

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
February 23, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

SALUTE TO COLORS

Mayor Zdichocki invited all those present to stand in a salute to the colors.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT AS TO COMPLIANCE WITH P.L. 1975

Adequate Notice of this Meeting has been provided according to the Open Public Meetings Act, Assembly Bill 1030. Notice of this Meeting was included in the Annual Meeting Notice sent to the New Jersey Herald and the Daily Record on January 13, 2021 and was placed on the Official Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building and on the official website of the Borough of Stanhope.

Furthermore, notice of the change in meeting time was sent to the New Jersey Herald and Daily Record on February 3, 2021 and was placed on the official website of the Borough of Stanhope.

In the event the Mayor and Council have not addressed all items on this Agenda by 10:00 PM and they are of the opinion that they cannot complete the Agenda in a reasonable time period, the Mayor and Council may exercise their option to continue this meeting at an agreed to date, time and place. Please turn off all cell phones for the duration of this meeting.

ROLL CALL

Council Members:

Councilman Cipollini – present	Councilman Romano - present
Councilwoman Kuncken - present	Councilman Thornton - absent
Councilman Riccardi – present	Councilman Wronko - present

Mayor Zdichocki – present

Moment of Silence – Mayor Zdichocki asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of a Stanhope resident who lost their life to COVID at 67 years of age and for the other half million Americans who have lost their lives to COVID as well.

2021 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Budget Adjustments - Administrator McNeilly stated the CFO has provided a memo outlining the reductions of \$40,729.64 which have been made to the budget. Before these reductions, the increase to the average home was \$99.76 which has now been changed to an increase of \$60.07 to the average homeowner. Councilman Wronko thanked Dana Mooney, CFO, for her work on the budget and finding the reductions to bring the amount down. Ms. Mooney stated, at the advice of Ray Sarinelli, Borough Auditor, the revenue reserve for municipal assets has been increased to \$20,000. Mr. Sarinelli has reviewed the budget and he advised not using any of the fund balances or surplus as there are no guarantees what will happen for the rest of this year. Councilwoman Kuncken asked if Mr. Sarinelli provided input on the BAN Principal. Ms. Mooney stated Mr. Sarinelli agrees with this amount. Councilman Romano asked for an update on the \$18,000 COVID grant reimbursement. Ms. Mooney stated she has not received any updates and in speaking with Mr. Sarinelli, he has indicated most of the municipalities have not received the reimbursement to date and those funds will become surplus at the end of the year. Administrator McNeilly stated the DPW Superintendent originally had a quote of \$7,000 per sweep for the rental of a street sweeper. The budget had a place holder of \$20,000 for a spring, summer and fall rental which has now been reduced by \$6,000. The sweeper will be rented for just spring and fall. The DPW Superintendent did receive two additional quotes and one other company did not respond. The company which is part of the co-op had the lowest pricing. Mayor Zdichocki asked Ms. Mooney if Mr. Sarinelli is opposed to using the anticipated revenue from the COVID reimbursement for the budget. Ms. Mooney replied the funds are really attributed to last year and they should go through the cycle of going into surplus. Councilman Riccardi asked what the total for the BAN

Principal is minus the \$18,000. Ms. Mooney stated the total payment amount is the same as last year \$382,000. The plan is to bring this amount up to \$400,000 but this is not the year to do so.

Water Budget – Ms. Mooney stated the water and sewer budgets are in very good shape. Ms. Mooney has discussed with the Administrator the fact that the sewer account is regenerating less fund balance and water is gaining more. The accounts will have to be watched closely to determine if the rates need to be adjusted. Ms. Mooney stated the anticipated fund balance in the sewer account is \$709,000 after this budget. The Borough is currently not collecting interest so it remains to be seen how this will affect the figures for the coming year. Once the final notice is received, a determination will have to be made regarding whether or not to pay to have the software rewritten so that interest is not charged for water but can be charged for sewer. Administrator McNeilly stated interest is not being collected due to an order by the Governor which prohibits utilities from charging interest. This includes the electric utility, gas, cell phones and the water utility cannot be disconnected, cannot be charged a surcharge for late payment or charged interest. This has killed the lien market and the Borough's ability to charge the 18% interest. The Governor's ruling does not mention sewer, only water. The Borough's billing system does not have the ability to separate the two. MSI will charge a fee in order to rewrite the software to have only the sewer side charged interest. The Governor's order states this change will stay in place until 18 months after the State of Emergency has ended. Ms. Mooney stated the taxes are governed by the State of NJ but water and sewer are not governed in the same way and they have not provided any guidance. Just prior to the order being issued Stanhope Borough held a lien sale. As a result, the lien holders are not paying the water and sewer bills because there is no interest. Some of the liens have been redeemed over the past couple of months. Delinquent notices cannot be sent out as reminders either.

