

Township of Randolph
Municipal Building
Randolph, NJ
April 15, 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
Councilwoman Thornton
Councilwoman Veech
Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler
Mayor Hathaway
ABSENT: Councilman Nisivoccia

Also Present: Township Manager Poff, Assistant Township Manager Evan Covello, Township Attorney Ed 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

Tom Birch of 2 Daniel Court inquired about the plans for road improvements. Mayor Hathaway noted that Manager Poff may be reporting on road resurfacing updates during his report. He informed Mr. Birch that time could be setup to walk him through this year's program and to answer any questions he may have.

Laurie Birch of 2 Daniel Court echoed her husband's comments. She added that police presence on high traffic roads would be very helpful as traffic continues to be diverted from Route 80 to Route

10. She shared concerns about federal administrative cuts to library funding. She wanted to understand what the ramifications would be for the township library as far as limiting services and increasing taxes. She was also concerned about potential impacts on the public school system with regard to disabled children.

Mayor Hathaway informed Mrs. Birch that the school-related question would need to be referred to the Board of Education. Councilwoman Thornton shared that her concern about the library had been discussed recently at a Board of Trustees meeting. She noted that the library was not currently experiencing any issues and anticipated it would be able to continue providing its services. However, if changes were to occur at the federal level, further review might be necessary. She also mentioned that the library had already received its funding for the year. She explained that library funding comes through property taxes, and any federal funds would be received through grants that the library applies for.

Seeing and hearing no one further, the public session was closed.

C. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Poff reported on the following items:

NJ State Police (NJSP) Extend Route 10 Traffic Detail into Randolph Township – Following a formal request from the township, the NJSP has extended their current Route 10 traffic management detail to include four key intersections within the township. This deployment is now active. The request was made by township officials in response to extremely heavy traffic volumes along the Route 10 corridor and heightened safety concerns. The presence of NJSP Troopers aims to deter potential traffic violators and reassure the motoring public traveling through Randolph.

Resurfacing of the Salem Street/NJ 10 Ramp – The Police Department is collaborating with the New Jersey Department of Transportation on the Salem Street and Route 10 ramp resurfacing project. The NJDOT conducted a skid test to determine the function of the on ramp to Route 10 East from South Salem Street. The test results indicate driver factors significantly contribute to recent issues. This work will take place in the near future, and the higher friction surface is expected to reduce accidents.

NJLRIG Grant Award – Randolph Township has secured an \$84,000 grant from the NJDCA Local Recreation Improvement Grant Program. Funds will improve the Heistein Park Playground, including a new playground structure and swing set with inclusive play features. This grant award supports Randolph's commitment to enhancing public spaces for children of all abilities while saving taxpayer money.

Road Resurfacing – The Engineering Department is reporting on Road Resurfacing through Morris County Cooperative Contract #6. Tilcon anticipates milling and paving the township's Phase 1 roads (Mt. Pleasant Turnpike, Old Wood Lane South, and Neben Place) next week, with milling to be conducted on April 21 and paving on April 23. Mt. Pleasant Turnpike will have a minor detour that keeps people on Route 10 for a little longer, but is not expected to be a great inconvenience. Old Wood Land South and Neben Place are both side streets that will only impact the residents living there (about 14 homes).

Clean Communities Day & Paper Shredding – Clean Communities Day and Paper Shredding is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Refreshments, including bagels and coffee, will be served the morning of the event. All participants will receive gloves, garbage bags, shirts, and a reusable Clean Communities bag. Free paper shredding will also be available on the same day, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Cancer Screenings – Arrangements are being finalized for upcoming cancer screenings facilitated by ScreenNJ (a collaboration including Rutgers Cancer Institute and the NJ Department of Health). The ScreenNJ mobile unit will be at the Weis parking lot. A female cancer screening and skin cancer screening will be held on June 12, a male cancer screening and skin cancer screening will be held on June 26. Partnering with ScreenNJ is expected to significantly improve the impact and accessibility of these vital services for residents.

Municipal Building & Park Projects – The Freedom Park drainage project has been completed, and the trench must now settle prior to the final topsoil and seed. Masonry work was started on the Municipal Building roof two weeks ago and has been completed. Roof replacement to begin Thursday, April 17. A water bottle station has been installed at the Municipal Building in the hallway near the Planning & Zoning Office.

Recycling Tonnage Grant – Randolph Township has been awarded a \$75,354 Recycling Tonnage Grant from the NJDEP for its recycling performance. This award reflects the municipal and residential commitment to sustainability and responsible waste management. The grant supports Randolph’s broader environmental stewardship goals, including education and outreach.

