

Township of Randolph
Municipal Building
Randolph, NJ
March 6, 2025

A. OPENING OF REGULAR MEETING

1. Opening of the Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Randolph Township Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Hathaway. The meeting is held pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice of the meeting has been provided by posting written notice of the time, date, location and to the extent known, the agenda of the meeting in Randolph Township. This notice was posted on the Bulletin Board within Town Hall, it was filed with the Township Clerk, and it was provided to those persons or entities requesting notification. Notice was also provided to the West Morris Reporter and the Morris County Daily Record on November 27, 2024, by emailing them the annual resolution adopted by the Council on November 26, 2024. The annual resolution, which included this meeting date, was advertised in the West Morris Reporter, the official newspaper of the Township of Randolph, on December 5, 2024, and the Daily Record on December 3, 2024. Notice was also provided to TapInto Randolph, the official Township online digital publication, on November 27, 2024.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT: Councilwoman Carey
Councilwoman Elbaum
Councilman Nisivoccia
Councilwoman Thornton
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler
Mayor Hathaway

Also Present: Township Manager Poff, Assistant Township Manager Evan Covello, CFO Debbie Bonanno and Township Attorney Edward Buzak from the Law Office of Surenian, Edwards, Buzak, & Nolan, LLC.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Hathaway led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing and hearing none, the public session was closed.

C. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Poff reported on the following items:

Pothole Repair Program – The township has enhanced its pothole repair program with crews now milling out potholes a day in advance and leaving millings in the hole overnight to prevent road voids. The following day before filling, a street sweeper removes millings and hot asphalt is applied with proper compaction. This method increases initial asphalt usage but extends repair durability. Benefits include smoother road surfaces, fewer repeat repairs, and reduced need for extensive road milling.

Spring Branch Collection – The annual spring branch collection for 2025 starts the week of April 14. All brush needs to be placed curbside by this date as it will be a one time only pickup. This collection usually takes four weeks to complete. Branch collection will be limited to one load per property, approx. 4 cubic yards. Loads larger than this can be removed through the special branch collection policy by contacting the Engineering Office at 973-989-7066. There is a \$150 fee for this additional service.

Mobile Food Ordinance – The Health Department in collaboration with Zoning and Fire Prevention, is developing recommendations to enhance the temporary and mobile food ordinance. Through interdepartmental meetings and comparative analysis of municipal ordinances, current challenges have been identified.

Rosenfarb Park Redevelopment – The township just received its certification from The Morris County Soil Conservation District. Parks staff will start site preparation with the demolition of the existing basketball court surface on March 12, which will include the removal of obstructive or dead trees. The project will continue into the spring with equipment installation.

Route 80 Update – Proactive drilling and grouting are ongoing. The work has expanded from 90 locations to approx. 135 locations. As of February 27, 51 locations have been drilled, and 36 locations have been filled with grout. These areas are not all voids, but locations requiring investigation. The number of the locations that require further investigation may be adjusted as work progress.

State Police are manually controlling several traffic signals on Route 10 and Route 46, which serve as alternate routes. They will continue to do so on weekdays during the morning and evening rush hours to improve traffic flow. NJDOT also has adjusted the timing of several signals on Route 15, which are being monitored by the State Police, to help ease congestion. The department will continue to monitor traffic conditions and make adjustments as necessary to mitigate delays.

Roxbury Township has invited local businesses to a presentation given by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. The presentation will be based on support local businesses can receive from the state in the form of grants, and loans if needed. The event will be on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Roxbury Senior Center located at 72 Eyland Avenue, Succasunna.

Market Update – Phoenix Advisors, LLC, the township's financial advisors provide a market update several times a year. Of particular note in the most recent update is the increase in CPI by

0.5% on a seasonally adjusted basis. This marks the largest monthly increase since August 2023. The gain drove the 12- month inflation rate to 3% in January, up from 2.9% in December. The next Federal Reserve Meeting is March 19. The Federal Reserve will likely continue their “wait-and-see” stance prior to making any additional rate cuts.

Annual Reports – Copies of the 2024 Annual Report have been printed and distributed. Hard copies of the report are available at the Municipal Building, Community Center, and Library. A digital version of the report is available online via the township website.

