

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Special Meeting Agenda

March 16, 2021 – 6:00 PM

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publication of the notice in the Hunterdon Democrat and Courier News on March 4, 2021 and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Express Times on February 26, 2021. Copies of the notice were also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Baptistown Post Office on February 26, 2021.

In order to ensure full public participation in this meeting, all members of this Committee, and also members of the public are requested to speak only when recognized by the Chair so that there is no simultaneous discussion or over-talk. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Roll Call

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Budget Workshop with Township Auditor

Fairview School – Auction Decision

Resolution No. 2021 – 44 Resolution Authorizing the Application for Historic Preservation Grant Funds from the County of Hunterdon for the William Lindsay White House Preservation Project

Adjournment

PLEASE NOTE THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO LAST MINUTE CHANGE

2021 – 116

Township Committee Minutes

March 16, 2021

A Special Meeting of the Kingwood Township Committee was called to order at 6:10P.M. with Mayor Dodds presiding.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Mayor Ciacciarelli, Committeewoman Syrnick, C.F.O. Diane Laudenbach, Auditor, William Colantano and Clerk Cynthia Keller. Mayor Dodds called the meeting to order and following the salute to the flag, read aloud the following:

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Roll Call

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

There were no public comments at this time.

This meeting was advertised and scheduled to begin at 6:30pm. There was a typo graphical error on the meeting agenda, which was listed on the Township's website to begin at 6:00pm. At the time of 6:00pm the meeting began and members of the public were all in attendance. No additional members arrived who joined the meeting to speak or comment. There was no action was taken by the Township Committee between 6:00pm and 6:30pm.

Budget Workshop with Township Auditor

The Township's Auditor William Colantano opened the discussion stating the operating expenses for the Township are in a good position. He handed out four different budget worksheets for the Township Committee to compare. He reviewed the 2021 Budget Comparison for the following increases:

3.0 percent increase
2.0 percent increase
1.7 percent increase
1.5 percent increase

Mr. Colantano stated that Kingwood Township is number five in a list of the six lowest tax rates in Hunterdon County for the year 2020, even when you combine all the taxes that are paid for the regional/local schools, county and municipal purposes.

The Committee Members asked Mr. Colantano several questions regarding the increase of the local and regional school taxes for this year 2021. The local school is usually limited to a 2% increase. The regional school level depends on the number of students attending.

There was a discussion on the amount of funds not spent last year due to COVID-19. Kingwood's budget had a lot left over from the last year's surplus. Auditor, William Colantano explained a lot of the funds were not spent for the budgeted line items due to COVID-19, which were allotted for certain projects for departments that could not be done. He feels he can keep the surplus the same amount as last year. The Township is not only in a good financial position this year, but also for next year. The status with the capital improvement fund is in good standing with future expenditures.

Deputy Mayor Ciacciarelli feels the 1.7 budget increase is a good way to go and with the surplus it represents a good compromise. Mayor Dodds noted for a number of years the Township was flat and was using all of their surplus.

Township Committee all agreed on the 1.75 cent tax increase for the Municipal Budget for 2021. It was noted this will get rid of the debt the Township has at this time.

The Municipal Budget will be introduced at the April 1, 2021 Township Committee Meeting and a public hearing for final adoption will be held on May 6, 2021.

The Township Committee thanked Mr. Colantano for attending the meeting.

Fairview School – Auction Decision

Mary MacConnell, Spring Hill Rd. – Commented on the advertisement for the meeting, which was in the newspaper to begin at 6:30pm, and stated that the agenda was listed on the website to begin at 6:00pm.

M. MacConnell stated she is opposed to the selling of the Old Fairview School. She asked the Committee Members if the Township has something in writing that proves the Old Fairview School is not a historical building. The Committee Members explained they go by what both the local Historian and prior Historian's knowledge of the fact that the Old Fairview School it is not an historical building.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Old Summit School on Oak Summit Road. M. MacConnell also asked about obtaining the Township's historical information. The Township Committee explained that anyone interested in the Township's historical correspondence can go through the County Historical Society where the items are now stored.

M. MacConnell noted as the prior Clerk, all the files for the Old Fairview School including the deed, were filed in the Clerk's office.

Beth Pandy – Spring Hill Rd. – Feels that the Old Fairview School is a historical building and hates to see the building being sold.

Jenny Pandy – Spring Hill Rd. – Expressed it is a bedroom community. Feels that most of the individuals interested in keeping the building are from Spring Hill Road. She stated that she and her husband Bill Pandy both feel that the building should not be sold and they will really lose something not having this in our community. She stated the Township should put their heads together and authorize people to use it.

