

**MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery was called to order by Mayor Singh at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: The following were present: Mayor, Neena Singh; Deputy Mayor, Vincent Barragan; Committee Member, Devra Keenan; Committee Member, Patricia Taylor Todd, Esq.; Committee Member, Dennis Ahn

ABSENT: None

Also present were: Township Administrator, Lori Savron; Township Attorney, Wendy Rubinstein Quiroga; Township Clerk, Lisa Fania

MEETING NOTICE: Mayor Singh noted that adequate notice of the meeting was provided to the Courier News and Star Ledger, posted on the municipal bulletin board and filed with the Township Clerk as required by law on January 12, 2024.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Mayor Singh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PROCLAMATION – LAUNCHING THE MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP MAYOR’S WELLNESS
CAMPAIGN –** Mayor Singh read the proclamation into the record.

WHEREAS, across New Jersey, the conditions in which we live, work and age in combination with wellness, particularly rising obesity rates and decreasing physical activity, impacts our overall health; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute’s Mayors Wellness Campaign, in partnership with the New Jersey League of Municipalities, recognizes that Mayors and other local leaders can be effective champions of community health and wellness; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Mayors Wellness Campaign is to improve the health and wellness of New Jersey communities; and

WHEREAS, the Mayors Wellness Campaign provides communities with technical assistance, evidence-based resources, and other support to implement community health and wellness improvement initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Montgomery cares deeply about all of its residents and the future health and wellness of its community members; and

WHEREAS, the Mayors Wellness Campaign will work to implement a comprehensive program to create and sustain local activities to improve wellness in Montgomery Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor, Neena Singh, on behalf of the Township Committee, ask that all residents of this community join me in supporting and actively engaging in our local Mayors Wellness Campaign.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that I, Mayor, Neena Singh, on behalf of the Township Committee, encourage the residents of Montgomery Township to participate in the Mayors Wellness Campaign activities as we work towards living healthier lives and improving the health and wellness of our community.

PROCLAMATION – RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF JANUARY AS RADON ACTION MONTH –
Mayor Singh read the proclamation into the record.

WHEREAS, prolonged exposure to radon can kill as many as 500 people in New Jersey each year; and

WHEREAS, families who reside in homes with elevated radon levels are at risk of developing serious health problems; and

WHEREAS, any home could have high levels, even when neighboring homes do not; and

WHEREAS, radon testing can be done with great ease at a relatively low expense to the homeowner, with the cost of reducing radon concentrations being comparable to a home repair; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Environmental Protection Agency are collaborating during the month of January to promote the need for radon testing in an effort to protect the lives of our state's residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Neena Singh, Mayor of the Township of Montgomery, on behalf of the Township Committee, hereby proclaim the month of January 2024 as Radon Action Month in the Township and call upon all residents who have not yet tested to test their homes for radon and to reduce levels if elevated levels are found, to protect their families from the serious health risk of radon.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

Clem Fiori, a resident of Blawenburg and the Chair of Montgomery Open Space Committee, spoke in support of the resolution supporting the designation of the Sourland Mountain Region as a Special Resource Area to be considered later in the meeting agenda both personally and on behalf of the Open Space Committee.

Reed Chapman, a resident of Zion-Wertsville Road, also voiced support for the designation of the Sourland Mountain Region as a Special Resource Area and asked Committee Members to consider preservation of the Rock Brook corridor.

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

Mayor Singh read by title Ordinance #24-1715.

ORDINANCE #24-1715

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY IN SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY CONCERNING LICENSES FOR TOWING AND STORING OF MOTOR VEHICLES, IN REPLACING CHAPTER 4A OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY (1984)

Mayor Singh asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance #24-1715 on first consideration.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Barragan, seconded by Keenan

ROLL CALL

AYES: Ahn, Taylor Todd, Keenan, Deputy Mayor Barragan, Mayor Singh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Second reading and public hearing date February 1, 2024.

ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL ADOPTION

There were no ordinances for final adoption.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolutions #24-1-47 through #24-1-53.

