

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, November 21, 2022, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey and via Zoom video conferencing platform.

Call to Order:

Mayor Roman calls to order the regular meeting of November 21, 2022 and notes that the Municipal Clerk is absent tonight. A resolution appointing Township Manager Joseph O. D'Arco, who has his certification as a Registered Municipal Clerk in the State of New Jersey shall serve as temporary Acting Municipal Clerk for this evening's meeting.

RESOLUTION No. 2022-185

A motion was made by Mayor Roman; seconded by Deputy Mayor Christine McGrath that the following resolution be adopted:

**AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF A TEMPORARY ACTING
MUNICIPAL CLERK FOR NOVEMBER 21, 2022**

WHEREAS, a Council meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2022, and the Township Municipal Clerk is unable to perform the municipal clerk functions for the meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manager is willing and able to serve as a temporary acting Municipal Clerk for the Council meeting scheduled for November 21, 2022, as the Manager's RMC Clerks License (CO144) is active and current.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, that the Township Manager Joseph O. D'Arco is appointed as temporary Acting Municipal Clerk for the Council meeting of November 21, 2022.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

Mr. D'Arco, temporary Acting Municipal Clerk reads the notice of compliance of the of Open Public Meetings law: The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied with respect to this meeting of the Township Council which is being held via Zoom video conferencing. Specifically, the time and date were included in the public meeting notice. This information, along with the public internet link and telephone call-in information was posted in the Municipal Building, and sent the official newspapers of the Township, the Verona-Cedar Grove Times and the Star Ledger at least 48 hours preceding the start time of this meeting. The agenda and public handouts for this meeting can be viewed online at www.veronanj.org/councilmeetings. A public comment period will be held in the order it is listed on the meeting agenda and instructions on how to comment will be provided at the appropriate time.

Roll Call:

Mayor Alex Roman, Deputy Mayor Christine McGrath, Councilman Jack McEvoy, Councilwoman Cynthia Holland and Councilman Christopher Tamburro are present. Township Manager and acting Municipal clerk Joe D'Arco, Township Attorney Brian Aloia are also present. Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan is not present this evening.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Roman Attended the Interfaith Thanksgiving service and thanks Rabbi Rubbin for arranging. The Mayor was honored to speak at this event. Mayor congratulates Diane Ferrea and Denise Verzella for their election to the Board of Education. The Council attended the League of Municipalities. Fair in the Square is Saturday, December 3rd, but unfortunately for the first year, he will not be able to attend this year. The Mayor wishes everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday season to all the people that we work with up here the staff of the Verona Township. He really appreciate everybody's efforts and thank you for everything hope you have a great holiday season. Mayor Roman asks if Mr. Coltre is present but he is not.

Manager's Report:

Township Manager Joseph D'Arco states the first item on the agenda is 2022 Best Practices. He calls to everyone's attention that the score that you need to achieve has been met so there is no adverse effect to state revenue. The baseline score is 37; he will be reviewing items needed to be improved upon. DCA adds new items every year. He will be comparing 2021 submission with 2022 and confirm that items that weren't addressed will be addressed and items that can be addressed will be addressed. Mayor Roman mentions that there are public questions on a Facebook post. He will forward them to the Township Manager. Mr. D'Arco invites Library Director to give presentation:

