

**TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON
COMMITTEE MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 2026
7:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jay Wojcik 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 as a courtesy posted on the Township website. Official action will be taken at this meeting.

FLAG SALUTE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. Wojcik asked everyone to please stand for the Flag Salute and for a moment of silence for ICE Agents in the way of protestors.

ROLL CALL

The following officials were present:

Ms. Beverly Koehler
Mr. Abe Abuchowski
Mr. Jay Wojcik
Mr. Tom McKee
Mr. Richard Webb

Also present were:

Mr. Mark Roselli, Esq., Township Attorney
Ms.Carolynn Budd, Township Clerk
20 Members of the Public

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

- 12/3/2025 Regular Session Meeting Minutes
- 12/3/2025 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to approve the 12/3/2025 Regular Session Meeting Minutes and 12/3/2025 Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

Motion to Approve:	Ms. Koehler
Second:	Mr. McKee
Ayes:	Mr. Abuchowski, Ms. Koehler, Mr. McKee, Mr. Wojcik
Abstain:	Mr. Webb

- 12/9/2025 Special Meeting Regular Session Meeting Minutes
- 12/9/2025 Special Meeting Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to approve the 12/9/2025 Special Meeting Regular Session Meeting Minutes and 12/9/2025 Special Meeting Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

Motion to Approve: Mr. Abuchowski
 Second: Ms. Koehler
 Ayes: Mr. Abuchowski, Ms. Koehler, Mr. Wojcik
 Abstain: Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb

- 12/16/2025 Special Meeting Regular Session Meeting Minutes
- 12/16/2025 Special Meeting Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to approve the 12/16/2025 Special Meeting Regular Session Meeting Minutes and 12/16/2025 Special Meeting Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

Motion to Approve: Mr. McKee
 Second: Mr. Abuchowski
 Ayes: Mr. Abuchowski, Mr. McKee, Mr. Wojcik
 Abstain: Ms. Koehler, Mr. Webb

- 1/5/2026 Reorganization Meeting Minutes
- 1/5/2026 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to approve the 1/5/2026 Reorganization Meeting Minutes and 1/5/2026 Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

Motion to Approve: Mr. McKee
 Second: Ms. Koehler
 Ayes: Ms. Koehler, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik
 Abstain: Mr. Abuchowski

- 1/15/2026 Budget Work Session Meeting Minutes

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to approve the 1/15/2026 Budget Work Session Meeting Minutes.

Motion to Approve: Mr. Abuchowski
 Second: Mr. McKee
 Ayes: Ms. Koehler, Mr. Abuchowski, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items Only (limited to two minutes per speaker)

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to open Public Comment.

Motion to Open: Mr. Webb
 Second: Mr. Abuchowski
 Ayes: Ms. Koehler, Mr. Abuchowski, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

Public comment: JCP&L tree trimming.

Seeing and hearing no one else wishing to speak, Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to close Public Comment for agenda items only.

Motion to Close: Mr. Abuchowski
Second: Ms. Koehler
Ayes: Ms. Koehler, Mr. Abuchowski, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION

NO. 01-2026 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Governing body of the Township of Lebanon in the County of Hunterdon finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2026 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Governing body hereby determines that a 3.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$79,592.42 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Governing body hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2026 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Lebanon shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$185,715.64, and that the CY 2026 municipal budget for the Township of Lebanon be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 01-2026.

Motion to Introduce: Mr. McKee

Second: Mr. Webb

Ayes: Ms. Koehler, Mr. Abuchowski, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

NO. 02-2026 ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARY PAY RANGE FOR OFFICER AND EMPLOYEE POSITIONS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that:

SECTION A. This Ordinance shall be known and may be referred to be its short title which is “The 2026 Salary Ordinance.”