Mayor Zdichocki asked for clarification for Line #60550022 Water Utility: JIF Insurance due to the 25% increase and Line #60550027 Dues & Memberships which increased 128%. Ms. Mooney stated sometimes the actual dollar amount needs to be looked at as opposed to the percentage. In this case the DPW Superintendent has joined some new associations. Administrator McNeilly stated the changes in the JIF Insurance are due to internal corrections being made to spread the costs across general budget, water budget and sewer budget.

Mayor Zdichocki asked Ms. Mooney when was the last time an employee went on unemployment. Administrator McNeilly stated most recently crossing guards have been on unemployment. Ms. Mooney stated the Borough is reimbursable. If someone goes on unemployment, the Borough pays the bill at the end of the quarter. A former police officer did receive unemployment and then it was reversed and as a result the Borough now has a credit at the State. Having these funds returned to the Borough is difficult. Other than the officer, it has been a very long time since anyone has been on unemployment. The unemployment account has quite a bit of money in it and on the advice of the auditors \$0 will be budgeted for this year.

Councilman Romano asked if a quote has been requested to determine what MSI would charge to update the water/sewer software. Ms. Mooney stated a quote has not been requested and in her opinion the software would not need a complete revision. MSI has always been very reasonable in the past with upgrades and the cost may not be too expensive. Ms. Mooney will look into the cost for the revision. Administrator McNeilly stated the cost would be reimbursable under the CARES reimbursement. Councilman Riccardi asked what is covered in the Borough's contract with MSI. Ms. Mooney stated the cost of the contract has not increased in many years and if the bill is paid early there is a discount, which we do utilize. There is only one other software company, Edmonds, which tends to charge for every request. MSI is also maintaining our network and equipment. Administrator McNeilly confirmed MSI is the easier company to work with according to what he has heard from other municipalities.

Sewer Budget – Mayor Zdichocki asked for an explanation for Line #62550081 Prof Training/Education. Nothing was charged in 2020. The budgeted amount for 2021 is \$2,600. Ms. Mooney stated she needs to discuss this with the DPW Superintendent. Last year, two employees were supposed to attend training in person and this year's training had to be paid ahead of time. Last year's charges were probably charged to the water budget. The \$2,600 was put in as a place holder. Administrator McNeilly stated two employees in the water and sewer utility are going through the training for Water I and Water II and then to Corrections. Ms. Mooney stated she will follow up with the DPW Superintendent to obtain the actual figure.

Capital Budget – Administrator McNeilly stated the Fire Department has requested five pieces of turnout gear. The Police Department has not submitted any requests. The Department of Public Works has requested Fire Hydrant Quick Connect Caps and Defender Locks. There are some items relative to the TAP Grant for Sparta Road; securing the outside engineer for the Pedestrian Loop; and costs for the Kelly Place/Furnace Street Project. Ms. Mooney stated she met with Administrator McNeilly and Eric Keller, Borough Engineer, to go over the existing balances and ordinances. For the turnout gear, some funds left over from 2018 and 2019 will be used. The balance of \$15,441 can be fully funded. The fire hydrant quick connect caps and defender locks will be bonded. Additional funding was required for the TAP grant. Administrator McNeilly stated this is not money which is being spent. This is to acknowledge the increase in the grant funding from the State. Ms. Mooney stated funds for the Stanhope Pedestrian Loop Outside Engineer are put aside. For the Kelly Place/Furnace Street project the Borough received a grant and only has to provide additional funding of \$49,000. Funds were available in different areas to cover this cost. The cost this year is approximately \$26,000. Administrator McNeilly stated the goal is to keep the bonding as light as possible and once the balance from 2020 comes back that will help to provide an additional paydown.