Route 80 Business Assistance Grant Program – The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) announced plans for a \$5 million initiative to support small businesses and nonprofits near Exit 34 (Morris County) affected by Route 80 disruptions. Eligibility (pending NJEDA Board approval): Small businesses/nonprofits with ≤50 full-time employees certifying a minimum revenue loss of \$1,000 during the Q1 2025. Applications are expected to open by the end of April 2025. Details will be on the NJDEA website and social media.

Mayor Hathaway asked Manager Poff about the South Salem duration of work. Manager Poff stated that the township was waiting for the construction schedule; he would share the information as it becomes available.

D. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

1. Approval of Township Council Regular Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2025

Councilwoman Carey made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from February 20, 2025. Councilwoman Thornton seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYES:	Councilwoman Carey
	Councilwoman Elbaum
	Councilwoman Thornton
	Councilwoman Veech
	Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler

NAYS: Mayor Hathaway
None
ABSENT: Councilman Nisivoccia

2. Approval of Township Council Special Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2025

Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler made a motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from February 27, 2025. Councilwoman Veech seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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

E. 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET/PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION

1. R 91-25 Authorizing Reading 2025 Township of Randolph Budget by Title Only

Mayor Hathaway explained that R 91-25 allowed the budget to be read by title only.

Councilwoman Carey made a motion to approve R 91-25, Authorizing the Reading of the 2025 Township of Randolph Budget by Title Only. Councilwoman Elbaum seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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

Manager Poff explained that every year the Township Council is required by law to adopt a Municipal Budget. The manager and administrative staff prepare recommendations in the form of a draft budget, but the council must ensure that the adopted budget satisfies the needs of the community.

He explained that the focus of this budget has been on sustaining programs and services. This budget maintains service levels and satisfies the operational objectives of each department while balancing the Township Council's goal of improving financial accountability, meeting service demands, and infrastructure needs. The proposed 2025 budget calls for appropriations of

\$37,687,23, which represents a 4.9% increase with \$1,761,517 from the adopted 2024 budget. Significant dollar increases are seen in the appropriations for insurance, specifically health insurance, contractual salary and wage increases, capital improvements, and statutory expenditures, which include pensions and Social Security as well as solid waste collection. The expense side of the budget is assigned by department and divided within each department into salary and wages and other expenses. These expenditures are presented in a line-item budget format, and appropriations are the mechanism that allows local government to deliver services to its taxpayers.

The 2025 budget advances several key initiatives, including increasing organizational efficiency and accountability through the implementation of new budgeting, time and attendance software, which will improve organizational productivity and effectiveness strengthening cyber security. These investments not only protect the information of both the township and residents, but also ensures compliance with joint insurance fund standards. This budget provides additional funding for summer program staff, youth programs, day camps and teen camps. The increased appropriations are offset by supplementary revenues from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, so as not to have an impact on the property taxpayer.

The budget also allows for the migration of Body-Worn Camera data to cloud storage solution, further helping the township remain compliant with current standards set forth by the state attorney general.

This budget also provides resources necessary to continue advantageous public health shared services. This investment in shared services through the township's Health Department and Animal Control Division generated more than \$200,000 in anticipated revenues in 2024.

The cumulative impact of the budget modifications results in a tax rate increase from 0.477 to 0.498. As previously stated, the decision to increase taxes is carefully considered in the context of the township's long term fiscal integrity and the increase in a number of non-discretionary expense items. The proposed rate increase of 4.44% represents an annual increase of \$114.63 or \$9.55 per month for the average assessed home of \$493,400. This year's budget uses a greater amount of fund balance to limit the increase in the municipal portion of property taxes, with fund balance in a strong position of \$9,542,333 as of December 31, 2024. This budget calls for an additional \$150,000 to lessen the impact on the municipal property tax levy. The amount of fund balance anticipated in the 2025 budget is \$6,366,470. This year's budget maintains a prudent level of surplus in order to avoid potential spikes in future tax rates.

The 2025 municipal budget, as presented, maintains current service levels. These services are being provided in accordance with resident expectations and contribute to the quality of life for all taxpayers within the township.

Manager Poff concluded his overview by thanking Chief Financial Officer Debbie Bonanno for her assistance in the preparation of the 2025 municipal budget. He also thanked the council for not taking the responsibility of being good fiscal stewards lightly. He commended the council for their concern for details and their constructive guidance as the township navigated through finalizing the 2025 spending plan. He thanked the Township Auditors, Kathy Mantel and Brian Co, for providing valuable guidance and assistance.

