

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG
MEETING MINUTES
REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR MEETING
6:30 PM Executive Session/7:30 pm Regular Session

January 7, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Lopatcong Township Council was called to order by Mayor Wright. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building located at 232 S. Third St., Phillipsburg, New Jersey

A Prayer was Offered followed by the Oath of Allegiance.

Mayor Wright stated “Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided indicating the time and place of the meeting in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 by advertising a Notice in The Star Ledger, The Express-Times and Township Website-www.lopatcongtp.com and by posting a copy on the Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building”.

Senator Douglas J. Steinhardt swore in Scott Marinelli as Councilman and James Palitto as Councilman both for three-year terms.

Present: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Marinelli, Councilman McQuade, Councilman Palitto, Mayor Wright. Also, present were Attorney Baldwin and Engineer Wisniewski.

Attorney Baldwin summarized the Executive Session noting the discussion of the Executive Session Agenda items with no official action taken.

Public Comment:

John Betz – Brakeley Garden Apartments – Any information on water and sewage utilities?
No new news.

Reorganization:

Resolution No. 26-38 – Appointment of Council President.

R 26-38

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING COUNCIL PRESIDENT

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council put forth nominations for Council President for the year 2026; and

WHEREAS, James Palitto was nominated for the appointment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby approve the appointment of James Palitto as Council President for the year 2026.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Motion to nominate James Palitto as Council President by Mayor Wright, seconded by Councilman Marinelli. No other nominations. All in favor.

Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Councilman Belcaro, seconded by Council President Palitto. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilman Marinelli, Councilman McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright.

NAYS: None

R 26-39

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING CONSENT AGENDA FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby approve and authorize a Consent Agenda to move routine items of business requiring no discussion; and

WHEREAS, there are listed Items one through 38 on the Consent Agenda.

1. Resolution No. 1 – Annual Meeting Calendar.
2. Resolution No. 2 – Charge for Individuals requesting Annual Meeting Calendar.
3. Resolution No. 3 – Establish Cash Management Plan.
4. Resolution No. 4 – Designation of Official Website and Newspaper for Legal Notices.
5. Resolution No. 5 – Reappoint Lavery, Selvaggi, and Cohen, P.C. as Township Attorneys.
6. Resolution No. 6 – Reappoint Chief of Police Jason Garcia as 911 Coordinator and Louis LaFord as Deputy 911 Coordinator.
7. Resolution No. 7 – Defense of Municipal Appeals.
8. Resolution No. 8 – Authorize Interest to be Charged on Delinquent Taxes.
9. Resolution No. 9 – Authorize Tax Collector to Process and Cancel any Municipal Charged Refunds or Delinquencies for less than Ten Dollars.
10. Resolution No. 10 – Adopt Robert’s Rules as a Basic Guide for Fair and Orderly Procedure in Meetings.
11. Resolution No. 11 – Authorize Preparation of Estimated Tax Bills for Year 2026.
12. Resolution No. 12 - Reappoint Jennifer Carabelli to the part-time position of Tax Assessor.
13. Resolution No. 13 – Reappoint St. Luke’s as Township Physicians.
14. Resolution No. 14 – Reappoint Nisivoccia, LLP as Township Auditor.
15. Resolution No. 15 – Reappoint Beth Dilts Qualified Purchasing Agent.
16. Resolution No. 16 – Reappoint Beth Dilts a Public Agency Compliance Officer as mandated by the Dept. of Treasury with regard to contract compliance.
17. Resolution No. 17 – Reappoint Lyn Gabos Recycling Coordinator and authorize submission of Recycling Tonnage Grant Application.
18. Resolution No. 18 – Reappoint Jennifer Patricia Clean Communities Coordinator.
19. Resolution No. 19 – Reappoint Nisivoccia Consulting for Computer Services.
20. Resolution No. 20 – Reappoint Phoenix Advisors, LLC for Municipal Advisory Services.
21. Resolution No. 21 – Council appointments to Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment.
22. Resolution No. 22 – Reappoint Gibbons, P.C. as Bond Counsel.
23. Resolution No. 23 – Reappoint Provident Bank for Banking Services.
24. Resolution No. 24 – Reappoint James Palitto as Fund Commissioner and Beth Dilts as Alternate Fund Commissioner.
25. Resolution No. 25 – Reappoint Budd Agency as Risk Management Consultants.
26. Authorize Mayor Wright to execute Risk Management Consultant Agreement.
27. Resolution No. 26 – Reappoint CGP&H, LLC as Affordable Housing Admin. Agents.

28. Resolution No. 27 – Establish Standard Procedures for Remote Meetings in accordance with NJAC 5:39, et seq.
29. Resolution No. 28 – Renew Petty Cash Fund for Police Department in the amount of \$250.00.
30. Resolution No. 29 – Renew Petty Cash fund for Clerk’s Office in the amount of \$250.00.
31. Resolution No. 30– Authorize a Tax Lien Sale for Tax Years 2025 and Prior.
32. Resolution No. 31 – Reappoint Chapman Environmental for Operation and Maintenance of Wastewater Collection System for Year 2026.
33. Mayor Wright’s appointments to various Municipal Boards, Commissions and Committees.
34. Resolution No. 32 - Reappoint John Caleca, III as Prosecutor, Alternate Steven Siegel and Jennifer Toth as Public Defender and Alternate Gregory Gianforcaro.
35. Resolution No. 33 – Approve Temporary Municipal and Sewer Utility Budget.
36. Resolution No. 34 – Renew contract with Space Farms to Remove Deer Carcasses from Municipal Road Rights-Of-Way for a Fee of \$35 for Year 2026.
37. Resolution No. 35 – Authorize CFO to Pay Certain Bills Without Governing Body Approval.
38. Resolution No. 36 – Authorize CFO to Refund Municipal Portion of Conceal Carry Handgun Permit Fee.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-01 – Annual Meeting Calendar.

R 26-01

NOTICE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY 2026 COUNCIL MEETINGS CALENDAR

WHEREAS, Section 113 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975, requires that at least once a year, not later than January 10th, of such year, every public body shall post and mail

to the newspapers designated by said body, a schedule of the location, time and date of each meeting of said body during the succeeding year.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS of the **Council** shall be held at the Municipal Building, 232 S. Third Street, Lopatcong Township, Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865 at 6:30 PM prevailing time, and REGULAR MEETINGS will be held at the same location at 7:30 PM prevailing time, on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month for the year 2026.