Salaries – Ms. Mooney stated the place holder for the DPW and the non-union full-time employees is 2%, with the exception of the CFO, Tax Collector, Clerk and Tax Assessor. The Police Chief is still at 2%. Administrator McNeilly stated the discussion is for non-representative salary increases. This does not include the Police Chief, Administrator, DPW and police. Mayor Zdichocki stated the question is 2% is what we are agreeing upon. Mayor Zdichocki took a straw poll. The results are as follows: Councilman Romano stated 2%. Councilwoman Kuncken agreed to 2%. Councilman Cipollini stated 2%. Councilman Riccardi stated 2%. Councilman Wronko stated 2%. The governing body approved a 2% increase for the non-represented employees. Ms. Mooney asked if the Police Chief’s contract has been settled. Administrator McNeilly stated the Chief’s contract will be affirmed tonight. It is the same as the Police Officers.

Administrator McNeilly stated the budget should be ready for the March 9th Mayor and Council meeting.

The Mayor and Council thanked Ms. Mooney for attending tonight’s meeting.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Zdichocki opened the meeting to the public after advising attendees that there is a five (5) minute time limit for each speaker.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak, Mayor Zdichocki closed the public portion of the meeting.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Mayor Zdichocki read aloud the list of minutes being presented for approval:

January 12, 2021	Reorganization/Work Session Meeting & Closed Session
January 26, 2021	Business Meeting & Closed Session

On motion by Councilman Romano, seconded by Councilwoman Kuncken and unanimously carried by a majority voice vote, the above listed minutes were approved. Councilman Cipollini abstained from the minutes of January 26, 2021.

CORRESPONDENCE *(List Attached)*

On motion by Councilman Wronko, seconded by Councilman Riccardi and unanimously carried by voice vote, the list of correspondence was accepted and ordered placed on file.

Councilwoman Kuncken stated two notes were received by the Police Chief from two residents complimenting two of the Borough’s police officers for two separate incidents for their kindness, help and professionalism. Councilwoman Kuncken stated this is good for all of us to hear and kudos to them. This is exactly what we are looking for from our community police force. Mayor

Zdichocki stated they always make sure we hear the bad things but very rarely do we hear the good things and we do have a great police department.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety – Councilwoman Kuncken/Councilman Thornton

(Police, Fire, Ambulance, Court & Violations Bureau, Emergency Management)

Councilwoman Kuncken stated the Fire Department for the month of January reported 4 calls, 1 mutual aid, 1 assist to the EMS, 4 drills and 1 special detail for a total number of 171.5 volunteered hours.

Councilwoman Kuncken stated the Fire Marshal for the month of January reported there were no responses to incidents or fires and no fire code complaints. There were five inspections done at the following locations: Bait and Boat; Capitol Care; Apartments on Linden Avenue; Panel Components and Sal's Pizza. There were no violations.

Councilwoman Kuncken stated the Police Department for the month of January had 60 motor vehicle stops and a total of 186 calls for the month.

Finance & Administration – Councilman Romano/Councilwoman Kuncken

Councilman Romano stated the tax collections for January were \$2,055,549.01. The first quarter taxes collected total 64.42% as compared to 35% last year.

Councilman Romano stated the water collections for January were \$24,863.52 and the sewer collection totaled \$29,314.65. Both utilities are in good financial shape.

Community Development – Councilman Wronko/Councilman Riccardi

Councilman Wronko stated the Zoning report lists 4 applications and 12 violations or complaints for the month of January.

Councilman Wronko stated the Fire Department is having a St. Patrick's Day fund raiser. The information is on the website and various forms of marketing have been done. Orders should be placed by March 1st. The dinner is being held on March 17th.

Councilman Wronko stated on March 1st the refilling of Lake Musconetcong will begin.

Councilman Wronko stated the most recent Governor's Executive Order states increased capacity limits for restaurants, religious ceremonies, weddings and memorial services.

