

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING July 16, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor DeGiralamo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

- 2. **"Sunshine Law" Announcement** - Adequate notice of this public meeting has been published in the Hunterdon Democrat and Courier News, 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. Scott	x	
Mrs. Cherney	x	
Mr. Wunder		x
Mr. Stiger	x	
Dr. DeGiralamo	x	

Also present were Edward Pasternak, Esq., and Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk.

5. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

- a. Regular and Executive Meeting Minutes of June 18, 2025

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Scott			x			
Mrs. Cherney			x			
Mr. Wunder						x
Mr. Stiger	x		x			
Dr. DeGiralamo		x	x			

Motion Carried

- b. Special Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2025

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Scott	x		x			
Mrs. Cherney			x			
Mr. Wunder						x
Mr. Stiger		x	x			
Dr. DeGiralamo			x			

Motion Carried

6. VISITORS – no scheduled visitors

7. REPORTS RECEIVED

Out of Agenda Order

- a. Engineer's Report

- Perryville Road Sections 4A and 4B Project – provided an update on restoration work that needs to be done after heavy rain damaged the swale.
- Springhouse Lane, Pattenburg – project completed.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING July 16, 2025

- Wash Bay, Garage Roof Project – a meeting has been scheduled at the site.
- Baptist Church Road Sections 4 & 5 Project – paperwork had been filed with NJ DOT as well as the Norfolk Southern Conrail.
- MS-4 stormwater permit – will be working on locating all inlets in the Township.
- Finn Road Park Walking Trail – more details will be provided at the next TC meeting.
- Deer Hill Road Project – hoping to have bid specs advertised before the August meeting.

Mrs. Cherney asked Engineer Clerico about potential sinkholes at various locations. Mr. Clerico advised that she contact Road Foreman Fleming.

Township resident Wisnosky asked about cracks in the pavement on Deer Hill Lane. Engineer Clerico provided the course of action that will be taken.

- b. State Police, Trooper DeLorenzis – in absence of the State Trooper, Mrs. Cherney provided a verbal report regarding vehicle stops and accidents. As always emphasized the importance of locking cars. No recent incidents of break-ins have been reported.
- c. Road Dept.- Week Ending; 6/13/25; 6/20/25; 6/27/25; 7/03/25
- d. Animal Control Officer – June 2025
- e. Municipal Court – not submitted
- f. Zoning Officer – not submitted
- g. Pattenburg Volunteer Fire Company – not submitted
- h. Recreation Committee – Chair Meisner provided an extended verbal report about various programs and events sponsored by the Rec. Committee. He made a request that the Committee approve hiring of Samantha LaStrange, a consultant who would be providing a blueprint of a business plan to organize a UT Recreation summer camp next year. The breakdown of her total fee of \$5,000.00 would be the \$2,000.00 upfront for the plan which would be approved at the September TC meeting. Remaining \$3,000.00 would be for consulting fees after blueprint of a business plan has been approved.

Mrs. Cherney asked that the following motion be approved:

To authorize payment of \$2,000.00 for the blueprint of plans to run summer camp in 2026, which will be presented at the September meeting.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Scott			x			
Mrs. Cherney	x		x			
Mr. Wunder						x
Mr. Stiger			x			
Dr. DeGiralamo		x	x			

Motion Carried

Mr. Meisner also asked that Facility Use Applications he received for UT Elementary School PTA and Lenape Tracking Club be approved.

The following motion was introduced for approval:

To approve Facility Use Application condition on receiving the actual application and Certificate of Insurance for the 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6-9 pm by the Union Township PTA and the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of October and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of November by Lenape Tracking Club.

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING July 16, 2025

Mrs. Cherney	x		x			
Mr. Wunder						x
Mr. Stiger			x			
Dr. DeGiralamo		x	x			

Motion Carried

- i. Environmental Commission – Mrs. Cherney provided an update on the book bin installed on the municipal parking lot. “Hooked on fishing not drugs” at Manny’s Pond in Hoffman Park was a successful family-oriented event with many participants.

