BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING MAY 16, 2024 TENTATIVE AGENDA

- 1. Approval of Minutes of May 2, 2024 Regular Meeting
- 2. Resolution regarding payment of bills
- 3. Resolution regarding municipal service fee for mobile home parks
- 4. Resolution for Professional Services Contract for Engineering Services to update the Borough's Stormwater Management Plan, Stormwater Control Ordinance and Pinelands Stormwater Control Ordinances
- 5. Resolution approving the contract between the Borough of Lakehurst and the AFCSME Council 63
- 6. Resolution awarding contract to Martin A. Ackley Assoc. for NJDOT required Core Testing for NJDOT FY2023 project.
- 7. Resolution for Raffle Licenses for Lakehurst Historical Society
- 8. Resolution Calling for the Modernization of the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and the Swift Passage of S-2939/A-4045

Maryanne Capasso, RMC Municipal Clerk

The Mayor and Council reserve the right to add or delete items from the agenda.

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Borough of Lakehurst, in the County of Ocean and State of New Jersey has carefully examined all vouchers presented to the Borough Clerk for payment of claims; finding all to be accurate and legitimate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Lakehurst, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey that the bills list as presented in the amount of \$460,580.54 is hereby approved.

I, Maryanne Capasso, Municipal Clerk, of the Borough of Lakehurst, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the above resolution was approved by the Mayor and Council at the meeting of May 16, 2024.

> Maryanne Capasso Municipal Clerk, RMC

P.O. Type: All Range: First to Last Format: Detail without Line Item Notes Vendors: All Rcvd Batch Id Range: First to Last	Include Non-Budgete	Open: Rcvd: Bid: Y	Y Held: Y Aprv: N	Exempt:	Y			
PO # PO Date Vendor Item Description	Amount Charge Ac	Contract PO Type count Acct Type Description		Stat/Chk	First Enc Date		Chk/Void Date	Invoice
24-00128 02/12/24 M0963 MGL PRINTING S 1 MINUTE BOOKS 2 FILLER SHEETS 3 SHIPPING	COLUTIONS 238.00 4-01-20-1 144.00 4-01-20-1 <u>24.00</u> 4-01-20-1 406.00	.20-211 B Clerk - Office S	upplies	R	02/12/24 02/12/24 02/12/24	05/15/24		
24-00167 02/15/24 S0650 SIRCHIE ACQUIS 1 BLOOD ALCO KIT 2 COCAINE WIPES 3 4X7 EVID. BAGS 100CT 4 7 1/2 X 10 1/2 EVD BAGS 100CT 5 SYRINGE TUBE 12CT 6 SHIPPING	GITION COMPANY 47.24 4-01-25-2 48.68 4-01-25-2 97.35 4-01-25-2 84.12 4-01-25-2 30.46 4-01-25-2 49.00 4-01-25-2 356.85 4-01-25-2	240-297 B Police - Miscell 240-297 B Police - Miscell 240-297 B Police - Miscell 240-297 B Police - Miscell 240-297 B Police - Miscell	aneous aneous aneous aneous aneous	R R	02/15/24 02/15/24 02/15/24 02/15/24 02/15/24 02/15/24	05/15/24 05/15/24 05/15/24 05/15/24		
24-00186 02/29/24 W0010 W. B. MASON OF 1 TOILET TISSUE 2 BIGFOLD Z TOWELS	FICE SUPPLIES 373.52 4-01-26-3 <u>155.32</u> 4-01-26-3 528.84				02/29/24 02/29/24			
24-00187 02/29/24 w0010 W. B. MASON OF 1 PAPER, LTR, TIDAL, WE 2 FOLDER, MLA, 1/3 CT LTR 100BX 3 SCRATCH PAD 5X8 12PK 4 STENO BOOK GREGG WE 80SH 5 TOP-LOAD POLY SHEET PROTECTORS	FICE SUPPLIES 108.80 4-01-26-3 12.29 4-01-26-3 20.56 4-01-26-3 17.10 4-01-26-3 <u>2.97</u> 4-01-26-3 161.72	10-211B OFFICE SUPPLIES10-211B OFFICE SUPPLIES10-211B OFFICE SUPPLIES		R R R R R	02/29/24 02/29/24 02/29/24 02/29/24 02/29/24	05/15/24 05/15/24 05/15/24		
24-00273 03/27/24 P0042 PURE SOIL TECH 1 29.92 TONS ASPHALT DISPOSAL	NOLOGIES, INC 598.40 4-01-26-3	06-299 B Recycling - Misc	ellaneous	R	03/27/24	05/15/24		89261
24-00304 04/04/24 P0120 POLICE AND SHE 1 HOLOVIEW SECURE ID INV# 190793	RIFFS PRESS 15.00 4-01-20-1	50-299 B MISCELLANEOUS		R	04/04/24	05/15/24		190793