Municipal Infrastructure – Councilman Thornton/Councilman Wronko

(Water Distribution, Sewer Collection System, Road Construction & Maintenance, Buildings & Grounds)

No report was given due to Councilman Thornton's absence.

Information Technology – Councilman Riccardi/Councilman Cipollini

Councilman Riccardi stated he had no report this evening.

Boards/Commissions – Councilman Cipollini/Councilman Romano

Councilman Cipollini stated the Board of Health meeting for February was cancelled. Councilman Cipollini stated he was informed that the rabies clinic will be taking place on April 16th. The traffic issue is currently under review.

Councilman Cipollini stated the Environmental Commission met on February 11th. No additional information from that meeting was provided to Councilman Cipollini.

Councilman Cipollini stated the Land Use Board met on February 8th. A hearing was held for the Vincent Bruzzese variance application. The application is for a carport but the structure will have three overhead doors. Carport is the name of the company providing the doors. According to Mr. Bruzzese the structure will be used for the storage of a personal motor vehicle. This is an unapproved use for the property due to the fact Mr. Bruzzese is not a resident. The attorney will determine what the proper variance should be. The hearing was postponed. The structure, if approved, would be built on the side of the property.

Councilman Cipollini stated the Recreation Commission meeting scheduled for February 3rd was cancelled due to the weather.

Councilman Cipollini stated the Shade Tree Commission had a meeting scheduled for February 2nd.

Mayor Zdichocki asked Councilman Cipollini to check with the Recreation Commission to see if they are still planning to hold the Easter Egg Hunt. If so, the school needs to be contacted for permission to hold the event in the parking lot of the school. The administrator and governing body need to approve the plan to make sure it is safe. Administrator McNeilly stated one of the issues will be there are no bathroom facilities. There will be no access to the building. Musconetcong Park, the usual location for the Easter Egg Hunt, will not be clear of snow for quite some time. Councilman Cipollini stated he will follow up with the Recreation Commission.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Sussex County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Administrator McNeilly stated, after a lengthy process, the required document for the Sussex County Hazard Mitigation Plan has been completed and submitted to the County. Administrator McNeilly extended his thanks to Eric Keller, Borough Engineer, and Wayne Anthony, OEM, for their input. The draft document will be posted on the County's website for public comment. At some time in the future a resolution will be required from the governing body. There are no structures located in Stanhope Borough which are in the flood plain.

Hepatitis B Vaccine – Administrator McNeilly stated arrangements have been made with Sussex County once again to provide the first responders; Police, Fire, Ambulance and DPW, with the ability to have the required vaccines.

Water System – Administrator McNeilly stated on Sunday there was a loss of pressure on the high side of the water system. Residents in the high elevation areas were affected. Temporary repairs were made on Sunday and one of the high-pressure pumps, located at the bottom of the water tower, which was faulty was replaced last evening when they were done plowing. The system is now functioning properly. Administrator McNeilly asked the governing body to direct residents to contact the non-emergency police dispatch number (973-347-4533) whenever they receive calls, emails or social media notices regarding a loss in water pressure. The residents will get a faster response time and dispatch will have a better understanding of what the problem is and the location. The data collection for the system has been enhanced. Last year, the removal of the radio system was approved for the water tower and pumps. Another data point has been added at the tower which will enable us to record and receive information regarding the pressure situation. Going forward we will be able to catch the problem before it becomes an issue.

Stanhope Pedestrian Loop Phase II (TAP Grant) – Administrator McNeilly stated the bid opening for the Stanhope Pedestrian Loop Phase II project will take place on March 4th at 2:00PM. The RFP for the construction management has been sent out to several engineering firms. The completed RFP's are due back by the beginning of April. The plan is to be ready to begin the project in May.

Code Enforcement/Zoning Official – Administrator McNeilly stated the Code Enforcement/Zoning Official position will be posted by March 5th. The Personnel Committee is being consulted to determine the hours and salary.

