

Cape May Court House, NJ
 November 21, 2022
 REGULAR MEETING
 FLAG SALUTE
 THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED:

I hereby declare that notice has been given to the Herald Times, the Atlantic City Press and posted on the bulletin board of the Middle Township Municipal Building, stating the time and place of the following meeting, as required in P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 of the State of New Jersey. (Sunshine Law).

The Township Committee met on the above date at 6:00 PM at the Middle Township Municipal Building. Members present were Mayor Donohue, Deputy Mayor Gandy, Committeemember Norris, Township Clerk/Business Administrator Kimberly Osmundsen, Deputy Township Clerk Emily Bartleson, Deputy Business Administrator Suzanne Schumann, Township Engineer Vince Orlando, & Municipal Solicitor Marcus Karavan

1. PRESENTATION BY COMMITTEE – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER – CHAD MURNAGHAN
2. PROMOTIONS – POLICE DEPARTMENT – On motion by _____ seconded by _____ and passed on roll call, the following resolution was adopted.
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Middle, the governing body thereof, that the following employees in the Middle Township Police Department are hereby promoted to the titles opposite their name:

| NAME | DEPARTMENT | TITLE | SALARY | EFF. DATE |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------|
| Kenneth Martin | Public Safety – Police | Police Lieutenant | \$134,712.67 | 11/21/2022 |
| Kurt Saettler | Public Safety – Police | Police Sergeant | \$122,695.96 | 11/21/2022 |
| Michael Pastore | Public Safety – Police | Police Sergeant | \$122,695.96 | 11/21/2022 |

3. SWEARING IN OF PROMOTED POLICE OFFICERS
4. QUESTION/ANSWER PERIOD ON AGENDA (*This question-and-answer session shall relate only to items as outlined and pending on current agenda. Issues and concerns not related to agenda item shall be withheld to public comment portion at the conclusion of meeting.*)
5. RESOLUTION – APPROVING PAYMENT FOR BILLS – BILL LIST A (GENERAL BILLS) – On motion by _____ seconded by _____ and passed on roll call, the following resolution was adopted.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Middle, the governing body thereof, that payment for the following bills in the amounts indicated are hereby approved:
Current Acct. \$300,682.45
6. RESOLUTION – APPROVING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING – On motion by _____ seconded by _____ and passed on roll call, the following resolution was adopted.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Middle, the governing body thereof, that the following minutes are approved: 11/07/2022 Regular Meeting
7. REPORTS: Clerk for month of October
8. ORDINANCE 1663-22 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE, CHAPTER 218, SECTION 47 ENTITLED APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT FEES – Following second reading, hearing, and consideration for adoption, Ordinance 1663-22 was adopted on motion by _____ seconded by _____ and passed on roll call. Complete Ordinance is on file in the Clerk’s Office.
BE IT ORDAINED by the TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE, the governing body of the Township of Middle that the following fees listed under Chapter 218, Article VI, Section 47 of the CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE be and is hereby amended as follows:
Section 218-47 Development Fees shall be amended as follows (amendments in [brackets]; additions underlined:

| Category | Application Fee | Escrow Fee |
|--|-------------------|------------|
| 21 <u>Review of grading and drainage</u> | <u>[\$100.00]</u> | |
| 22 <u>Grading and Drainage Site Inspection</u> | <u>[\$400.00]</u> | |

All other ordinances in conflict or inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed, to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.
Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, the remaining portions of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

This ordinance shall become effective upon final passage and publication, according to law.