Library Director

Claudine Pascale is pleased to announce the launch of the new Verona Public Library Foundation the foundation consists of Verona residents committed to building community through supporting our 21st century Library the inaugural board includes Christopher Barrows, Gail Burningham, Serena Rivera Monica Vincent, Jennifer Quade Zimmerman and the library director as a non-voting member. The Verona Public Library Foundation was established as a result of the goals set forth in the library's latest strategic plan and will fund projects and initiatives that support the goals outlined in the Strategic plan. The foundation will solicit gifts and grants to be used primarily for establishing an endowment funding future Capital Improvements and underwriting certain non-operating Library enhancements outside the scope of the municipality funded budget. The foundation will provide additional funding to supplement not replace Public Funding. All programming offered by the library is provided by fundraising and donations and is not included in the municipal budget. The 2023-2025 fundraising goals set by the foundation fall into four categories: expand technology and electronic resources, support learning and cultural enrichment, establish an endowment and fund special events and projects. Specifically the goal of the foundation is to provide the library with the following: a mobile laptop lab for technology classes, futures staff computer replacement technology programming including robotics python coding 3D printing and basic internet and email skills. Databases including Morningstar investment Research Center value line Research Center, the Rosetta Stone which we had and no longer offered because that was funded through the state so I'd like to bring that back and LinkedIn learning. We would like to offer digital New York Times and Wall Street Journal subscription, add additional language classes, right now we only offer Italian, health and wellness programs for all ages. We would like to start a youth financial literacy program we would like to have a large community-wide summer reading kickoff event in the town square and we would like to have more author visits. Fundraising channels include making a one-time donation setting up monthly or annual gifts estate planning planned gifts corporate matches gifts and honor memorial donation of stocks and joining the Anna Degalie donor Circle we are exploring room naming options as well. I'm very excited to be part of this initiative I'd like to thank the board of the foundation for their hard work getting this off the ground and the Board of Trustees for their support I'd also like to thank Sarah Dags for designing our logo and Berman branding for developing our website I encourage everyone to visit the foundation's website Veronaploundation.org to learn more about how to support the library. Thank you.

Mayor Roman thanks the Library Director and is amazed at how the Verona Public Library continues to evolve to serve people in so many different areas and all the ideas that everybody comes up. It's great to hear I love how much people use it it's just a real treasure in our community so all I can say is thank you I'm glad to see this program starting up and I do hope that the community will support it because it's an outstanding cause.

Deputy Mayor thanks Library Director and the Board for inviting the council to the launch event which was really very lovely and I think what was also important for the public to know is that this compliments and it really enhances fundraising and that the Friends of the Library are still going to be a non-profit volunteer membership-based group where residents can join as a member and make a donation, attend their lovely book sale, which is actually coming up during Fair in the Square weekend, and they'll still host small fundraising events but that the Foundation is really to raise those significant funds to match programming and the activities are happening in the library with the beautiful building that the town invested in you know several years ago in its renovation.

It's really exciting that's getting started and I can't wait to see where it goes.

Councilman McEvoy thanks the Board for the invitation and mentions that the presentation and the time that goes into doing something like that uh is very appreciated uh but the time to start a 501c3 that that takes a lot also so I know with the expertise on the board there was help here yeah it's once again it's just another example of how the volunteers of this town just step up and do so many good things for the rest of the town and the library is like the heart of where all that starts

Councilman Tamburro adds thank you I had the opportunity to attend last night as well that the 501c3 status allows the foundation to get funding that we may not be able to get as a government agency so it's adding another layer of access. As this Mission continues it's important to know why this is going on. For the residents who don't know Library funding is set by statute. He thanks the talented group for a job well done.

Manager's Report:

Mr. D'Arco: The RFP's for professionals were published on November 2. Item #3 will be moved to December. Pickle ball and Tennis courts are completed. Claridge II is on track with Boswell engineering. Claridge 2 is on track with phase two with Boswell engineering and designs for the water pressure issues. The I-bank has four projects in various stages. Jacobs Engineering re: PFAS was split into two projects to move faster in providing relief to the residents to get wells back online and to help with the water bill increase that we had to do because of purchasing water. This project phase one hopefully it'll be online by next year and then we'll move onto the Fairview Avenue Well. Friends of the Verona Park the Township attorney update on the 501c3 and procedures. Councilman McEvoy questions item #10 (amendment to the traffic light at Claremont requested by DOT.

Director of Administration and Economic Development, Steven Neale reports that the bank stabilization Ordinance is on for tonight, once passed, we can award Boswell Engineering via Resolution for that work; once we have that we can actually move forward we'll meet again with the DEP. Design for ADA playground at community center is up. Future bathrooms and water fountain may happen in the next few year. It's a Council decision. The bathroom is cost prohibitive and will delay the project. Bathrooms will be open at the community center. Township Manager mentions that competitive quotes will be obtained on supply and installation and grant will be applied for; a pre-fab will be investigated. The county is flexible on the distribution date for the grant money. Road reconstruction projects are past the DOT deadline for November 15. Applications to DOT can be made to continue construction. The water main project nearly complete and the roadway will be passable and plowable for winter. Derwent Ave roadwork letters will be hand delivered to all the residents on that block for a resident meeting next Wednesday or the 30th. Fair in the Square is coming up December 3rd, Hanukkah celebration is December 21st.