If the first Wednesday of any month shall fall on a legal holiday, the meeting shall be held on the following day, unless otherwise advertised. The dates of such meetings are as follows:

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS AND REGULAR MEETINGS

January 7, 2026 - Reorganization Meeting

January 13, 2026	August 5, 2026
February 4, 2026	September 2, 2026
March 4, 2026	October 7, 2026
April 1, 2026	November 4, 2026
May 6, 2026	December 2, 2026
June 3, 2026	December 15, 2026
July 1, 2026	

January 6, 2027 - Reorganization Meeting

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC
Clerk/Administrator

Resolution No. 26-02 – Charge for Individuals requesting Annual Meeting Calendar.

R 26-02

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY FIXING A REASONABLE SUM TO CHARGE FOR A LIST OF SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETINGS

WHEREAS, Section 14 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the public body to fix a reasonable sum to be charged to persons who request that notice of meetings as required under the Act, be mailed to them individually; and

WHEREAS, said section further permits the public body to provide such notices free of charge to news media who so request.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Each person who requests that individual notice as required under the Act be mailed to him shall pay annually the Township of Lopatcong Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) to cover the cost thereof.
2. Requests for such individual notice made by news media shall be granted without cost.
3. The sum herein designated is subject to change upon the adoption of a superseding Resolution by the public body.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-03 – Establish Cash Management Plan.

R 26-03

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, P.L. 1983, Chapter 8, approved January 18, 1983 as an act concerning the Local Fiscal Affairs Law and amends N.J.S.A. 40A:5-2 and N.J.S.A. 40A:5-14; and

WHEREAS, this law requires that each local unit establish a cash management plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey for the year 2026 the following shall serve as Cash Management Plan of the Township of Lopatcong.

The Chief Financial Officer is directed to use the Cash Management Plan as the guide in depositing and investing the Township of Lopatcong's funds.

The following FDIC and Government Unit Deposit Protection Act (GUDPS) approved banks are authorized depositories for deposit of funds.

Provident Bank and all other FDIC and GUDPA approved banks located in the State of New Jersey.

All warrants or checks for the disbursements of money shall be made by any two (2) of the following officials and facsimile signatures may be used:

William D. Wright, Mayor
James Palitto, Council President
Margaret B. Dilts, Clerk/Administrator
Kimberley Browne, Chief Financial Officer

The Chief Financial Officer and the Clerk/Administrator are empowered to invest cash funds as bank balances will allow from time to time in order to realize revenue. The above stated officers are authorized to transfer funds for the purpose of paying bills, investing and payroll.

The following are authorized as suitable investments:

1. Interest bearing accounts in banks as authorized for deposit of local unit funds (GUDPA approved).
2. Certificates of deposit in GUDPA approved banking institutions.
3. Bonds or other obligations of the United States of America or obligations guaranteed by the United States of America. This includes instruments such as Treasury, Notes and Bonds.
4. Government Money Market mutual funds that comply with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-1.5.1(e).
5. Any other obligations with maturities not exceeding 397 days as permitted by the State Division of Investments.
6. New Jersey Cash Management Fund.
7. Repurchase agreements (repos) of fully collateralized securities which comply with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-15(e).

Each month the Chief Financial Officer shall prepare a report for the Clerk/Administrator that consists of the following:

1. A summary of all investments made or redeemed for the month.
2. A listing of any and all financial institutions holding local unit funds.
3. The class of type of securities purchased or funds deposited.
4. Income earned on deposits and investments.
5. A listing of accounts or deposits that do not earn interest.

This document shall constitute the Cash Management Policy of the Township of Lopatcong.

Any official involved with the selection of depositories or investments shall disclose any material business or personal relationship to the Local Finance Board.

Any official who, in the course of his or her duties, deposits or invest in accordance with this plan shall be relieved of any liability or loss.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-04 – Designation of Official Website and Newspaper for Legal Notices.

R 26-04

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DESIGNATING NEWSPAPERS TO RECEIVE NOTICES OF MEETINGS

WHEREAS, Section 3 (d) of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, requires that certain notices of meetings shall be submitted to two (2) newspapers, one of which shall be designated as the official newspaper of the Township of Lopatcong; and

WHEREAS, the second newspaper designated by this body must be one that has the greatest likelihood of informing the public within the jurisdictional boundaries of this body of such meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey.

1. The Express-Times at Lehigh Valley Live. Com is hereby designated as the official newspaper of the Township to receive all notices of meetings as required under the Open Public Meetings Act.
2. The Star Ledger has the greatest likelihood of informing the public within the jurisdictional area of this body of such meetings.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-05 – Reappoint Lavery, Selvaggi, and Cohen, P.C. as Township Attorneys.

R 26-05

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING LAVERY, SELVAGGI AND COHEN, PC AS TOWNSHIP ATTORNEYS

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey follows:

Lavery, Selvaggi, and Cohen, PC are hereby retained as Township Attorneys for the year 2026;
and

This award is in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq. and the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisition will exceed \$17,500 but CFO budgeted a not to exceed amount of \$60,000.00.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-06 – Reappoint Chief of Police Jason Garcia as 911 Coordinator and Louis LaFord as Deputy 911 Coordinator.

R 26-06

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING POLICE CHIEF JASON GARCIA AS 911 COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey are required by the State to appoint a 911 Coordinator to assist the Warren County Department of Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council decided to appoint Police Chief Jason Garcia as the 911 Coordinator.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey appoint Police Chief Jason Garcia as the 911 Coordinator for the Township of Lopatcong for the year 2026.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-07 – Defense of Municipal Appeals.

R 26-07

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING LEGAL COUNSEL TO FILE AND PROSECUTE ROLL-BACK TAX COMPLAINTS, COMPLAINTS TO CORRECT ERRORS IN ASSESSMENTS AND COMPLAINTS FOR ADDED, OMITTED AND ADDED/OMITTED ASSESSMENTS; DEFEND, SETTLE OR STIPULATE TO RESOLVE ALL 2026 LOCAL PROPERTY TAX APPEALS

WHEREAS, the County Tax Board has issued a letter of request requiring a Resolution by the Mayor and Township Council of each municipality of the County of Warren by its County Tax Administrator, Melissa Pritchett; and

WHEREAS, the said County Tax Administrator requires that the mayor and members of the Governing Body of each municipality in the County of Warren, in order to file municipal roll-back complaints, correct errors or file added, omitted and added/omitted complaints, adopt a Resolution allowing the Municipal Attorney or any member of his firm to file and prosecute said complaints.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of January 2026, by the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey, that the Municipal Attorney for the Township, is hereby authorized to file, prosecute, defend, stipulate, modify, agree upon and otherwise perform the duties which are required of said Attorney, in the process of prosecution and/or filing of said roll-back tax complaints, complaints to correct errors in assessments for added assessments in 2026 and defending or settling all 2025/26 local property tax appeals and execute any and all stipulations relating to the same with the agreement of the Lopatcong Township Municipal Assessor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to provide a true copy of this Resolution to the Warren County Board of Taxation, Cummins Building, 202 Mansfield St., Belvidere, New Jersey 07823.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-08 – Authorize Interest to be Charged on Delinquent Taxes.

