

READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2025

Municipal Clerk Parker *called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.* announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

PRESENT: Mr. Jonathan Heller Mr. Juergen Huelsebusch, Mr. Adam Mueller and Mr. Vincent Panico

ABSENT: Mr. John Albanese

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Richard Sheola, Municipal Clerk Karin Parker, Attorney Alex Fisher

Municipal Clerk Parker led those present in the *Salute to the Flag*.

Swearing in of Juergen Huelsebusch as a member of the Township Committee for a three (3) year term.

Commissioner Zach Rich swore in Juergen Huelsebusch as a member of the Township Committee for a three (3) year term.

Swearing in of Adam Mueller as a member of the Township Committee for a three (3) year term.

Commissioner Director John Lanza swore in Adam Mueller as a member of the Township Committee for a three (3) year term.

Municipal Clerk Parker asked for nominations for Mayor for the year 2025.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Panico to nominate *Adam Mueller* for the position of Mayor for 2025, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Heller	- Nay
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	-Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Former Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli swore in Adam Mueller as Mayor of the Township Committee for a one (1) year term.

Municipal Clerk Parker asked for nominations for Deputy Mayor for the year 2025.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Mueller to nominate *Vincent Panico* for the position of Deputy Mayor for 2025, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Heller	- Nay
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	-Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

Former Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli swore in Vincent Panico as Deputy Mayor of the Township Committee for a one (1) year term.

2025 MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Mueller read the following statement:

It is with deep honor that I stand before you once again to take the oath of office as your mayor of Readington Township. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to my family, friends, fellow elected officials, and all the residents of this township who have entrusted me with this significant responsibility. Together, we will continue to uphold the principles of integrity, collaboration, and forward-thinking leadership that have shaped our community.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Deputy Mayor Vinny Panico for his wise counsel, dedication, and hard work over the last couple of years. His unwavering commitment has been instrumental in driving meaningful progress for Readington and I look forward to continuing our work together this year as we govern on behalf of our residents.

Over the past two years, we have successfully stabilized taxes and responsibly reduced Readington's \$41.8 million debt, achieving goals that have been central to our priorities. These accomplishments reflect our dedication to ensuring Readington remains an affordable and desirable place to live. We look to our County Commissioners as the gold standard for fiscal responsibility and will continue striving to mirror their excellence in managing resources effectively. This commitment will endure as we continue to scrutinize expenditures and explore innovative approaches to delivering high-quality services while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

I am also proud to highlight our achievements in securing millions of dollars in grants through close collaboration with our County, State, and Federal officials. These funds have been instrumental in enhancing infrastructure, improving public safety, and creating new opportunities for our residents. This success underscores the power of partnerships and shared goals, and I commit to continue strengthening these relationships to bring meaningful benefits to our township.

Readington Township has long been a leader in preserving open space and protecting our natural resources. We understand the importance of maintaining our rural character while proactively addressing environmental challenges. Together, we will continue to safeguard our land, water, and air while adopting sustainable practices that benefit both current and future generations. Additionally, we will continue to strongly defend our master plan, ensuring that our vision for Readington's future remains intact and aligned with the needs of our community.

One of the most pressing challenges we face is the state-mandated affordable housing requirements. These high-density mandates threaten to strain our infrastructure and alter the character of our community. While we remain compliant with legal obligations, we will advocate for sensible reforms that recognize local needs and promote sustainability. The 2025 State elections provide an opportunity for positive change in Trenton, and I encourage everyone to stay engaged and make their voices heard.

It is also necessary and unfortunate to address recent events that have cast a shadow over our township. The theft of campaign signs and illegal wiretapping are deeply troubling and wholly unacceptable. This conduct, if proven, violates the law and most importantly, the trust bestowed on us by our residents as elected officials and community leaders, serving as an embarrassment to our community and a distraction from the critical work before us. Let us commit to moving beyond such immature and embarrassing behavior and focus on restoring respect, transparency, and unity.

Mayor's statement cont'd:

Looking ahead, I am excited to announce plans for a comprehensive restructuring of our volunteer boards and committees and cleaning up many of our outdated ordinances. This initiative aims to create a more efficient and streamlined municipal government, ensuring every voice is heard and every decision is made thoughtfully and deliberately. Additionally, we will advance the rezoning of Route 22 to promote new business opportunities while preserving the rural character that defines Readington. These efforts reflect our dedication to fostering growth and innovation without compromising the values and identity of our township.