2. Public Hearing on the 2025 Municipal Budget

Township Auditor Kathy Mantell shared that the municipality is subject to review by the Division of Local Government Services; when comments came back this year, CFO Bonanno addressed them very clearly.

Ben McHugh of 100 Center Grove Road asked if the \$7 million budget surplus would be applied toward the township's expenses. He also asked how the township receives surplus.

Manager Poff explained that the fund balance is a recurring item of revenue. It is used from year-to-year and is generated from a number of sources. He noted that the township may receive greater revenues than anticipated and those additional funds go into fund balance; additionally, if the township does not expend 100% of a particular appropriation that has a remaining balance, it is eventually canceled into the fund balance. At year's end, the township examines where the fund balance closed and makes determinations based upon revenues realized and the amounts that have been canceled back into fund balance to determine an appropriate amount of fund balance to be used in the subsequent budget year. He noted that the township auditors are also consulted as the amount of fund balance the township maintains is a component piece of what is used by rating agencies to determine the township's rating credit worthiness. He informed Mr. McHugh that while there is no formal fund balance policy, the township reviews the balance through the lens of the rating agencies and financial health.

Mr. McHugh asked if the fund balance would appear in the summary of appropriations. Manager Poff informed him that it would not appear as appropriation, but as an item of revenue.

3. R 92-25 Adoption of 2025 Municipal Budget

Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler thanked the township professionals for their work throughout the budget process. He noted that virtually every budget line was reviewed and examined with the goal of maintaining services while having a minimal impact on taxes. He referred to the Fire Engine expense and shared that the Fire Department Chiefs were looking for other avenues to spend less on the expense. He commented that just because a certain amount of money is allocated for a project doesn't mean every dime is going to be spent; in some cases, less will be spent and the difference will be reserved. He stated that increases are never great, but due to increases in non-discretionary expenses, he thought the township did a great job without cutting services. He thanked the council for their contributions and Manager Poff and CFO Bonanno for their efforts.

Councilwoman Carey appreciated everyone's efforts throughout the process. She noted that out of the 39 municipalities in Morris County, Randolph's municipal tax per person ranks 34 out of 39; while still providing great services.

Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler thanked the Township Auditors for their efforts and attending this meeting.

Manager Poff read R-92-25, Adoption of the 2025 Municipal Budget, 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

Councilwoman Veech made a motion to approve R 92-25, Adoption of the 2025 Municipal Budget. Councilwoman Thornton seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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

F. COMBINED ACTION RESOLUTIONS

1. R 93-25 Authorizing Award of a Professional Services Agreement to French & Parrello Associates for Professional Engineering Consulting Services for Rosenfarb-Guerin Farms Trail Design and Permitting Until the Project is Fully Completed - Not to Exceed \$116,435.00

CERTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Dated: April 15, 2025

As required by N.J.S.A. 40A:4-57, N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.3-5.5, and any other applicable requirement, I, Deborah Bonanno, Director of Finance for the Township of Randolph, have ascertained that funds are available to approve a contract with French and Parrello Associates for the Rosenfarb-Guerin Trail design for an amount not to exceed \$116,435 as detailed in the professional's proposal provided to the Township.

Deborah Bonanno
Chief Financial Officer

Budget Accounts: 02-213-41-828-300 \$93,148
04-215-56-030-309 \$23,287

2. R 94-25 Authorizing Award of a Contract for On-Site Brush Grinding Services to Frank Galbraith & Son Excavation and Demolition, LLC for Period of May 1, 2025 Through April 30, 2026 with the Option to Extend - Not to Exceed \$75,000.00

CERTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Dated: April 15, 2025

As required by N.J.S.A. 40A:4-57, N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.3-5.5, and any other applicable requirement, I, Deborah Bonanno, Director of Finance for the Township of Randolph, have ascertained that funds will be available, subject to annual appropriation and adoption in the 2025 municipal budget, to award a contract to Frank Galbraith & Son Excavation and Demolition, LLC for providing On-Site Brush Grinding as detailed in the contractor's response provided to the Township's public bid solicitation.