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING INTEREST TO BE CHARGED ON DELINQUENT TAXES

WHEREAS, Governor Florio signed into law Assembly Bill No. 4425, Chapter 75 and Senate Bill No. 2579, Chapter 89 effective March 29, 1991 and April 4, 1991 respectively; and WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Municipality wishes to comply with this law; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 has been changed to define a tax delinquency as follows:

“Delinquency means the sum of all taxes and municipal charges due on a given parcel of property covering any number of quarters or years”; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body may fix a penalty to be charged to a taxpayer with a delinquency in excess of \$10,000.00 who fails to pay the delinquency prior to the end of the calendar year. The penalty as fixed shall not exceed 6% of the amount of the delinquency; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Municipality may charge by Resolution, the sum of eight (8%) percent per annum of the first \$1,500.00 and eighteen (18%) percent per annum on any amount in the excess of \$1, 500.00 on taxes and assessment after the date that same would become delinquent until the date of actual payment; and

WHEREAS, most of the taxpayers of said Township of Lopatcong have had to bear an additional burden because of the fact that some taxpayers invest their funds at higher rates of interest than the penalty heretofore provided for under such statute; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Township of Lopatcong deems it equitable and just that every taxpayer shall bear an equal share of said taxes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren that a tax delinquency shall mean the sum of all taxes and municipal charges due on a given parcel of property covering any number of quarters or years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a penalty of 6% will be charged to a taxpayer with a delinquency in excess of \$10,000.00 who fails to pay the delinquency prior to the end of the calendar year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rate of interest to be charged for the non-payment of taxes or assessments shall be eight percent (8%) per annum on the first \$1,500.00 and eighteen (18%)

percent per annum on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00 after the date that they would become delinquent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no interest shall be charged if payment of any installment is made within the tenth calendar day following the date upon which the same become payable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after the sale of property for non-payment of taxes or assessments, the property shall be subject to redemption upon the payment of eighteen (18%) percent per annum interest over and above the amount of the taxes, assessments and other charges due the municipality.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 20-09 – Authorize Tax Collector to Process and Cancel any Municipal Charged Refunds or Delinquencies for less than Ten Dollars.

R 26-09

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO PROCESS AND CANCEL ANY MUNICIPAL CHARGE REFUNDS OR DELINQUENCY OF LESS THAN TEN (\$10.00) DOLLARS

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey have reviewed a request by the Tax Collector of the Township of Lopatcong to allow the Tax Collector to process and cancel any property tax usage charge refund or delinquency of less than \$10.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong hereby authorize the Tax Collector to process and cancel any municipal charge refund or delinquency of less than \$10.00.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-10 – Adopt Robert’s Rules as a Basic Guide for Fair and Orderly Procedure in Meetings.

R 26-10

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY ADOPTING ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER AS A BASIC
GUIDE FOR FAIR AND ORDERLY PROCEDURE IN MEETINGS

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, that Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised 11th edition is hereby adopted as parliamentary authority for procedure in meetings.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-11 – Authorize Preparation of Estimated Tax Bills for Year 2026.

R 26-11

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION OF ESTIMATED TAX
BILLS FOR THE YEAR 2026

WHEREAS, the Division of Local Government Services, State of New Jersey has the authority by Statute to examine, review and then certify all local government budgets to the County Board of Taxation for the purpose of real estate taxation;

WHEREAS, if the Warren County Board of Taxation cannot strike a tax rate until such certification is received from the State of New Jersey and will therefore cause a delay in issuing tax bills;

WHEREAS, the Council feels that there will be insufficient cash flow to support operations in August 2026 unless third quarter revenue is received on time;

WHEREAS, after the Tax Collector computed the estimated tax levy and the Chief Financial Officer have reviewed it in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, hereby authorized (if necessary) that:

1. The Tax Collector is directed to prepare and issue estimated tax bills for the Municipality of Lopatcong Township for the third quarter 2026, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.2 et seq.
2. The Tax Collector takes any additional steps necessary to implement this resolution if the final tax rate is not received from Warren County Board of Taxation.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-12 - Reappoint Jennifer Carabelli to the part-time position of Tax Assessor.

R 26-12

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF JENNIFER CARABELLI AS TAX ASSESSOR

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:9-148 requires every municipality to provide for the appointment of a Tax Assessor; and

WHEREAS, the current Tax Assessor is being re-appointed to their position; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong to re-appoint Jennifer Carabelli for the term of office starting on July 1, 2026 which will grant the assessor tenure in her position pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-148; and

WHEREAS, the Assessor will hold public office hours by appointment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Resolution No. 26-37 was duly adopted by the Municipal Council at a public meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 to re-appoint a part-time Tax Assessor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, certified copies of said Resolution shall be forwarded to the following:

1. Director of the Division of Taxation
2. Administrator of the Board of Taxation
3. Administrator of the Municipality
4. Tax Assessor

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-13 – Reappoint St. Luke’s as Township Physicians.

R 26-13

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING PHYSICIANS FOR THE YEAR 2026

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong require that medical doctors be appointed for Township purposes; and

WHEREAS, these appointments are made without competitive bidding as professional services under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, as provided in N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 because said office requires services performed by persons qualified to practice recognized professions and it is not possible to obtain competitive bids.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong that St. Luke’s, 200 Strykers Road, be appointed as physicians for the Township for the calendar year of 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CFO budgeted a not to exceed amount of \$2,000.00.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on the Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-14 – Reappoint Nisivoccia, LLP as Township Auditor.

