

1. CALL TO ORDER

This Special Emergency Meeting was held virtually via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/97668291009?pwd=Mjd0Y2JteTBNeWhKVytoWTl2VFFOZz09>

Meeting ID: 976 6829 1009

Passcode: 935313

Time: Mar 4, 2022 08:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,97668291009#,,,,*935313# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,97668291009#,,,,*935313# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

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Attorney Waterbury Cecil explained regulations/process of the Special Emergency Meeting.

Mayor DeGiralamo called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

- 2. "Sunshine Law" Announcement - 48 hours notice has not been met due to lack of time and subject matter, however notices of this Emergency Meeting were delivered via email to the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News on March 3, 2022 at 7:36 PM. The notice was posted on the municipal bulletin board and the Township website in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975. This notice has also been filed in the Municipal Clerk's office.

3. FLAG SALUTE

4. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Mr. Mazza	x	
Mr. Hirt	x	
Mr. Stiger	x	
Mr. Lordi	x	
Dr. DeGiralamo	x	

Also present Trishka Waterbury Cecil, Esq., Robert Clerico, Engineer, Grace Brennan, CFO and Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk.

Attorney Waterbury Cecil clarified the provision in the Sunshine Law that allows a Public Agency to meet without providing adequate notice of a meeting when special circumstances arise. She said when the meeting is required in order to deal with matters of such urgency and importance that a delay, in order to provide adequate notice, would likely result in substantial harm to the public interest. The meeting must be limited to the discretion

and action with respect to the matter of urgency and importance only. Notice has to be provided as soon as possible after the meeting has been called. The Public Body could not have reasonably foreseen the need for the meeting.

Atty. Waterbury Cecil stated that in this instance the conditions have been met to hold the Emergency meeting. The reason for this meeting is to address the DR&F Liaison appointment under the Township Code. She said that the issue was originally intended to be discussed at the regular TC meeting; however, there were events that took place yesterday which triggered the need to hold this meeting today instead of waiting until a regular meeting. She asked the Committee convene into Closed Session to discuss the matter and for her to provide legal advice. The events and urgency of the matter could not have been foreseen to provide adequate notice of this meeting.

5. Resolution authorizing an Emergency Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Union

RESOLUTION #2022-41

WHEREAS this emergency meeting has been called for the following purpose:

To discuss and potentially act on whether to designate a new Township Committee liaison to the Department of Roads & Facilities; and

WHEREAS, the normal requirements of the law regarding 48 hours notice have not been met due to lack of time and subject matter, however notices of this Emergency Meeting were delivered via email to the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News on March 3, 2022 at 7:36 PM

WHEREAS, the subject matter has become of such urgency and importance that the meeting must be held notwithstanding that adequate notice could not be provided, and that on the advice of counsel, any delay could harm the public interest.

WHEREAS, the need to hold the meeting on short notice could not have been anticipated; and

WHEREAS, the discussion and action will be limited to the matter, for which the meeting was called.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that there should be a vote on this Emergency meeting of 3/4ths of the members of the Governing Body.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Mazza			x			
Mr. Hirt	x		x			
Mr. Stiger			x			
Mr. Lordi		x	x			
Dr. DeGiralamo			x			

Motion carried

Atty. Waterbury Cecil asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add the Closed Session in order to provide details for basis of this emergency and legal advice.

Voice Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Mazza			x			
Mr. Hirt	x		x			
Mr. Stiger			x			
Mr. Lordi		x	x			
Dr. DeGiralamo			x			

Motion carried

At 8:50 a.m. Atty. Waterbury Cecil asked for a motion to go into Closed Session for the reasons set forth above.

Mr. Stothoff, 15 Finn Road, said that he located the meeting notice, but could not find the agenda on the Township website. At this time the agenda was posted on the Township Website.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Mazza			x			
Mr. Hirt			x			
Mr. Stiger	x		x			
Mr. Lordi		x	x			
Dr. DeGiralamo			x			

Motion carried

The Committee returned to Open Session at 9:31 a.m.