D. 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL

Manager Poff thanked the council for their efforts in reviewing and providing feedback on the proposed 2025 Municipal Budget. He recognized CFO Debbie Bonanno for the tremendous amount of work she put into the process. He noted that the budgeting software, which has been incorporated as an expense in the proposed 2025 budget, aided in the preparation of the budget document itself. He acknowledged the efforts of Assistant Manager Evan Covello for assisting with the preparation of the budget presentation.

He reviewed the township’s mission statement in its budget development process, stating that the goal is to provide effective governance, enhanced customer service and excellent community facilities. He explained that there were four guiding principles for the budget development:

1. Will this action compound a tax rate increase in 2026?
2. If this expenditure is deferred for a year, can the township catch up in the future?
3. How does the value of this change compare with the expectations placed on the township by the public?
4. Will this division make Randolph a stronger community five years from now?

He explained that the proposed 2025 budget calls for appropriations of \$37,687,238, which represents a 4.90% increase or \$1,761,517 from the adopted 2024 budget. Significant increases of the 2025 budget include insurance costs, contractual salary increases, capital improvements, pension and social security. He reviewed the timeline of the budget process, beginning in August and ending as of April 15, 2025. He provided an overview of the following budgets, noting comparative differences from 2024:

General Fund	2025	2024	% Change
Municipal Budget	\$37,687,238	\$35,925,721	4.90%
Water Department	\$3,790,881	\$3,767,191	0.63%
Sewer Department	\$4,740,808	\$4,609,545	2.85%
Total Budget	\$46,218,927	\$44,302,457	4.33%

He reviewed the estimated property taxes for 2025, and explained that for every property tax dollar billed and collected the township retains only \$0.15 to fund municipal services.

	2025	2024	% Change
Municipal	0.498	0.477	4.44%
Recreation/Open Space	0.021	0.021	0.00%
Library	0.043	0.040	7.32%
County	0.299	0.294	1.71%
School District	2.060	2.000	3.00%
Total	2.921	2.832	3.14%

Total Property Tax Projection:

	2025	2024	% Increase
Municipal	\$2,458	\$2,343	4.89%
Recreation/Open Space	\$103	\$103	0.43%
Library	\$212	\$197	7.78%
County	\$1,475	\$1,444	2.15%
School District	\$10,166	\$9,818	3.55%
Total	\$14,414	\$13,905	3.66%

He explained that \$9.56/monthly was the estimated tax increase on residential homes from the municipal rate.

He reviewed the various sources of revenue for the municipal budget, including the annual tax levy, miscellaneous revenue, library taxes, state aid, and proceeds from delinquent taxes and the township's interlocal service agreements. He explained that fund balance consists of lapsing appropriation reserves, revenues in excess of budgeted amounts, and miscellaneous revenues not anticipated. The fund balance as of the end of 2024 was \$9.54 million, the township anticipates \$6.37 million in the 2025 budget to reduce the amount in taxes. Over the years, the amount of fund balance as a percentage of total revenues has remained fairly consistent at nearly 17%.

He explained that most of the budget expenditures are for personnel, including salaries and wages insurance, and workers' compensation. The majority of the budget appropriations are allocated to municipal services, particularly for funding of public safety and public works services; additional allocations were made for community services and public health. The

township needs additional funds to support required increases in contractual salaries, insurance, and pension contributions, and additional funding being allocated to projects such as paving roads, and the purchasing of a fire truck. He explained that the township also funds an emergency services volunteer length of service award program. The program provides tax-deferred income to active volunteer fire and rescue squad members.

Key initiatives of the 2025 budget include:

- Expanding recreation programs - This budget provides additional funding for summer program staff, youth programs, day camps, and teen camps. These increased appropriations are offset by boosted revenues from the Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services.
- Strengthening cybersecurity - This budget continues to fund projects that safeguard critical data and maintain uninterrupted operations. These investments not only protect the information of both the township and residents, but also ensure compliance with the Joint Insurance Fund's standards.
- Migrating body worn cameras data - This budget funds the migration of the police department's body worn cameras data to a cloud storage solution. This investment modernizes the storage of critical data, and helps the township remain compliant with current standards.
- Continuing Shared Services - This budget provides the resources necessary to continue advantageous public health shared services agreements. This investment in shared services through our Health Department and Animal Control generated over \$200,000 in anticipated revenues in 2024.