R 26-14

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING NISIVOC CIA, LLP AS TOWNSHIP AUDITOR
FOR THE YEAR 2026

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, as follows:

WHEREAS, Nisivoccia, LLP are hereby appointed Township Auditor for the year 2026; and

WHEREAS, Nisivoccia, LLP has presented the Mayor and Council with a Professional Service Agreement outlining his services and fees; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution, of this action shall be printed once in the official newspaper of the Township of Lopatcong; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution and the Professional Service Agreement shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

WHEREAS, CFO budgeted an amount not to exceed \$45,000.00.

This award is in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq.

The contract will be awarded pursuant to the Fair and Open Process.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-15 – Reappoint Beth Dilts Qualified Purchasing Agent.

R 26-15

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY INCREASING THE BID THRESHOLD AND APPOINTING A QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3a AND N.J.S.A.C. 5:34-5 ET. SEQ.

WHEREAS, the recent changes to the Local Public Contracts Law gave local contracting units the ability to increase their bid threshold up to \$53,000; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3a, permits an increase in the bid threshold if a Qualified Purchasing Agent is appointed as well as granted the authorization to negotiate and award such contracts below the bid threshold; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.C.5:34-5 et seq. establishes the criteria for qualifying as a Qualified Purchasing Agent; and

WHEREAS, Margaret B. Dilts possesses the designation of Qualified Purchasing Agent as issued by the Director of Local Government Services in accordance with N.J.A.C.5:34-5.; and

WHEREAS, Lopatcong Township desires to take advantage of the increased bid threshold;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of Lopatcong Township, in the County of Warren, in the State of New Jersey hereby increases its bid threshold to \$53,000; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body hereby appoints Margaret B. Dilts, as the Qualified Purchasing Agent to exercise the duties of a purchasing agent to N.J.S.A.40A:11-2(30), with specific relevance to the authority, responsibility, and accountability of the purchasing activity of the contracting unit: and

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with N.J.A.C.5-34-5.2 the local unit Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution and a copy of Margaret B. Dilts, QPA certification to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a regular meeting of said governing body held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-16 – Reappoint Beth Dilts a Public Agency Compliance Officer as mandated by the Dept. of Treasury with regard to contract compliance.

R 26-16

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY DESIGNATING MARGARET DILTS AS THE PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER AS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY, DIVISION OF CONTRACT COMPLIANCE & EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IN PUBLIC CONTRACTS

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey shall appoint Margaret B. Dilts as Public Agency Compliance Officer as mandated by N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.2 by January 10th of each year; and

WHEREAS, Margaret B. Dilts, Clerk/Administrator shall have the authority to serve as the point of contact for all matters concerning implementation and administration of the statute and its regulations; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Dilts will also be responsible for administering contracting procedures pertaining to equal employment opportunity regarding both the Public Agency and the service providers which shall include but shall not be limited to goods and services vendors, professional service vendors and construction contractors.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey approve the appointment of Margaret B. Dilts as the P.A.C.O. for the Township for the year 2026.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-17 – Reappoint Lyn Gabos Recycling Coordinator and authorize submission of Recycling Tonnage Grant Application.

R 26-17

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE 2025 RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT APPLICATION AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A RECYCLING COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, P.L. 198/c. 102, established a recycling fund from which a tonnage grant may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent and the spirit of the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act to use the tonnage grants to develop new municipal recycling programs and to continue and to expand existing programs; and

WHEREAS, the recycling regulations impose on municipalities certain requirements as a condition for applying for tonnage grants, including but not limited to making and keeping accurate, certifiable records or materials collected and claimed by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, a resolution authorizing this municipality to apply for such tonnage grants will memorialize the commitment of this municipality to recycle and to indicate the assent of Lopatcong Township to the efforts undertaken by the municipality and the requirements contained in the Recycling Act and recycling regulations; and

WHEREAS, this resolution designates the Linda Gabel as Recycling Coordinator and authorizes her to ensure the application is properly completed and timely filed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Governing Body of the Township of Lopatcong hereby endorse the submission of the 2025 recycling tonnage grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and designate Lyn Gabel as Recycling Coordinator to ensure that the application is properly filed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the monies received from the recycling tonnage grant be deposited in a dedicated trust fund to be used solely for the purpose of recycling.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-18 – Reappoint Jennifer Patricia Clean Communities Coordinator.

R 26-18

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING JENNIFER PATRICIA AS CLEAN
COMMUNITIES' COORDINATOR

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A CLEAN COMMUNITIES COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, the TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG needs to appoint a Clean Communities Coordinator to represent the TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG.

BE IT RESOLVED that Jennifer Patricia is hereby appointed Clean Communities Coordinator effective January 7, 2026 and will receive a stipend of \$2,164.86 from the grant funds.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council appoint Jennifer Patricia as Clean Communities Coordinator as required by the State of New Jersey and will receive a stipend of \$2,164.86 each year from the grant funds to complete the necessary reports.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-19 – Reappoint Nisivoccia Consulting for Computer Services.

R 26-19

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN
AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO
NISIVOCCIA CONSULTING, LLC FOR INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY AND COMPUTER MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong has a need to acquire the services for Information Technology and maintenance of computer services; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong shall award a Fair and Open Contract to Nisivoccia Consulting, LLC; and

WHEREAS, Nisivoccia Consulting, LLC shall charge an hourly rate of \$180.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township has solicited for such services through the Non-Fair and Open Process as provided for and defined in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20, *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the total amount for services shall not exceed \$17,500.00 for the year 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong that Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Nisivoccia Consulting, LLC at a rate of \$180.00 per hour.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-20 – Reappoint Phoenix Advisors, LLC for Municipal Advisory Services.

R 26-20

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF
WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT
OF PHOENIX ADVISORS, LLC

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that Phoenix Advisors, LLC be appointed to provide municipal advisory services for the Township of Lopatcong for the year 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, CFO budgeted a not to exceed amount of \$2,000.00.

This award is in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq.

The contract is awarded pursuant to the Fair and Open Process.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-21 – Council appointments to Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment.

R 26-21

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING
2026 Governing Body Appointments

Planning Board –

Class III – James Palitto – 1/26 through 12/31/2026

Zoning Board of Adjustment –

Andrew Horun – Full Term 12/31/2029

Ben George – Unexpired Term 12/31/2027

Jeffrey Collura – Alternate Term 12/31/2027

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby approve the appointments as listed.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-22 – Reappoint Gibbons, P.C. as Bond Counsel.

R 26-22

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF
WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT
OF GIBBONS, P.C. AS BOND COUNSEL

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that Gibbons, P.C. be appointed as Bond Counsel for the Township of Lopatcong for the year 2026; and

WHEREAS, John Draikiwicz is appointed as Bond Counsel.