In closing, I reaffirm my deep commitment to serving Readington Township with integrity, passion, and unwavering dedication. We have much to be proud of and even more to look forward to. Together, we will address our challenges, seize new opportunities, and ensure that Readington remains a community we are proud to call home.

Thank you for your trust and support. Now let's get to work.

2025 DEPUTY MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Deputy Mayor Panico made the following statement:

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to the residents of Readington Township and to the members of this committee for trusting me to serve as Deputy Mayor once again. Additionally, I want to thank the elected officials, dignitaries, community members, friends, and family who have all come to be here today. I appreciate each of you because your support is the foundation of everything we achieve together.

Over the past two years, this committee has made it clear: we don't just talk about progress... we make it happen. We've charged ahead with bold ideas at lightning speed, moved with purpose, and led with an unwavering focus on results. We've embraced innovation, stood firm in our fiscal discipline, and faced every challenge tough as nails.

You've seen it firsthand with our outside the box thinking and relentless advocating for Readington in all venues. Whether we're advocating for Readington before county, state, or federal leaders to secure grant funding; meeting with residents to hear and resolve concerns; or finding new ways to improve this township... all of it is done with one thing in mind: what's best for Readington.

And we are not slowing down. In the coming weeks, we'll introduce ordinances to help families plant generational roots in Readington and to revitalize the Route 22 corridor by enabling businesses to fill those vacant buildings. These initiatives reflect your feedback we heard through public meetings, community discussions, and one-on-one conversations. Next, we'll be asking the subcommittee to focus on revitalizing our downtown corridors.

We've strengthened our commitment to public safety by investing in our law enforcement. Today, our police force has larger shifts - five officers on duty instead of three - ensuring our streets are safer than ever. We've deployed special assignments to address speeding on main street and those will continue with DUI, crosswalk, and distracted driving details. We've created a Community Outreach Officer in conjunction with our social services department to provide specialized mental health support in crises. This is just the beginning. We will continue to invest in our men and women in blue by equipping them with tools, training, cutting edge technology, and by appointing a chief.

Deputy Mayor's statement cont'd:

We've focused on fiscal responsibility by trimming fat and holding the line on taxes. We've continued to pay down our debt faster than ever. And we've done all of this while expanding services and taking on new capital projects. Through strong partnerships with the Hunterdon County Commissioners, Senator Booker, Congressman Kean, and our state representatives we have been able to find grant opportunities and obtain almost \$10 million dollars in projects... money that didn't come out of your pockets.

We've found personal and authentic ways to connect with residents like never before. Through more effective outreach and highlighting programs on social media, we are able to reach residents in near real time. We've begun a data room - first with law enforcement by way of a police blotter - and we've engaged with partners to keep expanding this transparency across the administration. Our soon-to-launch website will take this even further... modern, mobile-friendly, easy to navigate, and built with you in mind.

We have effectively negotiated with our collective bargaining units to ratify contracts and keep this town moving forward, while balancing fiscal responsibility with the needs of our residents and the needs of our employees that do great work. We've disposed of lawsuits that have burdened this town with absurd allegations and exorbitant legal fees. We've shifted the administration of this town in an effort to prevent new lawsuits. We will continue to fight, tough as nails on behalf of our residents, against any litigation against us. And we will continue to work with our attorneys, on behalf of our residents, to zealously defend the Township against litigation where it is necessary and appropriate.

As the Mayor highlighted in his remarks, restructuring Readington's boards and committees is a vital step toward creating a more efficient and effective municipal government. We need to draw inspiration from broader initiatives like the DOGE - Department of Government Efficiency - President Trump is establishing and similar calls at the state level by NJ Senator Joe Pennacchio and gubernatorial candidate Jack Ciattarelli for a New Jersey DOGE. To build on this vision, I am asking for the establishment of a Readington COTE—Committee on Township Efficiency. This committee's first task will be to conduct a comprehensive review of our boards and committees, ensuring they are streamlined, impactful, and truly reflective of our community's needs. By prioritizing efficiency and meaningful engagement, we can empower our volunteers, modernize our local government, and create a structure that best serves our residents while positioning Readington as a model of innovation and effectiveness.