He explained that Randolph's water system is a distribution network consisting of water mains, hydrants, and a water tower. Bulk water is purchased from the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority produced from the Allamattong well fields, and is distributed to the 6,055 customers. The 2025 budget allocates \$3,790,881 for the operation of the public water system.

Randolph's sewer system serves 4,293 customers and consists of collector lines, pump stations, and force mains. Randolph sends sanitary wastewater to the Rockaway Valley Regional Sewer Authority treatment plant and the Morris Township Butterworth treatment plant for processing. The 2025 budget allocates \$4,740,808 for the operation of the public sewer system.

He explained that the capital improvement program encompasses the preparation, adoption, and implementation of a budget for major capital projects or acquisitions; and the funding of those capital projects and acquisitions through a combination of current funds and debt financing.

He concluded the budget presentation by sharing that the township's top capital projects include the fire engine replacement, road paving, Morris Turnpike reconstruction, roll-off truck replacement, HVAC replacement, Freedom Park hardscaping, Rosenfarb Park renovation, Brundage Park improvements, LED lighting, and the dogwood pump station.

The council thanked Manager Poff. There was a brief discussion about state aid.

Mayor Hathaway asked if a digital version of the approved budget would be posted on the website. Manager Poff confirmed that the budget presentation would be posted on the township website.

Manager Poff read the Resolution Upon Adoption for Year 2025 into the record for the council's consideration:

Be it resolved by the councilmembers of the Township of Randolph, County of Morris, that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of:

- (a) \$ \$22,030,685 for municipal purposes, and
- (b) \$ 0.00 (Item 3 below) for school purposes in Type I School Districts only (N.J.S. 18A:9-2) to be raised by taxation and,
- (c) \$ 0.00 (Item 4 below) to be added to the certificate of amount to be raised by taxation for local school purposes in Type II School Districts only (N.J.S. 18A:9-3) and certification to the County Board of Taxation of the following summary of general revenues and appropriations.
- (d) \$ \$928,658 (Sheet 43) Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Levy
- (e) \$ 0.00 (Sheet 44) Arts and Culture Trust Fund Levy
- (f) \$ \$1,898,270.50 (Item 5 below) Minimum Library Levy

Councilman Nisivoccia made a motion to introduce the 2025 Municipal Budget. Councilwoman Carey seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES:	Councilwoman Carey Councilwoman Elbaum Councilman Nisivoccia Councilwoman Thornton Councilwoman Veech Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler Mayor Hathaway
NAYS:	None

E. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Councilwoman Thornton made a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes from January 23, 2025. Councilman Nisivoccia seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES:	Councilwoman Carey
-------	--------------------

Councilwoman Elbaum
Councilman Nisivoccia
Councilwoman Thornton
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler
Mayor Hathaway
NAYS: None

F. COMBINED ACTION RESOLUTIONS

Item #4, R 68-25, Authorizing Support by the Randolph Township Council Designating the Trowbridge-Brundage House as a Municipal Landmark – Manager Poff shared that the Environmental and Landmark Advisory Committee had recommended the Trowbridge-Brundage House be designated as a Municipal Landmark.

1. R 65-25 Authorizing Partial Release of the Performance Bond for The Canoe Brook Development - \$212,523.67
2. R 66-25 Authorizing Release of Monies Representing Performance Bonds (Certified Checks) Submitted by Innovative Municipal Products (US), Inc. for MCCPC Contract #3 (Rock Salt & Liquid Calcium Chloride)
3. R 67-25 Authorizing Refund of Recreation Department Program Fees to Various Individuals
4. R 68-25 Authorizing Support by the Randolph Township Council Designating the Trowbridge-Brundage House as a Municipal Landmark
5. R 69-25 Authorizing Tax Collector to Redeem and Refund Tax Sale Certificate #2022-012 to Fundpality II, LLC for 409 Quaker Church Road - \$34,535.14
6. R 70-25 Authorizing Payment for Services Rendered in 2024 by Dalessio Engineering, LLC for Engineering Services in Connection With Repairs of the Curtain Wall - Not to Exceed \$15,685.00
7. Raffle License - On-Premise 50/50, Roxbury Junior Lacrosse, Inc., 1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, March 29, 2025, 9:00 p.m.
8. Raffle License, On-Premise Tricky Tray, Roxbury Junior Lacrosse, Inc., 1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, March 29, 2025, 9:00 p.m.
9. Raffle License - Off-Premise 50/50, Foundation of the New Jersey District of Kiwanis International, Randolph Diner, 517 Route 10, Randolph, May 7, 2025, 7:30 p.m.
10. Raffle License - Tricky Tray, Randolph Chemical Engine Company No. 2, 340 State Route 10 West, Randolph, May 17, 2025, 5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
11. Raffle License - On-Premise 50/50, Jersey Battered Women's Service (JBWS), at the Meadow Wood, 461 Route 10, Randolph, May 19, 2025, 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Councilwoman Veech made a motion to approve the combined action agenda. Councilman Nisivoccia seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Councilwoman Carey
Councilwoman Elbaum
Councilman Nisivoccia
Councilwoman Thornton
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler – Abstained on Item #10 – Raffle License
Mayor Hathaway