SECTION B. The annual salary range of the following officers and employees of the Township of Lebanon shall be as set forth hereafter (changes in **bold**):

Position	Salary Range (Per Annum)	
Mayor	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Committee	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Open Space Coordinator	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Tax Assessor	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 55,000.00
Municipal Clerk	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 120,000.00
Deputy Clerk	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 80,000.00
Tax Collector	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 55,000.00
Chief Financial Officer	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 56,000.00
Treasurer	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Planning Board Clerk	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
Zoning Officer	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
Board of Adjustment Secretary	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
Administrative Assistant	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
Planning Board Clerk/Board of Adjustment Secretary	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Planning Board Clerk/Board of Adjustment Secretary/Administrative Assistant	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
Police Office Manager	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 65,000.00
Certified Public Works Manager	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 145,000.00
Assistant Road Supervisor	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 110,000.00

Chief Mechanic	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 80,000.00
Road Employee	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 85,000.00
Police Chief	\$ 86,000.00	\$ 175,000.00
Police Sergeant	\$ 66,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
Police Officer	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 135,000.00
Office of Emergency Management	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Dog Census	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
Dog Licensing	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
Recycling Coordinator	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 7,000.00

SECTION C. The hourly wage of the following employees of the Township of Lebanon shall be set forth hereafter:

Position	Salary Range (Per Hour)	
Buildings and Grounds	\$ 15.92	\$ 20.00
Library Clerk	\$ 19.00	\$ 31.00
Assistant Library Clerk	\$ 15.92	\$ 22.00
Museum Curator	\$ 15.92	\$ 21.00
Associate Museum Curator	\$ 15.92	\$ 18.00
Special Police Class II & Matrons	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00
Dog Wardens	\$ 15.92	\$ 18.00
CWA – Out of Title Work	\$ 2.00	\$ 5.00
Fire Official	\$ 30.00	\$ 39.00
Fire Inspector	\$ 30.00	\$ 36.00
Perc Test Witness	\$ 100.00	\$ 125.00
Per-Diem Substitutes	\$ 15.92	\$ 20.00
Road Department -Temporary Labor/Seasonal	\$ 15.92	\$ 20.00
Special Traffic Guards	\$ 25.00	\$ 42.58
SLEO Class III	\$ 32.00	\$ 40.00
Office Assistants	\$ 15.92	\$ 20.00
Accounts Payable	\$ 20.00	\$ 33.00

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 02-2026.

Motion to Introduce: Ms. Koehler

Second: Mr. Abuchowski

Ayes: Ms. Koehler, Mr. Abuchowski, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

RESOLUTIONS

NO. 28-2026 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE TAX COLLECTOR'S 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A.54:4-91 requires that the Tax Collector shall submit an annual statement of receipts to the governing body.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the following Collector's Annual Report of Receipts for the Year Ending December 31, 2025, be hereby acknowledged and accepted as submitted.

TAX COLLECTION OFFICE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025

2026 Taxes	\$ 289,075.68
2025 Taxes	\$ 27,221,070.11
2024 Taxes	\$ 564,365.75
Penalty	\$ 13,991.69
Misc.	\$ 380.00
Interest	<u>\$ 89,292.71</u>
	<u>\$ 28,178,175.94</u>

Mr. McKee announced the numbers for the public.

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 28-2026.

Motion to Adopt: Mr. Abuchowski
Second: Mr. McKee
Ayes: Ms. Koehler, Mr. Abuchowski, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

NO. 29-2026 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT FOR 10 POINT MOUNTAIN ROAD, BLOCK 56, LOT 11Q0163

WHEREAS, there is a credit balance on 10 Point Mountain Road, Block 56, Lot 11Q0163 for the 4th quarter 2025 in the amount of \$35.94; and

WHEREAS, the Township Tax Collector requests the balance be refunded to the property owner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey authorizes the refund of 4th quarter tax overpayment on 10 Point Mountain Road, Block 56, Lot 11Q0163 to Josh Denton, 1273 Hearst, Berkeley, CA 94702 in the amount of \$35.94.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be provided to the Tax Collector and Chief Financial Officer.

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 29-2026.

Motion to Adopt: Mr. Abuchowski
Second: Ms. Koehler
Ayes: Ms. Koehler, Mr. Abuchowski, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

NO. 30-2026 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REDEMPTION OF A TAX SALE CERTIFICATE #24-0003 509 WEST HILL ROAD, BLOCK 35, LOT 44

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector did sell a Tax Sale Certificate #24-0003 on December 26, 2024 to G-Tech Capital LLC; and

WHEREAS, the amount of \$24,227.72 has been collected for 509 West Hill Road, Block 35, Lot 44 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #24-0003; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to prepare and the Mayor and Clerk are authorized to sign a check in the amount of \$24,227.72 payable to G-Tech Capital LLC, 474 Mary Allen Way, Mountainside, NJ 07092.

