

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING August 17, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor DeGiralamo called the meeting to order at 7:04 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. 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 Leigh Gronau, Deputy Clerk.

5. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

a. Regular Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2022

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

b. Special and Executive Session Meeting Minutes of July 6, 2022

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

c. Regular and Executive Session Meeting Minutes of July 29, 2022

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

6. VISITORS

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7. REPORTS RECEIVED

- a. Road Dept.- Week Ending; 7/22/22; 7/29/22; 8/05/22;
- b. Animal Control Officer – July 2022
- c. Zoning Officer – July 2022
- d. Municipal Court – July 2022
- e. Public Safety Director – July 2022
- f. Pattenburg Volunteer Fire Company –
 - Membership status is unchanged. Waiting on rentals for firetrucks. Operating on modified box schedules. Advised SOG per the last meeting comments have been updated and asked committee to review. Commented on pending membership.
 - State Trooper Lombardi commented that the traffic detail for left hand turn is drawn up and waiting for approval. Mr. Lordi discussed the possibility of Pilot Travel Centers communicating the occupancy status of the lot to truckers.
- g. Engineer's Report –
 - Section 2A has been finished. Processing paperwork and will be on the agenda for the next meeting. The municipality is waiting for the maintenance bonds from the contractor for Section 2B. Working on design for Section 3, which needs to be awarded at the November meeting before the deadline of the grant. Design for the project should be finished in August. Submission should be received by the DOT shortly after for review and looking to award contract for the October meeting. Centerline striping needs to be completed at Rupell Rd. Bids were received for the Stonebridge Wolf Farm Rd Project. Bids are being reviewed and will be awarded. The Committee will have a special meeting via Zoom on August 30th to approve the project.

Mr. Hirt commented that a new stop sign is needed at Baptist Church Rd. The engineer advised the stop sign would need to be approved by Ordinance. He can review the location with the DPW foreman.

Mayor DeGiralamo advised he has received concerns regarding the intersection of Lisa Lane and Baptist Church Rd due to the drop off by the utility pole. Mr. Clerico advised the conditions of the intersection are not any higher or steeper due to the paving, however it is more noticeable now. Mr. Clerico advised that putting an inlet was not possible because of the utility pole and underground services, which go into Lisa Lane from there. A curb was installed around part of the intersection to help improve the intersection. The DPW foreman is looking into installing reflectors.

Mayor DeGiralamo commented that the repairs for the reopening of the county bridge on Baptist Church Rd. is likely to be completed by the end of the year. Mr. Clerico advised the paving of Section 3 may delay the repair of the bridge.

8. CORRESPONDENCE / WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Greg Reisner, 656 Main St., due to a zone change his home no longer meets the setback requirements for an addition. He asked for consideration of updating the zoning ordinance 30-9.1 to include homes built after 1985

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which do not comply with setbacks. Attorney Cecil advised she can work with the zoning officer to review the code and consider options.

Gordon Stewart, Perryville Wine and Spirits, advised there will be a new owner of the store. He introduced the new owner and expressed his appreciation for the community.

10. PUBLIC HEARING

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW ORDINANCE – 1ST Reading

13. NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA: All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the consent Agenda and will be considered separate.

- a. **RESOLUTION #2022-90:** Chapter 159 Resolution – Rediscover Hunterdon Communities Grant
RESOLUTION 2022-90

CHAPTER 159 RESOLUTION
REDISCOVER HUNTERDON COMMUNITIES GRANT

WHEREAS, NJS 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director of may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Union in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, hereby request the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2022 in the sun of \$5,000.00, which is now available from The County of Hunterdon, Rediscover Hunterdon Communities Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of \$5,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption Rediscover Hunterdon Communities Grant, Celebration of Public Events - Other Expenses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above is the result of funds from Hunterdon County in the amount of \$5,000.00.