Mayor Singh asked for a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda, Resolutions #24-1-47 through #24-1-53.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Barragan, seconded by Keenan

ROLL CALL

AYES: Ahn, Taylor Todd, Keenan, Deputy Mayor Barragan, Mayor Singh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #24-1-47

AUTHORIZING REFUND OF OVERPAID 2023 TAXES (BLOCK 12001, LOT 19)

BE IT RESOLVED that a refund in the amount of \$3,185.91 be given to Close Point USA, LLC, 275 E Main Street, Somerville, NJ 08876-3008 for the overpayment of 2023 taxes on Block 12001, Lot 19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that taxes are cancelled as of February 10, 2023, as the property is owned by a one-hundred percent totally and permanently disabled veteran.

RESOLUTION #24-1-48

AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE #23-00017

WHEREAS the Township received payment for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #23-00017 in the amount of \$3,058.08.

BE IT RESOLVED that a refund in the amount of \$3,058.08 be given to Pro Cap 8, LLC, Pro Cap 8 FBO Firsttrust Bank, P.O. Box 774, Fort Washington, PA 19034-0774 for the Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #23-00017 on Block 7026, Lot 5.

Tax Lien Redemption

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Certificate Amount | \$1,692.08 |
| Subsequent Charges | \$1,295.54 |
| Redemption Penalty | \$ 33.84 |
| Interest | \$ 24.62 |
| Search Fees | \$ 12.00 |
| TOTAL | \$3,058.08 |

RESOLUTION #24-1-49**AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR
ROAD OPENING PERMIT 23-R-20 – PRINCETON GARDENS
(BLOCK 37001, LOT 3)**

WHEREAS, Mark Herrmann, Township Engineer, has recommended the release of a cash performance guarantee to Robert George because all work has been satisfactorily completed with respect to a street opening permit at Block 37001, Lot 3 (Princeton Gardens, Buildings 1-4).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey that the cash performance guarantee in the amount of \$780.00 be released to Robert George.

RESOLUTION #24-1-50**AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR
ROAD OPENING PERMIT 23-R-22 – PRINCETON GARDENS
(BLOCK 37002, LOT 3.02)**

WHEREAS, Mark Herrmann, Township Engineer, has recommended the release of a cash performance guarantee to Robert George because all work has been satisfactorily completed with respect to a street opening permit at Block 37002, Lot 3.02 (Princeton Gardens, Buildings 11-13).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey that the cash performance guarantee in the amount of \$1,110.00 be released to Robert George.

RESOLUTION #24-1-51**AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR
ROAD OPENING PERMIT 23-R-32 – 9 BETHPAGE DRIVE
(BLOCK 31008, LOT 25)**

WHEREAS, Mark Herrmann, Township Engineer, has recommended the release of a cash performance guarantee to Douglas Conover because all work has been satisfactorily completed with respect to a street opening permit at Block 31008, Lot 25 (9 Bethpage Drive).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey that the cash performance guarantee in the amount of \$1,235.00 be released to Douglas Conover, 9 Bethpage Drive, Skillman, NJ 08558.

RESOLUTION #24-1-52**AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR
ROAD OPENING PERMIT 23-R-34 – 11 BETHPAGE DRIVE
(BLOCK 31008, LOT 24)**

WHEREAS, Mark Herrmann, Township Engineer, has recommended the release of a cash performance guarantee to Carol Desmond because all work has been satisfactorily completed with respect to a street opening permit at Block 31008, Lot 24 (11 Bethpage Drive).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey that the cash performance guarantee in the amount of \$870.00 be released to Carol Desmond, 11 Bethpage Drive, Skillman, NJ 08558.

RESOLUTION #24-1-53**AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF 2024 TOWING LICENSE – STEWART’S TOWING, INC.**

WHEREAS, the Township has received a completed towing application for a heavy-duty and light-duty towing license from Stewarts Towing to provide towing services in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department has reviewed said application and conducted an appropriate investigation pursuant to section 4A-2.2 of the Code of the Township of Montgomery (1984); and

WHEREAS, the Police Director has reviewed the results of said investigation, approved said application, and recommended the issuance of a heavy-duty and light-duty towing license to Stewart’s Towing Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Township Clerk is hereby authorized to issue a heavy-duty license and a light-duty towing license to Stewart’s Towing for 2024.
2. All towing licenses are subject to the provisions set forth in Chapter IV-A of the Code of the Township of Montgomery (1984), and shall expire on December 31, 2024.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution #24-1-54. Read by title.