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor thanks all of the residents, committees, and non-profit organizations for all of the incredible, fun, and important events that happened in the last month. Celebrating our diversity and lifting each other up is a huge strength of our welcoming community. She continues to receive positive feedback in particular on events planned by the Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Committee. The Deputy Mayor attended the League of Municipalities where she was honored as a Municipal Pioneer under the Local Elected Officials Leadership Program. The Deputy Mayor congratulates Diana Ferrera and Denise Verzella for winning the Board of Education Election, and she looks forward to working with them.

Councilman McEvoy, Congrats to Library on 501 c3, thank you to Veterans. Historic preservation committee met and a resident established their home as a historic home. Any renovations have to be approved by historic preservation committee. Drive carefully during daylight savings time.

Tamburro, Clergy service was well represented by Verona. Thanks Minette's Angels Foundation for participation at flag raising. NJLM sessions were attended. Legislative updates on affordable housing were addressed. Other municipalities are in the same situation and are hoping for reform. DCA presented a session on Shared Services where there was good discussion. Holiday season is upon us, he encourages donations to children's charities. He discusses conversations with other municipal leaders on the length of council meetings.

Councilwoman Holland acknowledges the election and the work of the Municipal Clerk. Honored to participate in Veterans Day Ceremony. Attended the NJLM conference; attended the women in municipal government event. Councilwoman attended a girl scouting "Journey", Wonders of Water where third grade brownies learned all about the wonders of the Peckman River. Reminds residents about the Winter Termination Program re: utility bills to get a moratorium on payment of utility bills.

Hearing Adoption or Amendment Ordinances:

ORDINANCE No. 2022-34

WATER AND SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$70,000 FROM WATER/SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE BANK STABILIZATION ALONG THE PECKMAN RIVER BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY

The temporary Acting Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2022-34 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2022-34 is moved by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath

Public Hearing: None.

Council discussion. None

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2022-34 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE No. 2022-35

WATER AND SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$25,000 FROM WATER/SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR RISK AND RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT & EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY

The temporary Acting Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2022-35 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2022-35 is moved by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Councilwoman Holland

Public Hearing: None.

Council discussion. Deputy Mayor McGrath comments on the importance of this Ordinance.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2022-35 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE No. 2022-36

**AMENDING CHAPTER 140 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC)
BY AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS**

The temporary Acting Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2022-36 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2022-36 is moved by Councilman Holland; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath

Public Comment: None.

Council discussion.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2022-36 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE No. 2022-37

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACCESSIBLE/SENSORY PLAYGROUND AND ADULT EXERCISE AREA PROJECT AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$550,000 THEREFOR, INCLUDING A \$150,000 ESSEX COUNTY RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND LOCAL AID PROGRAM GRANT EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$523,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

The temporary Acting Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2022-37 by title into record.

Motion to Introduce Ordinance No. 2022-37 is moved by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Councilman Tamburro

Council discussion.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2022-37 is introduced 5-0, will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held December 5, 2022.

ORDINANCE 2022-38

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA WITH THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION TITLED CHAPTER 150 ZONING ARTICLE XXIV WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES

The temporary Acting Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2022-38 by title into record.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2022-38 is moved by Councilman McEvoy; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath

Council discussion.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2022-38 is introduced 5-0, will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held December 5, 2022.

ORDINANCE # 2022-39

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND ENCOURAGING ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY/SERVICE EQUIPMENT (EVSE) & MAKE-READY PARKING SPACES

The temporary Acting Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2022-39 by title into record.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2022-39 is moved by Councilwoman Holland seconded by Councilman McEvoy

Council discussion.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2022-39 is introduced 5-0, will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held December 5, 2022.

Deputy Mayor identified a correction of minutes from 9/19, closing motion was seconded by Councilman McEvoy. Tamburro corrects scrivener's error on agenda, K7, escrow payment wrong amount was noted; resolution amended.