WHEREAS, CFO budgeted the amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.

This award is in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq.

Contract will be awarded pursuant to the Fair and Open Process.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-23 – Reappoint Provident Bank for Banking Services.

R 26-23

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING PROVIDENT NATIONAL BANK TO SERVE AS THE TOWNSHIP'S PRIMARY BANKING SERVICES DEPOSITORY FOR THE DEPOSIT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS FOR A PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey solicited for RFPs for a bank depository; and

WHEREAS, after a review of RFP's received, the Township selected Provident Bank to provide depository and banking services; and

WHEREAS, a Bank Depository Agreement shall be executed by the Mayor as well as any other necessary documents; and

WHEREAS, this award is in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq. and this Resolution shall take effect immediately. The contract is awarded pursuant to the Fair and Open Process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby appoint Provident Bank for banking services as of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-24 – Reappoint James Palitto as Fund Commissioner and Beth Dilts as Alternate Fund Commissioner.

R 26-24

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING FUND COMMISSIONER FOR 2026

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong (hereinafter “Local Unit”) is a member of the Statewide Insurance Fund (Hereinafter “Fund”), a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Fund’s Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Fund Commissioner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of that James Palitto, is hereby appointed as the Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Margaret Dilts is hereby appointed as the alternate fund Commissioner for the Local Unit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Local Unit’s Fund Commissioner is authorized and directed to execute all such documents as required by the Fund.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-25 – Reappoint Budd Agency as Risk Management Consultants.

R 26-25

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING BUDD AGENCY, INC., AS RISK MANAGEMENT
CONSULTANTS FOR 2026

WHEREAS, Township of Lopatcong (hereinafter “Local Unit”) has joined the Statewide Insurance Fund (hereinafter “Fund”), a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Risk Management Consultant as those positions are defined in the Bylaws, if requested to do so by the “Fund”; and

WHEREAS, the Local Unit has complied with relevant law with regard to the appointment of a Risk Management Consultant; and

WHEREAS, the “Fund” has requested its members to appoint individuals or entities to that position; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of “Local Unit”, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. Township of Lopatcong (Local Unit) hereby appoints Budd Agency, Inc., its Risk Management Consultant.
2. The Township of Lopatcong (authorized representative of the public entity) and Risk Management Consultant are hereby authorized to execute the Risk Management Consultant’s Agreement for the year 2026 in the form attached hereto.

Name of Entity – Lopatcong Township

Attest:

Margaret B. Dilts

William D. Wright, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a special meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Statewide Risk Management Consultant Agreement - Authorize Mayor Wright to execute Risk Management Consultant Agreement.

Resolution No. 26-26 – Reappoint CGP&H, LLC as Affordable Housing Admin. Agents.

R 26-26

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING CGP&H, LLC AS AFFORDABLE HOUSING
ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that CGP&H, LLC is appointed Affordable Housing Agent for the year of 2026.

This award is in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq. and the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisition will exceed \$17,500.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-27 – Establish Standard Procedures for Remote Meetings in accordance with NJAC 5:39, et seq.

R 26-27

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, WARREN
TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING STANDARD PROCEDURES
FOR REMOTE MEETINGS REGARDING ACCESS TO PRESENTATIONS
AND DOCUMENTS VIEWED OR MADE AVAILABLE TO ATTENDEES AND
MAKING PUBLIC COMMENT AT MEETINGS OR BY ELECTRONIC MAIL
OR WRITTEN LETTER IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING IN ACCORDANCE
WITH N.J.A.C. 5:39-1 et seq.**

WHEREAS, Section 8 of P.L. 2020 c. 34 approved May 15, 2020 confirms that a local public body is permitted to conduct a public meeting by electronic means under certain emergency conditions as therein defined, provided that reasonable public notice and provision for public input is made under the circumstances; and

WHEREAS, said statute authorizes the Director of the Division of Local Government Services (“DLGS”) in the Department of Community Affairs (“DCA”) to adopt emergency regulations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-4; and

WHEREAS, the Director has adopted such emergency regulations as N.J.A.C. 5:39-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.4(h) directs the adoption of a resolution establishing standard procedures and requirements: (i) for access to presentations and documents viewed or made available to attendees; (ii) for the making of public comments during a remote public meeting; (iii) for the making of public comments submitted in writing ahead of a remote meeting; and (iv) for establishing standards of conduct to be followed by members of the public when making comments; and

WHEREAS, the Lopatcong Township Council desires to adopt such a resolution in compliance with the emergency regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. In conducting a remote public meeting as permitted under Section 8 of P.L. 2020 c. 34, the following standard procedures and requirements shall be applicable:
 - a. Any presentations or documents that would otherwise be viewed or made available to members of the public physically attending a public meeting shall be made visible on a video broadcast of the remote public meeting, or shall be made available on the Township website. If a document would be made available to individual members of the public in a hard copy while physically attending the meeting, the document shall be made available in advance of the meeting for download through an internet link appearing either on the meeting notice or near the posting of the meeting notice, both on the website and at the building where the meeting would have otherwise been held.

b. The Council shall allow members of the public to make public comment by audio or by audio and video, depending upon the manner in which the member of the public has accessed the remote meeting. Prior to providing public comment, the individuals shall be required to identify themselves by name and address. The procedure that will be followed to make public comment will be announced at the beginning of the meeting.

c. Except for comments at public hearing on applications for development (for which no public comment will be accepted by electronic mail or in written letter form), the Council will accept comments by electronic mail or in written letter form on matters on which the Council is required to otherwise accept audio and/or audio and video comment, **PROVIDED, HOWEVER**, that comment by electronic mail or in written letter form is received by the Municipal Clerk by 4:00 p.m., not less than 48 hours prior to the meeting. The Council will not accept any text-based comment at any time, nor will the Council consider any comment by electronic mail or in written letter form if received beyond the deadline established above.

d. To the extent that public comment is permitted to be submitted before the remote public meeting through electronic mail or by written letter, it shall be read aloud and addressed during the remote public meeting in a manner audible to all meeting participants and the public. Unless waived by the Council at its discretion, a five-minute time limit on public comments of each member of the public is hereby established and shall be similarly applicable on the reading of written comments. Such reading shall be terminated at the expiration of the five-minute period. No member of the public shall have the right to cede or transfer their allocated time to another member of the public. The Council may pass over duplicate written comments, provided that each duplicate comment shall be noted for the record, with its content summarized. No duplicative comments summarized by the Council shall otherwise be read individually.

e. The public attending the remote meeting and/or offering comment shall conduct themselves in a courteous manner and shall follow the decorum in the same fashion as if the meeting were being conducted in-person. If a member of the public disrupts a virtual meeting, the following procedures shall be followed:

(i) The Board shall facilitate a dialogue with the commenter to the extent permitted by the electronic platform being utilized;

(ii) If a member of the public becomes disruptive during the remote public meeting, including, but not limited to, any period for public comment, the

disruptive member of the public shall be muted and shall continue to be muted and shall be warned that continued disruption may result in their being prevented from speaking during the remote public meeting, or removed from the remote public meeting. Disruptive conduct includes sustained inappropriate behaviors such as, but not necessarily limited to, shouting, interruption, and use of profanity.

