

Actual meeting may contain discussion of items not mentioned on the Agenda and alternatively any items specifically listed may be omitted. Action will be taken.

**THIS MEETING WAS HELD ELECTRONICALLY.  
FOLLOWING WAS A LINK TO THE MEETING:**

Topic: Special Township Committee Meeting  
Time: Nov 19, 2021 09:00 A.M. Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/95541667513?pwd=WEtJM3BuYVlYm1LUktaSkFkQjUvUT09>

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Mazza opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Sunshine Law Announcement – Adequate notice of this special meeting of the Union Township Committee has been provided by Notice; published in the Hunterdon Democrat and Courier News; posted on the public bulletin board and on file in the Municipal Clerk Office.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

**3. ROLL CALL**

	Present	Absent
Mr. Severino	x	
Mr. Mazza	x	
Mr. Hirt	x	
Mr. Stiger	x	
Mr. Stothoff	x	

**Others present:** Keri McNally, Esq., Grace Brennan, CFO, Robert Clerico, Twp. Engineer and Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk

**4. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

- a) **RESOLUTION #2021-105:** Approving a Road Improvement Contract for the Baptist Church Road Section 2B

**RESOLUTION #2021-105**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to a duly advertised Notice to Bidders, the Township of Union received four bids for the Baptist Church Road Section 2B on October 19, 2021 as follows, and as shown on the attached bid summary:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Crossroads Paving, Newark, NJ	\$226,325.00
Black Rock Enterprises, Old Bridge, NJ	\$251,175.50
Top Line Construction, Somerville, NJ	\$270,459.41
Capital Paving, Lebanon, NJ	\$318,701.30

**WHEREAS**, the Township Engineer has reviewed the bids submitted and determined that Crossroads Paving of Newark, New Jersey has submitted the lowest responsive bid for contract work in the amount of \$226,325.00, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Township Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds are available for this contract as follows: Funding from NJDOT as follows \$210,000.00 and Township funding as follows \$60,000.00.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Union as follows:

1. The bid for the Baptist Church Road Section 2B be hereby awarded to Crossroads Paving of Newark, New Jersey for its bid in the amount of \$226,325.00 subject to the following conditions:
  - a. The Contract is awarded as a unit price bid Contract and final payment will be based upon the actual quantities installed at the unit prices bid, as outlined in the Plans and Specifications prepared by Robert J. Clerico, P.E., Township Engineer.
  - b. The award of Contract is subject to review and approval by the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Bureau of Local Aid Projects.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Mazza, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ella Ruta, Municipal Clerk

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino			x			
Mr. Mazza			x			
Mr. Hirt	x		x			
Mr. Stiger			x			
Mr. Stothoff		x	x			

Motion carried

b) **MOTION TO APPROVE:** Planting a large evergreen and holiday decorations

Attorney McNally provided a legal expertise on Christmas Holiday celebrations/decorations on governmental properties. She advised that a Holiday Tree is considered a secular symbol of the secular Holiday of Christmas; therefore there will not be any Constitutional religious related issues of displaying a Holiday Tree. Atty. McNally emphasized that decorations should not include any religious symbols.

Mr. DeGiralamo thanked everyone for entertaining the idea of having a Holiday Tree and lighting ceremony this year. He said if anyone has questions about the lighting ceremony, a representative from Garwood Borough is attending this meeting. Mr. DeGiralamo stated that no funds would be requested from the Township to organize this event. Private donors will cover all costs including buying and planting the tree.

Mr. Hirt stated that there is a tree, about six feet tall, in front of the Municipal Building that could be decorated.

Mr. Severino asked logistics on decorating the proposed 20' tree.

Mr. Hirt said that Maglio Electric will provide the truck with ladder at no cost.

Mr. DeGiralamo said he would cover any additional costs.

Jason Narbone offered financial assistance if necessary. In addition, he said members of the Pattenburg Volunteer Fire Company are available to help.

Mr. Stothoff asked Atty. McNally to confirm that she does not have any concerns with religious connotations that may or may not be associated with the Holiday Tree.

Atty. McNally answered that she does not. She stated that a Holiday Tree is considered a secular symbol of the cultural Holiday of Christmas and it is not considered a religious symbol of the Christian Holiday of Christmas.

Richard Lordi reminded the Committee that Jennifer Guerrero from Garwood is present for the meeting to answer any questions.

Susan DePalma thanked everyone for efforts and considerations to have the Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration this year.

Date and time for the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will be coordinated with the Township and provided to the Township Officials.

Mr. Stiger provided information regarding municipalities in the County that celebrate December Holidays. He proposed various options to choose a person/school child to light the Holiday Tree.

After an extensive discussion, the following motion was introduced for approval;

To plant and decorate a 20' tree in front of the Municipal Building and have a Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino	x		x			
Mr. Mazza			x			
Mr. Hirt			x			

Mr. Stiger		x	x			
Mr. Stothoff			x			

Motion carried

c) **Discussion:** Cancelling December 1, 2021 scheduled meeting of the Township Committee

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino			x			
Mr. Mazza			x			
Mr. Hirt		x	x			
Mr. Stiger	x		x			
Mr. Stothoff			x			

Motion carried

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

Richard Lordi thanked the Committee for approving the Holiday Celebration on a short notice.

David DeGiralamo agreed with Mr. Lordi.

Jennifer Guerrero, Chair of the Garwood Borough Holiday Celebration commented that she was very pleased to hear the Committee approved the celebration.

John Malone, 11 Gephardt Farm Road, asked if the Committee reviewed comments regarding help with repairs to the Jutland Dam, submitted after the October 20, 2021 meeting. Mr. Malone said he had not heard from the Committee since the comments were submitted. Because of time constraints, he asked the availability of the Committee to meet and discuss the issue. Mr. Malone pointed out that to be eligible for a loan through the State Program the Township would have to be a co-sponsor of the loan. The Mayor proposed a meeting with Township Engineer and Attorney. Mr. Malone said he would be contacting Mayor Mazza to schedule a meeting.

**6. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 9:51 a.m.**

**Resolution #2021-106**

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, provides than an Executive Session, not open to the public, may be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by resolution;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Union will convene in an Executive Session that will be limited only to consideration of items with respect to which the public may be excluded pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b.

The general nature of the subject or subjects to be discussed in this session is as follows:

1. N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(7): Contract negotiations/matters falling within the attorney-client privilege involving Comcast’s franchise renewal and extension of service.

The items discussed in this session will be disclosed to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. Formal action may be taken following the conclusion of the executive session.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino		x	x			
Mr. Mazza			x			

Mr. Hirt				x		
Mr. Stiger			x			
Mr. Stothoff	x		x			

Motion Carried

The Committee returned to a special meeting session at 10:23 a.m.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino			x			
Mr. Mazza			x			
Mr. Hirt						x
Mr. Stiger		x	x			
Mr. Stothoff	x					

Motion Carried

Mr. Stothoff said that he will not be attending the December 15, 2021 meeting due to business conflict and will be out of town. He thanked everyone and said it has been a privilege to serve the Community with the rest of the Committee members. Mr. Stothoff wished Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays to all and thanked all for time and dedication each Committee member provided over the years. He said it has been a pleasure and proud to be a part of it. Committee members expressed their appreciation for his contribution to the Township.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, Mr. Stothoff made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Severino seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:25 A.M.

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Ella Malecki Ruta, RMC  
Municipal Clerk