Budget – Administrator McNeilly stated the dates are now set for the budget, capital ordinance and salary ordinance.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Zdichocki invited Owen Newson from the Environmental Commission to come forward to give his presentation. Mayor Zdichocki stated the presentation is being made to thank Jack, the owner of Bell's Mansion. For many years Bell's Mansion has been providing lunch for all the participants of the Community Cleanup free of charge. Mr. Newson stated he has been on the Environmental Commission for almost 25 years. Many years ago, they were down by the basketball courts cleaning the area and Jack wandered over and invited everyone to the restaurant for lunch. Jack did not know the members of the commission and they did not know Jack at the time. Mr. Newson stated Mike Balogh, Chairman, was unable to attend this evening so Mr. Newson, as Secretary, thanked Jack and presented him with a plaque. The plaque states "In appreciation to Bell's Mansion for supporting the Environmental Commission and the Clean Communities Program of Stanhope, New Jersey". Mr. Newson again thanked Jack and his wife Maria, who was unable to attend this evening, for their generosity.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Fire Department Bucket Drop Fundraiser Request – Mayor Zdichocki stated the Fire Department is requesting permission to conduct the annual Bucket Drop fundraiser. Mayor Zdichocki asked if any changes have been made to the locations. Don Drake, present in the audience and a member of the fire department, replied there are no changes. The governing body approved the bucket drop. The resolution will be prepared for the next scheduled meeting.

Body Cameras – Councilwoman Kuncken stated the Police Chief contacted her to provide information with regard to the State's requirement for the police officers to wear body cameras. The legislative bill has a July 1st deadline. The State has put aside \$51 million but they are not sure if this will be enough funding or too much. The Chief did some research into what would meet the needs of the department. The company he researched is part of the State contract. The cost would be between \$10,000 to \$12,000. The information has been shared with the Administrator and the Borough Attorney. Councilwoman Kuncken stated Administrator McNeilly has suggested the cost could be placed in the capital budget. Administrator McNeilly stated due to the fact this is not a signed law, there is no policy or procedure in place, nothing ready to go and no money attached to it. If the Borough goes ahead and makes the purchases, the Borough will most likely be on the hook for the costs. If the State provides funding it will be to the municipalities who have not already purchased the cameras. If the time comes in July or August, the capital plan can be modified and then funds can be used from the capital improvement fund or bonded as necessary. Councilwoman Kuncken stated the cameras the Chief has priced are blue tooth and compatible with the camera system in the cars and our server. In the future, statewide they are going to have to figure out how the data will be stored. Councilman Cipollini is concerned about the retrieval of the video data. The files will be quite large. With the information being stored, the Borough will receive OPRA requests for the data. Much discussion took place regarding how the camera system functions. Administrator McNeilly stated the department would need nine cameras. One for each officer and a backup body camera.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

Mayor Zdichocki offered the following ordinance for public hearing and final adoption which was read by title.

Ordinance for Public Hearing and Final Adoption

Ordinance 2021-01

AN ORDINANCE REVISING CHAPTER 124, TAX ABATEMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF STANHOPE WITH THE ADDITION OF NEW SECTION 124-17 "DISABLED VETERAN TAX REFUNDS"

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stanhope is desirous to revise Chapter 1124, Tax Abatements and Exemptions, of the Borough Code to further clarify the exemption from the date of proper application to the Tax Assessor.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stanhope, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 124, Tax Abatements and Exemptions, shall be amended to include a new Section 124-17, Disabled Veteran Tax Refunds, as set forth below:

124-17 Disabled Veteran Tax Refunds

A retroactive refund of property taxes as set forth in N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 shall be limited to the current year of the submission of a proper claim to the tax assessor, as required by N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30.

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Ordinance or the application of this Ordinance to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. REPEALER

All ordinances or parts of ordinances or resolutions that are inconsistent or in opposition to the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed in their entirety.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption and publication in accordance with law.

On motion by Councilman Wronko, seconded by Councilman Cipollini and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote, the foregoing ordinance was adopted.

Roll Call:

Councilman Cipollini – yes	Councilman Romano - yes
Councilwoman Kuncken – yes	Councilman Thornton – absent
Councilman Riccardi – yes	Councilman Wronko - yes

On motion by Councilman Romano, seconded by Councilwoman Kuncken, and unanimously carried by voice vote, the Mayor and Council instructed the Clerk to post the ordinance and authorized publication of same.