NAYS: None

G. ORDINANCES: SECOND READING

1. Ordinance 03-25 Amending Article XI, Body Art Establishments, of Chapter 24, Health and Sanitation, and Appendix A, Fee Schedule, of the Revised Ordinances of the Township of Randolph

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, An Ordinance Amending Article XI, Body Art Establishments, of Chapter 24, Health and Sanitation, and Appendix A, Fee Schedule, of the Revised Ordinances of the Township of Randolph, be read by title on second reading and a hearing held thereon.

Manager Poff explained that the purpose of this ordinance is to amend Article XI, Body Art Establishments, of Chapter 24, Health and Sanitation, of the Revised Ordinances of the Township of Randolph governing body art establishments based upon recommendations from Township staff. In addition, the purpose of the above Ordinance is to amend the Health Section of Appendix A, Fee Schedule, of the Revised Ordinances of the Township of Randolph to update the fees for body art establishment and practitioner licenses and re-inspections.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing and hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, An Ordinance Amending Article XI, Body Art Establishments, of Chapter 24, Health and Sanitation, and Appendix A, Fee Schedule, of the Revised Ordinances of the Township of Randolph, be passed on final reading and that a Notice of Final Passage of said Ordinance be published in the official designated newspaper according to law.

Councilman Nisivoccia made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Councilwoman Thornton seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Councilwoman Carey
Councilwoman Elbaum
Councilman Nisivoccia
Councilwoman Thornton
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler
Mayor Hathaway

NAYS: None

2. Ordinance 04-25 Amending and Supplementing Article I, in General, of Chapter 2, Administration, of the Revised Ordinances of the Township of Randolph to Establish a New Division 3 Entitled "Municipal Buildings; Restricted Areas to Safeguard Public Records Containing Confidential or Exempt Information"

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Article I, In General, of Chapter 2, Administration, of the Revised Ordinances of the Township of Randolph to Establish a New Division 3 Entitled "Municipal Buildings; Restricted Areas To Safeguard Public Records Containing Confidential or Exempt Information, be read by title on second reading and a hearing held thereon.

Manager Poff explained that the purpose of this ordinance is to amend and supplement Article I, In General, of Chapter 2, Administration, of the Revised Ordinances of the Township of Randolph to establish a new Division 3 which restricts access to areas within municipal buildings as necessary to safeguard public records that are confidential or exempt from disclosure under applicable law.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing and hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Article I, In General, of Chapter 2, Administration, of the Revised Ordinances of the Township of Randolph to Establish a New Division 3 Entitled "Municipal Buildings; Restricted Areas To Safeguard Public Records Containing Confidential or Exempt Information, be passed on final reading and that a Notice of Final Passage of said Ordinance be published in the official designated newspaper according to law.

Councilman Nisivoccia made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Councilwoman Carey
Councilwoman Elbaum
Councilman Nisivoccia
Councilwoman Thornton
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler
Mayor Hathaway

NAYS: None

3. Ordinance 05-25 Amending Sections 10-1, 10-35, 10-51, 10-91, 10-321, 10-322, 10-323, 10-341 and 10-361 and Deleting Article XI, Community Services Advisory Committee, of Chapter 10, Boards, Commissions, Committees and Agencies, of the Revised Ordinances of the Township of Randolph

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, An Ordinance Amending Sections 10-1, 10-35, 10-51, 10-91, 10-321, 10-322, 10-323, 10-341 and 10-361 and Deleting Article XI, Community Services Advisory Committee, of Chapter 10, Boards, Commissions, Committees and Agencies, of The Revised Ordinances of the Township of Randolph, be read by title on second reading and a hearing held thereon.