Mayor Singh asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #24-1-54.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Barragan, seconded by Keenan

ROLL CALL

AYES: Ahn, Taylor Todd, Keenan, Deputy Mayor Barragan, Mayor Singh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #24-1-54**AUTHORIZING SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY AND THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET FOR 2024 RECYCLING**

WHEREAS, pursuant to its duly approved Solid Waste Management Plan and amendments thereto, the County of Somerset has established a mandatory countywide recycling program; and

WHEREAS, the duly approved Solid Waste Management Plan and amendments thereto call for the execution of agreements by and between Somerset County and municipalities located within the County; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Montgomery desires to participate in the recycling program; and

WHEREAS, the award of this contract to the County pursuant to N.J.S.A. Section 13:1E-99.14 is an exception to the bidding requirements as set forth in the Local Public Contracts Law pursuant to N.J.S.A. Section 40A:11-5(2), and the Board of Public Utilities Somerset Waste Franchise for Somerset County; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified to the extent to which funds for this contract are available pursuant to the temporary budget. Account #: 01-201-26-290, which will fund this project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Somerset County for the provision of recycling services for a one-year term beginning January 1, 2024 through and including December 31, 2024.

Resolution #24-1-55. Read by title.

Mayor Singh asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #24-1-55.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Barragan, seconded by Keenan

ROLL CALL

AYES: Ahn, Taylor Todd, Keenan, Deputy Mayor Barragan, Mayor Singh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #24-1-55

**AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH GENERAL CODE
FOR CODIFICATION SERVICES FOR THE ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
MONTGOMERY ("THE CODE")**

WHEREAS, there exists a need to acquire the following professional services for 2024 without a "fair and open process" as defined by P.L. 2004, c.19, the "Local Unit Pay-to-Play Law":

Codification Services for the Ordinances of the Township of Montgomery

WHEREAS, the Township Purchasing Agent has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services over the course of the contracts is anticipated to exceed \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., authorizes the award of professional services contracts without competitive bidding; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds are available for the aforesaid services in accordance with the amounts set forth in the 2024 Budget, with performance of said services after March 31, 2024 being subject to the Township's amendment of the 2024 Budget, and/or adoption of the final 2024 Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey as follows:

- (1) The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute proper agreements for a not to exceed amount with the following:

General Code for the Codification Services for the Ordinances of the Township of Montgomery - \$28,500.00 (Account #01-201-20).

- (2) The contract is awarded for a period of one year, for the amount set forth in each contract, and without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a) as contracts for services to be performed by persons authorized by law to practice recognized professions that are regulated by law and because the services to be performed are not susceptible of quantifying in bid specifications.
- (3) The contractor has completed and filed with Montgomery Township a Campaign Contributions Affidavit as required by N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.2 et seq. certifying they have not made any prohibited contributions to a candidate committee or municipal committee representing the elected officials of the Township.
- (4) A copy of this Resolution, the Certifications of Contract Value, the Campaign Contributions Affidavit, and the executed Agreements shall be placed on file in the office of the Township Clerk.
- (5) A notice of this action shall be published once in the official newspaper as required by law.
- (6) Performance of services under the terms of these contracts, and payment for the services, after March 31, 2024 is subject to the amendment of the 2024 Budget and/or adoption of the final 2024 Budget, and certification of availability of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.

Resolution #24-1-56. Read by title.

Mayor Singh asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #24-1-56.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Barragan, seconded by Keenan

ROLL CALL

AYES: Ahn, Taylor Todd, Keenan, Deputy Mayor Barragan, Mayor Singh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #24-1-56

2024-2025 MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore, has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Somerset.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Committee does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Montgomery Township and Rocky Hill Borough Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2024-2025 in the amount of:

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Alliance GCADA Fund Allocation | \$ 6,863.66 |
| Cash Match (must be 25% of GCADA Fund Allocation) | \$ 1,715.92 |
| In-Kind Match (must be 75% of the GCADA Fund Allocation) | \$ 5,147.74 |

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| TOTAL ALLIANCE BUDGET | \$13,727.32 |
|------------------------------|--------------------|

2. The Township Committee acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.
3. Montgomery Township accepts subsequent award of this grant.