Deborah Bonanno
Chief Financial Officer

Budget Accounts: 01-201-26-300-309 (not to exceed \$75,000)

3. R 95-25 Authorizing Award of a Professional Services Agreement to Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., for Engineering Design Services for Morris Turnpike Improvements Until the Construction Project is Fully Completed - Not to Exceed \$29,570.00

CERTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Dated: April 15, 2025

As required by N.J.S.A. 40A:4-57, N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.3-5.5, and any other applicable requirement, I, Deborah Bonanno, Director of Finance for the Township of Randolph, have ascertained that funds are available to award a contract to Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. in the amount of \$29,750 for engineering design services for improvements to Morris Turnpike as detailed in the vendor's response provided to the Township.

Deborah Bonanno
Chief Financial Officer

Budget Accounts: 04-215-56-030-306

4. R 96-25 Authorizing Award of Contract for Preventive Maintenance/Repair of HVAC Equipment of Township Buildings/Complexes to Air Systems Maintenance, Inc. for the Period of April 21, 2025 Through April 20, 2027 With the Option to Extend - Not to Exceed \$178,112.00

CERTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Dated: April 15, 2025

As required by N.J.S.A. 40A:4-57, N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.3-5.5, and any other applicable requirement, I, Deborah Bonanno, Director of Finance for the Township of Randolph, have ascertained that funds are available, subject to annual budget appropriation and

adoption in the 2026 and 2027 municipal budgets, to award a contract to Air Systems Maintenance, Inc. for providing HVAC maintenance services to all municipal buildings in an amount not to exceed \$178,112.

Deborah Bonanno
Chief Financial Officer

Budget Accounts:	01-201-26-310-305	2025	\$65,000
	01-201-26-310-305	2026	\$98,112
	01-201-26-310-305	2027	\$15,000

5. R 97-25 Endorsing an Application for a Treatment Works Approval Extension for Ten East Realty, LLC c/o Performance Ford Lincoln
6. Raffle License - On-Premise 50/50, Morris County Council of Education Philanthropic, at the Meadow Wood, 461 Route 10, Randolph, June 8, 2025, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler made a motion to approve the combined action agenda. Councilwoman Carey seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Nisivoccia

G. ORDINANCES: SECOND READING

1. Ordinance 06-25 Appropriating \$250,000 From the Capital Improvement Fund for Various Water/Sewer Capital Improvements

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 read by title on second reading and a hearing held thereon.

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.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing and hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

BE IT RESOLVED, An Ordinance of the Township of Randolph Appropriating \$250,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for Various Water/Sewer Capital Improvements, 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.

Councilwoman Carey made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Councilwoman Elbaum seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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

2. Ordinance 07-25 Appropriating \$2,287,000 From the Capital Improvement Fund for Various 2025 Capital Improvements

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 read by title on second reading and a hearing held thereon.

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.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing and hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

BE IT RESOLVED, Capital Ordinance of the Township of Randolph Appropriating \$2,287,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for Various 2025 Capital Improvements, 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.

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

3. Ordinance 08-25 Appropriating \$495,000 From the Recreation/Open Space Trust Fund for Various 2025 Parks and Recreation Capital

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 read by title on second reading and a hearing held thereon.

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.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing and hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

BE IT RESOLVED, 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 passed on final reading and that a Notice of Final Passage of said Ordinance be published in the official designated newspaper according to law.

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, Bond Ordinance Appropriating \$2,500,000 and Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,050,000 Bonds or Notes, be read by title on second reading and a hearing held thereon.

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.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing and hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

BE IT RESOLVED, Bond Ordinance Appropriating \$2,500,000 and Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,050,000 Bonds or Notes, 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.

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

5. Ordinance 10-25 A Capital Ordinance of the Township of Randolph Appropriating \$23,287 From the Capital Improvement Fund for the Rosenfarb-Guerin Trail Design

BE IT RESOLVED, that an Ordinance entitled, A Capital Ordinance of the Township of Randolph Appropriating \$23,287 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the Rosenfarb-Guerin Trail Design, be read by title on second reading and a hearing held thereon.

Manager Poff explained that the purpose of this ordinance is to appropriate \$23,287 from the Capital Improvement fund for the Rosenfarb-Guerin Trail design.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing and hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

BE IT RESOLVED, A Capital Ordinance of the Township of Randolph Appropriating \$23,287 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the Rosenfarb-Guerin Trail Design, 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.