**8. CORRESPONDENCE/WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS –**

Mr. Scott mentioned an invitation to a Forum on Housing and Economic Development that will be held by DCA (Dept. of Community Affairs). He pointed out topics that will be discussed such as transforming suburban corridors, changes on the community identity in their transformative programs, all of which will be pushed on rural communities like Union Township.

Mr. Scott also mentioned a letter from the County Board of Commissioners about State’s proposed changes to trucking industry, increasing both the size and weight of trailer trucks. Mr. Scott said that our legislators should be made aware of the Committee opposing the proposed changes. The Committee agreed. Mr. Scott will be preparing the letter.

Mr. Scott asked that the following motion be approved:

To authorize the Township Committee to write a letter to our State and Federal Officials opposing the pilot program increasing trucks size and weight travelling on interstate highways.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Scott	x		x			
Mrs. Cherney		x	x			
Mr. Wunder						x
Mr. Stiger			x			
Dr. DeGiralamo			x			

Motion Carried

Mrs. Cherney asked when Property Tax Bills will be mailed. The Clerk answered that the tax rate was received this afternoon and they will be mailed out as soon as possible.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

Brian Plushanski, a resident, stated that recently he had two projects approved by the UT Planning Board that require posting of very high escrows and cash bonds as per the Developer’s agreement. He asked if the Committee would be willing to grant him relief. He also questioned the reason he is not allowed to work on both projects simultaneously to avoid double charges for inspections.

Mayor DeGiralamo suggested that Mr. Plushanski pose those questions to the Planning Board rather than the Committee.

Mr. Ford, Chairman of the Planning Board, who was in attendance said that applications for both projects submitted before the Planning Board were approved. Fees, bonds and escrow are set by the Developer’s agreement approved by the Township Committee. Mr. Scott suggested that Mr. Plushanski ask his Attorney to contact the Township Attorney to review and propose changes to the Developer’s agreement that would be to everyone’s satisfaction.

**10. PUBLIC HEARING –**

**ORDINANCE 2025-4**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF UNION, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY,  
REGARDING DOG LICENSING FEES**

To open Public Hearing

Voice Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Scott			x			
Mrs. Cherney			x			
Mr. Wunder						x
Mr. Stiger	x		x			
Dr. DeGiralamo		x	x			

Motion Carried

To close Public Hearing

Voice Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Scott			x			
Mrs. Cherney			x			
Mr. Wunder						x
Mr. Stiger	x		x			
Dr. DeGiralamo		x	x			

Motion Carried

To adopt

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Scott		x	x			
Mrs. Cherney			x			
Mr. Wunder						x
Mr. Stiger	x		x			
Dr. DeGiralamo			x			

Motion Carried

**11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**12. NEW ORDINANCE – Introduction/1<sup>ST</sup> Reading**

TOWNSHIP OF UNION  
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON

**NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following Ordinance was adopted on first reading by the Township Committee of the Township of Union, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, at a meeting held on the 16 day of July, 2025, at 7:00 pm. The Ordinance was then ordered to be published according to law. Notice is hereby given that said Ordinance will be considered for final passage at a public hearing to be held on August 20, 2025 at 7:00 pm or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached, at the Union Township Municipal Building, 140 Perryville Road, Hampton, N.J. at which time all interested parties will be heard.

Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk

ORDINANCE #2025 - 5

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$110,000 CURRENTLY LOCATED WITHIN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND OF THE GENERAL CAPITAL FUND OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY FOR THE PURCHASE OF A COMPACT EXCAVATOR WITH TRAILER

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 \$110,000; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Union, along with the Foreman of the Department of Roads and Facilities, has deemed there is a need for the purchase of a Compact Excavator with Trailer,

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. There is hereby appropriated from the Capital Improvement Fund of the 2025 General Capital Fund for the purchase of a new compact excavator with trailer, the sum of \$110,000;

SECTION 2. 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 3. There is no debt incurred by this ordinance.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall take effect after proper passage and publication in accordance with law.