Resolution #24-1-57. Read by title.

Mayor Singh asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #24-1-57.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Barragan, seconded by Keenan

ROLL CALL

AYES: Ahn, Taylor Todd, Keenan, Deputy Mayor Barragan, Mayor Singh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #24-1-57

**AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CROWDSTRIKE FALCON COMPLETE
ENDPOINT PROTECTION PROPRIETARY COMPUTER SOFTWARE**

WHEREAS, Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4 requires that every contract awarded by the contracting agent for the provision or performance of any goods or services, the cost of which in the aggregate exceeds the bid threshold, shall be awarded only by resolution of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(dd) the Township of Montgomery is authorized by law to undertake the purchase of goods or services for the support or maintenance of proprietary computer hardware and software; and

WHEREAS, IT Director, Jack Ferrara, has secured a quote in the total amount of \$49,406.24 which would cover the proprietary software, application, support, and license fees as per the GovConnection, Inc. quote dated December 19, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that there are available funds for this purchase in Account Numbers 01-201-20-140-262 and 07-201-55-544-262.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The purchase of proprietary software, application, support, and license fees. for a total cost of \$49,406.24 payable from Accounts 01-201-20-140-262 and 07-201-55-544-262 is hereby authorized.
2. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute documents necessary to effectuate such purchase, and said officers, together with all other officers, professionals and employees of the Township are hereby authorized and directed to take any and all steps necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.
3. This award is subject to the Contractor's compliance with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c.127 (N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq.) and the regulations thereunder regarding affirmative action.
4. The foregoing award is further subject to the certification of availability of funds by the appropriate officers of the Township.
5. This Resolution shall take effect as herein provided.

Resolution #24-1-58. Read by title.

Mayor Singh asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #24-1-58.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Barragan, seconded by Keenan

ROLL CALL

AYES: Ahn, Taylor Todd, Keenan, Deputy Mayor Barragan, Mayor Singh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #24-1-58

**AUTHORIZING 2024 APPOINTMENTS IN THE
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, the Township of Montgomery is required to have an Emergency Operations Plan to provide for actions to be taken to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from the effects of an emergency; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of Montgomery Township's Office of Emergency Management Coordinator, Sean Devlin, to appoint the following individuals for the year 2024 as follows:

Adam Verducci, Deputy OEM Coordinator
Thomas Connell, Deputy OEM Coordinator
Kiele Cruse, Deputy OEM Coordinator
John Ferrara, OEM Specialist

Resolution #24-1-59. Read by title.

Mayor Singh asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #24-1-59.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Barragan, seconded by Keenan

ROLL CALL

AYES: Ahn, Taylor Todd, Keenan, Deputy Mayor Barragan, Mayor Singh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #24-1-59**AUTHORIZING LEASE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY BY SUBMISSION OF
SEALED BIDS FOR WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of the Local Lands and Buildings Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:12-14) ("LLBL") a municipal corporation may lease to any private person real property owned by said municipal corporation which is not needed for a public use; and

WHEREAS, the LLBL requires that a lease by a municipal corporation to a private person, except for a lease to a private person for a public purpose, be made to the highest bidder by open public bidding at auction or by submission of sealed bids; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Montgomery ("Township") currently leases a 45-acre parcel of property identified on the Township Tax Map as Block 20001, Lot 10.05 (the "Property") pursuant to a Lease Purchase Agreement with the Somerset County Improvement Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Lease Purchase Agreement allows the Township to rent or lease the Property; and

WHEREAS, there are substantial gaps in wireless communications service and emergency services communications coverage in Skillman; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide for wireless communications service and emergency services communications coverage in Skillman; and

WHEREAS, the Township has determined to lease an approximately 3,000 square foot area of Block 20001, Lot 10.05, north of Orchard Road and west of Community Drive (the "Premises"), which Premises is not needed for public use and which is suitable for the construction of a wireless communications tower which will address the need for wireless communications service and emergency services communications coverage in Skillman.