9. ORDINANCE 1664-22 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE, CHAPTER 215, ARTICLE III ENTITLED STREET EXCAVATIONS – On motion by _____ seconded by _____ and passed on roll call, Ordinance No. 1664-22 passed first reading. Second reading, public hearing and consideration for adoption will be held on 12/19/2022 at 6:00 p.m. WHEREAS, the current Ordinance pertaining to street excavation permits references a road opening moratorium for a period of five years after the paving of a roadway. BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Middle in the County of Cape May and State of New Jersey that the following Ordinance sections shall be amended as follows:
- § 215-15. Issuance of permit.
- D.
No permit shall be issued for any road which has been constructed or reconstructed for a period of five years after the completion of said construction or reconstruction except in an emergency situation.
- E.
No permit shall be issued for any road which has been overlaid with bituminous concrete for a period of three years after the completion of said overlay except in an emergency situation.
- F.
In the case of emergency or hardship, the Township Committee may, by resolution, waive the five-year and three-year restrictions mentioned previously. When the case presents, the restoration requirement is to restore the road to the original pre-opening condition, but at a minimum, the restoration is to consist of 2” milling and paving of the full lane and/or full shoulder width for a distance of 50lf in both directions beyond the length of the opening.
All trench backfill is to consist of compacted DGA.
- SECTION 2. All other ordinances in conflict or inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.
- SECTION 3. Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phase of this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.
- SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon final passage and publication, according to law.

10. RESOLUTION – NEW HIRES – On motion by _____ seconded by _____ and passed on roll call, the following resolution was adopted.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey, that the following employees are hereby appointed to the following position at the salaries opposite their names:

| NAME | DEPARTMENT | TITLE | SALARY | EFFECTIVE |
|---------------|------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Jeffrey Smith | Sewer | Laborer F/T T/A (6 months) | \$15.00 per hour | 11/28/2022 |

11. RESOLUTION – ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DISCONTINUATION OF TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT – On motion by _____ seconded by _____ and passed on roll call, the following resolution was adopted.
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee, the Governing Body of the Township of Middle, County of Cape May and State of New Jersey, that the following discontinuation of appointments listed below, are acknowledged.

| EMPLOYEE | DEPARTMENT/BOARD | POSITION | EFFECTIVE |
|------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| Christian Rafter | Recreation | Recreation Aide P/T T/A (6months) | 10/01/2022 |
| Nick Montalbano | Recreation | Recreation Aide P/T T/A (6 months) | 10/01/2022 |

12. RESOLUTION – ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RESIGNATION – On motion by _____ seconded by _____ and passed on roll call, the following resolution was adopted.
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee, the Governing Body of the Township of Middle, County of Cape May and State of New Jersey, that the following resignations listed below, are acknowledged.

| NAME | DEPARTMENT/BOARD | POSITION | EFFECTIVE |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Greyson Bramble | Public Works | Mechanic Helper F/T T/A | 11/07/2022 |

13. RESOLUTION – APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF CASH OUT SICK LEAVE – VARIOUS EMPLOYEES – On motion by _____ seconded by _____ and passed on roll call, the following resolution was adopted.
WHEREAS, the Township allows the cash out of accumulated sick time by employees who meet the guidelines set forth in the personnel policy manual; and
WHEREAS, the personnel office has provided sufficient documentation verifying the amount of time accumulated and the Finance Officer has certified that time;
NOW THEREFORE BE IS RESOLVED, by the Township Committee, the Governing Body of the Township of Middle, County of Cape May and the State of New Jersey, that payment be issued to the employees in the amount referenced on the attached.

| EMPLOYEE | RATE | HOURS | COST |
|------------------|---------|-------|-------------|
| Bakley, Mark | 31.113 | 60 | \$ 1,866.78 |
| Bradley, Raymond | 35.4501 | 60 | \$ 2,127.01 |

