



**TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL, MORRIS COUNTY, NJ
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 6, 2020 - 4:00PM**

Clerk Phillips read the following statement:

STATEMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICER

"In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting specifically, the time, date and public call in information were included in the meeting that was electronically sent to the Echoes Sentinel and posted on the Township Website. The agenda and public handouts for this meeting can be viewed online at www.longhillnj.gov. A public comment period will be held in the order it is listed on the meeting agenda.

Mayor Rae **opened the public session** of the meeting at 4:07pm.

All present recited the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

ROLL CALL: Committeeman Dorsi, Committeeman Schuler, Committeeman Verlezza, Deputy Mayor Piserchia, and Mayor Rae were present via teleconference. Also present via teleconference were Attorney Pidgeon, Administrator Malool, and Clerk Phillips.

DISCUSSION

- Mayor Rae would like to clarify that the Township Committee has no control over the Board of Education budget. Mayor Rae asked Clerk Phillips to extend an invitation to the Board of Education to make a presentation.
- **Budget** – A discussion ensued. The Township Committee said the budget would be introduced at the May 13, 2020 Meeting.
- **2nd Quarter taxes – grace period** - The Township Committee agreed to extend the 2nd Quarter taxes from May 1st until June 1st without incurring interest by resolution 20-145 as read by Attorney Pidgeon.

20-145 RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE PROPERTY TAX DELINQUENCY GRACE PERIOD TO JUNE 1, 2020

MOVED by: Deputy Mayor Piserchia of the Township Committee of Long Hill Township, that Resolution 20-145 is hereby approved. **SECONDED** by: Committeeman Schuler. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Committeeman Dorsi; yes, Committeeman Schuler; yes, Committeeman Verlezza; yes, Deputy Mayor Piserchia; yes, Mayor Rae; yes.

RESOLUTION

20-144 URGING THE STATE OF NJ TO PROVIDE STABILIZATION FUNDS TO MORRIS COUNTY FROM THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND

MOVED by: Committee Piserchia of the Township Committee of Long Hill Township, that Resolution 20-144 is hereby approved. **SECONDED** by: Deputy Mayor Piserchia. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Committeeman Dorsi; yes, Committeeman Schuler; yes, Committeeman Verlezza; yes, Deputy Mayor Piserchia; yes, Mayor Rae; yes.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Remarks and Statements Pertaining to Any Matter -Comments and remarks will be limited to 3 Minutes

- Tom Grosskopf thanked Mayor Rae and Township Committee for their hard work.

- Bonnie Stalker thanked Mayor Rae for his hard work.
- Mary Grace from Long Hill Township Library spoke about the increase of usage of the Library during COVID 19 and Pierre Rosen concurred. Mary Grace and Pierre spoke about Foundations and programs that are taking place virtually.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Deputy Mayor Piserchia and seconded by Committeeman Verlezza, and carried unanimously to adjourn at 5:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Phillips

Megan Phillips
Approved: May 13, 2020

RESOLUTION 20-144
RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO PROVIDE DIRECT STABILIZATION
FUNDING TO MORRIS COUNTY FROM THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Committee of Long Hill Township in the County of Morris, one of the 39 municipalities within Morris County, New Jersey, supports the following:

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic has severely impacted the population and economy of the entire world; and

WHEREAS, the County of Morris has to date been severely impacted by this virus with 309 residents who have lost their life thus far during this crisis; and

WHEREAS, due to this pandemic the County of Morris has had to undertake immediate plans of action to both identify those individuals infected with the virus and to initiate unanticipated costly yet critical strategic plans relative to the prevention of the continued spread of the virus inclusive of but not limited to:

- Initiated the Morris County Office of Emergency Management and Public Health Response staff efforts beginning in late February.
- Established outside COVID-19 testing sites at Morristown Medical Center, Chilton Hospital, Dover General Hospital, St. Clare's Hospital, and the Zufall Clinic helping to ensure that potentially infected individuals remain outside the perimeter of those critical facilities.
- Contracted with an Epidemiologist.
- Established a COVID-19 testing site at the County College of Morris last month with no support of personal protection equipment, testing kits, or other materials from the State of New Jersey as supplied to other Counties.
- Supported the needs of both the Atlantic HealthCare Hospital System and the Prime HealthCare Hospital System.
- Accepted and medically treated out of County adult inmates, juvenile offenders, and Children in Crisis, in the respective Morris County facilities, resulting in the spread of the virus within the County's Correctional Facility, Juvenile Detention, and Youth Shelter operational staff, further resulting in significant staff illness, significant overtime costs, and significant sanitizing costs.
- Stretched professional resources beyond the realm of reasonability by serving as the Medical Examiner for three Counties.
- Required to accept over 60 COVID-19 positive residents of long-term care facilities from outside of Morris County as directed by the New Jersey Department of Health.
- Established multiple temporary morgues within the various hospitals.
- Responding to the increased demand and associated costs relative to the Morris County 911 Communication Center, processing over 8,132 calls since the initial Executive Order 104.
- Processing, responding to, and incurring the related costs to over 1,937 EMS emergencies of which 901 were determined to be potential COVID-19 responses, requiring full personal protection equipment since the beginning of the pandemic.
- Established and supporting temporary housing facilities for Community Based Human Service residential providers addressing the needs of the Homeless, Division of Developmental Disabilities, and Behavioral Health populations.
- Redirected the Senior Nutrition Program from a congregate and home-delivered operation to solely home-delivered operation, significantly increasing operational costs.
- Continuing to provide life-sustaining transportation services via the County's paratransit program, placing staff at considerable risk as well as incurring significant sanitizing expenses relative to all transportation vehicles.
- Addressed the increased demand for Temporary Assistance services to increased applications for programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), while dealing with reduced staff due to COVID-19 and office closures to sanitize their space.
- Because the Federal Government's emergency stockpile of personal protective equipment was depleted and understanding that the State would not be receiving further shipments, required us

