

**Meeting audio can be found at [lebanontownship.net](http://lebanontownship.net).**

Timestamp in blue.

**Lebanon Township Committee  
November 16, 2022**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting**

**COMMITTEEMAN ABE ABUCHOWSKI**

Mayor Schmidt welcomed Mr. Abuchowski to the Township Committee. He was sworn in as Committee member on Monday, November 14, 2022. Mr. Abuchowski will full fill Marc Laul's unexpired term, December 31, 2023.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Mike Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated that in compliance with the "Open Public Meeting Act" this is a Regular Meeting of the Township Committee as published in the Hunterdon Review, the agenda has been posted at the Municipal Building and distributed to the Hunterdon Review, Courier News, the Express Times, the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Star Ledger.

**FLAG SALUTE**

Mayor Schmidt asked everyone to please stand for the Flag Salute and for a moment of silence in honor of the First Responders, Servicemen and Women, people of the Ukraine.

**ROLL CALL**

Present -                   Mike Schmidt                   Thomas McKee                   Beverly Koehler  
                                  Guy R. Wilson                   Abe Abuchowski

Absent-

Also Present - Attorney Matt Lyons, Clerk Karen Sandorse, and 54 members of the public.

**Resolution No. 96-2022 - Removal of the Municipal Administrator**

**1:16**

Attorney Lyons stated that the independent investigation has been completed. The report has been reviewed by the Governing Body. Based on the completion, the Committee is now permitted to exercise their authority pursuant to NJSA 40A:9-138.

*Motion by Mr. McKee, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved Resolution No. 96-2022 as written below. AYES: McKee, Abuchowski, Koehler, Schmidt RECUSED: Wilson*

**PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items Only**

**3:41**

*Motion by Ms. Koehler, seconded by Mr. Abuchowski and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting at 7:04 p.m.*

Mr. Victor Hoffman asked why the Committee is considering acquiring land that is not buildable, he questioned who will maintain the property and who will insure it.

*Motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee closed the public comment portion of the meeting at 7:06 p.m.*

**RESOLUTIONS**

**6:16**

**Resolution No. 97-2022 - Resolution of the Township of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Services of a Qualified Purchasing Agent**

*Motion by Mr. McKee, seconded by Mr. Wilson and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved Resolution No. 97-2022 as written below.*

TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON  
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
RESOLUTION NO. 97-2022  
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF  
NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SERVICES OF A  
QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Uniform Shared Services and Consolidated Act (N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, et seq.) authorizes shared services between municipalities; and

WHEREAS, Lebanon has a need for the services of a Qualified Purchasing Agent; and

WHEREAS, Lebanon has requested that Holland provide the services of a Qualified Purchasing Agent in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in a Shared Services Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Lebanon, in the County of Hunterdon, that the Township of Lebanon hereby authorizes Holland Township to provide the services of a Qualified Purchasing Agent as set forth in the Shared Services Agreement executed on November 16, 2022.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**No Unfinished Business**

**NEW BUSINESS**

7:53

**2022 Best Practice Inventory**

The CFO submitted the 2022 Best Practices Inventory for the Committees review. There is no action to be taken.

**Replacement for Marc Laul for PBA Negotiations**

*Motion by Ms. Koehler, seconded by Mr. Wilson and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote the Committee appointed Mr. McKee to work with Mayor Schmidt on the PBA Negotiations.*

**JCP&L Tree Trimming Maintenance-Washington & Tewksbury Substation**

JCP&L has sent letters stating that they will be doing tree trimming on various streets in the Township. The work will be conducted out of their Washington and Tewksbury substations.

*Motion by Mr. Abuchowski, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee acknowledged letters received from JCP&L regarding the tree trimming project.*

**Potential Open Space Acquisition – Block 49 Lot 76**

The Township has been approached by David Tullo, owner of Block 49 Lot 76, with the possibility of the Township acquiring his Anthony Road property. The property is 5 acres and is located near the Anthony Preserve. The Environmental Open Space Committee unanimously supports the acquisition of the property.

*Motion by Mr. Abuchowski, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee authorized the preparation and submission of the pre-appraisal questionnaire to Green Acres.*

**Schedule 2023 Reorganization Meeting**

*Motion by Ms. Koehler, seconded by Mr. McKee and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee scheduled the 2023 Reorganization Meeting to be held on January 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. AYES: McKee, Abuchowski, Koehler, Schmidt ABSTAIN: Wilson*

**Schedule Special Meeting – 2023 Professional Services Contract**

Mr. Abuchowski suggested scheduling a Special Meeting for the Committee to discuss the 2023 Professional Services appointments.

*Motion by Mr. Abuchowski, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee scheduled a Special Meeting to be held on November 30, 2022 at 4:00 p.m., with an Executive Session, for the purpose of evaluating the 2023 Professional Services contracts. Action may or may not be taken. AYES: McKee, Abuchowski, Koehler, Schmidt ABSTAIN: Wilson*

## **PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS**

**36:50**

Committee Members provided a description of vouchers exceeding \$1000.00.

*Motion by Ms. Koehler, seconded by Mr. Abuchowski and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved the November 16, 2022 bill list in the amount of \$80,343.03.*

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**38:24**

- a. Recycling Coordinator Memo- Free Computer/Electronics and Scrap Metal Recycling Event
- b. October 2022 Police Report
- c. NJDCA ARP Firefighter Grant - \$8500

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**40:12**

*Motion by Mr. Abuchowski, seconded by Ms. Koehler carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting at 7:40 p.m.*

Dr. Hernandez commented on the Teetertown Preserve and stated his concerns when walking on Pleasant Grove Road to access the trail. He asked for the Committee to consider a sidewalk or pedestrian access from the Nursing Home.

Ms. Joann Letters, Chair of the Park Committee, said that the Park Committee sponsored a successful Holiday Food Drive with the North Hunterdon Food Pantry on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Letters thanked the members of the community who donated food. The next Food Drive will be held on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to -12:00 p.m. at the concession stand in the Park. Food collected will support the North Hunterdon Food Pantry.

Mr. Bill Bohn said that he is hoping that the Committee will work to build trust and transparency and to all work together and get communications out to the public. Mr. Bohn asked about the Open Space Acquisition, commented on Township professionals and upcoming appointments for vacancies on the Planning Board.

*Motion by Mr. Abuchowski, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee closed the public comment portion of the meeting at 7:58 p.m.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**58:11**

Having no further business to come before the Committee a motion was made by Mr. Abuchowski, seconded by Ms. Koehler and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote to adjourn the meeting 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen J. Sandorse, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk

Approved: December 21, 2022

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Mike Schmidt, Mayor