

**MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023  
7:00 P.M.**

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

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

**ABSENT:** Committee Member, Vincent Barragan

Also present were: Township Administrator, Lori Savron; Township Attorney, Gabrielle Canaie (for Attorney Wendy Rubinstein Quiroga); Township Clerk, Lisa Fania

**MEETING NOTICE:** Mayor Keenan 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 5, 2023.

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

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**PRESENTATION – JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING MAYOR KEENAN** – Assemblywoman Sadaf Jaffer presented a Joint Legislative Resolution by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey acknowledging Mayor Keenan's accomplishments and commending her distinguished service to the citizens of Montgomery Township during her tenure as Mayor. Assemblywoman Jaffer read the proclamation into the record.

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**PROCLAMATION – RECOGNIZING MONTGOMERY EMS CADETS FOR DEDICATED SERVICE** – Mayor Keenan read the proclamation into the record.

**WHEREAS**, a community possesses no greater treasure than the dedicated service of its volunteers; and

**WHEREAS**, when Montgomery EMS was officially formed on June 1, 1972, it consisted of approximately 50 volunteer members who provided emergency medical services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year; and

**WHEREAS**, the following Montgomery EMS Cadets have graduated to full members and are to be recognized for their contributions while cadets to this great organization:

Carina Davis  
Nathaniel Jebaraj  
Megan Kane  
Anna Landis  
Angela Qian  
Sidharth Rao  
Ashvik Vankayala

**WHEREAS**, these Cadets joined the Montgomery EMS as early as age 16; have completed the full, rigorous 210-hour EMT certification class and passed the State EMT test; volunteered with Montgomery EMS at least 20 hours a month; have assisted in squad fundraising activities and stood by to provide medical support for a multitude of community events; and have served the health and safety of residents through thousands of volunteer hours on 9-1-1 duty shifts.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey, hereby congratulates the 2023 Montgomery EMS Cadets on their graduation and accomplishments and expresses sincere gratitude and appreciation for their continued commitment to the citizens of Montgomery Township on this twenty-first day of December two-thousand twenty-three.

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

**Mary Kay Smith**, a resident of the Township, spoke about an issue regarding a fox with mange on her property, expressed dissatisfaction of the response from Animal Control Solutions; and requested that the Township Committee consider a full-time Animal Control Officer.

**Marilyn Blazovsky, Dan Sheffield, Rikki Massand, Ellen Robbins, David Reyes, Christine Newman, and Sarah Roberts** all spoke of the significant contributions Mayor Keenan accomplished during her tenure as Mayor and expressed gratitude for her leadership and service over these past years.

**Montgomery Township Police Officers, Tom Connell and Adam Verducci**, provided a debriefing of the response efforts during the recent storm and extended gratitude to all first responders and staff that assisted.

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## **ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**

There were no ordinances for introduction.

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## **ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL ADOPTION**

Mayor Keenan read by title Ordinance #23-1714.

### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING FEES WITHIN CHAPTER 5 ANIMAL CONTROL, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY, 1984**

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to open the public hearing.  
Motion by Deputy Mayor Singh, seconded by Taylor Todd  
Motion unanimously carried

There was no public comment.

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance #23-1714 on final consideration, same to be published according to law.  
Motion by Deputy Mayor Singh, seconded by Taylor Todd

## **ROLL CALL**

**AYES:** Ahn, Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None  
**ABSENT:** Barragan

## **ORDINANCE ADOPTED**

Ordinance advertised December 13, 2023 in the Courier News. Posted on municipal bulletin board as required by law.

**ORDINANCE #23-1714**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING FEES WITHIN CHAPTER 5 ANIMAL CONTROL, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY, 1984**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey, that:

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 5 Animal Control, § 5-2.3 "License and Registration Tags; Fees; Forms" of the Revised Municipal Code of the Township of Montgomery, 1984 be amended by inserting the text **underlined and marked in bold** and deleting bolded text enclosed in brackets and crossed out to read as follows:

**§ 5-2.3 License and Registration Tags; Fees; Forms.**

**a.** The persons applying for the license and registration tag shall pay a fee of \$18.80 for the license and the sum of \$1 for the registration for each dog. License and registration tags and subsequent renewals shall expire on January 31 in each year unless extended by resolution of the Township Committee. If application shall not be made within the time specified by this section, there shall ~~also be a~~ **one-time late fee** late charge of ~~[\$1.00] [\$10.00] \$25.00, for each month or fraction of a month which shall have elapsed between the time so provided and the making of the application.~~