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

H. DISCUSSION

1. June 3 Township Council Meeting Date Change

The Council discussed rescheduling the June 3, 2025, Council meeting to June 10, 2025. The proposed change was in response to the state's decision to move the Primary Election date from June 3 to June 10. Following discussion, there was consensus among the Council members to reschedule the meeting to June 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

I. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Ben McHugh of 100 Center Grove Road recalled that one of the township's goals was the revitalization of Sussex Turnpike in the Mount Freedom area. He inquired whether consideration was being given to potential synergies between that revitalization effort and the Township's affordable housing obligations. Mr. McHugh also noted the importance of pedestrian improvements to ensure the area is safe and walkable, particularly if it is to serve as a potential downtown. Mayor Hathaway informed Mr. McHugh that he could follow up via email for further discussion.

Seeing and hearing no one further, the public session was closed.

J. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Carey reported that the Board of Health discussed several screening programs. The Board also noted that the township received a \$76,000 recycling tonnage grant. She shared that recycling data from 2024 and 2025 are similar, while waste management data showed a 26% decrease. She also reported that the vaccine freezer at Town Hall broke down. In response, Health Officer Courtney Sartain applied for a grant to obtain a replacement. As a result, a new freezer is scheduled for delivery next week. The only loss was a small quantity of MMR and polio vaccines.

The Board also discussed Avian Influenza; to date, there have been no reported cases in Randolph. Councilwoman Carey noted that Clean Communities Day and Shredding Day will both be held on April 26. On May 16, the Township Public Health Nurses will conduct a blood screening clinic; information will be shared through township communication channels. She also mentioned that Board Chair Dr. Millman recognized all recycling employees at the center for their dedicated work.

Councilwoman Carey continued by reporting that Local Government Week activities were very well received. She noted that the mayor presented the Parkinson's Day Proclamation to the YMCA. She also participated in a New Resident Workgroup meeting. Additionally, she and Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler attended a marketing event at Brightview Senior Living. The event, hosted by the Randolph Area Chamber of Commerce, aimed to help local officials learn more about the facility.

She further reported that the Recreation Advisory Committee met on April 10. The committee reviewed the results of a survey conducted by two parents involved in the Boys Lacrosse program. Of the 155 families surveyed, 83 responded. Of those, 57% believed unsportsmanlike conduct was an issue in the program; 36% saw it as a minor issue, 20% as a moderate issue, and 1% as a major issue. In addition, 73% of parents agreed that the yellow card policy was necessary. The committee chair and Assistant Parks and Recreation Director thought the survey was a great example of how feedback and recommendations could benefit other programs.

She noted that the Earth Day Trail Walk was scheduled for April 27 at Brundage Park, with event details still being finalized. Concerns about motorized vehicles at Veterans Community Park were also raised again; Manager Poff is investigating the matter. She shared that she is a member of the 250th Sesquicentennial Committee, though meeting dates have not yet been determined.

Mayor Hathaway referred to the Recreation Committee's survey and emphasized the importance of its focus on sportsmanship. He shared that the committee and recreation department's efforts with the Field Monitor Program were recognized in recent issue of *USA Lacrosse* magazine.

Councilwoman Carey noted that the committee's new student member, Ethan Pasia, shared that there is currently no feeder program for the boys' volleyball team at the high school. Assistant Director Steve Eisenstein mentioned that there are summer clinics for boys' volleyball. He stated that there have been discussions about expanding the program.

Councilwoman Thornton reported that the Library Board of Trustees met on April 10. The library had extra lockers which were relocated to the Randolph Rescue Squad. She also noted that the library will be submitting a fairy house entry for the local fairy trail.

She shared that, through the Neighborhood Forest Initiative, children in Randolph can receive a free tree this year at the library. The trees are expected to arrive before Earth Day on April 22. The library will also be offering adult take-home crafts in April. Additionally, the Morris County Mosquito Control Division will have a mosquito and tick display at the library throughout the month of May.

Councilwoman Thornton acknowledged that this week is National Telecommunicators Week and expressed appreciation for the dispatchers who answer 911 calls and help keep first responders safe. She referred to the recent accident that occurred on April 10 at Route 10 and Millbrook Avenue, offering prayers for the family involved and noting that it remains an active investigation.

Councilwoman Veech reported that the New Resident Workgroup is working from a list assembled by the Tax Assessor's Office, which includes 198 new residents who moved into the Township between June 1 and March 12. She distributed the list to the Council and provided instructions on how to deliver new resident welcome packets. She also reviewed the contents of the packets and noted that each Councilmember would be responsible for delivering approximately 28 packets.

Manager Poff took a moment to recognize Joan Brembs, a former Township employee, for her years of service in outreach to new residents. He acknowledged her dedication to assembling informational materials and expressed appreciation for her contributions. He noted that the current version of the welcome packet is more elaborate and provides a meaningful way to connect with residents.