The minutes from the September 19, 2022 meeting were approved unanimously.

The consent agenda was voted on but not properly moved; a motion was made to move the agenda items motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Councilwoman Holland that the Consent Agenda be moved:

Addendum items were added to the consent agenda. Councilman Tamburro notes that items on the addendum were received at 3p.m. instead of by noon as required by Township Code. Township Attorney Brian Aloia states that items on the addendum can proceed if the Council does not object. The consensus is to move the items on the addendum. An error on Pay to Play documents for Law Soft was corrected in the hard copy packets provided to the Council for the meeting. It should read NTE \$25,000.

Item M5, Authorizing an agreement with DMR was removed from the consent agenda under the recommendation from Councilman Tamburro.

A Motion was made to move the Consent Agenda M2, M3, M4 and M6 by Councilman Tamburro and seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath

Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items:

Kevin Ryan [REDACTED]

RESOLUTION No. 2022-186

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath that the following resolution be adopted:

AUTHORIZING THE INSERTION INTO THE CY2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE FORM OF THE NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT GRANT

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87* provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services (the "Director") may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such items shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and,

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has received \$2,461.50 from the State of New Jersey in the form of the National Opioid Settlement Grant and wishes to amend its CY2022 Municipal Budget to include this amount as a revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey hereby requests the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2022 Municipal Budget in the sum of \$2,461.50 which is

now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues - Section F:
Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of
Director of Local Government Services -
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:
National Opioid Settlement Grant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2022 Municipal Budget in the like sum of \$2,461.50 appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations:
(A) Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:
National Opioid Settlement Grant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution will be electronically filed with the Director for approval as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-187

A motion was made Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath that the following resolution be adopted:

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE'S TO THE ESSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COMMITTEE

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, that Director of Administration & Economic Development Steven Neale and Zoning Officer Michael DeCarlo are hereby appointed to serve as the Township's representatives to the Community Development Block Grant Committee for the year 2023.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-188

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLUTION REESTABLISHING THE MULTICULTURAL INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, a workgroup was formed by Township Council in August 2021 for the expressed purpose of developing a mission statement for diversity, equity, and inclusion activities in the Township; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution dated January 3, 2022, the Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee was established; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Verona desires to reestablish the Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee, reappoint all current members, expand the public members by adding three additional members, and change the reference to the Township employees to allow for greater flexibility as to the employees participating.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Verona does hereby reestablish and extend the Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee until June 30, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory

DL042023

Committee shall consist of thirteen to sixteen members including the following:

1. A member of the Council to be appointed by it;
2. The Township Manager or designee and up to one additional employee of the Township or designee;
3. Director of the Verona Public Library or designee;
4. The Superintendent of Schools or designee;
5. Nine (9) adult public members; and
6. Two (2) high school public members (optional).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mission Statement of the Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee is as follows: Verona’s vibrant community proudly welcomes all residents, business owners, employees, and visitors. Together we are working toward being a truly inclusive place where our policies, services, and programs meet the needs of all people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee is hereby charged with the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Make recommendations regarding diverse cultural, economic, and social issues within our community to the Township Council;
2. Propose solutions to the Township Council that ensure accessibility for all community members for our services and programs;
3. Assist the Director of the Administration and Economic Development and the Director of Community Services with the organization, coordination, research, and manage actions in the Community as it relates to multicultural inclusion and accessibility of the Township’s policies, programs, and services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee shall elect a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary at its organizational meeting and the Secretary shall keep minutes of all the meetings of the Committee, which minutes and copies of official correspondence of the Committee shall be kept on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee shall hold regular meetings at least quarterly; special meetings may be called by the Chairperson pursuant to the rules of the Open Public Meetings Act; and The Committee may make and amend rules and regulations concerning the conduct of its meetings.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-189

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath that the following resolution be adopted:

AUTHORIZING CANCELLATION OF GRANT BALANCES

WHEREAS, there exists Grant Receivables and Grant Reserves on the General Capital Balance sheet; and

WHEREAS, these Capital projects are complete; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel the receivable balances and their offsetting appropriation balance from the balance sheet;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the following grant receivable and appropriation balance be cancelled:

Ordinance #	Project	Cancel
4-15	NJDOT - Linden Section III	\$6,199.60
18-16	NJDOT - Durrell Street from Grove to Fairview	\$37,792.73
	Total :	\$43,992.33

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-190

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath that the following resolution be adopted:

AUTHORIZING REMOVAL OF PROPERTIES FROM TAX SALE ON PAYMENT PLANS

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has set up payment arrangements with residents for water and sewer delinquencies, and

WHEREAS, these payment arrangements will still have a prior year balance by year end, and

WHEREAS, by law the Tax Collector is required to have an annual tax sale for any prior year open charges, and

WHEREAS, as long as these properties continue to make their payment arrangements throughout the rest of the year they will be removed from the tax sale list on December 1st.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey that the Tax Collector shall proceed with the December 1, 2022 tax sale but shall not sell the properties on a payment arrangement

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-191

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath hat the following resolution be adopted:

REFUNDING ESCROW PAYMENT

WHEREAS, Escrow fees, for the Board of Adjustment, were received from Dana Pitta, for property located at 62 Durrell Street and the fees have been held in Trust; and

WHEREAS, certification has been received from the Engineer to release these funds, from Trust, as follows:

ESCROW AMOUNT	EXPENSES	AMOUNT TO BE REFUNDED
\$500.00	\$191.08	\$308.92

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex New Jersey that the Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector be authorized to refund, from the Trust Account, \$308.92 to Dana Pitta, [REDACTED]

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-192

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath that the following resolution be adopted:

REFUNDING ESCROW PAYMENT

WHEREAS, Escrow fees, for the Board of Adjustment, were received from Cara O’Flynn, for property located at [REDACTED] and the fees have been held in Trust; and

WHEREAS, certification has been received from the Engineer to release these funds, from Trust, as follows:

ESCROW AMOUNT	EXPENSES	AMOUNT TO BE REFUNDED
\$500.00	\$176.45	\$323.55

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex New Jersey that the Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector be authorized to refund, from the Trust Account, \$323.55 to Cara O’Flynn, [REDACTED]

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-193

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath that the following resolution be adopted:

RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS SAFE HOMES MONTH

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Verona recognize that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society among persons of all ages; and therefore has an established the Municipal Alliance Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Verona Municipal Alliance Committee is a sponsor of Safe Homes, a program that empowers parents and guardians to create a community of people who have pledged to not allow underage alcohol and drug use in their homes and on their property and to provide secure storage places for firearms, matches, toxic chemicals and to monitor computer use; and

WHEREAS, parents could be held civilly liable for any incident arising as a result of serving or allowing alcohol to be consumed on their property; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey recognize November to be Safe Homes Month.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-194

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath that the following resolution be adopted:

AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH BOSWELL ENGINEERING

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has a need to award a contract for the emergency bank stabilization along the Peckman River as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*; and,

WHEREAS, the Administration has determined and certified in writing that the value of the service will exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, Boswell Engineering, Inc., with offices at 330 Phillips Avenue, South Hackensack, New Jersey (hereinafter "Boswell") has submitted a proposal indicating they will create the required designs for at a cost not-to-exceed \$70,000.00; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council adopted Bond ordinance No. 2022-34 at a regular meeting on November 21, 2022 for emergency back stabilization along the Peckman River to fund the costs associated with this project; and

WHEREAS, Boswell has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Boswell Engineering has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Verona in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Boswell from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, that a contract is awarded to Boswell Engineering for emergency back stabilization of the Peckman River in an amount not-to-exceed \$70,000.00 subject to the following:

1. The award of this contract is subject to finalization of the contract terms to be drafted and approved by the Township Attorney.
2. The contract and any contract amendments which may become necessary shall be subject to the Township's ability to appropriate sufficient funds, which appropriation shall be at the sole discretion of the Township Council.
3. The Council hereby authorizes the Township Manager, or his designee, to execute any and all documents and take any and all actions necessary to complete and realize the intent and purpose of this resolution.
4. The Township is in receipt of the Stockholder Disclosure form, Contribution Disclosure form, Certificate of Employee Information Report, Business Registration Certificate, and Certificate of Insurance.
5. The Township Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute an agreement as outlined herein with:

Boswell Engineering, Inc.
330 Phillips Avenue
South Hackensack, New Jersey 07606

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-195

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath that the following resolution be adopted:

AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH COLLIERS ENGINEERING AND DESIGN

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has a need to award a contract for a Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan Update in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) American’s Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018 as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*; and,

WHEREAS, the Administration has determined and certified in writing that the value of the service will exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, Colliers Engineering & Design, with offices at 331 Newman Springs Road, Suite 203, Red Bank, New Jersey 07701,(hereinafter “Colliers”) has submitted a proposal indicating they will create the required designs for at a cost not-to-exceed \$25,000.00; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council adopted Bond ordinance No. 2022-35 at a regular meeting on November 21, 2022 for a Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan Update in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) American’s Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018; and

WHEREAS, Colliers has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Colliers Engineering & Design has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Verona in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit the Colliers from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, that a contract is awarded to Colliers Engineering & Design for a Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan Update in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) American’s Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018 in an amount not-to-exceed \$25,000.00 subject to the following:

1. The award of this contract is subject to finalization of the contract terms to be drafted and approved by the Township Attorney.
2. The contract and any contract amendments which may become necessary shall be subject to the Township’s ability to appropriate sufficient funds, which appropriation shall be at the sole discretion of the Township Council.
3. The Council hereby authorizes the Township Manager, or his designee, to execute any and all documents and take any and all actions necessary to complete and realize the intent and purpose of this resolution.
4. The Township is in receipt of the Stockholder Disclosure form, Contribution Disclosure form, Certificate of Employee Information Report, Business Registration Certificate, and Certificate of Insurance.
5. The Township Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute an agreement as outlined herein with:

Colliers Engineering & Design
331 Newman Springs Road, St 203
Red Bank, New Jersey 07701

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-196

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath that the following resolution be adopted:

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH LAWSOFT, INC.

WHEREAS, the Police Department Township of Verona requires a Computer-Aided Dispatch System and has implemented such a system for use by the Police, Fire Department and Rescue Squad provided by LawSoft and therefore requires as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*; and,

WHEREAS, the Qualified Purchasing Agent has determined and certified in writing that the value of the service will exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, LawSoft, Inc., located at 15 Hamburg Turnpike, Bloomingdale, New Jersey 07043 has submitted a proposal indicating they will continue to provide the software at a cost not-to-exceed \$35,000.00; and,

WHEREAS, services provided by LawSoft, Inc. shall be charged to budget account 2-01-25-240-240 – Police – Annual Subscription/Software; and

WHEREAS, LawSoft, Inc. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Lawsoft has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Verona in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit the LawSoft from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, that a contract be awarded to LawSoft, Inc., pending certification of available funds by the Temporary CFO for a computer-aided dispatch system for use by police, fire and rescue in an amount not-to-exceed \$35,000.00 subject to the following:

1. The award of this contract is subject to finalization of the contract terms to be drafted and approved by the Township Attorney.
2. The contract and any contract amendments which may become necessary shall be subject to the Township's ability to appropriate sufficient funds, which appropriation shall be at the sole discretion of the Township Council.
3. The Council hereby authorizes the Township Manager, or his designee, to execute any and all documents and take any and all actions necessary to complete and realize the intent and purpose of this resolution.
4. The Township is in receipt of the Stockholder Disclosure form, Contribution Disclosure form, Certificate of Employee Information Report, Business Registration Certificate, and Certificate of Insurance.
5. The Township Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute an agreement as outlined herein with:
LawSoft, Inc.
15 Hamburg Turnpike
Bloomingdale, New Jersey 07403

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-197

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath that the following resolution be adopted:

**AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF NEW POLICE OFFICERS HIRED VIA
EXAMINATION EXEMPTION OF CIVIL SERVICE TEST**

WHEREAS, there are vacancies in the Verona Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the Township has opted into NJ P.L. 2021, C.7 the Examination Exemption of The Civil Service Hiring Procedures by Ordinance 2022-26 introduced July 25, 2022 and passed August 28 2022; and