Ordinance 2021-02 CALENDAR YEAR 2021 ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF STANHOPE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NJ TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 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 1.0% 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 Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stanhope in the County of Sussex finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2021 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 Mayor and Council hereby determines that a 2.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$90,879.89 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council 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 Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stanhope, in the County of Sussex, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2021 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Stanhope shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$127,231.84, and that the CY 2021 municipal budget for the Borough of Stanhope be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, 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.

On motion by Councilman Romano, seconded by Councilwoman Kuncken and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote, the foregoing ordinance was adopted.

Roll Call:

Councilman Cipollini – yes	Councilman Romano - yes
Councilwoman Kuncken – yes	Councilman Thornton – absent
Councilman Riccardi – yes	Councilman Wronko - yes

On motion by Councilman Riccardi, seconded by Councilman Wronko, and unanimously carried by voice vote, the Mayor and Council instructed the Clerk to post the ordinance and authorized publication of same.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE

Mayor Zdichocki offered the following ordinance for introduction which was read by title.

Ordinance for Introduction [Public Hearing on March 9, 2021]

Ordinance 2021-03

ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF SPARTA ROAD, THE LENAPE VALLY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TRAIL AND THE VALLEY ROAD TRAIL IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF STANHOPE, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, AND APPROPRIATING \$118,593 THEREFOR CONSTITUTING PROCEEDS OF A TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE GRANT FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF STANHOPE, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

The improvement described in Section 2 of this ordinance has heretofore been and is hereby authorized as a general improvement to be made or acquired by The Borough of Stanhope, New Jersey, and there is hereby appropriated therefor the sum of \$118,593 constituting moneys received or expected to be received by the Borough from the Transportation Alternative Grant program of the United States government as a grant-in-aid of financing said improvement.

The improvement heretofore and hereby authorized and the purpose for the financing of which the appropriation is made as provided in Section 1 of this ordinance is the improvement of Sparta Road in and by the Borough by the construction or reconstruction therein of new roadway

pavements and the construction of pedestrian pathways and streetscape improvements in the vicinity of the Lenape Valley Regional High School and Valley Road, including all lighting, pedestrian and bicycle pathways, sidewalks, curbing, crosswalks and signage, together with for all the aforesaid all milling, landscaping, curbing, drainage facilities, equipment, site work, work and materials necessary therefor or incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor on file in the office of the Borough Clerk and heretofore and hereby approved. Said improvement was heretofore authorized by a bond ordinance of the Borough finally adopted on March 27, 2018, and entitled “Bond ordinance providing for the improvement of Sparta Road and various trails in and by the Borough of Stanhope, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, appropriating \$1,095,000 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$90,000 bonds or notes of the Borough for financing such appropriation”.

The capital budget or temporary capital budget of the Borough is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing all detail of the amended capital budget or temporary capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, are on file with the Borough Clerk and are available for public inspection.

This ordinance shall take effect after publication after final passage as provided by law.

On motion by Councilwoman Kuncken, seconded by Councilman Cipollini and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote, the foregoing ordinance was introduced.

Roll Call:

Councilman Cipollini – yes	Councilman Romano - yes
Councilwoman Kuncken – yes	Councilman Thornton – absent
Councilman Riccardi – yes	Councilman Wronko - yes

On motion by Councilman Romano, seconded by Councilman Wronko, and unanimously carried by voice vote, the Mayor and Council instructed the Clerk to post the ordinance and authorized publication of same.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 055-21

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF POLICE CHIEF’S EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, Steven J. Pittigher is the duly appointed Chief of Police of the Stanhope Borough Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the Chief is employed as management personnel and not part of any collective bargaining unit; and

WHEREAS, the Borough and the Chief wish to memorialize the Chief’s employment with the Borough by way of a written Employment Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the parties have negotiated a written employment agreement for the Chief of Police for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2024 and its terms have been agreed upon by both parties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stanhope that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the Employment Agreement for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2024 with Chief Pittigher; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of said Employment Agreement shall be on file with the Borough Clerk and available for public inspection.

On motion by Councilwoman Kuncken, seconded by Councilman Romano and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote, the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

Roll Call:

Councilman Cipollini – yes
Councilwoman Kuncken - yes
Councilman Riccardi - yes

Councilman Romano - yes
Councilman Thornton – absent
Councilman Wronko – yes

CONSENT AGENDA (All items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Borough Council and were enacted by one motion of the Borough Council with no separate discussion.)