to expend exorbitant funds to purchase said personal protective equipment for local healthcare and first responder disciplines.

- Provided Emergency Funding to the four local Food Pantries that operate five days per week.
- Provided Hazard Pay to first responders and front-line staff.
- Established a secure facility for homeless positive COVID-19 individuals who do not require hospitalization, to recover from the virus.
- Further, within this secure facility for homeless COVID-19 individuals, ensured the provision of medical, nutritional, transportation and social services; and

WHEREAS, \$3.44 billion has been allocated to the State of New Jersey from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, established by the CARES Act, which was signed into law by the President on March 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Fund provides a direct payment to the State of New Jersey, as well as provided over 1 Billion Dollars of direct payments to New Jersey counties with populations greater than 500,000 individuals; and

WHEREAS, Morris County, with a population that is just 1.6% below the threshold of 500,000, is not expected to receive a direct payment from the federal government, and thus will have to rely solely on a share of the state’s allotment; and

WHEREAS, elected officials representing Morris County including Congresswoman Sherrill, Senator Codey, and Senator Bucco have expressed this inequity to the State of New Jersey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill of the County of Morris, strongly urges the State of New Jersey to provide direct stabilization funding to Morris County from the Coronavirus Relief Fund in an amount consistent with the allocation made to counties that have populations slightly over 500,000, by utilizing the formula applied through the CARES Act. This funding is critical to Morris County’s ability to continue its efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and work to keep our constituents safe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government adopt an aid funding threshold reflecting the true impact of COVID-19 for all future allocations, based on metrics indicative of the negative effects the virus has had on jurisdiction and the level of actions taken to combat the threats.

This resolution should be shared with the President of the United States Donald J. Trump, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, and the Leaders of the United States Senate Mitch McConnell and Chuck Schumer, United States Senators Cory A. Booker and Robert Menendez, Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill and Congressman Tom Malinowski. This resolution should also be shared with the Governor of the State of New Jersey and New Jersey legislative representatives to the County of Morris. Additionally, the resolution should be shared with the New Jersey Association of Counties for distribution to all of the counties in the State of New Jersey and all of the mayors of municipalities within Morris County.

This Resolution will take effect immediately.

INTRODUCED	SECONDED	COMMITTEE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
		DORSI	x			
	x	PISERCHIA	x			
		RAE	x			
x		SCHULER	x			
		VERLEZZA	x			

RESOLUTION 20-145

RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE PROPERTY TAX DELINQUENCY GRACE PERIOD TO JUNE 1, 2020

WHEREAS, second quarter property taxes are due on May 1, 2020, with the grace period running through May 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, property taxpayers throughout the Township of Long Hill and the State of New Jersey may be suffering from one or more financial hardships caused by or related to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2020, Governor Philip D. Murphy signed Executive Order 130, pursuant to and under the authority of his Declaration of a Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency, in which he declared that the strict enforcement of certain statutory provisions relating to property tax grace periods is detrimental to the public welfare; and

WHEREAS, under Executive Order 130, Governor Murphy authorized municipal governing bodies to adopt a resolution extending the property tax delinquency grace period from May 11, 2020, through a date no later than June 1, 2020, for the payment of second-quarter property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the governing body wishes to extend the grace period as authorized by Executive Order 130;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill , in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, as follows:

- 1. It does hereby extend the delinquency grace period on the payment of second quarter of 2020 property taxes through and until June 1, 2020.
- 2. The Township Clerk is hereby directed to notify the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of this action taken by the Township Council, as memorialized in this Resolution, not later than the third business day next following the adoption of this Resolution.

INTRODUCED	SECONDED	COMMITTEE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
		DORSI	x			
x		PISERCHIA	x			
		RAE	x			
	x	SCHULER	x			
		VERLEZZA	x			