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 30-2026.

Motion to Adopt: Ms. Koehler
Second: Mr. Abuchowski
Ayes: Ms. Koehler, Mr. Abuchowski, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

NO. 31-2026 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT TO GEBHARDT & KIEFER LAW OFFICES AS SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

WHEREAS, the Township of Lebanon requires the services of Special Counsel for Affordable Housing matters; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 provides that any contract or agreement may be made, negotiated or awarded without public advertising for bids and bidding therefore, if the subject matter thereof consists of professional services, are rendered or performed by a person authorized by law to practice a recognized profession; and

WHEREAS, Gebhardt & Kiefer Law Offices, having an address at 1318 Route 31 North, Annandale, NJ 08801, is experienced and recognized as being capable of providing the services required by the Township of Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has determined to award a Professional Services Agreement to Gebhardt & Kiefer Law Offices for Affordable Housing Special Counsel services in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that it does hereby award a professional services agreement to Gebhardt & Kiefer Law Offices, having an address at 1318 Route 31 North, Annandale, NJ 08801, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this action shall be published once in a legally designated newspaper.

Mr. Roselli provided details on what items relating to affordable housing are due to the State.

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 31-2026.

Motion to Adopt: Mr. Abuchowski
Second: Ms. Koehler
Ayes: Ms. Koehler, Mr. Abuchowski, Mr. McKee, Mr. Wojcik
Abstain: Mr. Webb

NO. 32-2026 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REDEMPTION OF A TAX SALE CERTIFICATE #25-0005 405 TRIMMER ROAD, BLOCK 43, LOT 1.01

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector did sell a Tax Sale Certificate #25-0005 on July 16, 2025 to ProCap 8 FBO Firsttrust Bank; and

WHEREAS, the amount of \$66,316.62 has been collected for 405 Trimmer Road, Block 43, Lot 1.01 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #25-0005; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to prepare and the Mayor and Clerk are authorized to sign a check in the amount of \$66,316.62 payable to ProCap 8 FBO Firsttrust Bank, PO Box 774, Fort Washington, PA 19034-0774.

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 32-2026.

Motion to Adopt: Mr. Abuchowski
Second: Ms. Koehler
Ayes: Ms. Koehler, Mr. Abuchowski, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 2026 Committee Meeting Dates. Ms. Koehler provided reasons to support moving to two meetings a month. Mr. Webb agreed with what Ms. Koehler stated. The Committee discussed and noted that 2/25 and 4/22 were previously discussed as second meetings but ended up being a conflict with the Board of Adjustments meeting schedule. The Board of Adjustment did move their meetings to accommodate. Mr. Roselli stated a motion can be made to amend the annual meeting schedule to include 2/25 and 4/22.

Motion to Approve: Ms. Koehler
Second: Mr. Webb
Ayes: Ms. Koehler, Mr. Abuchowski, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

- Museum Roof. Mr. McKee spoke regarding three proposals the Township received from architect firms to assist with specifications for replacement of the Museum roof. Mr. McKee explained the roof replacement project will need to be bid and it is necessary to have a set of plans/specifications for the bidders to follow. Mr. McKee advised the Committee he felt Picknell Architecture was the best firm to handle the specifications and their quote came in at \$7,550.00. Mr. McKee and Mr. Roselli confirmed Open Space Trust Funds can be used to pay the architect. The Committee was at a consensus to move forward with Picknell Architecture's proposal. Ms. Budd to prepare a Resolution to award the contract for the 2/11 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Public Comments Time. Mr. Webb spoke regarding increasing public comment time allotment. Mr. Webb suggested adjusting the time depending on the meetings topics. Mr. Wojcik advised that other local towns set public comment between 3 – 5 minutes. Mr. Roselli provided

information regarding the purpose of public comment. The Committee discussed and Mr. Abuchowski made a motion to move to a 4 minute public comment time.