Councilwoman Veech continued by reviewing the contents of the packet, which includes a welcome letter from the mayor, the township's quarterly newsletter, the annual report, trail maps, brochures, and additional information. The council discussed when distribution could begin and how delivery progress would be tracked. She also shared that apartment tenants would have access to the packet through a QR code flyer, allowing them to request a packet or download it directly.

She continued her report by sharing updates on the Community Garden, which currently has 60 people on its waitlist. An Eagle Scout is working on an herb garden project in the area. She was scheduled to participate in a video segment about the garden earlier in the day, but due to inclement weather, it was postponed to Thursday.

She reported that the Parks Advisory Committee discussed several items, including the water filling station at Freedom Park, a park security camera audit, new key fobs for the Community Center facility, geese patrol in the parks, and a grant for playground equipment. She also noted that the YMCA continues to host programs for seniors with disabilities.

Councilwoman Veech provided an update on the Land Use Workgroup. The group recommended making Irish Spring Road one-way from a specific point off a driveway to eliminate turns directly from Route 10 onto the road. The township is currently in communication with the adjacent property owner to identify any potential concerns and will coordinate with NJDOT to implement the change. The Planning/Zoning Administrator will report back to the Board of Adjustment once the change is ready to proceed.

Councilwoman Thornton noted that a traffic study had recently been conducted in the area. Councilwoman Veech confirmed this and stated that a building is planned for the site. The road change was part of the associated land use application.

The Land Use Workgroup also reviewed tax lien and title issues. Four properties previously identified near Route 10 and Mountainside Drive are being considered for redevelopment. The township is working with Habitat for Humanity, which has expressed interest in partnering on these sites. Councilwoman Veech emphasized that sewer access and additional infrastructure would be necessary for development. She asked the council for support in exploring the use of these tax lien properties—including assessing costs, the legal process, and title work—as part of the township's efforts to possibly meet its fourth-round affordable housing obligations.

Manager Poff stated that the properties in question had been previously identified and discussed by the township. The township has re-engaged its nonprofit housing partners—particularly Habitat for Humanity—regarding the potential inclusion of these properties in the fourth-round affordable housing plan. However, since the township does not currently hold title to these properties, additional work is required. This includes a better understanding of the current foreclosure requirements and necessary environmental assessments. Once this due diligence is completed, a more comprehensive recommendation will be presented to the council for consideration.

Councilwoman Veech reported that Toll Brothers submitted revised plans and conceptual drawings, which will be presented to the Planning Board. Manager Poff added that Toll Brothers is proposing for this particular development to be incorporated into the township's fourth-round affordable housing plan. In support of this, as the next Housing Element and Fair Share Plan is developed, the council will be asked to consider a zoning amendment to allow for the construction of the proposed units. He acknowledged the efforts of the Land Use Workgroup, which worked collaboratively with Toll Brothers to improve upon the original proposal.

Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler reported that he attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for CTRL Care. He also attended a liaison meeting with County College of Morris (CCM), accompanied by the Mayor, Township Manager and Assistant Manager. He noted that while the Mayor and Deputy Mayor typically serve as liaisons to the Board of Education, this has now been expanded to include CCM.

Mayor Hathaway expanded on the CCM liaison meeting, sharing that they met with CCM President Dr. Anthony Iacono and members of the Board of Trustees. Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Steve Eisenstein was also in attendance. The college was very receptive to continuing the meetings with the township. He noted that topics of discussion included the township's athletic and artistic recreation programs and the potential use of the CCM auditorium for summer programming, the township's 250th Sesquicentennial Committee planning efforts, IT/technology, training opportunities, economic development and leveraging resources.

Mayor Hathaway referred to the accident on Route 10 and expressed his thanks to Councilwoman Thornton for her role as a first responder at the scene. He extended his gratitude and support to all the first responders both at the scene and within the community. He also thanked the staff members at Pediatric Dental, as many of them were among the first to arrive.

He shared that a resident involved with the Girls Lacrosse Program had reported an issue with other parties using the facilities when the program arrives on site for practices and games. He noted that Parks and Recreation staff, along with law enforcement, would be monitoring such situations to ensure that the fields are used as permitted and that ordinances are followed.

Councilwoman Carey noted that most of the council had seen the Brundage Playhouse production of *the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. She added that councilmembers were even called up to participate in the performance.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Veech made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Deputy Mayor Forstenhausler seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was taken:

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