WHEREAS, the improvements and the related support facilities shall be constructed at the sole cost and expense of the successful bidder and the Township shall have the right to locate its antennas to said tower once constructed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-14, the Township, through its Administrator or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to solicit sealed bids for the lease of the approximately 3,000 square foot area of Block 20001, Lot 10.05, north of Orchard Road and west of Community Drive (the "Premises") for purposes of designing, constructing and operating a wireless communications tower and ancillary support equipment, structures and foundations on the Premises; at such time and place as deemed appropriate and necessary to effectuate the terms hereof.
2. The Administrator and Qualified Purchasing Agent shall cause said bidding to be advertised in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:12-14(a) by causing the advertisement to be published in a newspaper circulating in the Township by two insertions at least once a week during two consecutive weeks, the last publication to be not earlier than seven (7) days prior to the date of the bid opening. Said advertisement shall specify that the minimum rental bid shall be \$40,000 and that the Township reserves the right to reject all bids where the highest bid is not accepted.

Resolution #24-1-60. Read by title.

Mayor Singh asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #24-1-60.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Barragan, seconded by Keenan

ROLL CALL

AYES: Ahn, Taylor Todd, Keenan, Deputy Mayor Barragan, Mayor Singh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #24-1-60

**SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE SOURLAND MOUNTAIN REGION
AS A SPECIAL RESOURCE AREA**

WHEREAS, the Township of Montgomery previously supported the designation of the Sourland Mountain Region ("Region") as a Special Resource Area ("SRA") in the State Development and Redevelopment Plan by Resolution #04-8-286, adopted August 19, 2004 which recognized that the Sourland Mountain Region comprises the headwaters of many streams in the Region and surrounding towns; that its forested areas maintain the stream water and groundwater quality, including drinking water; that it provides habitat for many threatened and endangered species as well as offers many unique scenic, historic, agricultural and recreational resources for residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Montgomery remains desirous in supporting the designation of the Sourland Mountain Region as a Special Resource Areas; and

WHEREAS, the Sourland Mountain Region, defined by its unique geology, encompasses 90 square miles, including parts of eight municipalities in Mercer, Somerset and Hunterdon Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Sourlands, home of the largest contiguous forest in Central New Jersey, are an island of biodiversity in a sea of encroaching sprawl; and

WHEREAS, the Sourlands are home to dozens of rare and endangered species of plants and animals, and an irreplaceable stopover for migrating birds; and

WHEREAS, the Sourland forest is the most intensive carbon sink anywhere in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, more than 90 miles of streams in the region are "first order" streams, the critical headwaters to the Raritan and Millstone Rivers, an important source of drinking water for New Jersey residents; and

WHEREAS, the Sourlands are enjoyed and relied on by countless urban and suburban New Jerseyans as a recreational resource; and

WHEREAS the Sourland forest is losing more than a million trees (about a quarter of the forest) to the Emerald Ash Borer, and more to emerging threats; and

WHEREAS, natural forest regeneration is impossible in the Sourlands because of the vast overpopulation of white-tailed deer; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey is currently updating the State Plan; and

WHEREAS, designation of the Sourlands as a Special Resource Area in the State Plan would have numerous benefits, including:

- State recognition of the importance of the Sourlands will help with both the public and private preservation of land.
- The SRA designation will help attract both public and private funding for reforestation efforts.
- The SRA designation will lay the groundwork for any needed legislation to protect the Sourlands.
- The SRA designation will help with efforts to bring the deer population under control.
- The SRA designation will call attention to the need to protect the quantity and quality of surface waters and groundwater of the region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey supports the designation of the Sourland Mountain Region as a Special Resource Area and urges the State Planning Commission to include this designation in its current update of the State Plan.

Resolution #24-1-61. Read by title.

Mayor Singh asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #24-1-61.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Barragan, seconded by Keenan

ROLL CALL

AYES: Ahn, Taylor Todd, Keenan, Deputy Mayor Barragan, Mayor Singh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #24-1-61

AUTHORIZING MARK HERRMANN AND OLU OCHEI TO BE THE AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE PIKE BROOK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE AND EXPANSION PROJECT WITH RESPECT TO THE NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE LOAN

WHEREAS, Montgomery Township intends to file an application with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust for the Pike Brook Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Expansion Project; and

WHEREAS, an Authorized Representative and backup Authorized Representative need to be established to handle matters pertaining to the loan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mark Herrmann and Olu Ochei are authorized to act as the Authorized Representatives in all matters relating to the project undertaken pursuant to the above referenced New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Loan executed with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust. The Authorized Representatives may be contacted at the following address: 100 Community Drive, Skillman, NJ 08558 and phone number: (908) 359-8211.