- b. **RESOLUTION #2022-91:** Approving Person-to-Person Liquor License Transfer; Perryville Wine & Spirits
RESOLUTION #2022-91

UNION TOWNSHIP, HUNTERDON COUNTY

PERSON-TO-PERSON TRANSFER

from

**JOSEPH V. MARTIN JR. INC. d/b/a PERRYVILLE WINE & SPIRITS LLC
to
PERRYVILLE WINE & SPIRITS LLC**

WHEREAS, an application has been filed for a person-to-person transfer of Plenary Retail Distribution License #1025-44-008-003, heretofore issued to Joseph V. Martin Jr. Inc. d/b/a Perryville Wine & Spirits LLC. for premises located at 72 Route 173 West, Union Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the submitted application form is complete in all respects, the transfer fees have been paid; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by Title 33 of the New Jersey Statutes, regulations promulgated thereunder, as well as pertinent local ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33; and

WHEREAS, the applicant, Perryville Wine & Spirits LLC, has disclosed and the issuing authority reviewed the source of funds used in the purchase of the license and the licensed business and all additional financing obtained in connection with the licensed business;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee, of the Township of Union, does hereby approve, effective August 17, 2022, the transfer of the aforesaid Plenary Retail Distribution License to Perryville Wine & Spirits LLC and does hereby direct the Municipal Clerk to endorse the license certificate to the new ownership as follows: “This license, subject to all its terms and conditions, is hereby transferred to Perryville Wine & Spirits LLC. with a premise location of 72 Route 173 West, Union Township, Hunterdon County effective August 17, 2022”.

c. **RESOLUTION #2022-92**: Escrow Refund; 128 Perryville Road, Block 25, Lot 1.03

RESOLUTION 2022-92

**ESCROW REFUND
John and Margaret Petko
128 Perryville Road
Hampton, NJ 08827
Block 25 Lot 1.03**

WHEREAS, John and Margaret Petko did post an escrow account for board application # 2021-007, and

WHEREAS, the application is complete and all invoices have been paid on their behalf, and

WHEREAS, there is a remaining balance of \$677.00 in the escrow account

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the balance of this escrow account, in the amount of \$677.00 be refunded to John and Margaret Petko.

- d. **RESOLUTION #2022-93:** Designating Union Township as Stigma Free Community



Mental Illness and Stigma

What is a mental illness?

Mental illnesses refer to disorders generally characterized by dysregulation of mood, thought, and/or behavior. Mental illness encompasses a variety of disorders ranging from depression and anxiety to substance and alcohol use disorder and bipolar disorder. Mental illnesses can affect persons of any age, race, religion or income.

What is stigma?

Stigma is a mark of disgrace which results from the judgment by others. When an individual is labelled by their illness they experience judgment and prejudice. Stigma brings experiences and feelings of shame, embarrassment, distress, hopelessness and reluctance to seek or accept help. As a result, stigma is the primary reason individuals do not seek help when they experience symptoms of mental illness.

UNION TOWNSHIP, HUNTERDON COUNTY

Resolution #2022-93

Resolution Designation Union Township

as a Stigma Free Community

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that untreated mental health issues have contributed to the numerous violent events around the nation, where so many have been randomly killed, wounded, or traumatized and that one of the key factors in preventing violent actions from occurring in the first place is to provide greater access to mental health services that includes breaching the barrier of the stigma associated with mental illness, and

WHEREAS, while a very small percentage of those in need of mental health care will ever turn violent, the stigma associated with the disease of mental illness is identified as

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the primary reason individuals fail to seek the help they need to recover from the disease, and

WHEREAS, Stigma-Free Communities aim to inspire public interest and open dialogues about stigma, raise awareness of the disease of mental illness, and create a culture wherein residents who have the disease of mental illness feel supported by their community and neighbors, and feel free to seek treatment for the disease without fear of feelings of shame or disgrace, being stigmatized, and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of Union Township wishes to lead our community in recognizing the need to eliminate the stigmatization of mental illness by designating Township of Union as a Stigma Free community, promoting awareness that there can be no “health” without mental health, breaking down barriers, and encouraging residents of all ages to be mindful of their mental health and to ask for help when needed, so recovery can begin, hope is inspired, and tragedies are avoided,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Township Committee Union Township hereby designates Union Township as a Stigma-Free Community, raising awareness of the resources available and encouraging those who may have need for mental health services to engage in care, as soon as the need is identified, and for all residents to demonstrate compassion, understanding, and support through the elimination of the stigma towards those suffering with mental illness.