Manager Poff explained that the purpose of this ordinance is to amend Sections 10-1, 10-35, 10-51, 10-91, 10-321, 10-322, 10-323, 10-341 and 10-361 of Chapter 10, Boards, Commissions, Committees and Agencies, of the Revised Ordinances of the Township of Randolph regarding the appointment of alternate members, Council liaisons and the non-voting membership of the township manager or his/her designee on the Township's various boards, commissions, committees and agencies and to delete Article XI of Chapter 10, Boards, Commissions, Committees and Agencies, of the Revised Ordinances of the Township of Randolph governing the no longer functioning Community Services Advisory Committee.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing and hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, An Ordinance Amending Sections 10-1, 10-35, 10-51, 10-91, 10-321, 10-322, 10-323, 10-341 and 10-361 and Deleting Article XI, Community Services Advisory Committee, of Chapter 10, Boards, Commissions, Committees and Agencies, of The Revised Ordinances of the Township of Randolph, be passed on final reading and that a Notice of Final Passage of said Ordinance be published in the official designated newspaper according to law.

Councilman Nisivoccia made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Councilwoman Thornton seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES:	Councilwoman Carey
	Councilwoman Elbaum
	Councilman Nisivoccia
	Councilwoman Thornton
	Councilwoman Veech
	Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler
	Mayor Hathaway
NAYS:	None

H. ORDINANCES: INTRODUCTION

1. Ordinance 06-25 Appropriating \$250,000.00 From the Capital Improvement Fund for Various Water/Sewer Capital Improvements

Manager Poff explained that the purpose of this ordinance is to fund various 2025 Water/Sewer Capital Improvements in the amount not to exceed \$250,000.00.

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance of the Township of Randolph Appropriating \$250,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for Various Water/Sewer Capital Improvements" be introduced, read by title by the Township Clerk and passed on first reading.

BE IT RESOLVED, that said Ordinance shall be further considered for final passage at the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Randolph on the 15th, of April, 2025 at 6 o'clock in the evening, prevailing time, at the Town Hall in said Township, at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk be authorized and directed to advertise said Ordinance in full or by summary with the notice of introduction thereof, in the official designated newspaper according to law.

Councilman Nisivoccia made a motion to introduce the ordinance. Councilwoman Carey seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Councilwoman Carey
Councilwoman Elbaum
Councilman Nisivoccia
Councilwoman Thornton
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler
Mayor Hathaway

NAYS: None

2. Ordinance 07-25 Appropriating \$2,287,000.00 From the Capital Improvement Fund for Various 2025 Capital Improvements

Manager Poff explained that the purpose of this ordinance is to fund various 2025 Capital Improvements for the Police Department, Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Information Technology, Engineering, and Recycling/Parks Equipment & Facilities in the amount not to exceed \$2,287,000.

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, "Capital Ordinance of the Township of Randolph Appropriating \$2,287,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for Various 2025 Capital Improvements" be introduced, read by title by the Township Clerk and passed on first reading.

BE IT RESOLVED, that said Ordinance shall be further considered for final passage at the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Randolph on the 15th, of April, 2025 at 6 o'clock in the evening, prevailing time, at the Town Hall in said Township, at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk be authorized and directed to advertise said Ordinance in full or by summary with the notice of introduction thereof, in the official designated newspaper according to law.

Councilman Nisivoccia made a motion to introduce the ordinance. Councilwoman Thornton seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Councilwoman Carey
Councilwoman Elbaum
Councilman Nisivoccia

Councilwoman Thornton
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler
Mayor Hathaway
NAYS: None

3. Ordinance 08-25 Appropriating \$495,000.00 From the Recreation/Open Space Trust Fund for Various 2025 Parks and Recreation Capital Improvements

Manager Poff explained that the purpose of this ordinance is to fund various 2025 Parks and Recreation Capital Improvements in the amount not to exceed \$495,000.00.