**SECTION 2.** Chapter 5 Animal Control, § 5-5.3 "Application Fees." of the Revised Municipal Code of the Township of Montgomery, 1984 be amended by inserting the text **underlined and marked in bold** and deleting bolded text enclosed in brackets and crossed out to read as follows:

**§ 5-5.3 Application Fees.**

An application for a permit to maintain a kennel, pet shop, pound, shelter or grooming establishment shall be completed and submitted to the Clerk of Montgomery Township by each person operating or maintaining such a facility. The application fee shall be as follows:

The annual license fee for a kennel providing accommodations for 10 or fewer dogs shall be ~~[\$10]~~ **\$50.00** and for more than 10 dogs ~~[\$25]~~ **\$75.00**. The annual license fee for a pet shop or grooming establishment shall be ~~[\$10]~~ **\$50.00**. No fee shall be charged for a shelter or pound.

**SECTION 3.** Each section of this Ordinance and every subsection hereof shall be deemed independent, separate and distinct from all other sections, and the holding of any section or a part hereof to be unconstitutional, void, or ineffective for any cause shall not be deemed to affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section or part hereof, and to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable.

**SECTION 4.** All other ordinances, codes or parts thereof that are in conflict or inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency. In the event of any inconsistencies between the provisions of this Ordinance and any prior Township ordinances, the provisions hereof shall be determined to govern. All other parts, portions and provisions of the Township's ordinances are hereby ratified and confirmed, except where inconsistent with the terms hereof.

**SECTION 5.** This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as required by law.

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## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Resolutions #23-12-331 through #23-12-333.**

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda, Resolutions #23-12-331 through #23-12-333.  
Motion by Deputy Mayor Singh, seconded by Taylor Todd

#### **ROLL CALL**

**AYES:** Ahn, Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None  
**ABSENT:** Barragan

### **RESOLUTION #23-12-331**

#### **AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF 2024 TOWING LICENSE – MIKE’S TOWING AND RECOVERY**

**WHEREAS**, the Township has received a completed towing application for a heavy-duty towing license from Mike’s Towing & Recovery 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 towing license to Mike’s Towing & Recovery.

**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 towing license to Mike’s Towing & Recovery 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.

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### **RESOLUTION #23-12-332**

#### **AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF 2024 TOWING LICENSE – DAVE’S HEAVYTOWING**

**WHEREAS**, the Township has received a completed towing application for a heavy-duty and light-duty towing license from Dave’s Heavy 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 Dave’s Heavy Towing.

**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 Dave's Heavy 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.

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**RESOLUTION #23-12-333**

**AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF 2024 TOWING LICENSE – RICH'S OFF-ROAD TOWING**

**WHEREAS**, the Township has received a completed towing application for a light-duty towing license from Rich's Off-Road 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 light-duty towing license to Rich's Off-Road Towing.

**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 light-duty towing license to Rich's Off-Road 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.

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Resolution #23-12-334. Read by title.

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #23-12-334.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Singh, seconded by Taylor Todd

**ROLL CALL**

**AYES:** Ahn, Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** Barragan

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**RESOLUTION #23-12-334**

**REQUESTING AN ADDITIONAL PUBLIC, EDUCATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL (PEG)  
CHANNEL FROM COMCAST OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Montgomery ("Township") granted consent for a municipal franchise to Comcast of Central New Jersey II ("Comcast") to construct, connect, operate and maintain a cable television and communications system within the Township by Ordinance No. 18-1588; and

**WHEREAS**, local Public, Educational and Governmental Television ("PEG TV") is an invaluable public service to our community, broadcasting local government meetings, school board meetings, coverage of important city/school-sponsored events, as well as other programming of interest to the community; and

**WHEREAS**, Comcast's renewal certificate of approval from the State of New Jersey, Board of Public Utilities, and its municipal approval, requires Comcast to "provide two (2) public, educational, and governmental channels;" and

**WHEREAS**, the two (2) PEG TV channels are insufficient to fulfill the needs of the Township and its residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey that the Mayor and Township Administrator are hereby authorized and directed to negotiate with Comcast of Central New Jersey II ("Comcast") for the provision of a third public, educational and governmental channel for the benefit of the residents of the Township of Montgomery.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey, that the Clerk is directed to ensure that a copy of this resolution is provided to Comcast and the State of New Jersey, Board of Public Utilities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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Resolution #23-12-335. Read by title.