Mayor DeGiralamo asked for a motion to replace the current liaison to the DR&F and designate Page Stiger as the new liaison effective immediately.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Mazza				x		
Mr. Hirt	x		x			
Mr. Stiger			x			
Mr. Lordi				x		
Dr. DeGiralamo		x	x			

Motion carried

Mr. Lordi said there should be an opportunity for discussion before designating the replacement.

Mayor DeGiralamo asked the Attorney if the vote just taken could be divided into two separate motions. First to remove the current liaison and second to appoint the replacement. Attorney Waterbury Cecil agreed for the motion to be reconsidered.

Mayor DeGiralamo asked for the motion to remove the current DR&F liaison.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Mazza				x		
Mr. Hirt	x		x			
Mr. Stiger			x			
Mr. Lordi		x	x			
Dr. DeGiralamo			x			

Motion carried

Mayor DeGiralamo proposed that Committee members who are interested in the position be allowed time to present arguments why they should be the designee.

Mr. Lordi said that as he previously indicated he was interested in the position when assignments were initially discussed. He said since the assignments have been decided, he had the opportunity to meet DR&F employees. He felt a good relationship had been developed. In discussions with them, some of the angst the Committee finds

itself in today are the result of prior decisions made by the Committee. Mr. Lordi said that in speaking with crew members individually he feels they relate better to him generationally. A unique relationship had been established with much better mutual understanding. Mr. Lordi strongly feels that they would prefer someone who has not been on the Committee for an extended period of time.

Mr. Stiger stated he was involved with compensation evaluation for the road crew. Salaries in the five neighboring municipalities were compared to ensure the DR&F crew is adequately compensated. As a result, significant adjustments were made to their salaries last year. Mr. Stiger said he was involved in hiring most of the current DR&F employees and developed a good relationship.

Mr. Hirt said that he has been on the Committee for an extended period of time and also has a good relationship with the road crew. He asked if he would be considered for the liaison.

Mayor DeGiralamo asked for a motion to designate Page Stiger as the new DR&F liaison effective immediately.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Mazza		x		x		
Mr. Hirt	x		x			
Mr. Stiger			x			
Mr. Lordi				x		
Dr. DeGiralamo			x			

Motion carried

Mr. Mazza asked for a motion to designate Mr. Lordi liaison to DR&F. He was told that motion designating Mr. Stiger just passed.

Mr. Stiger said he would like to recommend appointing Bruce Hirt as the second liaison to the DR&F following the rule that two members are liaisons to more than on assignment i.e. Finance, Building & Grounds, Economic Development, etc.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Mazza				x		
Mr. Hirt			x			
Mr. Stiger	x		x			
Mr. Lordi				x		
Dr. DeGiralamo		x	x			

Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Matt Severino, Rupell Rd. asked why the change had been made. Atty. Waterbury Cecil answered that certain facts have to remain confidential. She said that specific events happened which unfortunately cannot be discussed publicly at this time; however, events that have transpired called into question the relationship between the current liaison and DR&F. The Committee was confronted with the situation when a problem arose and had to make a decision whether it was in the best interest of the public to designate a different liaison to DR&F. Justification had no bearing on action taken at this meeting.

Matt Severino made a comment that holding the meeting for the reason stated appears as an overreaction. He said the subject of the meeting is inconsistent with the urgency of the notice.

Atty. Waterbury Cecil reiterated earlier comments that this matter was initially planned to be discussed at the next regular meeting of the Committee; however, unforeseen events transpired that unfortunately cannot be disclosed publicly at this time which forced the governing body to accelerate the time frame. She said it was determined by both Labor and Township Attorneys that the matter became urgent and the meeting be held without further delay.

David Stothoff, 15 Finn Road, questioned statutory notification of the meeting. He also asked what could have transpired in terms of roads safety necessitating this meeting to be a road issue versus personnel issue. He questioned what public detriment would take place if this matter was addressed at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Attorney Waterbury Cecil stated that it involves a personnel issue that cannot be disclosed and that notification of the meeting met legal requirements.

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Township Committee at this time Mr. Stiger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Dr. DeGiralamo seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote.

Transcribed by: Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk

David DeGiralamo, Mayor