Be It Further Resolved that Union Township joins with Hunterdon County and many of the communities in the county in becoming Stigma Free By ’23.

- e. **RESOLUTION #2022-94:** Opposing NJ Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control’s Special Conditions on Limited

Brewery Licensees

On motion by Committeeman Lordi seconded by Committeeman Hirt, the following resolution was adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Union, Hunterdon County at a meeting held August 17, 2022.

RESOLUTION #2022-94

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL’S SPECIAL CONDITIONS ON LIMITED BREWERY LICENSEES

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control (“NJABC”) issued new special conditions on each limited brewery licensee (aka “craft brewery”) in the state beginning Friday, July 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, under the license conditions, craft breweries are limited to hold only 25 on-site activities open to the general public annually, as well as only 52 private parties annually.

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WHEREAS, under the license condition, craft breweries are limited to only attend 12 off-premises events, such as municipal, charitable and holiday celebrations; and

WHEREAS, under these license conditions, craft breweries are subject to the following restrictions:

- Restrictions on the types of television programing they can air in their tasting rooms;
- Restrictions on what types of live or recorded music they can play or host;
- Limitations on food options they can make available to customers;
- Banning the sale of coffee; and
- Prohibiting the sale of soft drinks and other non-alcoholic beverages not made onsite at the brewery; and

WHEREAS, according the National Brewers Association, the one-hundred and forty-one craft (141) breweries operating in New Jersey in the calendar year 2021 contributed almost \$2 billion to the State’s economy, and created over 11,000 jobs with an average annual income of more than \$55,000 per employee; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Union has been attempting to attract craft breweries to locate in commercial areas in order to attract visitors and customers to the Township; and

WHEREAS, these new conditions will greatly reduce the possibility that the Township will be able to attract craft breweries; and

WHEREAS, local craft breweries participate in local events, such as parades and street fairs, and these new conditions will hinder their ability to participate in and enhance these events; and

WHEREAS, these new conditions will force these local, homegrown small businesses to rethink business models and closely consider which events they should participate in or host, which will reduce their profits and their opportunities to engage in their communities; and

WHEREAS, visiting these craft breweries is about each of their unique experiences, and these proprietors have found exciting ways to engage other local businesses, vendors and artists in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and State Legislature should work with breweries to development smart and fair laws and regulations that will guide state regulators at the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control on how to oversee the state’s craft beer industry; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Union strongly opposes the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control’s Special Conditions on Limited Brewery Licensees, and requests the conditions be removed immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to neighboring municipalities, the leaders of the New Jersey Legislature and Governor Phil Murphy.

- g. **RESOLUTION #2022-95:** Supporting Passage of Senate Bill No. 713 to Commemorate the Events of September 11, 2001

**Resolution #2022-95
Supporting Passage of Senate Bill No. 713
to Commemorate the Events of September 11, 2001**

WHEREAS, The New Jersey State Senate recently passed Senate Bill No. 713, which would require school districts to include information on events of September 11, 2001, as part of New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies and requiring public schools to hold annual events commemorating September 11, 2001;

WHEREAS, Commemorating September 11th annually allows families and friends to honor and remember the legacy of their loved ones whose lives were lost to the deadly terrorist attacks that day; and