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance of the Township of Randolph Appropriating \$495,000 from the Recreation/Open Space Trust Fund for Various 2025 Parks and Recreation Capital Improvements Totaling \$495,000” be introduced, read by title by the Township Clerk and passed on first reading.

BE IT RESOLVED, that said Ordinance shall be further considered for final passage at the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Randolph on the 15th, of April, 2025 at 6 o’clock in the evening, prevailing time, at the Town Hall in said Township, at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk be authorized and directed to advertise said Ordinance in full or by summary with the notice of introduction thereof, in the official designated newspaper according to law.

Councilman Nisivoccia made a motion to introduce the ordinance. Councilwoman Carey seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Councilwoman Carey
Councilwoman Elbaum
Councilman Nisivoccia
Councilwoman Thornton
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler
Mayor Hathaway
NAYS: None

4. Bond Ordinance 09-25 Appropriating \$2,500,000 and Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,050,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township of Randolph, for Various Improvements or Purposes Authorized to be Undertaken by the Township of Randolph

Manager Poff explained that the purpose of this ordinance is for the purchase of new and additional equipment for use by the Department of Public Works, improvements to municipally-owned properties and facilities in and by the Township, acquisition of firefighting equipment and road improvements to Morris Turnpike.

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, “A Bond Ordinance Appropriating \$2,500,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,050,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township, for Various Improvements or Purposes Authorizes to be Undertaken by the Township of Randolph, in the County of Morris, New Jersey” be introduced, read by title by the Township Clerk and passed on first reading.

BE IT RESOLVED, that said Ordinance shall be further considered for final passage at the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Randolph on the 15th, of April, 2025 at 6 o’clock in the evening, prevailing time, at the Town Hall in said Township, at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk be authorized and directed to advertise said Ordinance in full or by summary with the notice of introduction thereof, in the official designated newspaper according to law.

Councilman Nisivoccia made a motion to introduce the ordinance. Councilwoman Carey seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES:	Councilwoman Carey
	Councilwoman Elbaum
	Councilman Nisivoccia
	Councilwoman Thornton
	Councilwoman Veech
	Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler
	Mayor Hathaway
NAYS:	None

I. DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Ordinance XX-25 Deleting Section 15-49.12, Noise, of Article IV, Supplemental Zoning Regulations, of the Land Development Ordinance of the Township of Randolph and Amending Article III, Noise, of Chapter 28, Miscellaneous Offenses, of the Revised Ordinances of the Township of Randolph Regarding Noise Control

Manager Poff explained that state regulations have changed over time, prompting consideration of updates to the township’s noise ordinance. During the Ordinance Workgroup’s review, several discretionary items were considered including the removal of noise regulations related to public property, as the Police Department confirmed that they do not receive many complaints regarding noise in the parks. He also noted that there was a section dealing with noise from motor vehicles, which was removed entirely based on the recommendation of the Police Department as other statutes already empower the police to take action in such cases, and the Health Department does not have significant involvement in motor vehicle enforcement.

He further explained that the Health Department has recently indicated the state is anticipating the release of an updated model noise ordinance in August 2025. The ordinance currently under discussion is unique in that it would require both introduction and adoption by the township council, followed by submission to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for final approval.

He explained that the township initially anticipated the process would conclude sometime in May or June. However, with the state planning to release the new model ordinance in August, there was a possibility of having to revisit the ordinance when the state's model is introduced.

The workgroup determined that since the Health Department had previously recommended introducing the ordinance, and given the state's last-minute requirement, it would be prudent to seek the council's input on whether to wait until later in the year for the release of the updated model.

There was discussion about whether the state would adhere to the estimated August timeline for releasing the new model ordinance and whether adopting the current version would result in the need for additional changes or potential rejection by the DEP. There was a consensus to have the township contact the DEP to confirm the expected release date and to hold off on adopting the noise ordinance until later in the year when the state's model ordinance is introduced. If the model ordinance is not available in August, the ordinance in its current draft will be considered.

I. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing and hearing none, the public session was closed.

J. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Thornton reported that she and Mayor Hathaway attended the NJSIA District 9 Wrestling Tournament held at Randolph High School. She concluded her report by sharing that the Traffic Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, March 4. The committee discussed a traffic complaint regarding Draco Drive and the challenges of making left turns onto Dover Chester Road. She noted that the committee is working on updating the Circulation Element of the Master Plan.