Motion to Approve: Mr. Abuchowski
Second: Mr. McKee
Ayes: Ms. Koehler, Mr. Abuchowski, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

- Volunteer Appreciation Event – Date Selection. Ms. Koehler advised that Township funds should not be used for event food. Ms. Koehler spoke regarding possible dates and locations to hold the Volunteer Appreciation Event. Ms. Koehler and Mr. Webb to continue working on the event.
- Voorhees Municipal Alliance Participation. Ms. Koehler provided details on the Municipal Alliance. Ms. Budd advised that in order to continue to participate in the Alliance a designee(s) from the Township must be made to attend Alliance meetings. Ms. Koehler requested the meeting dates. Ms. Budd or Ms. Koehler to attend the meetings.
- 2026 Junk Yard License – Burds Salvage.

Motion to Approve: Mr. McKee
Second: Mr. Abuchowski
Ayes: Ms. Koehler, Mr. Abuchowski, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

- Boy Scout Troop 92 Request for Eagle Scout Proclamation. Ms. Budd provided the Committee details on two Scouts that would like a proclamation for their move to Eagle Scout. The Committee agreed to doing the proclamations. Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to approve.

Motion to Approve: Ms. Koehler
Second: Mr. Abuchowski
Ayes: Ms. Koehler, Mr. Abuchowski, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

- JCP&L Tree Trimming Beginning January/February. Ms. Budd provided details on JCP&L's tree trimming in the Township. Mr. Wojcik asked Ms. Budd to post the list of roads where JCP&L will be on the website.
- Township Clean Communities Coordinator Update. Ms. Budd advised that Ms. Nichole Robert, Administrative Assistant completed the Clean Communities training and is now a Certified Clean Communities Coordinator.
- Lebanontownshipnj.gov Domain Implementation and MFA. Ms. Budd provided details on the domain and how it will go into use.
- School Lights Update. Ms. Koehler provided an update on the school light repairs. Ms. Koehler advised that additional repairs were discovered when the new internal components were being installed. Ms. Koehler advised the additional repairs were approximately

\$1,800.00. Ms. Koehler made a motion to amend the proposal, roll call of the Committee was in support.

- Farmland Assessment Filing Through New State On-Line Portal. Ms. Koehler provided some details on the State’s new farmland assessment filing portal.
- Hunterdon County’s Celebration of America’s 250th Birthday – August 15th – Raising of Liberty Pole at Memorial Park. Mr. Wojcik provided details on the event.

BILL LIST

NO. 33-2026 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS, CLAIMS AND STATEMENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$158,930.91

WHEREAS, the Qualified Purchasing Agent is responsible for approving all vouchers subject to preaudit and control; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preaudit, disbursement and control over all expenditures to ensure that budget appropriations are not exceeded; and

WHEREAS, the Department Liaison is satisfied that with respect to the attached bill list that includes detailed bills or vouchers supporting each payment and confirmation that goods or services have been received or rendered; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee therefore desires to approve payment of the bills, claims and statements of the Township of Lebanon as stated herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that all bills, claims and statements against the Township as evidenced by the attached bill listing are approved by the Chief Financial Officer after review by the Qualified Purchasing Agent and Department Liaison, are hereby approved as follows:

<u>Bill List Date</u>	<u>Number of Purchase Orders</u>	<u>Bill List Total</u>
January 21, 2026	102	\$158,930.91

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 32-2026.

Motion to Adopt: Ms. Koehler
Second: Mr. McKee
Ayes: Mr. Abuchowski, Ms. Koehler, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

PUBLIC COMMENT (limited to two minutes per speaker)

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to open Public Comment.

Motion to Open: Ms. Koehler
Second: Mr. Abuchowski
Ayes: Mr. Abuchowski, Ms. Koehler, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

Public comment: Statement regarding disinformation, social media posts, congratulations to the Committee, number of Township meetings per month, special meetings.

Seeing and hearing no one else wishing to speak, Mr. Wojcik made a motion to close Public Comment.

Motion to Close: Mr. Abuchowski
Second: Mr. Webb
Ayes: Ms. Koehler, Mr. Wojcik, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Abuchowski

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NO. 34-2026 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act; N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., declares it to be the public policy of the State to ensure the right of citizens to have adequate advance notice of and the right to attend meetings of public bodies at which business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act also recognizes exceptions to the right of the public to attend portions of such meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Committee find it necessary to conduct an executive session closed to the public as permitted by the N.J.S.A. 40:4-12; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Committee will reconvene in public session at the conclusion of the executive session;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that they will conduct an executive session to discuss the following topic(s) as permitted by N.J.S.A. 40:4-12:

A matter which Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court requires be kept confidential or excluded from discussion in public (Provision relied upon: _____);

A matter where the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government;

A matter whose disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;

A collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions thereof.

