborough Township (~15%). Each entity independently sets its budget under New Jersey statutory caps.

Key Detail: Hillsborough Township has the lowest municipal cost per capita in Somerset County (\$995.15), and municipal tax collections cover all local services, including police, public works, the library, and park maintenance.

Can the Mayor or Township Committee modify or reduce the school district's budget?

Answer: No. Under [N.J.S.A. 18A](#) (Type II School Districts), the Board of Education is an independent, elected body with full statutory authority over its budget. The Township Committee has no veto, approval, or management authority over school operations or spending.

Township Commitment: The Township Committee meets regularly with school leadership through liaison committees to discuss shared efficiency opportunities, but formal budget oversight rests with voters during school elections and budget hearings.

Why are properties reassessed annually instead of freezing values for 1–3 years?

Answer: Under New Jersey law ([N.J.A.C. 18:12A](#)), annual reassessments maintain property values at 100% of fair market value.

Key Detail: Pausing or freezing assessments does not stop tax increases—it creates steep, unexpected tax shifts when adjustments eventually occur. Annual adjustments ensure the tax burden is distributed fairly based on real market trends.

Why do tax assessors perform physical home inspections if sales data is available?

Answer: Sales data shows neighborhood trends, but physical inspections (mandated by the Division of Taxation on a 5-year rolling cycle) capture interior improvements, additions, or condition changes that sales records cannot reflect. This ensures individual assessments remain fair and accurate across identical property models.

What can I do if I believe my home's assessed value exceeds its actual market value?

Answer: You have the legal right to file an assessment appeal with the Somerset County Board of Taxation by April 1 of each tax year pursuant to [N.J.S.A. 54:3-21](#).

Important Note: Appeals apply strictly to property market valuation, not the overall tax rate or the dollar amount of your tax bill. Neither the Mayor nor the Assessor can grant individual discretionary tax discounts.

Under current law, when new construction is built, can the increased tax levy for these properties be added to the township's tax levy and/or the school's tax levy?

Answer: When a Certificate of Occupancy is issued, the Tax Assessor's team inspects the property to add the new improvement value to the October 1st Added/Omitted List, which is then fully incorporated into the following year's Final Tax List. While some districts assess partial progress during active construction, Hillsborough follows standard practice to avoid values that would be difficult to defend in court on appeal.

Not all properties of the same size are assessed the same. My neighbors pay way less than I do. If Hillsborough assesses the houses uniformly, then all will pay their fair share, and the burden won't be less

Answer: When comparing tax bills among neighboring properties, a higher tax amount does not necessarily indicate an unfair assessment. Local tax uniformity requires properties to be assessed at 100% of fair market value based on verified market data, rather than applying flat, uniform rates or keeping adjacent assessments identical. Because real estate values vary based on individual property characteristics, assessments must reflect those distinct physical and market differences.

In this specific comparison, the primary driver of the difference in value is total living area, as larger home footprints naturally command higher market valuations. Additionally, state taxation guidelines dictate that a neighbor's assessment alone cannot

be used as legal justification for a valuation reduction, as each property must be evaluated independently against actual market conditions.

What is the Township doing to attract commercial ratables and relieve residential taxpayers?

Answer: Approximately 89% of Hillsborough's tax base is residential. The Economic Development Commission is actively pursuing commercial redevelopment, light industrial projects, and green energy initiatives to shift the tax burden toward commercial revenue.

Are developers getting special tax breaks (PILOTs), and how do they benefit the town?

Answer: Under New Jersey's Long Term Tax Exemption Law ([N.J.S.A. 40A:20](#)), Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs) are strictly regulated financial tools used to incentivize redevelopment on underutilized, blighted, or contaminated properties where standard construction is otherwise financially unviable. Hillsborough Township currently has 2 active PILOT agreements and remains open to evaluating future agreements on a selective, case-by-case basis.

