

**MINUTES OF THE WARREN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 7, 2016**

**REORGANIZATION MEETING**

The Township Committee of the Township of Warren, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in the Reorganization Meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2016 at 6:08 p.m. in the Municipal Complex, Susie B. Boyce Meeting Room, 44 Mountain Boulevard, Warren, New Jersey.

Township Clerk Patricia DiRocco read the following notices:

“In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting was provided on December 10, 2015 by sending written notices to the Echoes Sentinel and Courier News, posting on the Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building and filing with the Township Clerk”.

“This meeting is to be taped for broadcast on the Access Channel and everyone is required to comply with the policies and procedures governing access programming for the Access Channel. No mention of political affiliation or political advertising shall take place at this meeting or it will be deleted from any rebroadcast of the meeting”.

Pastor Tereisita Matos-Post, Mount Horeb United Methodist Church delivered the Invocation.

Boy Scout Troop #228 led all in the pledge of allegiance.

Assemblyman Bramnick administered the Oath of Office to Township Committeemen Victor J. Sordillo and Gary P. DiNardo.

On call of the roll, the following Committee members were present:

Mr. Marion  
Mr. DiNardo  
Mr. Sordillo  
Mrs. Garafola  
Mr. Lazo

Also Present: Mark M. Krane, Township Administrator  
Patricia A. DiRocco, Township Clerk  
Donald DiFrancesco, Acting Township Attorney

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Ms. DiRocco asked for a nomination for Mayor of the Township of Warren and Chairperson of the Township Committee. Mr. Marion nominated Mr. Lazo. Mrs. Garafola seconded the nomination. The voice vote was unanimous.

Ms. DiRocco asked for a nomination for Deputy Mayor of the Township of Warren and Vice Chairperson of the Township Committee. Mr. Lazo nominated Mrs. Garafola. Mr. Sordillo seconded the nomination. The voice vote was unanimous.

Ms. DiRocco relinquished the Chair to Mayor Lazo.

Mayor Lazo recognized visiting dignitaries. He said that he is honored to be selected as Mayor for 2016. He commended his colleagues and stated that all governing body members are of the highest quality, have great integrity and are very hard working. He recognized Mr. Krane, Ms. DiRocco, Police Chief Keane and Jeff Heiss. Mayor Lazo stated that he is looking forward to working with Township employees.

Mr. DiNardo welcomed Mayor Lazo and will look forward to working closely with the governing body. He recognized volunteers and the hard work they always do. He wished everyone health and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Marion commented that serving as Mayor is challenging and welcomed Mayor Lazo. He is looking forward to continuing to work with the County on the East County Reserve Park and spoke of the planned amenities. He stated that he will be watching the budget very carefully. His goal is to maintain the strong fiscal condition of the Township. Mr. Marion said that the Township will continue to monitor the COAH issue and work hard for the best interests of the residents.

Mr. Sordillo recognized former Chief Leffert. He noted that he and Mr. DiNardo have served on the Township Committee for 15 years, serving as Mayor multiple times. He stated that his colleagues are intelligent, dedicated and always work as a team. Mr. Sordillo reminded all that he was on the forefront of opposing Police consolidating with other Police forces in the County and feels strongly about keeping Warren independent. It is better economically as well. Warren has a top notch Department and Warren is a wonderful community.

Mrs. Garafola recognized the Warren Board of Education newly elected members that were present. She thanked her colleagues and stated that there is diversity in thinking. She thanked Township staff.

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Mrs. Garafola stated that she has served for over two decades and feels a great sense of pride. It can be challenging, as the governing body has been criticized from time to time. She noted that it is very important to help those residents who want to continue to live here. She stated that she looks forward to working with governing body members as a team. COAH will be very challenging and the Township will work hard to protect the residents.

Mayor Lazo read the Planning Board, Board of Health, Office of Emergency Management and Somerset County Development Committee appointments. A list of these appointments is appended to the official minutes.

The Township Committee Liaison list was approved by the governing body.

Mr. Sordillo introduced and read Resolution No. 2016-01 entitled "MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS WITH ADVICE AND CONSENT OF TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE", seconded by Mrs. Garafola and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution No. 2016-01 is appended to the official minutes.

Mr. Sordillo introduced and read Resolution No. 2016-02 entitled "APPOINTMENTS TO MUNICIPAL OFFICES, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES", seconded by Mrs. Garafola and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution No. 2016-02 is appended to the official minutes.

Mrs. Garafola introduced and read Resolution No. 2016-03 entitled "CONFIRMING ELECTION OF FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS", seconded by Mr. Sordillo and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution No. 2016-03 is appended to the official minutes.

Mrs. Garafola introduced and read Resolution No. 2016-04 entitled "AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENTS TO FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT AND FIRE EDUCATION PROGRAM", seconded by Mr. Sordillo and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution No. 2016-04 is appended to the official minutes.

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Mr. DiNardo introduced and read Resolution No. 2016-05 entitled "APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSIONALS FOR THE TOWNSHIP", seconded by Mrs. Garafola and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution No. 2016-05 is appended to the official minutes.

Mr. DiNardo introduced Resolution No. 2016-06 entitled "AUTHORIZING USE OF CONSENT AGENDA AT TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETINGS", seconded by Mrs. Garafola and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution No. 2016-06 is appended to the official minutes.

Mr. Marion introduced Resolution No. 2016-07 entitled "TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING RULES OF ORDER", seconded by Mrs. Garafola and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution No. 2016-07 is appended to the official minutes.

Mr. Marion introduced Resolution No. 2016-08 entitled "SCHEDULE OF TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETINGS", seconded by Mrs. Garafola and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution No. 2016-08 is appended to the official minutes.

At this time Ms. DiRocco administered a general oath of office to all appointees.

On motion of Mr. Sordillo, second of Mrs. Garafola, Consent Agenda Resolutions No. 2016-09 through No. 2016-32 were adopted. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Resolutions No. 2016-09 through No. 2015-32 are appended to the official minutes.

On motion of Mr. Marion, second of Mrs. Garafola, Resolution No. 2016-33 entitled "AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY TO NOTIFY JUDGE THOMAS C. MILLER THAT WARREN TOWNSHIP INTENDS TO RELY ON CONSULT SOLUTIONS, INC.'S REVISED REPORT ON NJ AFFORDABLE NEEDS AND OBLIGATIONS AND INTENDS TO RETAIN ECONSULT SOLUTIONS, INC. TO TESTIFY AT THE TRIAL" was introduced and adopted. The roll call was unanimous.

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Resolution No. 2016-33 is appended to the official minutes.

On motion of Mr. Marion, second of Mr. Sordillo, the Regular and Executive session minutes of December 10, 2015 were approved. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Mr. Marion introduced and read Resolution No. 2016-34 for the payment of bills, seconded by Mrs. Garafola. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Resolution No. 2016-34 is appended to the official minutes.

Mayor Lazo opened the Privilege of the Floor portion of the meeting. No one wished to speak and this portion was closed.

On motion of Mr. Marion, second of Mr. DiNardo, and unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. DiRocco, RMC  
Township Clerk