A matter involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed;

Tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection;

Investigations of violations or possible violations of the law, _____;

Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party; (The general nature of the litigation or contract negotiations is): Statewide Insurance Fund. The public disclosure of such information at this time would have a potentially negative impact on the municipality's position in the litigation or negotiation; therefore this

information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the potential for negative impact no longer exists.);

Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his or her ethical duties as a lawyer; (Public disclosure of such information at this time would have a potentially negative impact on the municipality's position with respect to the matter being discussed; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the potential for negative impact no longer exists.);

Matters involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective or current public officer or employee of the public body, where all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected have not requested in writing that the matter(s) be discussed at a public meeting; the employee(s) and/or general nature of discussion is: unemployment, disciplinary action. And whereas the public disclosure of such information at this time would violate the employee(s) privacy rights; therefore, this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the threat to privacy rights no longer exists;

Deliberation occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty or loss of a license or permit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Committee hereby declare that their discussion of the subject(s) identified above may be made public at a time when the Township Attorney advises them that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the Township or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Committee, for the reasons set forth above, hereby declare that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place.

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to open Executive Session and adopt Resolution No. 34-2026.

Motion of Open/Adopt:	Mr. Abuchowski
Second:	Ms. Koehler
Ayes:	Mr. Abuchowski, Ms. Koehler, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

Mayor and Committee entered Executive Session at 8:43 p.m.

Mayor and Committee closed Executive Session at 10:38 p.m.

Mr. Wojcik asked for a motion to reconvene into Regular Session.

Motion to Reconvene:	Mr. Abuchowski
Second:	Ms. Koehler
Ayes:	Mr. Abuchowski, Ms. Koehler, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik

Resolution No. 35-2026 was presented for adoption.

NO. 35-2026 APPOINTMENT OF CLASS III SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:14A-146.8 et seq. entitled “Special Law Enforcement Officers’ Act” (hereinafter the “Act”) permits a municipality to appoint special law enforcement officers sufficient to perform the duties and responsibilities permitted by local ordinance authorized by N.J.S.A. 40A:14-118, and within the conditions and limitations as may be established pursuant to the Act; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Act, the Township Committee of the Township of Lebanon adopted Ordinance No. 2023-04 that establishing Chapter 77 of the Township Code, entitled “Police Department”; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:14-146.14 and Township Code §77-6 (A) permits the Township Committee to appoint from time to time, special law enforcement officers for a term not to exceed one year; and

WHEREAS, the Township Salary Ordinance provides for the rate of compensation for certain officers, employees and appointees of the Township; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-146.14 and Township Code §77-6 (A), the Township Committee desires to appoint certain individuals as Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers for a term not to exceed one year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the following individuals are hereby appointed for their respective terms, as follows:

- Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class III – Gerard Clyne**
- Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class III – Douglas Moyle**
- Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class III – Timothy Hale**
- Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class III – Thomas Hash, Jr.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each of the Special Law Enforcement Officers appointed herein shall be appointed for a six (6) month term effective January 1, 2026 and terminating June 30, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above-named positions shall be compensated at the rate of \$40 per hour in accordance with the Township Salary Ordinance and Salary Resolution.

Mr. Wojcik made a motion to adopted Resolution No. 35-2026.

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| Motion to Adopt: | Mr. Wojcik |
| Second: | Mr. Abuchowski |
| Ayes: | Mr. Abuchowski, Ms. Koehler, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik |

Ms. Koehler and Mr. McKee spoke regarding the affirming individual rights Resolution that used to be part of the Reorganization Meeting Agenda. Mr. Roselli advised a civil rights Resolution needs to be adopted.

Mr. McKee spoke regarding the 2026 budget and asking department heads, committees and commissions to speak regarding their budget requests. The next Budget Meeting is 2/12.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to conduct, Mr. Wojcik made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. McKee
Second: Mr. Webb
Ayes: Ms. Koehler, Mr. McKee, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wojcik
No: Mr. Abuchowski

Meeting adjourned at 10:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carolynn Budd, RMC
Township Clerk

Jay Wojcik
Mayor

Date Approved