Councilwoman Elbaum stated that she had not attended any committee meetings since the last council meeting.

Councilman Nisivoccia had no comments for this meeting.

Councilwoman Carey reported that she attended a New Resident Workgroup meeting. She also visited Center Grove Elementary School to participate in the Read Across America program.

Councilwoman Veech reported that the New Resident Workgroup met and reviewed all the materials included in the welcome packages. She noted that the bags for the program are from the Clean Communities program, more information about the package contents and new household data would be discussed in April.

She further reported that the Skate Park Committee met and reviewed two different sets of options for skate park designers and builders. She reviewed the timeline for the Parks Master Plan, sharing that the advertisement was published in February, and that responses are due by

April 4. The committee anticipates conducting interviews in late April, with the plan expected to be completed by March 2026.

She concluded her report by sharing that the Planning Board met on March 3. The board approved the Circulation Element of the Master Plan. She pointed out that there is an Action Plan and Recommendations section, which she encouraged the council to read—especially the section on sidewalks. She noted that the Trails and Traffic Advisory Committees have already submitted their recommendations for the plan.

She ended her report by inquiring about the township's current efforts regarding student liaisons. She shared that in the past, the township worked directly with the high school's 4-H Club or AP classes to share information about student appointments. The council discussed how to increase student interest. Suggestions included reaching out to guidance counselors, discussing the opportunities during Board of Education Liaison meetings, emailing club advisers, and utilizing social media.

Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler had no comments for this meeting.

Mayor Hathaway reported that he participated in the Read Across America programs at both Center Grove Elementary and Ironia Elementary. He referred to the recent meeting with representatives from New Jersey Natural Gas, and noted that the Township Manager also connected with a representative from Jersey Central Power & Light.

On February 28, he attended the New Jersey Conference of Mayors Winter Summit. The broad theme of the conference was law enforcement, but there were also engaging panels on artificial intelligence, the evolution of digital technology in local government, cybersecurity, and the ARRIVE Program. He shared that visited the YMCA and met with Kathy Fischer to learn more about the organization and to explore opportunities for township collaboration.

He reported that the Economic Development Committee (EDC) continued to promote its role within the business community and highlight the value of engaging with the EDC. The committee also discussed the Randolph Local Directory, which currently includes 537 active businesses.

Councilwoman Veech asked whether the EDC collaborates with businesses to connect them with residents seeking employment. Councilwoman Elbaum responded that the EDC shares local job openings on its social media platform.

Councilwoman Elbaum asked whether there is a more effective way to educate business and property owners about permit requirements. Mayor Hathaway explained that the committee is focusing more on promotion and awareness rather than providing logistical or operational guidance. Manager Poff added that the township offers a New Business Welcome Packet, which is available at the municipal building, online, and through the Planning and Zoning Department. Randolph's efforts were highlighted at the Mayor's Forum in Roxbury, where the township was commended for its economic development initiatives. There was discussion about further increasing awareness of these available materials and resources.

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12) permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Randolph, in the County of Morris, and in the State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from the remaining portion of this meeting.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - A. Attorney/Client Privilege: Fourth Round Affordable Housing
 - B. Attorney/Client Privilege: KAB Mt. Freedom (1162 Sussex Turnpike)
3. As nearly as can now be ascertained, the matter or matters to be discussed at this time will be disclosed to the public at such time and under such circumstances as are prescribed by law.
4. At the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Council will reconvene in public session for the purpose of taking formal action on matters discussed in closed session or on any matter as permitted by law.

Councilwoman Veech made a motion to move into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. Councilman Nisivoccia seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES:	Councilwoman Carey
	Councilwoman Elbaum
	Councilman Nisivoccia
	Councilwoman Thornton
	Councilwoman Veech
	Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler
	Mayor Hathaway
NAYS:	None

Councilwoman Veech made a motion to close the Executive Session and reopen the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES:	Councilwoman Carey
	Councilwoman Elbaum
	Councilman Nisivoccia
	Councilwoman Thornton
	Councilwoman Veech

Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler
Mayor Hathaway
NAYS: None

K. ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Veech made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Councilwoman Thornton seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Councilwoman Carey
Councilwoman Elbaum
Councilman Nisivoccia
Councilwoman Thornton
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler
Mayor Hathaway
NAYS: None