BY: David DeGiralamo, Mayor

Table with 7 columns: Roll Call Vote, Moved, Seconded, Ayes, Nays, Abstain, Absent. Rows include Mr. Scott, Mrs. Cherney, Mr. Wunder, Mr. Stiger, and Dr. DeGiralamo.

Motion Carried

13. NEW BUSINESS

a. RESOLUTION #2025-81: 2025 Salary Resolution

RESOLUTION #2025 - 81
UNION TOWNSHIP; HUNTERDON COUNTY
2025 SALARY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a salary ordinance has been adopted by the Township of Union, Township Committee, indicating salary ranges; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee hereby authorizes a 3.25% salary increase for the year 2025, and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee hereby authorizes the CFO to issue the retroactive payroll;

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has determined the amount that each employee is to be paid for the year 2025 is as follows:

Salaries are for a period of one year unless otherwise noted:

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

Mayor	\$ 4,800	
Township Committee	4,500	
Township Clerk	80,185	
Deputy Clerk/Dep. Registrar/Admin. Asst.	17,500	Started 10/17/2024
Registrar	6,067	
Tax Collector	24,692	
Deputy Tax Collector	25 p/h	
Tax Assessor	36,137	Effective 7/1/2025
Certified Municipal Finance Officer	50,574	
Personnel Administrator	13,806	
Payroll Administrator	7,137	
Accounts Payable Clerk	4,760	
Emergency Management Coordinator	8,015	
Deputy Emergency Mgmt. Coordinator	2,788	
911 Coordinator		0

**DEPARTMENT OF ROADS AND FACILITIES**

Foreman	91,510
Public Works Staff No. 1 (MP)	59,519
Public Works Staff No. 2 (DB)	59,519
Public Works Staff No. 3 (WS)	59,519
Public Works Staff No. 4 (JS)	55,002
Part Time Public Works Staff	\$18.00 - \$30.00 p/h

**LAND USE DEPARTMENT**

Zoning Officer	18,000	Started 10/1/2024
Deputy Zoning Officer	1	
Planning Bd./Bd. of Adjustment Secretary	34,500	Effective 7/1/2025

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Recycling Coordinator	9,871
Dog Registrar	7,055
Recycling Attendant Helper/Dumpster Attendant Helper	\$16- \$19 p/h

WHEREAS, per NJ State Health Benefits, any employee eligible for health benefits coverage who waives said coverage, is to be paid the allowable stipend for that waiver in accordance with NJSHBP regulations. This stipend is considered other income and is not pensionable.

MISCELLANEOUS – Travel expenses, training and education expenses, overtime, health and disability insurance, retirement and life insurance, paid holidays, sick pay, leaves of absence, paid vacations, equipment allowances, emergency meal allowances and other benefits shall be as set forth in the current Union Township Personnel Manual, or in accordance with applicable law.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Scott		x	x			
Mrs. Cherney			x			
Mr. Wunder						x
Mr. Stiger	x		x			
Dr. DeGiralamo			x			

Motion Carried

- b. **RESOLUTION #2025-82:** Supporting the 2025 Hunterdon County Local Law Enforcement Grant Application

**Resolution #2025-82**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING AND SUPPORTING THE 2025 HUNTERDON COUNTY LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT APPLICATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Union, County of Hunterdon desires to apply to the 2025 Hunterdon County Local Law Enforcement Grant program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Law Enforcement Grant’s objective is to assist municipalities and local law enforcement entities with carrying out their important work on behalf of Hunterdon County residents; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities without local municipal police departments can submit grant applications for projects up to \$10,000 with no municipal match requirement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee has reviewed the Hunterdon County Local Law Enforcement Grant application and instructions, and desires to make an application for such grant and provide application information and furnish such documents as may be required; and

**WHEREAS**, following the application deadline of August 1, 2025, Hunterdon County will determine whether applications for the Local Law Enforcement Grant program conform to the requirements and determine allocations of said grant funds.