Resolution #24-1-62. Read by title.

Mayor Singh asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #24-1-62.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Barragan, seconded by Keenan

ROLL CALL

AYES: Ahn, Taylor Todd, Keenan, Deputy Mayor Barragan, Mayor Singh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #24-1-62**AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE TREATMENT WORKS APPROVAL PERMIT APPLICATION
(TWA) FOR THE PIKE BROOK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE AND
EXPANSION PROJECT**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey, that Lori Savron, Township Administrator, is hereby authorized to execute a Treatment Works Approval (TWA) application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection related to the Pike Brook Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Expansion Project, subject to review and approval by the Township Engineer and Director of Wastewater Operations as to form and content.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes for approval.

Resolution #24-1-63. Read by title.

Mayor Singh asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #24-1-63.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Barragan, seconded by Keenan

ROLL CALL

AYES: Ahn, Taylor Todd, Keenan, Deputy Mayor Barragan, Mayor Singh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #24-1-63**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery has received bills to be paid as listed; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer and the Township Administrator have reviewed these bills and have certified that these bills represent goods and/or services received by the Township, that these are authorized and budgeted expenditures and that sufficient funds are available to pay these bills.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset as follows:

1. That these bills are hereby authorized for payment; and
2. That checks in the proper amounts are prepared and that necessary bookkeeping entries are made; and
3. That the proper Township Officials are authorized to sign the checks.

CORRESPONDENCE

Resident email regarding lighting at Mill Pond Park and taxes – Township Clerk, Lisa Fania, explained that a resident had inquired about the possibility of installing lighting at Mill Pond Park and that the inquiry is for consideration and discussion by Committee Members at a future meeting.

At this time, Mayor Singh invited the resident in attendance to the podium for comment.

Chase, a resident from Belle Mead, appeared before the Committee requesting that the Township consider the installation of lighting at Mill Pond Park. Chase explained that resident youths utilize the park for soccer practice and have to travel to other areas due to daylight restraints. Committee Member Ahn commented that the Township will contact surrounding property owners and look into the request.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no matters of new business for discussion.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Member Ahn reported on behalf of the Economic Development Commission advising that the Farmers' Market is being relocated to the Municipal Complex and that the Winter Market will be held in the library meeting room February 24, March 30, and April 27. Committee Member Ahn announced the next meeting date, February 5.

Committee Member Ahn reported on a meeting of the Board of Health advising that discussion was held regarding Radon Action Month and the importance of radon testing, as well as the launching of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign with a collaboration of efforts from various departments and organizations to keep Montgomery active and healthy. Committee Member Ahn announced the next meeting date, February 14.

On behalf of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, Committee Member Ahn voiced praise and extended congratulations to property owners of Hidden Spring Lavender & Alpaca Farm which was featured on the cover of NJ Monthly Magazine. Committee Member Ahn also acknowledged and extended gratitude to Montgomery Township resident Brad Fay for getting central NJ on the map.

Committee Member Taylor Todd advised that she will once again be serving on the Inclusion & Equity Committee and the Landmarks Commission for 2024, as well as the Municipal Alliance/Youth Services Commission. Committee Member Taylor Todd reported that the Landmarks Commission held an event in December celebrating two distinguished members of the Commission for their dedication and invaluable service to the community, Liz Palius and Jessie Havens. Committee Member Taylor Todd also announced that Liz Palius will be retiring.

Committee Member Taylor Todd reported on the reorganization meeting of the Inclusion & Equity Committee announcing that Catherine Lugg will be the Chair and Nancy Harrington, Vice Chair. Committee Member Taylor Todd extended gratitude to both members for their invaluable commitment to service as well.

Committee Member Keenan advised that lobbying efforts for an additional Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) channel for Central NJ Network from Comcast are underway. Committee Member Keenan also advised that the Environmental Commission meeting was cancelled due to weather.

Deputy Mayor Barragan reported that the meeting of the Veterans Memorial Committee was cancelled due to weather and rescheduled for January 30. Deputy Mayor Barragan announced that there will be a presentation on the Vietnam War, sponsored by the Harlingen Historical Society, Saturday, January 20, 2:00 p.m. in the library.