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------|-------|--------------|
| Castellano, Eugene | 51.5529 | 60 | \$ 3,093.17 |
| Cermanski, Lisa | 14.9039 | 40 | \$ 596.16 |
| D'Alonzo, James | 51.5529 | 60 | \$ 3,093.17 |
| Dececco, Gregory | 28.9419 | 60 | \$ 1,736.51 |
| Flounders, Thomas | 31.113 | 60 | \$ 1,866.78 |
| Flynn, Robert | 42.3078 | 40 | \$ 1,692.31 |
| Geiger, Daniel | 48.3345 | 60 | \$ 2,900.07 |
| Graham, Jennifer | 35.3021 | 35 | \$ 1,235.57 |
| Johnson, Phillip | 51.5529 | 60 | \$ 3,093.17 |
| Jones, Armondo | 21.0339 | 60 | \$ 1,262.03 |
| Larkin, Leonard | 56.1795 | 60 | \$ 3,370.77 |
| Lindholm, Martin | 48.3345 | 60 | \$ 2,900.07 |
| MacCormack, Trevor | 28.9419 | 24 | \$ 694.61 |
| Martino, Matthew | 51.5529 | 60 | \$ 3,093.17 |
| McClintock, Betzy | 19.7803 | 35 | \$ 692.31 |
| McInnis, Jonas | 31.1113 | 60 | \$ 1,866.68 |
| Miller, Marilyn | 21.1539 | 40 | \$ 846.16 |
| Norton, John | 21.1539 | 60 | \$ 1,269.23 |
| Osmundsen, Kimberly | 76.9231 | 16.75 | \$ 1,288.46 |
| Pastore, Michael | 35.4501 | 60 | \$ 2,127.01 |
| Reardon, Michael | 31.1113 | 60 | \$ 1,866.68 |
| Ritterhoff, Thomas | 31.1113 | 60 | \$ 1,866.68 |
| Rocca, Shawn | 28.9419 | 24 | \$ 694.61 |
| Ruiz, Julio | 51.5529 | 60 | \$ 3,093.17 |
| Runyon, Thomas | 28.9419 | 60 | \$ 1,736.51 |
| Saettler, Kurt | 51.5529 | 60 | \$ 3,093.17 |
| Stiefel, Benjamin | 31.1113 | 60 | \$ 1,866.68 |
| Trombetta, Joseph | 21.0339 | 60 | \$ 1,262.03 |
| TOTAL | | | \$ 58,190.75 |

14. RESOLUTION – REFUND OF TAXES – On motion by _____ seconded by _____ and passed on roll call, the following resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS, A refund is due to the below property owners due to payment made on exempt properties.

| <i>ACCT</i> | <i>BLOCK</i> | <i>LOT</i> | <i>OWNER/LOCATION</i> | <i>2022</i> |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|--|-------------------|
| <i>14120</i> | <i>1428</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>Mc Glinsey, Sean & Barbara 3 Peach Tree Rd Rio Grande, NJ 08242 Property location: 3 Peach Tree Rd</i> | <i>\$1,037.28</i> |
| <i>12910</i> | <i>1094</i> | <i>1.02</i> | <i>Miller, Ian C 90 Garden Ave Rio Grande, NJ 08242 Property location: 90 Garden Ave</i> | <i>\$1,249.54</i> |

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, that the Chief Financial Officer be instructed to draw check in the above noted amounts payable to the above-mentioned party, as a refund of 2022 taxes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be given to the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Middle.

15. RESOLUTION – INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE (ITEMS A THROUGH B) – On motion by _____ seconded by _____ and passed on roll call, the following resolution was adopted.

(A)WHEREAS, R.S. 40A: 4-87 provides the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of any Special Item of Revenue in the budget of any Municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount whereof was not determined at the time of adoption of budget, and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an appropriation for an equal amount.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee, the Governing Body of the Township of Middle, County of Cape May and State of New Jersey, hereby requests the director of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of additional items of revenue in the budget of the year 2022 in the sum of:

COUNTY OF CAPE MAY OPEN SPACES – NORBURY LANDING GRANT \$230,256.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that like sum be and the same is hereby appropriated under the following caption:

COUNTY OF CAPE MAY OPEN SPACES – NORBURY LANDING GRANT \$230,256.00

(B)WHEREAS, R.S. 40A: 4-87 provides the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of any Special Item of Revenue in the budget of any Municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount whereof was not determined at the time of adoption of budget, and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an appropriation for an equal amount.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee, the Governing Body of the Township of Middle, County of Cape May and State of New Jersey, hereby requests the director of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of additional items of revenue in the budget of the year 2022 in the sum of:

STATE OF NJ – DEPT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY – SAFE AND SECURE 22 \$32,400.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that like sum be and the same is hereby appropriated under the following caption:

STATE OF NJ – DEPT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY – SAFE AND SECURE 22 \$32,400.00

16. RESOLUTION – TRANSFER OF FUNDS – On motion by seconded by and passed on roll call, the following resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS, it is legal and lawful to make budget transfers on and after the first day of November in any budget year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee, the Governing Body of the Township of Middle, County of Cape May and the State of New Jersey, that the following transfers of budget appropriations be made in the budget of Middle Township for the year 2022:

| Account Number | Name | From | To |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Current Fund | | | |
| 2-01-20-150-150-228 | Assessor OE | 6,000.00 | |
| 2-01-25-262-263-299 | Contribution OE | 40,000.00 | |
| 2-01-36-471-471-453 | Social Security OE | 60,000.00 | |
| 2-01-20-100-100-111 | Admin and Exec S/W | | 12,000.00 |
| 2-01-20-100-100-258 | Admin and Exec OE | | 3,000.00 |
| 2-01-20-150-150-111 | Assessor of Taxes S/W | | 6,000.00 |
| 2-01-26-290-921-111 | Public Works S/W | | 50,000.00 |
| 2-01-31-446-446-475 | Natural Gas OE | | 10,000.00 |
| 2-01-31-450-450-475 | Internet OE | | 2,500.00 |
| 2-01-31-460-460-475 | Gasoline OE | | 22,500.00 |
| Sewer Utility | | | |
| 2-07-55-502-503-311 | Group Insurance OE | 13,000.00 | |
| 2-07-55-502-503-313 | Other Insurance | 38,000.00 | |
| 2-07-55-501-501-111 | Sewer/Water S/W | | 43,000.00 |
| 2-07-36-471-471-453 | Sewer Social Security OE | | 3,000.00 |
| 2-07-55-502-502-430 | Other Expenses - Electricity | | 5,000.00 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | 157,000.00 | 157,000.00 |

17. RESOLUTION – RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND – STREET OPENING – THE BRANCHES OUTREACH – On motion by seconded by and passed on roll call, the following resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS, \$5,000.00 is being held as a performance guarantee for The Branches Outreach for a street opening located at 201 Hirst Trail, and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department has conducted his inspection and determined that all improvements have been completed, and

WHEREAS, it has been recommended that the performance guarantee for the above stated project be released.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Middle, the governing body thereof, that the above referenced opening has been inspected and approved, and that the cash performance bond in the amount of \$5,000.00 be released.

18. RESOLUTION – RELEASE OF TRUST ACCOUNTS – On motion by seconded by and passed on roll call, the following resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS, certain monies held in Trust Accounts from time to time may have balances remaining after all fees have been paid; and

WHEREAS, the applicants are entitled to a refund of this money.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Middle, the governing body thereof, that upon request of the Zoning Officer the following balances in the Trust Accounts, as listed on the attached sheets, shall be released.

19. RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF CASH BOND – CLERMONT HOMES LLC – On motion by seconded by and passed on roll call, the following resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS, Clermont Homes LLC has received certain approvals for the property located at 113 Hand Avenue to include construction of related amenities, and

WHEREAS, the developer is about to or has commenced development of the project together with the related improvement and has chosen to post a cash bond for the same.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Middle, the governing body thereof, that the cash bond in the amount of \$5,000.00, is hereby accepted.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the appropriate officials are hereby authorized to sign any and all documents in connection therewith.