Readington is the best township in Hunterdon County and every day, we work diligently to make it even better. This isn't just a goal; it's our guiding principle... an ethos by which we make every decision. I began by thanking our residents, and I'll end the same way: thank you for your trust and faith in me to lead this Township in extraordinary ways.

I promise you this: We will press forward at lightning speed, while being tough as nails, staring down the barrel of every challenge and seizing every opportunity to make Readington the best place to live, work, and raise a family. Thank you.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Mueller made the following statement:

All items listed with an asterisk “*” are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a committee member or citizen requests, in which event the item will be removed from the General Order of Business and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

- * 1. ***Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the Cash Management Plan for the Year 2025***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2025-01

***RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE YEAR 2025***

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey Local Fiscal Affairs Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:5, et seq. requires that municipalities adopt a Cash Management Plan which is designed to assure, to the extent practical, investment of local funds in interest bearing accounts and other permitted investments; and

WHEREAS, the Cash Management Plan must include:

1. The designation of a public depository or depositories.
2. The authorization for investments as permitted by various applicable laws.
3. The annual submission of the Cash Management Plan to the governing body, which must be approved by a majority vote.
4. An annual audit of the Cash Management Plan.
5. That when an investment is in bonds which mature in more than one year, a determination that the maturity approximates the prospective time when such funds are needed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington that the attached Cash Management Plan is hereby adopted for the year 2025.

**Cash Management Plan
2025**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Statement of Purpose
- II. Identification of Funds and Accounts to be covered by the Plan
- III. Designation of Officials Authorized to Make Deposits and Investments
- IV. Designation of Depositories
- V. Deposit of Funds
- VI. Designation of Brokerage Firms and Dealers with whom Designated Officials may deal.
- VII. Investment Instruments and Procedure
- VIII. Safekeeping, Custody payment and Acknowledgment of Receipt of Plan
- IX. Disbursement of Funds
- X. Petty Cash Funds
- XI. Change Funds
- XII. Bonding
- XIII. Compliance
- XIV. Reporting Requirements
- XV. Term of Plan

Resolution #2025-01 cont'd:

I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This Cash Management Plan (the “Plan”) is prepared pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S. A.40A: 5-14 in order to set forth the basis for the deposits and investment of certain public funds of the Township of Readington, pending the use of such funds for the intended purposes. The plan is intended to assure that all public funds identified herein are deposited in interest bearing Deposits or otherwise invested in Permitted Investments hereinafter referred to. The intent of the Plan is to provide that the decisions made with regard to the Deposits and the Permitted Investments will be done to ensure the safety, the liquidity (regarding its availability for the intended purposes), and the maximum investment return within such limits. The Plan is intended to ensure that any Deposit or Permitted Investment matures within the time period that approximates the prospective need for the funds deposited or invested so that there is not a risk to the market value of such Deposits or Permitted Investments.

II. IDENTIFICATION OF FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS TO BE COVERED BY THE PLAN.

- A. The Plan is intended to cover the deposit and/or investment of the following funds and accounts of the Township of Readington:
1. Current Fund
 - a. Current
 - b. Payroll
 2. Treasurer’s Trust
 - a. Developers Escrow
 - b. Recreation
 - c. Driveway Apron
 - d. LOSAP
 - e. Maintenance Guarantee
 - f. Unemployment
 - g. General Trust
 - h. Payroll Agency
 - i. Housing
 - j. Board of Health Escrow
 - k. Open Space
 - l. Forfeited Property
 3. Dog License
 3. General Capital & Capital Green Trust
 4. Sewer Operating & Expansion
- B. It is understood that this Plan is not intended to cover certain funds and accounts of the Township of Readington, Specifically:
1. Deferred Compensation
 2. Municipal Court
 - a. Fines Account
 - b. Bail Accounts

III. DESIGNATION OF OFFICIALS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON AUTHORIZED TO MAKE DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS UNDER THE PLAN.

The Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Readington and the Treasurer are hereby authorized and directed to deposit and/or invest the funds referred to in the Plan. Prior to making any such Deposits or any Permitted Investments, such officials of the Township of Readington are directed to supply to all depositories or any other parties with whom the Deposits or Permitted Investments are made a written copy of this Plan which shall be acknowledged in writing by such parties and a copy of such acknowledgment kept on file with such officials.

Resolution #2025-01 cont'd:

IV. DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORIES

The following banks and financial institutions are hereby designated as official depositories for the Deposit of all public funds referred to in the Plan, including any certificates of Deposit which are not otherwise invested in Permitted Investments as provided for in this Plan:

TD BANK
NJ CASH MANAGEMENT FUND
WELLS FARGO BANK
PNC BANK
INVESTORS SAVINGS
PEAPACK GLADSTONE BANK
UNITY BANK

All depositories must conform to the Government Unit Deposit Protection Act (GUDPA), and shall provide a Notification of Eligibility from the State of New Jersey, Department of Banking, on a semi-annual basis. In addition, designated depositories shall maintain maximum FDIC or FSLIC coverage of all Township funds on deposit.

V. DEPOSIT OF FUNDS

All funds shall be deposited within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-15, into appropriate fund operating accounts. Non-interest bearing operating and capital accounts shall be regularly monitored for the availability of funds for investment. Debt Service and Trust accounts shall be maintained in accordance with Federal and State statutes, regulating such funds. Payroll, Developers' Escrow, Professional Fees Escrow, Performance Bond deposits and other agency funds, which represent funds of individuals and other organizations held by the Township shall be deposited in regular interest bearing checking accounts, unless applicable State statutes direct otherwise. Grant funds shall be deposited in accordance with the regulations of the granting government or agency.

Where compensating balances are required by any designated depository to offset the cost of services provided an agreement between the Township and the depository shall be executed, specifying the charge for each service and the balance required to offset each charge. Said agreement shall be reviewed on an annual basis.

VI. DESIGNATION OF BROKERAGE FIRMS AND DEALERS WITH WHOM THE DESIGNATED OFFICIALS MAY DEAL.

The following brokerage firms and/or dealers and other institutions are hereby designated as firms with whom the Designated Officials of the Township, referred to in this Plan may deal for purposes of buying and selling securities identified in this Plan as Permitted Investments or otherwise providing for Deposits. All such brokerage firms and/or dealers shall acknowledge in writing receipt of this Plan by sending a copy of such acknowledgment to the Designated Officials referred to in Section III above.

FNC - FINANCIAL NORTHEASTERN COMPANIES
GIBRALTAR SECURITIES CO.

Resolution #2025-01 cont'd:

VII. INVESTMENT INSTRUMENTS AND PROCEDURE

A. Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, the Designated Official is hereby authorized to invest the public funds covered by this Plan, to the extent not otherwise held in Deposits, in the following Permitted Investments:

1. Bonds or other obligations of the United States of America or obligations guaranteed by the United States of America;
2. Government money market mutual funds;
3. Any obligation that a federal agency or a federal instrumentality has issued in accordance with an act of Congress, which security has a maturity date not greater than 397 days from the date of purchase, provided that such obligation bears a fixed rate of interest not dependent on any index or other external factor;
4. Bonds or other obligations of the Local Unit or bonds or other obligations of school districts of which the Local Unit is a part or within which the School district is located;
5. Bonds or other obligations, having a maturity date not more than 397 days from the date of purchase, issued by New Jersey School Districts, Municipalities, Counties and entities subject to the “Local Authorities Fiscal Control Law”, P.L. 1983, C313 (C40A:5A-1 et seq.) Other Bonds or obligations having a maturity date not more than 397 days from the date of purchase may be approved by the Division of Investment of the Department of the Treasury for investment by Local Units;
6. Local government investment pools;
7. Deposits with the State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund established pursuant to section 1 of P.L. 1977, c.281 (C.52: 18A-90.4); or
8. Agreements for the repurchase of fully collateralized securities if:
 - a. The underlying securities are permitted investments pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (3) of this subsection a;
 - b. The custody of collateral is transferred to a third party;
 - c. The maturity of the agreement is not more than 30 days;
 - d. The underlying securities are purchased through a public depository as defined in section 1 of P.L. 1970, c.236 (C.17:9-41); ND
 - e. A master repurchase agreement providing for the custody and security of collateral is executed.

For purposes of the above language, the terms “government money market mutual fund” and Local government investment pool” shall have the following definitions:

Government Money Market Mutual Fund. An Investment Company or investment trusts:

- a. Which is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the “Investment Company Act of 1940,” 15 U.S.C. sec. 80a-1, et seq., and operated in accordance with 17 C.F.R. sec. 270.2a-7.
- b. The portfolio of which is limited to U.S. Government securities that meet the definition of any eligible security pursuant to 17 C.F.R. sec 270.2a-7 and repurchase agreements that are collateralized by such U.S. Government securities; and
- c. Which has:
- d. Attained the highest ranking or the highest letter and numerical rating of a nationally recognized statistical rating organization; or

Resolution #2025-01 cont'd:

- e. Retained an investment advisor registered or exempt from registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the “Investment Advisors Act of 1940,” 15 U.S.C. sec. 80 b-1 et seq., with experience investing in U.S. Government securities for at least the most recent past 60 Months and with assets under management in excess of \$500 million.

Local Government Investment Pool. An investment pool:

- a. Which is managed in accordance with 17 C.F.R. sec. 270.2a.7;
- b. Which is rated in the highest category by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization; which is limited to U.S. Government securities that meet the definition of an eligible security pursuant to 17 C. F.R. sec. 270.2a-7 and repurchase agreements that are collateralized by U.S. Government securities;
- c. Which is in compliance with rules adopted pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L. 1968, c.410 (c.52: 14B-1 et seq.) by the Local Finance Board of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs, which rules shall provide for disclosure and reporting requirements, and other provisions deemed necessary by the board to provide for the safety, liquidity and yield of the investments;
- d. Which does not permit investments in instruments that: are subject to high price volatility with changing market conditions; cannot reasonably be expected, at the time of interest rate adjustment, to have a market value that approximates their par value; or utilize an index that does not support a stable net asset value; and
- e. which purchases and redeems investments directly from the issuer, government money market mutual fund, or the State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund, or through the use of a national or State bank, located within this State, or through a broker-dealer which, at the time of purchase or redemption, has been registered continuously for a period of at least two years pursuant to section 9 of P.L. 1967 c.9 (C.49:3-56) and has at least \$25 million in capital stock (or equivalent capitalization if not a corporation), surplus reserves for contingencies and undivided profits, or through a securities dealer who makes primary markets in U.S. Government securities and reports daily to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York its position in and borrowing on such U.S. Government securities.

B: Notwithstanding the above authorization, the monies on hand in the following funds and accounts shall be further limited as to maturities, specific investments or otherwise as follows:

VIII. SAFEKEEPING CUSTODY PAYMENT AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF PLAN.

To the extent that any Deposit or Permitted Investment involves a document or security which is not physically held by the Township, then such instrument or security shall be covered by a custodial agreement with an independent third party, which shall be a bank or financial institution in the State of New Jersey. Such institution shall provide for the designation of such investments in the name of the Township to assure that there is no unauthorized use of the funds or the Permitted Investments that involve securities shall be executed by a “delivery versus payment” method to insure that such Permitted Investments are either received by the Township or by a third party custodian prior to or upon the release of the Township’s funds.

Resolution #2025-01 cont'd:

To assure that all parties with whom the Township deals either by way of Deposits or Permitted Investments are aware of the authority and the limits set forth in this Plan, all such parties shall be supplied with a copy of this Plan in writing and all such parties shall acknowledge the receipt of that Plan in writing, a copy of which shall acknowledge the receipt of that Plan in writing, a copy of which shall be on file with the Designated Official(s).