Resolution 056-21 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO OUTSIDE LIEN HOLDER**

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has received payment for the redemption of Tax Title Lien No. 2020-004, representing 2019 property taxes and/or utility charges on Block 10903, Lot 12, known as 6 Hickory Dr, assessed to KT SFR 1, LLC, and;

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector certifies that reimbursement is now required to be made to the following lien holder for the required redemption amounts as shown below:

To Lienholder:	Pro Cap 8, LLC. US Bank Cust for Pro Cap 8 50 South 16 th St, Suite 2050 Philadelphia, PA 19102		
Redemption Amount:	Tax Title Lien #2020-004 and		
	Interest to Date of Meeting	\$	2,022.81
	Premium Paid by Lienholder		<u>200.00</u>
Total From Current Fund:		\$	2,022.81
Total From Tax Premium Account			200.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stanhope, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that the Borough Treasurer be authorized to prepare the necessary check as stated above and to forward same to the lien holder.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Borough Chief Financial Officer/Tax Collector.

Resolution 057-21 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO OUTSIDE LIEN HOLDER**

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has received payment for the redemption of Tax Title Lien No. 2020-018, representing 2019 property taxes and/or utility charges on Block 11501, Lot 2, C0312, known as 16312 Dell Pl, assessed to Frost, Ronald, and;

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector certifies that reimbursement is now required to be made to the following lien holder for the required redemption amounts as shown below:

To Lienholder:	Pro Cap 8, LLC. US Bank Cust for Pro Cap 8 50 South 16 th St, Suite 2050 Philadelphia, PA 19102		
Redemption Amount:	Tax Title Lien #2020-018 and		
	Interest to Date of Meeting	\$	1,087.99
	Premium Paid by Lienholder		<u>200.00</u>
Total From Current Fund:		\$	1,087.99
Total From Tax Premium Account			200.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stanhope, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that the Borough Treasurer be authorized to prepare the necessary check as stated above and to forward same to the lien holder.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Borough Chief Financial Officer/Tax Collector.

On motion by Councilman Wronko, seconded by Councilman Riccardi and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote, the foregoing resolutions were duly adopted.

Roll Call:

Councilman Cipollini – yes	Councilman Romano - yes
Councilwoman Kuncken - yes	Councilman Thornton – absent
Councilman Riccardi - yes	Councilman Wronko – yes

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Resolution 058-21

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF STANHOPE AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

WHEREAS, the Chief Finance Officer has certified that funds are available in the proper account; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Finance Officer has approved payment upon certification from the Borough Department Heads that the goods and/or services have been rendered to the Borough;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stanhope that the current bills list, dated February 23, 2021 and on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief Finance Officer and approved by the Chief Finance Officer for payment, be paid.

On motion by Councilman Romano, seconded by Councilwoman Kuncken and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

Roll Call:

Councilman Cipollini – yes	Councilman Romano - yes
Councilwoman Kuncken - yes	Councilman Thornton – absent
Councilman Riccardi - yes	Councilman Wronko – yes

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Attorney Jonathan Frodella stated he had no report this evening.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Zdichocki opened the meeting to the public after advising attendees that there is a five (5) minute time limit for each speaker.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak, Mayor Zdichocki closed the public portion of the meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently existing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stanhope, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter(s).
2. The general nature of the subject matter(s) to be discussed is as follows:

1 – Contract
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter(s) will be made public at the conclusion of each individual specified subject matter.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

On motion by Councilman Romano, seconded by Councilwoman Kuncken, and unanimously carried by voice vote, the foregoing resolution was adopted.

The Mayor and Council went into Closed Session at 7:07 P.M.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

At the conclusion of the Closed Session, the Mayor and Council reconvened the public meeting at 7:12 P.M. with all present.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilman Wronko, seconded by Councilman Riccardi, and unanimously carried by voice vote the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 P.M.

Approved:

Linda Chirip
Deputy Clerk for
Ellen Horak, RMC
Borough Clerk