20. RESOLUTION – TABULATION COMMITTEE (ITEMS A THROUGH B) – On motion by _____ seconded by _____ and passed on roll call, the following resolution was adopted.

(A) *NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*, by the Township Committee, the Governing Body of the Township of Middle, County of Cape May and State of New Jersey that Township Officials be and hereby are appointed to tabulate the bids to be taken on December 21, 2022 at 10:00 AM in the Middle Township Municipal Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 33 Mechanic Street, Cape May Court House, NJ for the following:

RENOVATIONS TO MIDDLE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING RESTROOM

(B) *NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*, by the Township Committee, the Governing Body of the Township of Middle, County of Cape May and State of New Jersey that Township Officials be and hereby are appointed to tabulate the bids to be taken on December 14, 2022 at 10:00 AM in the Middle Township Municipal Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 33 Mechanic Street, Cape May Court House, NJ for the following:

WALSH AVENUE AND SOUTH THIRD STREET ROADWAY

21. RESOLUTION – AMENDING RESOLUTION 89-22 – APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORTH WILDWOOD AND THE TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE – On motion by _____ seconded by _____ and passed on roll call, the following resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 76-22 authorized a Shared Services agreement with The City of North Wildwood relative to the services of a Construction Official; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No 89-22 amended said Resolution and agreement to reflect the terms of said agreement to conform with UCC regulations.

WHEREAS, said resolution and agreement must be amended to specify the annual payments by Middle Township to the City of North Wildwood during the four-year term of office of the Construction Official; and

WHEREAS, said resolution must be further amended to specify the termination date of said Agreement, which shall be amended to December 31, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Middle, the governing body thereof, as follows:

1. All of the statements of the preamble hereto are repeated and incorporated herein by the reference thereto as though the same were set forth at length
2. Parage 5 of the Shared Service Agreement is hereby amended so as to read: “During the term of this Agreement, Middle Township agrees to pay the City of North Wildwood the following amounts, in equal monthly payments, for the services of Speigel as the Construction Official in Middle Township:
 - a. 2022 - \$55,000
 - b. 2023 - \$68,250
 - c. 2024 - \$71,663
 - d. 2025 - \$75, 256
3. This resolution shall be annexed to and made part of said Shared Services Agreement
4. The Township Clerk shall forward a certified copy of this Resolution, together with the amended Shared Services Agreement, to the City Clerk of North Wildwood

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appropriate officials are hereby authorized to sign any and all document in connection therewith.

22. RESOLUTION – CONFIRMATION OF LAND SALE (ITEMS A THROUGH B) – On motion by _____ seconded by _____ and passed on roll call, the following resolution was adopted.

(A) *WHEREAS*, the Township Committee, the Governing Body of the Township of Middle, by proper resolution, directed that a public sale be held at the meeting room, 33 Mechanic Street, Cape May Court House, N.J., and that certain lands and premises owned by, and situated within, the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey, be sold, as follows:

Resolution No.: 310-22 Adopted: July 6, 2022 Sale Date: September 14, 2022 at 10:00am

WHEREAS, said public sale was held at the above time and place, and said premises were sold to the highest bidder, as set forth on the attached list of properties, purchasers and sale amounts.

(B) *NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*, by the Township Committee, the Governing Body of the Township of Middle, that the sale of said premises, upon the above consideration, be and is hereby confirmed, and the Mayor and Clerk of the Township of Middle are hereby authorized and directed to convey said premises as directed to said highest bidders, by Bargain and Sale Deed, free and clear of all taxes up to and including the calendar quarter during which said sale was held.