(iii) A member of the public who continues to act in a disruptive manner after receiving an initial warning may be muted while other members of the public are allowed to proceed with their questions and/or comments. If time permits, the disruptive individual shall be allowed to speak after all other members of the public have been given the opportunity to make comment. Should the individual remain disruptive, the individual may be muted or kept on mute for the remainder of the remote public meeting, or removed from the remote public meeting.

2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

WITNESSETH, this Resolution was duly adopted by the Council of the Township of Lopatcong at its meeting of January 7, 2026.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-28 – Renew Petty Cash Fund for Police Department in the amount of \$250.00.

Resolution No. 26-29 – Renew Petty Cash fund for Clerk’s Office in the amount of \$250.00.

Resolution No. 26-30– Authorize a Tax Lien Sale for Tax Years 2025 and Prior.

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING A TAX LIEN SALE FOR TAX YEARS 2025
AND PRIOR

WHEREAS, there remains on the records and books of the Township of Lopatcong delinquent taxes, sewer utility charges and other municipal charges owing as of December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the statues of the State of New Jersey, expressly N.J.S.A. 54:5 et seq. provide for the enforcement and collection of such delinquencies through a tax lien sale; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector is empowered by the statute to conduct and preside over the sale of liens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby authorize the Township of Lopatcong Tax Collector to conduct a tax lien sale for tax years 2025 and prior for delinquent taxes, utility and other municipal charges on or before December 31, 2026.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-31 – Reappoint Chapman Environmental for Operation and Maintenance of Wastewater Collection System for Year 2026.

R 26-31

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AWARDING AN EXTRAORDINARY UNSPECIFICABLE
SERVICE CONTRACT FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE
TOWNSHIP'S WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM FOR 2026

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey have a need to appoint Chapman, Inc., Environmental Services for the Township's Operation and Maintenance of the Wastewater Collection System; and

WHEREAS, Chapman Environmental Services is located at One Industrial Way West, Bldg. A, Suite N in Eatontown, NJ 07724 to perform services to the Township's Wastewater Collection System; and

WHEREAS, the Chapman Environmental Services qualifies under N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 (1)(a)(ii) of the Local Public Contracts Law as a service that is exempt from competitive bidding; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified funds are available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that Chapman Inc., Environmental Services of Eatontown, New Jersey is hereby appointed as the Township's Wastewater Collection System and Maintenance Operator.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk, in the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Council at a Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Board, Commission, Committee's - Mayor Wright's appointments to various Municipal Boards, Commissions and Committees.

Resolution No. 26-32 - Reappoint John Caleca, III as Prosecutor, Alternate Steven Siegel and Jennifer Toth as Public Defender and Alternate Gregory Gianforcaro.

R 26-32

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING PROSECUTOR, ALTERNATE PROSECUTOR, PUBLIC DEFENDER, AND ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR LOPATCONG MUNICIPAL COURT

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey entered into a Shared Municipal Court Agreement with Pohatcong Township; and

WHEREAS, Lopatcong shall appoint:

Court Prosecutor: John Caleca, III

Alt. Prosecutor: Steven Siegel
Public Defender: Jennifer Toth
Alt. Public Defender: Gregory G. Gianforcaro

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey appoint Court Prosecutor, Alt. Prosecutor Public Defender and Alt. Public Defender for the Township of Lopatcong for the year 2026.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-33 – Approve Temporary Municipal and Sewer Utility Budget.

R 26-33

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPROVING TEMPORARY MUNICIPAL AND SEWER UTILITY BUDGET FOR 2026

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 provides that where any contract, commitment or payments are to be made prior to the final adoption of the 2026 Municipal and Sewer Budgets, temporary appropriations should be made for the purpose and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided; and

WHEREAS, the date of this resolution is within the first thirty days of January 2026; and

WHEREAS, the total appropriations in the 2025 budget, exclusive of any appropriations made for interest and debt redemption charges, capital improvement fund and public assistance, is the sum of \$9,737,576.10; and

WHEREAS, total temporary appropriations shall not exceed 26.25% the total of the appropriations in the 2025 budget, exclusive of any appropriations made for interest and debt redemption charges, capital improvement fund and public assistance in said 2025 budget or in the sum of \$2,556,113.73 for the Current Fund and \$495,075.00 for the Sewer Operating Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following appropriations be made and that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Financial Officer for the record:

Current Fund	\$2,575,000.00
Sewer Utility Operating Fund	500,000.00

As temporary appropriations for the year for the purpose identified by the title herein below listed and, in the sum, set aside such titles:

CURRENT FUND

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

Acct. No.

20101200 Administrative and Executive:

	Other Expenses:	\$10,000.00
20102200	Postage	\$ 6,000.00
20140100	Computer Services: Salary & Wages	\$ 2,000.00
20140200	Other Expenses	\$15,000.00
20103200	Code Book Update	\$ 4,000.00

Mayor and Council:

20110100	Salaries and Wages	\$9,500.00
20110200	Other Expenses	\$2,000.00

Municipal Administration:

20120100	Salaries and Wages	\$85,000.00
20120200	Other Expenses	\$25,000.00

Financial Administration:

20130100	Salaries and Wages	\$45,000.00
20130200	Other Expenses	\$ 8,000.00
20135200	Audit Services	\$10,000.00

Revenue Administration (Tax Collection):

20145100	Salaries & Wages	\$36,000.00
20145200	Other Expenses	\$ 6,500.00

Tax Assessment Administration:

20150100	Salaries & Wages	\$18,000.00
20150200	Miscellaneous Other Expenses	\$ 6,000.00

Legal Services and Costs:

20155200	Other Expenses	\$30,000.00
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Engineering Services and Costs:

20165200	Other Expenses	\$35,000.00
23210200	Liability Insurance	\$92,000.00
23215200	Workers' Compensation Insurance	\$80,000.00
23200200	Group Insurance for Employees	\$200,000.00
23225200	Unemployment Insurance	\$ 2,000.00
23222200	Employee-In-Lieu of Health Benefits	\$ 5,560.05
	<u>Municipal Land Use Law (NJSA 40:55D-1):</u>	
	Planning Board:	
21180100	Salaries & Wages	\$ 5,000.00
21180200	Miscellaneous Other Expenses	\$ 7,500.00
	Zoning Board of Adjustment:	
21186100	Salaries & Wages	\$ 2,500.00
21186200	Other Expenses	\$ 3,000.00
	Rent Board:	
21190100	Salaries & Wages	\$ 1,000.00
21190200	Other Expenses	\$ 4,000.00
	Environmental Commission	
27335200	Other Expenses	\$ 25.00
	Shade Tree Commission	
26320100	Salaries & Wages	\$ 2,000.00
26320200	Other Expenses	\$ 3,000.00

PUBLIC SAFETY:

	Fire:	
	Miscellaneous-Other Expenses	
25255200	Fire Company No. 1 & 2	\$ 30,000.00
	Police:	
25240100	Salaries & Wages	\$700,000.00
25240200	Other Expenses	\$ 85,000.00
	Emergency Management Services:	
25275100	Salaries & Wages	\$ 350.00
25260200	Other Expenses	\$ 25.00
	First Aid Contribution:	
25260200	Other Expenses	\$ 5,000.00

STREETS AND ROADS

	Street and Road Repairs and Maintenance:	
26290100	Salaries & Wages	\$133,000.00

26290200	Other Expenses	\$130,000.00
26300200	Other Expenses-Salt and Grit	\$ 50,000.00
	Public Buildings and Grounds:	
26310100	Salaries & Wages	\$ 7,500.00
26310200	Other Expenses	\$ 55,000.00
	Municipal Court:	
43490200	Other Expenses	\$ 10,000.00
<u>HEALTH AND WELFARE:</u>		
	Animal Control Fund:	
27340100	Salaries & Wages	\$ 1,500.00
27340200	Other Expenses	\$ 10,000.00
<u>RECREATION AND EDUCATION:</u>		
	Parks and Playgrounds:	
28375100	Salaries & Wages	\$ 50.00
28375200	Other Expenses	\$ 30,000.00
	Pool	
28370100	Salaries & Wages	\$ 50.00
28370200	Other Expenses	\$ 50.00
<u>UTILITIES:</u>		
31430200	Electricity	\$ 16,000.00
31440200	Telephone (Exclude Equip. Acq.)	\$ 18,000.00
31435200	Street Lighting	\$ 10,000.00
31446200	Gas (Natural or Propane)	\$ 16,000.00
31448200	Hydrant Service	\$ 83,000.00
31445200	Water	\$ 4,000.00
31447200	Gasoline	\$ 25,000.00
<u>UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE:</u>		
	Building Sub-code Official	
22195100	Salaries & Wages	\$ 30,000.00
22195200	Other Expenses	\$ 8,500.00
	Fire Safety Inspector	
25265100	Salaries & Wages	\$ 18,000.00
25265200	Other Expenses	\$ 5,000.00
	Zoning Officer	
21185100	Salaries & Wages	\$ 8,000.00
21185200	Other Expenses	\$ 4,000.00
<u>STATUTORY EXPENDITURES:</u>		
36472200	Contribution to Social Security System (OASDI)	\$ 80,000.00
36476200	DCRP	4,000.00
TOTAL OPERATIONS WITHIN "CAP"		\$2,337,235.05

OPERATIONS EXCLUDED FROM “CAPS”:

	Municipal Debt Service	
45930200	Interest on Bonds	\$ 27,587.50
45935200	Interest on Notes	\$ 210,177.45
	<u>TOTAL CURRENT FUND</u>	\$2,575,000.00

SEWER UTILITY OPERATING FUND

	Salaries and Wages	\$ 40,000.00
	Other Expenses	\$415,500.00
	Principal Payment on USDA Loan	\$ 18,835.00
	Interest on USDA Loan	\$ 25,665.00
	TOTAL SEWER UTILITY OPERATING FUND	\$500,000.00

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-34 – Renew contract with Space Farms to Remove Deer Carcasses from Municipal Road Rights-Of-Way for a Fee of \$35 for Year 2026.

R 26-34

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO CONTRACT WITH SPACE FARMS ZOO AND MUSEUM FOR DEER CARCASS REMOVAL FROM MUNICIPAL RIGHTS-OF-WAY

WHEREAS, there is a need for the service to remove deer carcasses from municipal road rights-of-way in the Township; and

WHEREAS, Space Farms Zoo and Museum located at 218 Rt. 519, Beemerville, Sussex, NJ 07461 shall provide this service and remove deer carcasses within 24-hour notification at a rate of \$35.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby authorize the service of deer carcass removal from municipal rights-of-way at a rate of \$35.00 per deer carcass.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2025.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-35 – Authorize CFO to Pay Certain Bills Without Governing Body Approval.

R 26-35

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP CFO TO PAY CERTAIN BILLS WITHOUT GOVERNING BODY APPROVAL

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17 permits a municipality to authorize the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to pay bills without prior approval of the governing body when such payment is required to avoid loss of discounts or the incurrence of penalties, interest, or other charges; and

WHEREAS, certain bills may become due and payable prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Township Council, and failure to timely pay such bills may result in the Township incurring additional charges; and

WHEREAS the Township Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the Township to authorize the CFO to make such payments in order to avoid unnecessary costs to the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, that the Chief Financial Officer of the township of Lopatcong is hereby authorized to pay any bills that are due prior to a regularly scheduled meeting of the Township of Lopatcong where such failure to pay would result in the Township incurring additional expenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all payments made by the CFO pursuant to this resolution shall be reported to the Township Council for ratification and approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-36 – Authorize CFO to Refund Municipal Portion of Conceal Carry Handgun Permit Fee.