IX. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

All funds shall be disbursed as authorized and directed by the Township Committee. The Chief Financial Officer shall, at the beginning of the year, present to the Township Committee a schedule of debt service principal and interest payments and when available, a schedule of School Tax payments for the upcoming year. Upon approval of the schedules of payments by the Township Committee, the Chief Financial Officer shall then have the authority to make the following disbursements:

- School Taxes
- County Taxes
- Open Space Taxes
- Interfunds
- Purchase of Investments
- Debt Service
- Payroll - Salaries and Wages
- Health Benefits for Employees & Retirees
- Pension payments
- Postage
- Petty Cash Reimbursements
- Utility bills

X. PETTY CASH FUND

Reimbursements for expenditures through the Petty Cash Fund shall be made within the limits approved by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services. The Petty Cash Fund shall be maintained in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-21. Petty Cash Funds shall be maintained in the following amounts:

Finance Dept	\$ 200
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XI. CHANGE FUNDS

Change funds have been established by past resolutions of the governing body to provide change to taxpayers making payments to the following departments:

Tax Office	\$ 150.00
Municipal Court	\$ 200.00
Police Department	\$ 100.00
Department of Public Works	\$ 100.00
Township Clerk/ Animal Control License Official	\$ 100.00

Resolution #2025-01 cont'd:

XII. BONDING

The following officials shall be covered by individual or blanket surety bonds; said surety bonds to be examined by the independent auditor to insure their proper execution:

Chief Financial Officer
Treasurer
Tax Collector
Assistant Tax Collector
Municipal Magistrate
Court Administrator
Deputy Court Administrator

Staff members of the Department of Finance and Tax Collection not covered by separate surety bonds shall be covered by a Public Employee's Faithful Performance Bond.

XIII. COMPLIANCE

The Cash Management Plan of the Township of Readington shall be subject to the approval of the Township Attorney, and shall be subject to the annual audit conducted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-4.

As stated in N.J.S.A. 40A:5-14, the official(s) charged with the custody of Township funds shall deposit them as instructed by this Cash Management Plan, and shall thereafter be relieved of any liability or loss due to the insolvency or closing of any designated depository.

If at any time, this Cash Management Plan conflicts with any regulation of the State of New Jersey, or and department thereof, the applicable State regulations shall apply.

XIV. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

By the tenth day of each month during which this Plan is in effect, the Designated Official(s) referred to in Section III hereof shall supply to the governing body of the Township a written report of any permitted investments made pursuant to this Plan, which shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

- A. The Name of any institution holding funds of the Township as a permitted investment.
- B. The amount of investments purchased or sold during the immediately preceding month.
- C. The class or type of investment purchased.
- D. The book value of such investments
- E. The earned income on such permitted investment. To the extent that such amounts are actually earned at maturity, this report shall provide an accrual of such earnings during the immediately preceding month.
- F. The fees incurred to undertake such permitted investments.
- G. The market value of all permitted investments as of the end of the immediately preceding month.
- H. All other information which may be deemed reasonable from time to time by the governing body of the Township.

Resolution #2025-01 cont'd:

XV. TERM OF PLAN.

This Plan shall be in effect from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. Attached to this Plan is a resolution of the governing body of the Township of Readington approving this Plan for such a time period. The Plan may be amended from time to time. To the extent that any amendment is adopted by the Committee, the Designated Official (s) is directed to supply copies of the amendments to all of the parties who otherwise have received the copy of the originally approved Plan. The amendment shall be acknowledged in writing in the same manner as the original Plan was so acknowledged.

- * 2. ***Resolution authorizing check signing of Current/Municipal account checks for Readington Township for 2025***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2025-02

CHECK SIGNATURE RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following officials be authorized to sign our Current/ Municipal Account checks for the Township of Readington for the year 2025:

- ◆ Administrator
- ◆ Municipal Clerk
- ◆ Chief Financial Officer

- * 3. ***Temporary Budget Current & Sewer Utility Resolution***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2025-03

***2025 TEMPORARY BUDGETS
 CURRENT FUND & SEWER UTILITY***

	SALARIES & WAGES	OTHER EXPENSES
<u>CURRENT FUND:</u>		
Administrative & Executive	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Mayor & Committee	12,000.00	750.00
Elections		3,000.00
Financial Administration	61,625.00	20,000.00
Audit Services		5,000.00
Assessment of Taxes	29,000.00	1,625.00
Revision of Tax Map		250.00
Collection of Taxes	27,500.00	6,700.00
Legal Services		200,000.00
Prosecutor		11,250.00
Engineering		40,000.00

Resolution #R-2025-03 cont'd:

Buildings and Grounds	80,000.00	30,500.00
Planning Board	4,400.00	2,400.00
Board of Adjustment	4,400.00	2,400.00
Land Use & Development	35,000.00	3,000.00
Environmental Commission		1,000.00
Consultants		25,000.00
General Liability Insurance		340,000.00
Employee Group Health		800,000.00
Workers Compensation		171,800.00
Waste Collection/Recycling		5,000.00
Fire Companies/Rescue Squad		60,000.00
Police	950,000.00	60,000.00
Streets and Roads	400,000.00	85,000.00
Vehicle Maintenance	75,000.00	60,000.00
Snow Removal		10,000.00
Tree Care		5,000.00
Board of Health	16,200.00	9,000.00
Emergency Management	2,500.00	2,000.00
Animal Control		500.00
Public Assistance/Housing	37,000.00	1,000.00
Recreation	70,000.00	13,500.00
Free Library	37,700.00	1,000.00
Senior Services		1,000.00
Museum Committee	6,700.00	3,300.00
Historic Preservation Commission		200.00
Construction Code Official	77,500.00	5,000.00
Celebration of Public Events		500.00
Fire Hydrant Service		28,000.00
Electricity		35,000.00
Telephone		20,000.00
Street Lighting		12,000.00
Fuel Oil		2,500.00
Gasoline		37,500.00
Social Security		185,000.00
Pension Plans		450,000.00
SUI		2,500.00
DCRP		4,000.00
Municipal Court	35,000.00	3,800.00
Uniform Fire Safety – Shared Service		
Fire Sub-code		13,000.00
Fire Official		24,000.00
Public Defender		2,500.00
CURRENT FUND TOTALS	\$2,066,525.00	\$2,846,475.00

Resolution #2025-03 cont'd:

	SALARIES	
OTHER	& WAGES	
EXPENSES		
<u>SEWER UTILITY:</u>		
Salaries & Wages	\$50,000.00	
Other Expenses		\$60,000.00
Service Fees		425,000.00
Capital Improvements		10,000.00
Surplus to General Budget		37,500.00
 SEWER UTILITY TOTALS	 \$50,000.00	 \$532,500.00

* 4. **Resolution to set delinquent tax interest rate for 2025**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2025-04

**RESOLUTION FIXING INTEREST RATES ON DELINQUENT TAXES
 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025**

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to R.S. 54:4-67, the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey hereby fixes the rate of interest to be charged on delinquent taxes for calendar year 2011 at the rate of eight percent (8%) per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of delinquency and eighteen percent (18%) per annum on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00 of delinquency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notwithstanding the above provision, no interest shall be charged if payment of any installment is made within ten (10) days after the date upon which the same became payable according to the laws in such cases made and provided. If such payment is not made within the ten (10) day grace period, the above rate of interest shall run and accrue from the original due date of such taxes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the same interest calculations for delinquent tax collections be applied to sewer utility accounts with the exception that the grace period be thirty (30) days.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any taxpayer with a delinquency in excess of \$10,000.00 who fails to pay that delinquency prior to the end of the calendar year shall be so charged an additional rate of interest of six percent (6%) against the delinquency.

* 5. *Resolution Designating Official Newspapers for 2025*

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2025-05

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Readington Township Committee does hereby designate the following newspapers as its official newspapers for the year 2025:

- ◆ *Courier News*
- ◆ *Hunterdon Democrat*
- ◆ *Star Ledger (digital version)*

* 6. *Resolution setting 2025 meeting dates for Township Committee*

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2025-06

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Readington Township Committee hold its regular meetings at the Municipal Building on the First and Third Monday of each month starting at 6:00 p.m., (except where the date falls on a Holiday upon which the meeting will take place on the Tuesday) after at which time an Executive Session will be held.

Resolution #R-2025-06 cont'd:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following meeting dates be confirmed for publication:

January 21, 2025
February 3, 2025
February 18, 2025
March 3, 2025
March 17, 2025
April 7, 2025
July 21, 2025
August 4, 2025
September 2, 2025
September 15, 2025
October 6, 2025
October 20, 2025
April 21, 2025
May 5, 2025
May 19, 2025
June 2, 2025
June 16, 2025
July 7, 2025
August 4, 2025
September 2, 2025
September 15, 2025
October 6, 2025
October 20, 2025
November 3, 2025
November 17, 2025
December 1, 2025
December 15, 2025

* 7. **Resolution - Added and Omitted Assessments**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2025-07

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
ADDED AND OMITTED ASSESSMENTS**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, recognizes that *N.J.S.A. 54-5-63.12 et seq.*, popularly known as the "Originally Method", allows the Collector of Taxes upon written complaint to the County Tax Board to notify such Board of any property alleged to have been omitted and the particular year of the assessment to be assessed; and

HEREAS, the Tax Assessor of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, has requested the Township Committee to authorize her to notify the County Tax Board upon written complaint of any property alleged to have been omitted and the particular year of the assessment to be assessed pursuant to and in compliance with *N.J.S.A. 54:5-63.12*; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, is called upon with the knowledge of omitted and rollback taxes prior to the Tax Collector.

Resolution #R-2025-07 cont'd:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the Tax Assessor of the Township of Readington be and is hereby authorized to notify upon written complaint to the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation of any property alleged to have been omitted and the particular year of the assessment to be assessed.

* 8. **Resolution - Authorization for Assessor to File Correction of Tax Assessment for 2025**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2025-08

**AUTHORIZATION FOR ASSESSOR TO FILE CORRECTION OF
TAX ASSESSMENT FOR 2025**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, has been informed by the Tax Assessor of the Township of Readington, that from time to time errors are made in computing the tax assessments covering certain property locations within the Township of Readington; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor of the Township of Readington has requested the Township Committee to authorize her to file corrections of such errors with the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation; and

WHEREAS, the filing of these corrections by the Tax Assessor of the Township of Readington will relieve the Taxpayer for said property from filing an appeal with the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, that the Tax Assessor of the Township of Readington is hereby authorized after having previously notified the governing body by an appropriate list of properties setting forth the manner and mode of adjustment to file corrective appeals for 2025 with the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation concerning those properties wherein errors were made; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any negotiations to be done on behalf of the Municipality will be handled by the Tax Assessor, including Resolution of Appeals filed directly by property owners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Assessor send copies of such corrected assessments to the individuals involved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Panico to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Mueller	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **2025 Appointments Resolution for Professional Services**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2025-09

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, there exists a need in the Township of Readington for Professional Services;
and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contract Law (*N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.*) requires that the Resolution hiring a professional for professional services through a fair and open process must be publicly advertised.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington as follows:

1. That the following contracts have been awarded through the fair and open process as a "Professional Service" in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6(1) (a)* of the Local Public Contract Law because the services rendered or to be performed are by persons authorized by law to practice their profession:
 - ◆ *Christopher Corsini, Esq.* of Savo, Schalk, Gillespie, O'Grodnick & Fisher, PC as Township Attorney
 - ◆ *Holman, Frenia, Allison PC* for Municipal Auditor Services
 - ◆ *Craig Bossong, Esq.* of Florio, Perucci, Steinhardt, Cappelli and Tipton PA. as Tax Attorney
 - ◆ *Matthew Giacobbe, Esq.* of Cleary, Giacobbe Alfieri Jacobs, *LLC* for Municipal Auditor Services
 - ◆ *Robert O'Brien* of Van Cleef Engineering Associates, *LLC* for Municipal Engineering Services
 - ◆ *Brian Davis and Stephen Davis, Esq.* of the firm DiFrancesco, Bateman, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum, P.C as Prosecutor
 - ◆ *Robert Ballard III, Esq.* of O'Connor, Parsons, Lane and Noble LLC as Alternate Prosecutor
 - ◆ *Scott Mitzner, Esq.* of Mitzner & Mitzner as Public Defender
 - ◆ *Anthony Rotunno, Esq.* of Kuchinsky and Rotunno P.C., as Alternate Public Defender
2. Said contracts shall expire on December 31, 2025.
3. Copies of these Professional Service Contracts are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Huelsebusch and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Huelsebusch	- Aye
Mr. Panico	-Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Huelsebusch to adjourn at 7:20 p.m., seconded by Mr. Panico with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Submitted:

Karin M Parker, *RMC*
Municipal Clerk