WHEREAS, the Township Committee, the Governing Body of the Township of Middle, by proper Ordinance, directed that a private auction to be held amongst contiguous owners of Block 276 Lot 5, at the meeting room, 33 Mechanic Street, Cape May Court House, N.J., and that certain lands and premises owned by, and situated within, the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey, be sold, as follows:

Ordinance No.: 1660-22 Adopted: October 03, 2022 Sale Date: October 26, 2022 9:00am

WHEREAS, said public sale was held at the above time and place, and said premises were sold to the highest bidder, as follows:

Block 276 Lot 5 – Steel Road

WHEREAS, said highest bidder has requested that said lands and premises be conveyed as follows: Michael Dewald – 801 Steel Road, Cape May Court House, New Jersey 08210

NOW THEREFORE BE IS RESOLVED, by the Township Committee, the Governing Body of the Township of Middle, that the sale of said premises, upon the above consideration, be and is hereby confirmed, and the Mayor and Clerk of the Township of Middle are hereby authorized and directed to convey said premises as directed by said highest bidder, by Bargain and Sale Deed, free and clear of all taxes up to and including the calendar quarter during which said sale was held.

23. RESOLUTION – URGING GOVERNOR MURPHY TO USE COVID RELIEF FUNDS TO OFFSET THE INCREASED PREMIUM COSTS OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM – On motion by _____ seconded by _____ and passed on roll call, the following resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program (the “SHBP”), governed by N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.25 et seq., offers medical, prescription drug, and dental coverage to qualified state and participating local government public employees, retirees, and eligible dependents; and

WHEREAS, all SHBP plans are self-funded, with all benefits being paid directly from a SHBP fund supplied by the State, participating local employers, and member premiums; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, due to decisions by the New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits and the State Health Benefits Commission, the cost of the SHBP premiums will increase by 21.6% for active employees, 13% for early retirees, and 0.7% for Medicare retirees, which will result in a combined cost increase of 22.8%; and

WHEREAS, the current and retired employees of Middle Township currently receive health insurance benefits through SHBP; and

WHEREAS, the increased costs of the SHBP will result in significant additional cost to both the Township and its employees; and

WHEREAS, the additional cost of premiums for the SHBP will result in a significant increase in the property taxes for the residents of Middle Township; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and the State of New Jersey have entered into an agreement with state employees to use New Jersey Covid relief funds to offset the increased premiums to limit the increase to 3% for state employees; and

WHEREAS, it would be fair and equitable for the State of New Jersey to use its Covid relief funds to provide the same or similar benefit to municipal employees that the State will be providing to state employees; and

WHEREAS, limiting the SHBP premium increase to 3% for participating municipal employees in the same manner as for state employees would contribute to the State’s goal to build a stronger and fairer economy for New Jersey that supports the middle class and lifts families and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey, that;

- 1. The allegations of the preamble are incorporated herein by this reference*
- 2. The Township of Middle hereby urges the Governor and State of New Jersey to expend state Covid relief funds to offset the increased premiums of the SHBP for municipal employees in the same manner that the state has agreed to do for state employees in order to limit the premium increase to 3%*
- 3. The Township Clerk shall forward copies of this resolution to the Governor, State Health Benefits Commission, New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits, Cape May County Commissioners, and each municipality in Cape May County.*

24. RESOLUTION – CLOSED SESSION – POTENTIAL LITIGATIONS – On motion by _____ seconded by _____ and passed on roll call, the following resolution was adopted.

Upon adoption of this resolution and conclusion of this meeting the governing body will convene on the above referenced topic in closed session.

This matter will be released to the public when the matter has been deemed resolved and the need to hear said item in closed session no longer exist.

The public will be invited back into open session at the conclusion of this meeting and formal action may be taken.

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

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Middle, the governing body thereof, is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey:

- 1.) The public shall be excluded from the discussion of an action upon the hereinafter specified matter:*

POTENTIAL LITIGATION

- 2.) The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:*

POTENTIAL LITIGATION

- 3.) It is anticipated at this time the above subject matter will be made public as follows:*

WHEN THE MATTER IS RESOLVED

- 4.) This Resolution shall take effect immediately.*

25. ENGINEERING REPORT:

26. PUBLIC COMMENT:

