

**ORDINANCE 2025 - 1**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$620,000 (\$184,000 FROM THE 2023 NJ DOT MUNICIPAL ROAD AID PROGRAM AND \$183,348 FROM THE 2025 NJ DOT MUNICIPAL ROAD AID PROGRAM AND \$252,652 CURRENTLY LOCATED WITHIN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND OF THE GENERAL CAPITAL FUND OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION, HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY) FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO BAPTIST CHURCH ROAD SECTIONS 4 & 5**

WHEREAS, there is currently within the 2025 Capital Fund of the Township of Union, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, an item entitled Capital Improvement Fund; and

WHEREAS, there is in this fund at least \$252,652 and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Union has deemed it necessary for improvement to Baptist Church Road Section 4 & 5;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED by the Township Committee of the Township of Union, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that:

SECTION 1. The Township of Union is receiving aid from the New Jersey Department of Transportation in the amount of \$184,000 2023 MA Grant and \$183,348 2025 MA Grant) to be used for the funding of the aforementioned project; therefore, is hereby appropriated from the Capital Improvement Fund of the 2025 General Capital Fund the sum \$252,652 as follows:

State Allocation	\$367,348
Local Share:	<u>\$252,652</u>
Total	\$620,000

SECTION 2. Proceeds from any State or Federal grant(s), in addition to the amount referenced above, will be applied towards the cost of the ordinance.

SECTION 3. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances, which are inconsistent with the terms of the Ordinance, be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

SECTION 4. There is no debt incurred by this ordinance.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall take effect after proper passage and publication in accordance with law.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
David DeGiralamo, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ella M. Ruta, RMC, Municipal Clerk

First Reading: January 22, 2025  
Publication/in Full:  
Second Reading:  
Publication/Title Only:

**TOWNSHIP OF UNION  
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION #2025 -**

**Appointing Judge of Union Township Municipal Court**

**WHEREAS**, the term of the present Judge of the Union Township Municipal Court expires on April 1, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the “Shared Services Agreement For A Shared Municipal Court Among the Township of Clinton and the Township of Union,” dated January 1, 2018, provides that the parties Shared Courts shall continue to share all personnel, as authorized by Statute including Judge(s), Prosecutor(s), Public Defender(s), Court Administrator, Deputy Court Administrator(s) and clerical personnel, and that the staffing of these positions shall be from among the personnel currently employed or appointed and serving Clinton Township, and that Union Township’s portion of the compensation of such personnel shall be included in the payment of Union Township to Clinton Township pursuant to Paragraph X of said Interlocal Services Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding that Clinton Township and Union Township appoint the same persons as Judge, Court Administrator, Prosecutor, and Public Defender, the jurisdiction of the Municipal Court of each municipality shall be separate and each municipality retains its right of appointment as provided in N.J.S.A. 2B:12-4 (Judge) 2B:24-3 (Public Defender) and 2B:25-4 (Prosecutor) and in applicable case law;

**WHEREAS**, the above Shared Services Agreement For A Shared Municipal Court expires on December 31, 2022, and the parties have not yet had the opportunity to negotiate and agree to the terms of a renewal of said Shared Services Agreement;

**WHEREAS**, officials responsible for administration of the municipal courts have advised that the reappointment of the judge of the Union Township Municipal Court must be for a full three-year term notwithstanding the fact that the renewal of the said Shared Services Agreement For A Shared Municipal Court has not yet been accomplished.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Judge of the Union Township Municipal Court, Eric M. Perkins, has indicated in a writing dated 3/30/22 that if Union Township decides not to renew the inter-local court agreement with Clinton Township, he will resign from his position as the Municipal Court Judge for Union Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the judicial performance of Judge Perkins has been satisfactory to this Committee, and the Township Committee is satisfied with his assurance that he will voluntarily resign if Union Township and Clinton Township are unable to reach agreement on a renewal of said Shared Services Agreement For A Shared Municipal Court, and good cause appearing;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Union, in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that Eric M. Perkins, the current Judge of the Clinton Township and Union Township Municipal Courts be, and is hereby, reappointed as the Judge of the Union Township Municipal Court effective as of April 1, 2025, for a three-year term ending March 31, 2028 in accordance with N.J.S.A. 2B;12-4; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the salary and benefits, including FICA, PERS contributions, workers compensation insurance and group health insurance of the said re-appointed Judge of the Union Township Municipal Court Eric M. Perkins shall continue to be paid by Clinton Township in accordance with Paragraph X of the above referred to Interlocal Services Agreement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of the within resolution shall be forwarded to the Municipal Clerk and the Administrator of Clinton Township, to the Judge and Court Administrator of the Clinton Township Municipal Court and to the Assignment Judge and the Municipal Division Manager of Vicinage 13 of the Superior Court, who will thereafter, through the Municipal Division Manager, provide a copy to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ella M. Ruta, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
David De Giralamo, Mayor

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk hereby certify that the forgoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Union at a duly held meeting on February 19, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk

**Union Township, Hunterdon County  
State of New Jersey**

**RESOLUTION #2025-**

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PUBLISHING LEGAL NOTICES  
ON OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITES**