Financial Benefit: Rather than serving as a simple tax giveaway, PILOT agreements provide significant direct financial and physical benefits to municipalities. Unlike traditional property taxes, which are split across the school district, county, and municipality, 95% of PILOT revenue goes directly into Hillsborough Township's municipal budget, with the remaining 5% going to Somerset County. Additionally, PILOTs allow the Township to clean up environmentally damaged sites, fund critical local infrastructure improvements, and fulfill state housing mandates without burdening existing taxpayers. Once a PILOT agreement expires, 100% of the fully improved property value converts to standard property taxes, leaving the Township with a substantially larger long-term tax base.

Are developers required to contribute to affordable housing or school infrastructure?

Answer: Yes. All residential and commercial developments pay mandatory non-residential or residential development fees under New Jersey municipal land use

rules ([N.J.S.A. 40:55D](#)). Residential developments also help the township meet state-mandated affordable housing obligations.

The township master plan has not been updated since the '90s. An effort called Envision Hillsborough was started in 2024 to review the master plan and propose updates to create an updated master plan. What is the status of that effort? When can we expect the new master plan proposal to be presented to the public for review and feedback?

Answer: The Envision Hillsborough Master Plan update is actively moving forward. To date, the Township has released three community surveys and held two public engagement events to gather input from residents.

The Master Plan consists of several individual elements that may be completed and considered by the Planning Board at different times. We anticipate that portions of the plan, including the Goals and Objectives, Land Use Element, Housing Element, and Fair Share Plan, may be considered before the end of 2026, with additional elements to follow in 2027.

The Township appreciates everyone who has participated in the process. Residents can follow Envision Hillsborough for updates and future opportunities for public input.

Is the Township independently audited, and how are spending cuts managed?

Answer: Yes. Under the New Jersey Local Budget Law ([N.J.S.A. 40A:4](#)), the township undergoes an annual independent financial audit performed by a licensed Registered Municipal Accountant (RMA). Spending is restricted by state-mandated 2% tax levy and 2.5% appropriation caps.

How are municipal contracts awarded, and do you utilize shared services?

Answer: Professional services (such as Township Attorney contracts) are awarded in compliance with the Local Public Contracts Law ([N.J.S.A. 40A:11](#)) and State Pay-to-Play regulations ([N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4](#)).

Shared Services: Under [N.J.S.A. 40A:65](#), Hillsborough actively lowers administrative costs through shared municipal court services, regional health services, public works agreements, and shared school facilities.

What other shared services agreements are being explored beyond the municipal court? Are there any opportunities for sharing services between the schools and the township, such as snow removal and other public works?

Answer: Hillsborough and the Board of Education regularly share services such as office space, recreational fields, rooms for events and classes, space for camps, ice removal, equipment, and other services.

Mr. Willard stated at a recent meeting that some towns negotiate a flat annual rate for their professional services. Has the township considered this? If not, why not?

Answer: Municipalities typically award professional service contracts on an hourly rate, as exact workload requirements vary throughout the year. Compensating professionals based on actual time spent ensures fair payment for their effort while providing a strong incentive to remain responsive and deliver high-quality service to the Township.

What is responsible for the 21-fold increase from \$20k in 2013 to \$418k in 2026 in professional expenses paid to Eric Bernstein?

Answer: Over the past 13 years, Attorney Bernstein has served the Township in several roles, including labor, open space, affordable housing, and Planning Board attorney. His overall billing varies based on active project demands—notably reflecting recent increases in attorney hourly rates, affordable housing work, and escrow-funded services.

My neighborhood has at least 4 different trash companies picking up every weekday. Has the township evaluated the potential cost savings to residents by switching to municipal trash collection similar to county recycling? Would these savings allow the town dump to open to the public beyond a single day per household per year?

It would be extremely expensive for the municipality, as we would need to purchase trucks, hire a large crew, and find a landfill to dispose of the debris.

Next Steps & Resident Resources

- **Senior/Disabled/Veteran Tax Relief Programs:** Information on state-administered programs including **ANCHOR**, **Senior Freeze**, and Veteran deductions.

- **Public Meeting Schedule:** Upcoming [Township Committee](#) and [Board of Education](#) meeting dates for public participation.
- **Contact Information:** Direct emails to the Tax Assessor's Office and Municipal Clerk.