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

1. That Township Administration and all necessary officers/employees are hereby authorized to submit the above completed project application to the County by the deadline of August 1, 2025; and
2. That the Township Committee agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and
3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

I, Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Union, do hereby certify that this resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Township Committee held on July 16, 2025.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING July 16, 2025

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Discussion ensued regarding whether the grant should cover the cost of radar control signs or an electronic message board. It was agreed that both will be mentioned in the application.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Scott			x			
Mrs. Cherney		x	x			
Mr. Wunder						x
Mr. Stiger			x			
Dr. DeGiralamo	x		x			

Motion Carried

- c. **Motion to Approve** – Application for Fireworks Display Permit – Hunterdon Developmental Center on Friday, September 12, 2025, Rain Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Scott			x			
Mrs. Cherney			x			
Mr. Wunder						x
Mr. Stiger	x		x			
Dr. DeGiralamo		x	x			

Motion Carried

- d. **Motion to Approve** – Application to Renew 2025-2026 Junkyard License

Mr. Scott questioned auto repair service at the junkyard as stated in the application. The clerk stated that the zoning officer performed an inspection and approved by signing the application.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Scott	x		x			
Mrs. Cherney		x	x			
Mr. Wunder						x
Mr. Stiger			x			
Dr. DeGiralamo			x			

Motion Carried

- e. **Payment of Bills**

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Scott			x			
Mrs. Cherney			x			
Mr. Wunder						x
Mr. Stiger	x		x			
Dr. DeGiralamo		x	x			

Motion Carried

**14. REPORTS**

- a. **Attorney’s Report** – no report at this time

**b. Mayor's Report**

- Working on a summer edition of the Newsletter. With input from all members of the Committee, the Mayor will have a feature in this edition about township roads. He will provide information such as maintenance and repairs cost, a timeline for repairs, an order in which they are selected, the type of material or methods that are used, etc. He said that lately there have been many questions from residents posed on social media about Township roads.
- Mentioned and commented on an article posted on NJ.com on July 1, 2025 about the Edna Mahon Facility regarding the Township's affordable housing obligation. The Mayor said that he feels the information in the article is inaccurate, misleading and incomplete.
- Hunterdon Games have been scheduled for August 28<sup>th</sup>. Looking forward to competitions.
- "Pizza Side Chats" – would like to have one with Mr. Stiger and on a different day with Eric Meisner.
- Further talks and plans to have a Farmers Market in the Township have been postponed until August.

**c. Committee Reports**

Mr. Scott reported the following:

- Said that it was suggested to him that the Township's Housing Element and Fair Share Plan should be submitted to Highlands Council for conformance review. Will be contacting Planner McManus regarding this matter.
- Has concerns about 2026 budget, particularly about a high-cost increase to State Health Benefits Plan which currently provides medical insurance coverage for township employees. The Committee agreed that other options should be explored.
- Planning another road clean up early fall along Route 173 and Frontage Road at exit 13.

**d. Finance Officer – not present****15. PUBLIC COMMENTS – none**

Mayor DeGiralamo said that he would like to acknowledge Alhaja Razha and Yakamuru families who participate in "Adopt a Highway" program. They adopted a part of Frontage Road off of which they have already picked up 6 bags of refuse. Cheers to both families!!!!

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION****Resolution #2025-83**

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, provides that 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. Contract Negotiations – Improvements to Gravel Hill Road
2. Personnel – paid Firefighters

The matters discussed in this session will be disclosed to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING July 16, 2025

Formal action may be taken following the conclusion of the Executive Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Union assembled in public session on July 16, 2025, at 8:22 p.m. in the Union Township Municipal Building, 140 Perryville Road, Hampton, New Jersey, for the discussion of matters relating to the specific items designated above. Action may be taken.

Atty. Pasternak stated that no action will be taken following the Executive Session.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Scott			x			
Mrs. Cherney		x	x			
Mr. Wunder						x
Mr. Stiger	x		x			
Dr. DeGiralamo			x			

Motion Carried

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:30 pm

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Scott			x			
Mrs. Cherney			x			
Mr. Wunder						x
Mr. Stiger	x		x			
Dr. DeGiralamo		x	x			

Motion Carried

16. 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 9:31 p.m. Dr. DeGiralamo seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Transcribed by: Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
David DeGiralamo, Mayor