**WHEREAS**, the sunset provision of March 1, 2025, imposed under P.L. 2024 c.106 is fast approaching in what was a temporary solution that allowed local governments to comply with the public notice requirements under the law in time for annual reorganization meetings in January; and,

**WHEREAS**, local government officials serve as the stewards of property taxpayers' dollars and should no longer be required to subsidize the newspaper industry with revenues collected from publishing legal notices in the press; and,

**WHEREAS**, long before NJ Advanced Media's announcement that it was terminating daily print publications in January of 2025, local government officials found it increasingly difficult to comply with the public notice requirements under the law as the media has become almost exclusively digitized and struggled to retain staff, resources, and publications; and,

**WHEREAS**, legislation that will authorize local governments to publish legal notices on a local government's official website will streamline an antiquated and overly burdensome process and save valuable time, resources, and property taxpayer dollars; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union Township, in Hunterdon County does in fact, hereby urge state leaders to pass legislation that will authorize municipalities, counties, school districts, and all local governments to publish legal notices in a clear, transparent, and timely manner on a local government's official website.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to Governor Phil Murphy, Senate President Nicholas Scutari, Speaker of the General Assembly Craig Coughlin, Senator Douglas J. Steinhardt, Assemblymembers John DiMaio and Erik c. Peterson, and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

**Resolution #2025-**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE INITIAL HIGHLANDS ASSESSMENT REPORT DATED NOVEMBER 25, 2024 AND PETITION THE HIGHLANDS COUNCIL FOR PLAN CONFORMANCE IN THE PLANNING AREA**

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act ("Highlands Act"), N.J.S.A. 13:20-1 et seq., finds and declares that protection of the New Jersey Highlands is an issue of State level importance because of its vital link to the future of the State's drinking water supplies and other significant natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Act creates a coordinated land use planning system requiring the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council ("Highlands Council") to prepare and adopt a Regional Master Plan for the Highlands Region; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 13:20-15(a), of the Highlands Act states that for any municipality located wholly in the Planning Area or for the portion of a municipality lying within the Planning Area, the municipality may, by ordinance, petition the Highlands Council of its intention to revise its master plan, development regulations and other regulations, as applicable to the development and use of land in the Planning Area, to conform them with the goals, requirements and provisions of the Regional Master Plan ("Plan Conformance"), and

**WHEREAS**, a portion of Union Township (the "Township"), primarily located along the Route 78 corridor, lies within the Highlands Region Planning Area, as defined by Section 7 of the Highlands Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Council prepared and distributed to the Township and other municipalities within the Highlands Region guidelines outlining the process and procedures for petitioning the Highlands Council for Plan Conformance, which includes a comprehensive package of planning and implementation documents that meet the requirements of the Highlands Act, the Regional Master Plan, and the Highlands Plan Conformance Guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, Plan Conformance by municipalities is strictly voluntary for lands in the Planning Area, and the Township may at any time voluntarily revise its master plan, development regulations, and other regulations, as applicable to the development and use of land in the Planning Area, to conform them to the Regional Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, at any time during the Plan Conformance process, the Township may withdraw from the Plan Conformance process and any approvals, rejections, or conditions of revised municipal master planning documents or development regulations recommended by the Highlands Council during the Plan Conformance process, will not be binding on the Township; and the Township may choose not to obtain conformance with the Regional Master Plan for the lands lying within the Planning Area; and

**WHEREAS**, should the Township make the determination that the Township shall petition the Highlands Council of its intention to revise its master plan, development regulations, and other regulations, as applicable to the development and use of land in the Planning Area, to conform them with the goals, requirements and provisions of the Regional Master Plan and Plan Conformance Guidelines, the Township shall enact an ordinance setting forth such intention, as required by the Highlands Act; and

**WHEREAS**, upon application of the Township, the Highlands Council has made, or will make, grant funding and other financial and technical assistance available to the Township for the reasonable costs associated with the revision of the master plan, development regulations or other regulations, as applicable to the development and use of land in the Planning Area, which are designed to bring those plans and regulations into conformance with the Regional Master Plan and the Highlands Council shall provide grant funds for all mandatory aspects of Plan Conformance in accordance with the Plan Conformance Grant Program, and may also provide grant funds for the discretionary aspects of Plan Conformance as determined by the Highlands Council; and

**WHEREAS**, at the request of the Township Committee, Van Cleef Engineering conducted an assessment of potential Highlands conformance in the Planning Area and provided a report entitled, “Initial Highlands Assessment – Part of the Highlands Conformance Process” (the “Report”) dated November 25, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee has reviewed and discussed the Report, including the potential impacts of Plan conformance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee now desires to adopt the Report and formally petition the Highlands Council for Plan Conformance in the Planning Area.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Union, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The “Initial Highlands Assessment – Part of the Highlands Conformance Process” (the dated November 25, 2024 is hereby adopted.
2. The Township hereby submits this Resolution to formally petition the Highlands Council for Plan Conformance in the Planning Area.

This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

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Ella Ruta, Municipal Clerk

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David DeGiralamo, Mayor