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #23-12-335.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Singh, seconded by Taylor Todd

**ROLL CALL**

**AYES:** Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Ahn

**ABSENT:** Barragan

**RESOLUTION #23-12-335**

**AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR SEWER CAPACITY RESERVATION IN THE STAGE II SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT FOR THE MONTGOMERY PROMENADE DEVELOPMENT, BLOCK 34001, LOTS 46.01, 56, 57, 77, 78, 79, PHASES 1 AND 2 AND SEVEN EXISTING RESIDENTIAL LOTS, BLOCK 34001, LOTS 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 81 AND 82**

**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 a Sewer Capacity Reservation Agreement with TGA SJC MONTGOMERY PROMENADE OWNER LLC, f/k/a Princeton Promenade, LLC, related to sewer capacity in the Stage II Sewage Treatment Plant for the Montgomery Promenade Development Phases 1 and 2, Block 34001, Lots 46.01, 56, 57, 77, 78, 79, and for 7 existing residential lots along Route 518, Block 34001, Lots 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 81, and 82, subject to review and approval of the Township Engineer and Township Attorney as to form and content.

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Resolution #23-12-336. Read by title.

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #23-12-336.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Singh, seconded by Taylor Todd

**ROLL CALL**

**AYES:** Ahn, Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** Barragan

**RESOLUTION #23-12-336**

**AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF THE TAX APPEAL REGARDING LOT 42 IN BLOCK 31036**

**WHEREAS**, Jeffrey J. and Donna A. Bernardis are the owners of real property located at 77 High Ridge Road, otherwise designated as Lot 42 in Block 31036 on the official tax maps of Montgomery Township, and have taken appeals to the Tax Court of the State of New Jersey from the Assessed Value of said real property for the 2022 and 2023 Tax Years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township's assessment for the 2022 and 2023 Tax Years was:

Land:	\$ 436,700
Improvement:	\$ 645,900
Total:	\$ 1,082,600; and

**WHEREAS**, the Taxpayers have agreed to withdraw their challenge for the 2022 Tax Year; and

**WHEREAS**, as to the 2023 Tax Year, the Parties have agreed to adjust the Assessed Value as follows:

Land:	\$ 436,700
Improvement:	\$ 543,300
Total:	\$ 980,000

**WHEREAS**, the Township Tax Assessor has reviewed the figures proposed and has recommended the approval of these settlement terms; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee has considered the matter and has determined that it is in the best interests of Montgomery Township to consent to the terms of settlement set forth herein.

**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 Total Assessment Value of the property located at 77 High Ridge Road for the 2023 Tax Year shall be:

Land:	\$ 436,700
Improvements:	\$ 543,300
Total:	\$ 980,000

2. The Township Tax Assessor is hereby directed to amend Township records accordingly.
3. The Taxpayer shall receive a Tax Refund in the amount to be calculated by the Township Tax Collector.
4. The Township Tax Appeal attorney is hereby authorized to withdraw the Township's counterclaims filed in these tax appeal matters for each of the years in which Counterclaims were filed.
5. The Township Tax Collector is hereby authorized to effectuate the tax return granted herein and to make any other adjustments to same as necessary in his judgment.
6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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Resolution #23-12-337. Read by title.

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #23-12-337.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Singh, seconded by Taylor Todd

**ROLL CALL**

**AYES:** Ahn, Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None  
**ABSENT:** Barragan

**RESOLUTION #23-12-337**

**AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID TO ANIMAL CONTROL SOLUTIONS, LLC  
FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, the following bids for animal control services were received and publicly opened on November 17, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.:

<b>Bidders</b>	<b>2024 Bid Amount</b>	<b>2025 Bid Amount</b>
Animal Control Solutions, LLC	\$63,648.00	\$66,192.00
Advanced Animal Control, LLC	\$73,008.00	\$74,061.00

**WHEREAS**, it is the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and Health Officer that Animal Control Solutions, LLC be awarded the bid via competitive contracting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer certifies availability of funds; and

**WHEREAS**, there exists funds in account #s: 03-212-56-000-081, and 01-201-27-330-200, 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 contract for 2024 and 2025 Animal Control Services is hereby awarded to:

Animal Control Solutions, LLC  
2 Marshall Drive  
Flemington, NJ 08822

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign said contracts.