Committeewoman, Maureen Syrnick noted she feels for the individuals that are present. She explained that the building has not been used the past four years. There are a lot of repairs that need to be done. She feels that if the building is not being used, how much money does the Township put into this to keep it. She does not like to see things change, but she feels that it is not beneficial to the township to hold on to it and maintain it.

Committeewoman, Maureen Syrnick suggested that a sign be put up on the property stating "On this property was the Old Fairview School House", and the year it was built.

Deputy Mayor Ciacciarelli, commented by stating he feels the same way. He explained how several of the buildings are falling apart and need repair.

Mayor Dodds, noted he has been thinking about it a lot. He did like the idea of a farm market to be there, but this building has been sitting there unused for almost 5 years. The last active crowd was the yoga group. The Historical Society used the building only a few months a year, and the building has been shut down the remainder of the year.

Jenny Pandy– Spring Hill Rd. Stated the community is steam rolled by this situation. They were not notified until they saw the sign up on the property. They would have liked to have the town allow them to give their opinion long before the decision of the sale of the property and school.

Mayor Dodds responded by stating there have been several discussions regarding this sale at prior Township meetings the past year and the Committee decided this would be the best time.

Beth Pandy – Spring Hill Road, stated there is not one spot where the community can meet in the Township.

Mayor Dodds noted the Kingwood Park will be more of a community space. There will be a new playground where parents can be with their children. The Township has plans to put it closer to the pavilion.

The Township Committee reviewed the highest bid offered at the auction for the sale of the Old Fairview School. They reviewed the contract agreement from Max Spann.

The Township Committee agreed they are not opposed to selling the building.

It was moved by Mr. Ciacciarelli, seconded by Miss Syrnick and carried to sell the Old Fairview School property at 12 Fairview Road, Block 14, Lot 43 to Neja Realty LLC, 1504 Shrewsbury Drive, Bensalem, PA for the highest bid price of \$145,000, buyers premium (10% of Bid Price) of \$14,500, total amount of sale \$159,500.

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| Roll Call Vote: | AYE | - Ciacciarelli, Syrnick, Dodds |
| | NAY | - None |
| | ABSTAIN | - None |
| | ABSENT | - None |

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 2021 – 44 Resolution Authorizing the Application for Historic Preservation Grant Funds from the County of Hunterdon for the William Lindsay White House Preservation Project

The following Resolution introduced:

TOWNSHIP OF KINGWOOD COUNTY OF HUNTERDON

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 - 44

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON FOR THE WILLIAM LINDSAY WHITE HOUSE PRESERVATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders has approved an Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund and established a Historic Preservation Grant Program to provide County funds in connection with the acquisition of historic properties and the preservation of historic properties, buildings, structures facilities, sites, areas or objects, in Hunterdon County; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Kingwood desires to further the public interest by obtaining funding in the amount of \$177,745.00 from the County of Hunterdon to fund the following historic preservation project: William Lindsay White House Historic Preservation at a cost of \$709,005.58 (Phase 1); and

WHEREAS, the County of Hunterdon shall determine if the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the Hunterdon County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Plan, adopted Freeholder Board Policies and the Procedures Manual for the Historic Preservation Grant Program adopted thereto, and notify the applicant of the amount of the funding award; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is willing to use the County funds in accordance with such adopted Policies and Procedures, and rules, regulations and applicable statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Kingwood that Richard Dodds or the successor to the office of the Mayor is hereby authorized to:

- (a) make application for such Historic Preservation Grant Funds,
- (b) provide additional application information and furnish such documents as may be required, and
- (c) act as the authorized correspondent of the above-named applicant; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Kingwood that:

1. The Mayor of Kingwood Township is hereby authorized to execute any documents and agreements with the County of Hunterdon known as William Lindsay White House Historic Preservation; and
2. The applicant has its share of the required contribution in the amount of an in-kind contribution; and
3. The applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

It was moved by Mr. Ciacciarelli, seconded by Miss Syrnick and carried to adopt the foregoing Resolution with the amended changes discussed.

2021 – 121

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| Roll Call Vote: | AYE | - Ciacciarelli, Syrnick, Dodds |
| | NAY | - None |
| | ABSTAIN | - None |
| | ABSENT | - None |

Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Ciacciarelli, seconded by Miss Syrnick and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:10P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

**Cynthia L. Keller, RMC
Township Clerk**