Deputy Mayor Barragan also reported on a meeting of the Open Space Committee advising that discussion was held regarding preservation and maintenance of open space properties. Deputy Mayor Barragan continued that significant discussions have been taking place with both the Open Space and Shade Tree Committees regarding the tree ordinance. Deputy Mayor Barragan commented that the Shade Tree Committee is seeking volunteers to assist at Village Elementary with upcoming Arbor Day.

Deputy Mayor Barragan reported that discussions regarding the 2024 Municipal Budget have begun with the Budget and Finance Committee. Deputy Mayor Barragan explained that meetings will begin shortly with department heads; and that there will be opportunity for public comment and periodic updates of the process will be provided as adoption will take place in May.

Mayor Singh also advised on efforts of the Budget and Finance Committee; reported on the launching of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign and initiatives including the upcoming Rabies Clinic, Farmers' Market and "Beat the Winter Blues" event with much more to come. Mayor Singh also provided a brief explanation of the roles and responsibilities of the Planning Board.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Savron reported on the outstanding efforts of Township Departments including Office of Emergency Management, Police, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Sewer, Health and the Fire Companies and EMS during the most recent severe weather events. Administrator Savron provided a brief explanation of the "behind the scenes" planning and coordination among the departments and external agencies such as the County.

Mayor Singh spoke briefly about a recent meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Council which is now headed by the County and offered words of praise for its effort in emergency planning. Committee Member Keenan also acknowledged and commended the Township's improved emergency planning.

Regarding Municipal Center updates, Administrator Savron explained that Committee Member Taylor Todd advised of a safety issue regarding the height of the threshold at the front door and that the repair is in process; and that lighting and landscaping have been installed at the Route 206 sign.

During the Administrator's Report, an inquiry was made regarding the status of the Promenade development project. Attorney Rubinstein Quiroga advised that the plat has been filed with the County and that the next step involves compliance review with internal departments which is underway. Attorney Rubinstein Quiroga also explained that a plat is a large map that is filed with the County for developments similar to that of a survey for residential properties.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Inclusive Playground – Administrator Savron explained that the Township is pursuing an NJDEP grant opportunity in the amount of \$500,000-plus for funding of an all-inclusive playground, and that there will be a public hearing at the next Township Committee meeting offering the public the opportunity to learn more about the project and ask questions. Administrator Savron continued that there will also be a resolution on the next meeting agenda authorizing the submission of the grant application to the State. Administrator Savron also gave a brief description of Jake's Law, a law that incentivizes counties and now municipalities to build playgrounds for children and adults of all backgrounds, ages and physical abilities to play together without limitations.

Resolution #24-1-64. Read by title.

Mayor Singh asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #24-1-64.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Barragan, seconded by Keenan

ROLL CALL

AYES: Ahn, Taylor Todd, Keenan, Deputy Mayor Barragan, Mayor Singh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #24-1-64

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey as follows:

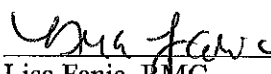
1. The Township Committee will now convene in a closed session that will be limited only to consideration of items with respect to which the public may be excluded pursuant to Section 7B of the Open Public Meetings Act.
2. The general nature of the subjects to be discussed in this session are as follows:
 - Personnel Police Interview
 - Potential Acquisition for Open Space, Conservation, Recreation and/or Municipal Purposes:
 1. Block 8001, Lots 7.01 & 8 ("Staats")
 2. Block 12001, Lot 15 ("Irish")
 3. Block 15002, Lot 1 ("Tucker")
 - Anticipated/Pending Litigation:
 1. Country Club Meadows v. Township of Montgomery
3. It is unknown precisely when the matter discussed in this session will be disclosed to the public. Acquisition of property and settlement of litigation shall only be approved by the Township Committee in a public session.
4. The Township Committee will return to Regular Session and may take further action.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

The Township Committee reconvened the regular session at 8:56 p.m. on motion by Deputy Mayor Barragan, seconded by Keenan and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The Township Committee adjourned at 8:56 pm. on motion by Deputy Mayor Barragan, seconded by Keenan and carried unanimously.


 Lisa Fania, RMC
 Township Clerk

Date approved: February 1, 2024