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Resolution #23-12-338. Read by title.

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #23-12-338.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Singh, seconded by Taylor Todd

**ROLL CALL**

**AYES:** Ahn, Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** Barragan

**RESOLUTION #23-12-338**

**AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY THROUGH THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY, LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT OFFICE, 1033 PROGRAM TO ENABLE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO REQUEST AND ACQUIRE EXCESS DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress authorized the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) 1033 Program to make use of excess Department of Defense personal property by making that personal property available to municipal, county and State law enforcement agencies (LEAs); and

**WHEREAS**, DLA rules mandate that all equipment acquired through the 1033 Program remain under the control of the requesting LEA; and

**WHEREAS**, participation in the 1033 Program allows municipal and county LEAS to obtain property they might not otherwise be able to afford in order to enhance community preparedness, response, and resiliency; and

**WHEREAS**, although property is provided through the 1033 Program at no cost to municipal and county LEAs, these entities are responsible for the costs associated with delivery, maintenance, fueling, and upkeep of the property, and for specialized training on the operation of any acquired property; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-30.2 requires that the governing body of the municipality or county approve, by a majority of the full membership, both enrollment in, and the acquisition of any property, through the 1033 Program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey that the Montgomery Township Police Department is hereby authorized to enroll in the 1033 Program for no more than a one-year period, with authorization to participate from January 1, 2024 and terminating December 31, 2024.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township of Montgomery Police Department is hereby authorized to acquire items of non-controlled property designated "DEMIL A" which may include office supplies, office furniture, computers, electronic equipment, generators, field packs, non-military vehicles, clothing, traffic and transit signal systems, exercise equipment, farming and moving equipment, storage devices and containers, tools, medical and first aid equipment and supplies, personal protection equipment and supplies, construction materials, lighting supplies, beds and sleeping mats, wet and cold weather equipment and supplies, respirators, binoculars, and any other supplies or equipment of non-military nature identified by the LEA, if it shall become available in the period of time for which this resolution authorizes based on the needs of the Montgomery Township Police Department without restriction.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Montgomery Township Police Department is hereby authorized to acquire the following "DEMIL B through Q" property, listed in the unredacted portion of the DEMIL inventory sheet, if it shall become available in the period of time for which this resolution authorizes.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Montgomery Township Police Department shall develop and implement a full training plan and policy for the maintenance and use of the acquired property.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Montgomery Township Police Department shall provide a quarterly accounting of all property obtained through the 1033 Program which shall be available to the public upon request.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall take effect immediately and shall be valid to authorize requests to acquire "DEMIL A" property and "DEMIL B through Q" property that may be made available through the 1033 Program during the period of time for which this resolution authorizes; with Program participation and all property request authorization effective January 1, 2024 and terminating December 31, 2024.

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Resolution #23-12-339. Read by title.

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions #23-12-339.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Singh, seconded by Taylor Todd

**ROLL CALL**

**AYES:** Ahn, Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** Barragan

**RESOLUTION #23-12-339**

**AUTHORIZING 2023 BUDGET TRANSFERS**

**WHEREAS**, there are unexpended balances in various 2023 appropriation accounts not required for the balance of 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, additional sums are required for the operating expenses of other Township accounts.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the following transfers be approved:

**TO:**

Account Name	Amount
Tax Assessment – S&W	\$ 1,000.00
Recreation – S&W	\$ 2,500.00
Adult School – S&W	\$ 3,000.00
Accumulated Absences – O/E	\$75,000.00
	<b>\$81,500.00</b>

**FROM:**

Account Name	Amount
Streets & Roads – S&W	\$41,500.00
Group Health Benefits – O/E	\$40,000.00
	<b>\$ 81,500.00</b>

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Resolution #23-12-340. Read by title.