WHEREAS, Including curriculum on September 11th as part of the regular public-school instruction will provide students with information on the historical context of the attack, a timeline of the day as events unfolded, the heroic actions of first responders that day and the immediate days that followed, the global response to the events of 9-1-1, and strategies for teaching tolerance, acceptance and embracing of people of different religions and cultures;

WHEREAS, This legislation is needed so ensure that future generations do not only forget about the tragedy of September 11, 2001 but also to know that the United States and many nations rose up against this terrible act of international terrorism and reaffirmed a global commitment to freedom;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Union extends its support of Senate Bill No. 713 as we approach the 21st anniversary of September 11th; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Township of Union calls upon the New Jersey Legislature to pass this legislation and for Governor Murphy to sign this bill into law so that future generations never forget the events of September 11, 2001.

- h. **RESOLUTION #2022-96:** Award of Contract for Stonebridge Wolf Farm Rd.

i. Payment of Bills

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			

End of Consent Agenda

14. REPORTS

- a. **Attorney’s Report**

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The DEP has reclassified the tiers for storm water regulations for all municipalities to Tier A. Ms. Cecil was authorized by the committee to work with other towns and VanCleeef engineering to use the hearing process to sit down with the DEP to try and negotiate a settlement. She advised it would be wise to negotiate a settlement considering how much of Union Township has state owned lands, open space, preserved farmlands’, and is largely located in the Highlands Preservation Area. Mr. Clerico advised one of the requirements will be street sweeping. He also advised that much of the zoning in Union Township limits development, which may benefit the Township in the settlement process.

b. Committee Reports

Mr. Mazza reported the following:

- Mr. Mazza reported that a 30K grant was received for the paving of the walking path at Finn Park. A motion was made to allow Mr.Clerico to move forward with plans and cost estimates.

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

- Mr. Mazza announced that Family Fun Night at Finn Road Park is August 19. There are events which are coordinated with the Hunterdon County Parks and recreational program which are free to the community.
- PTA and Union Township Rec will have Trunk or Treat. He announced the golf program is doing well and will be back in 2023. The Rec committee and the UTEC would like to coordinate for possible tree replacement. Next Rec meeting is September 14th.

Mr. Lordi reported the following:

- Negotiations with the DPW will start September 14th.
- There is additional money in the fire fund for the victims of the Union Hill Fire for disbursement. Mayor DeGiralamo advised there is another fundraiser in Clinton Township, which will add to the fund. Mr. Lordi advised he received feedback from the fund administrator regarding money distribution and processes.
- Mr. Lordi advised he would call back the resident who is concerned about the shooting of firearms.
- Mr. Lordi advised the building for DPW will need a new roof, and the committee will need to take action. Ms. Brennan described the process. She can prepare a capital fund ordinance to be introduced in September.
- Mr. Lordi displayed two new iterations of the seal. The committee approved of the newest versions. There was a discussion regarding slogans on the seal.

c. Finance Officer’s Report

- Ms. Brennan advised that due to various operating expenses for the road department such as salt and vehicle maintenance. The new truck will not come for two years, which increases the costs for vehicle maintenance. She asked the Committee to review the budget balance. Ms. Brennan advised the Committee will need to hire a new OEM coordinator.

d. Mayor’s Report

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- Mayor DeGiralamo reported on the progress of the Hunterdon Games scheduled this Saturday. Planning has gone well with over 40 volunteers and the road crew will not be utilized. There will be 8 teams of 25 participants. The costs are below what was projected. There was a sponsor to cover the costs of the DJ and buses to help with parking and traffic. He reported that Senator Booker will be attending the event.
- Mayor DeGiralamo and Mr. Mazza are working on the contract for municipal court with the CFO.
- He is continuing to explore options to keep the cost of the newsletter down. He advised an audio version of the summer newsletter has been created. The committee agreed to post the audio version on the website.

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Township Committee at this time, Mayor DeGiralamo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33pm. Mr. Lordi seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous favor.

Transcribed by: Leigh Gronau, Deputy Clerk

David DeGiralamo, Mayor