R 26-36

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REFUNDING MUNICIPAL PORTION OF CONCEAL CARRY HANDGUN PERMIT FEE

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4, applicants for permits to carry a handgun are required to pay an application fee in the amount of \$200, of which \$150 is paid to the municipality and \$50 is paid directly to the Superintendent of the State Police; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong recognizes that the statutory fee structure imposes financial burdens on applicants and wishes to ease that burden for residents by offering refunds of the Township's portion of the application fee; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has determined that it is in the public interest to establish an administrative process for refunding the \$150 municipal portion of the application fee upon appropriate documentation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. Any applicant who has paid the \$150 municipal application fee for a handgun carry permit on or after 1/1/2026, and who submits a valid receipt showing payment, may apply to the Township of Lopatcong Clerk for a refund of \$150, representing the portion of the statutory fee paid to the Township of Lopatcong.
2. Refunds shall be issued upon the applicant's submission to the Police Records Technician of the following:
 - a. Proof of payment;
 - b. Confirmation that the application was processed through the Township of Lopatcong
3. This refund policy applies only to the municipal portion of the fee and does not apply to any amounts remitted by the applicant directly to the State of New Jersey or other agencies.
4. The Township of Lopatcong Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to administer this refund program and to require any reasonable documentation necessary to confirm eligibility of applicants.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at the Reorganization Meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Consent Agenda:

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda by Councilman Marinelli, seconded by Mayor Wright.
Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Marinelli, McQuade, Council President Palitto, Mayor Wright.

NAYS: None

R 26-39A

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING CONSENT AGENDA FOR COUNCIL'S
CONSIDERATION

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby approve and authorize a Consent Agenda to move routine items of business requiring no discussion; and

WHEREAS, there are listed Items one through 3 on the Consent Agenda.

1. Resolution No. 37 – Authorize Contribution of \$200,000 to the County of Warren toward the cost of the Acquisition and Preservation of property known as Block 86, Lot 67.
2. Approve Raffle License Application for Lopatcong Township School District PTA.
3. Approve Membership to Delaware Park Engine Co., No. 1 for Jeffrey Louis Collura, Jr. as recommended by Fire Chief Marinelli.

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Resolution No. 26-37 – Authorize Contribution of \$200,000 to the County of Warren toward the cost of the Acquisition and Preservation of property known as Block 86, Lot 67.

R 26-37

**RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
LOPATCONG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY MEMORIALIZING
AND CONFIRMING ITS CONTRIBUTION AND COMMITMENT OF \$200,000.00**

**TOWARD THE COST OF THE ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION OF
PROPERTY LOCATED IN LOPATCONG TOWNSHIP KNOWN AS THE CLIFFORD
FARM AND IDENTIFIED ON THE TAX MAP AS BLOCK 86, LOT 67**

WHEREAS, the Township of Lopatcong (the “Township”) has been working with the County of Warren (the “County”) to preserve a 107.768-acre property in Lopatcong Township located on or along Belvidere Road (County Route 519), known as the Clifford Farm and identified as Block 86, Lot 67, on the tax map of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey (the “Farm”); and

WHEREAS, the Farm is located adjacent to the Warren County Agriculture Development Area (ADA) and other preserved farmland immediately to the north; and

WHEREAS, the Farm is located within the Highlands Planning Area, the Highlands Agricultural Resource Area, and has been identified as a High Agricultural Preservation Priority in the Highlands Region; and

WHEREAS, the Farm contains approximately 91%, or approximately 97.5 acres, of Prime Soils and is nearly 100% tillable; and

WHEREAS, pressures from development have significantly heightened the degree of imminence of change of land use in this area; and

WHEREAS, preservation of the Farm will encourage the survivability of production agriculture in Lopatcong Township and Warren County; and

WHEREAS, a professional independent appraisal was performed on the Farm and proof of competing purchase offers from developers was provided to the County; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Board of County Commissioners authorized the purchase of the Farm in fee simple absolute by Resolution 342-25 on June 25, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the County purchased the Farm on August 6, 2025 for Two-Million, Four-Hundred-Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$2,450,00.00) with funding from the Warren County Open Space, Farmland, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the County has taken title to the property in fee simple absolute and will record a farmland preservation deed of easement on the Farm, along with a small conservation easement to protect a one-hundred diameter (100”) diameter, old-growth oak tree on the Farm, and additional road right of way (ROW) needed along Belvidere Road, County Road 646; and

WHEREAS, the Township believes it is in the best interest of the taxpayers of Lopatcong Township to contribute towards the preservation of the Farm; and

WHEREAS, the Township has agreed to contribute Two-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) to help fund the cost of permanently preserving the Farm through the County's farmland preservation program; and

WHEREAS, the Township will provide the County with a payment for a total sum of Two-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Lopatcong, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that the Township of Lopatcong hereby authorizes and agrees to provide the funding contribution to the County of Warren in the amount of Two-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) toward the purchase and preservation of the above described Farm property, with said contribution to be made in one payment due of the amount specified above, subject to the Certification of availability of funds by the Township Chief Financial Officer.

ATTEST:

, Mayor

, Township Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Margaret B. Dilts, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council at a meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Margaret B. Dilts, MMC

Lopatcong Township School District PTA Raffle License - Approve Raffle License
Application for Lopatcong Township School District PTA.

Delaware Park Engine Co., No. 1 Membership Application - Approve Membership to Delaware Park Engine Co., No. 1 for Jeffrey Louis Collura, Jr. as recommended by Fire Chief Marinelli.

Announcement – Special Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 6:30 pm Executive Session and 7:30 pm Public Session.

Public Comment – 3-minutes

Fire Chief James Marinelli – Reported that the new tower ladder will complete projection on January 28th which is about a month ahead of schedule. Some members will be flying out to Wisconsin to complete the final inspection at the Pierce Manufacturing facility. Delivery to New Jersey will be sometime in February where it will go to Fire and Safety Services in South Plainfield for all tool mounting, final inspections and the fire company will also complete a final inspection before being delivered to us. We believe sometime in March and once training is completed on it, it will go into service. A meeting with the Mayor and Councilman Marinelli was held on December 29th at the Delaware Park Fire House to discuss some items that need attention. The fire house signs on the exterior of the fire house are aged and falling off the building. The retaining wall that surrounds the fire house is deteriorating and part of the old silk mill that burned down is cracking and holds up the alley behind the fire house. The storm drain in the rear of the building is sinking and the pavement around the area is sinking as well. Garage doors and trim need to be repaired or replaced as the salt has caused eroding and a general cleaning of the outside of the building needs to be addressed. Also, a fence surrounding the back lot is necessary as that area is used for vehicle extrication training

Adjournment