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #23-12-340.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Singh, seconded by Taylor Todd

**ROLL CALL**

**AYES:** Ahn, Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** Barragan

**RESOLUTION #23-12-340**

**AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF THE TAX APPEAL  
REGARDING LOT 34.04 IN BLOCK 16001**

**WHEREAS**, Jagadish and Archana L. Gangavalli are the owners of real property located at 28 Dorland Farm Court, otherwise designated as Lot 34.04 in Block 16001 on the official tax maps of Montgomery Township, and have taken appeals to the Tax Court of the State of New Jersey from the Assessed Value of said real property for the 2019 and 2020 Tax Years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township's assessment for the 2019 and 2020 Tax Years was:

Land:	\$ 297,000
Improvement:	\$ 741,200
Total:	\$ 1,038,200; and

**WHEREAS**, the Taxpayers have agreed to withdraw their 2019 and 2020 Complaints; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties have agreed to adjust the Assessed Value of the subject property to nine hundred seventy thousand (\$970,000) dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties have further agreed not to file appeals to the County Board of Taxation and/or the State of New Jersey Tax Court other than to put into effect the terms of the settlement set forth in this Stipulation of Settlement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Taxpayers have waived their rights under the Freeze Act (N.J.S.A. 54:51A-8 et. seq.)

**WHEREAS**, the Township Tax Assessor and Real Property Appraisal Consultant have reviewed the adjusted Assessment Value proposed and has recommended the approval of these settlement terms; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee has considered the matter and has determined that it is in the best interests of Montgomery Township to consent to the terms of settlement set forth herein.

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

1. The Township accepts the Taxpayer's withdrawal of the 2019 and 2020 Tax Year challenges.
2. The Township authorizes the Tax Assessor to adjust its records for the 2024 Tax Year such that the Assessed Value of the subject property is set at nine hundred seventy thousand (\$970,000) dollars.
3. The Township Tax Appeal Attorney is hereby authorized to withdraw the Township's counterclaims filed in these tax appeal matters for each of the years in which Counterclaims were filed.
4. The Township Tax Collector is hereby authorized to effectuate the settlement granted herein and to make any other adjustments to same as necessary in his judgment.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately or as otherwise provided by law.

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## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Deputy Mayor Singh moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2023, seconded by Taylor Todd and carried unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Singh moved to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2023, November 9, 2023 and December 7, 2023, seconded by Taylor Todd and carried unanimously.

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Resolution #23-12-341. Read by title.

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #23-12-341.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Singh, seconded by Taylor Todd

## **ROLL CALL**

**AYES:** Ahn, Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None  
**ABSENT:** Barragan

**RESOLUTION #23-12-341**

**PAYMENT OF BILLS – POSTED**

**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.

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**Proposed 2024 Township Committee Meeting Dates** – Township Clerk, Lisa Fania, explained that the proposed 2024 dates for Township Committee meetings are included in the agenda packet for review and will be considered for approval at the January 4, Reorganization meeting. Clerk Fania continued that the proposed scheduled takes into consideration religious holidays.

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**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Committee Members Ahn and Taylor Todd and Deputy Mayor Singh offered words of praise and appreciation to Mayor Keenan along with expression of gratitude for her passion and dedication to serving the Montgomery community.

Deputy Mayor Singh also reported that the Youth Leadership Council held its year-end party on December 17<sup>th</sup> advising that the event was a success and also provided a brief explanation of the Council's roles and responsibilities.

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**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Township Administrator, Lori Savron, extended words of gratitude to Mayor Keenan and provided an update on the status of the Township's request to the County for a traffic study at the intersection of Routes 518 and 601 in the Blawenburg section of the Township. Administrator Savron explained that the traffic study has been incorporated into the County's Capital Plan with the study commencing in 2025 and the intersection upgrades in 2026 during the paving year. Administrator Savron continued that the County has advised that speed limits are just one aspect of the traffic study and is inquiring if the Township wishes to modify its original request to include just speed limits.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- **January 4, 2024 Reorganization Meeting** – Mayor Keenan advised that the 2024 Township Committee Reorganization Meeting will be held Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

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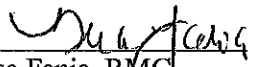
## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There were no matters for Executive Session.

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Township Committee adjourned at 7:49 p.m. on motion by Deputy Mayor Singh, seconded by Taylor Todd and carried unanimously.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Fania, RMC  
Township Clerk

Date approved: February 1, 2024