WHEREAS, the following individuals have or will successfully complete a full basic course for police officers and met the requirements as per *N.J.S.A. 11A:4-1.3*; and

WHEREAS, each candidate has also met the requirements of the Verona Police Department hiring process; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manager recommends that Shane Daly, Brendan Heller and Gregory Matesic be appointed to the position of Police Officers, effective November 17, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Interim Chief Financial Officer has certified that funding is available to hire these candidates.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, State of New Jersey are hereby appointed as Police Officers in the Police Department in the Township of Verona, effective November 17, 2022 at step 1 in the annual salary in effect in the salary ordinance.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

M5- Authorizing an Agreement with DMR Architects PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made to move M5 by Deputy Mayor McGrath and seconded by Councilwoman Holland.

Public Comment: Kevin Ryan [REDACTED]

Township Manager, D'Arco gives a description of the professional services provided by DMR. Council & Manager discuss the selection process of DMR. Councilman Tamburro comments that part of the services have already been completed. D'Arco comments that approving this contract does not give DMR the authorization to proceed past the first phase. Councilwoman Holland was pleased with the speed of the report by DMR and recognized that the report is advisory in nature. Township Attorney Aloia suggests an option contract. Using a suite of professionals was discussed to leverage the expertise professionals and provide competitive pricing.

A motion was made by Councilman McEvoy and Seconded by Councilman Tamburro to AMEND Resolution M5 on the Addendum. The amendment will change the NTE amount from \$9,000 to \$3,200 for phase I study with DMR Architects. Phase II of the study will receive further approval from the Council. It was recommended by Council that the DMR report be uploaded to the website

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-198

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McGrath; seconded by Councilwoman Holland that the following resolution be moved:

AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH DMR ARCHITECTS

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has a need to award a contract to DMR to assist the Township of Verona in considering and adopting zoning to permit uses related to recreational cannabis as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*; and,

WHEREAS, the Administration has determined and certified in writing that the value of the service will not exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, DMR, with offices at Heights Plaza 777 Terrace Avenue, 6th Floor, Hasbrouck Heights, 07604 (hereinafter "DMR") has submitted the attached proposal indicating they will provide the services for at a cost not-to-exceed \$3,200 - Phase I; and,

WHEREAS, funds will be charged to Budget Line 2-01-20-155-028 or any other account deemed sufficient by the Interim Chief Financial Officer.

WHEREAS, DMR has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that DMR has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Verona in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit DMR from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, that a contract is awarded to DMR to assist the Township of Verona in considering and adopting zoning to permit uses related to recreational cannabis in an amount not-to-exceed \$3,200.00 subject to the following:

1. The Council hereby authorizes the Township Manager, or his designee, to execute any and all documents and take any and all actions necessary to complete and realize the intent and purpose of this resolution.
2. The Township is in receipt of the Stockholder Disclosure form, Contribution Disclosure form, Certificate of Employee Information Report, Business Registration Certificate, and Certificate of Insurance.
3. The Township Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute the attached agreement with DMR.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

New Business:

Salary Ordinance will be carried over to next meeting. Tree Ordinance- In the absence of Mr. DeCarlo the discussion will continue at the next meeting before any action is taken. It is suggested a resolution be adopted to include specific trees to include species that may be prevalent at the moment. Shared services for a forester was discussed. Resident feedback is needed. Hoping to get on the agenda for January. Residents can claim trees are dead and cannot be confirmed by zoning official so ordinance is changed to protect false claim. Zoning official must be included in discussion. Tabled for next meeting. Township Manager will work to make further recommendations.

Health & Wellness Subcommittee Presentation by Deputy Mayor McGrath.

Performance Reviews from Township Manager are meant to be fair, honest and constructive.

Public Comment:

Ralph Puleo [REDACTED]

Jessica Pearson [REDACTED]

Kevin J. Ryan [REDACTED]

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Tamburro and seconded by Councilwoman Holland at 9:18 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting of the Township Council is December 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Gould – confidential secretary



Joseph D'Arco
Township Manager
Appointed Acting Municipal Clerk
For 11/21/22 meeting

Alex Roman
Mayor

APPROVED: December 5, 2022