Borough of Lakehurst Bill List By P.O. Number

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PO # PO Date Vendor Item Description	Amount	Charge Account	Contract PO Type Acct Type Description	Stat/Chk		Rcvd Date	Chk/Void Date	Invoice
24-00304 04/04/24 P0120 2 SHIPPING	POLICE AND SHERIFFS PRES 2.60 17.60	S Continued 4-01-20-150-299	B MISCELLANEOUS	R	04/04/24	05/15/24		
24-00311 04/08/24 P0041	PRICED RITE TOWING	4-01-25-240-298	D Dolico Towing Charges	D	04/08/24	05/15/24		14588
1 INVOICE# 14588		4-01-25-240-298	B Police - Towing Charges B Police - Towing Charges		04/08/24			15180
2 INVOICE# 15180 3 INVOICE# 16276		4-01-25-240-298	B Police - Towing Charges B Police - Towing Charges		04/08/24			16276
24-00322 04/15/24 D0077 1 year 1 fv pro subscrif	DIGITAL ALLY PTION 10,658.00	G-02-00-200-141	B Body-Worn Camera Grant Program	R	04/15/24	05/15/24		1125798-1
	MIRACLE CHEMICAL CO.				04/18/24	AF /1F /24		57584
1 200 GAL SODIUM HYPOCHL 2 FUEL SURCHARGE		4-09-00-101-267 4-09-00-101-267	B CHEMICALS B CHEMICALS		04/18/24	• •		57 504
24-00373 04/25/24 P0038 1 PD SHRED INVOICE# 1407	PRO-SHRED SOUTHERN NJ 7876 45.00	4-01-25-240-297	B Police - Miscellaneous	R	04/25/24	05/15/24		1407876
	FIRE & SAFETY SERVICES	4-01-26-291-281	B FIRE DEPT VEHICLE MAINT/REPAIR	R	04/25/24	05/15/24		SI24-1025
1 FIRE TRUCK REPAIR / A 2 CREDIT FROM 0600 & 053	•	4-01-26-291-281	B FIRE DEPT VEHICLE MAINT/REPAIR B FIRE DEPT VEHICLE MAINT/REPAIR		04/25/24			
24-00377 04/29/24 D0072 1 DRUG/ALCH TEST - PW	DYNAMIC TESTING SERVICE, 90.00	LLC G-02-00-200-445	B Recycling Tonnage Grant - 2019	R	04/29/24	05/15/24		2329
	MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP			_	05 /06 /04	AF /1F /24		
1 COURT SHARED SRVS 2ND 2 COURT WARRANT CALLOUTS	· ·	4-01-42-152-202 4-01-43-490-222	B Manchester Township - Municipal Court B Court - Contractual Services	R R	05/06/24 05/06/24			
24-00416 05/09/24 R0011 1 RECYCLE TIRES	RUBBERCYCLE 86.00	4-01-26-306-250	B RECYCLING TAX	R	05/09/24	05/15/24		
24-00419 05/14/24 s0110	S&G PAVING, INC. AVE 103,553.07	G-02-00-200-629	B NJDOT FY 2023 - Pine St & Union Ave			05/15/24		

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PO # PO Date Vendor Item Description		Amount	Charge Account	Contract PO Type Acct Type Description	Stat/Chk	First Enc Date	Rcvd Date	Chk/Void Date	Invoice
24-00420 05/14/24 00139 1 LANDFILL DUMP FEE ESC	OCEAN COUNTY I ROW		4-01-32-465-257	B LANDFILL FEES	R	05/14/24	05/15/24		
24-00421 05/14/24 LOOO3 1 HARDWARE HOUSE ACCOUN			4-01-26-310-262	B MINOR TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	R	05/14/24	05/15/24		566198
24-00425 05/14/24 U0005 1 PW UNIFORM CLEANING 4	UNIFIRST CORPO /24		4-09-00-101-271	B UNIFORMS	R	05/14/24	05/15/24		
24-00426 05/14/24 L0055 1 may 2024	LEAF	141.31	4-01-20-120-222	B Clerk - Contractual Services	R	05/14/24	05/15/24		16467589
24-00427 05/14/24 R0046 1 PUBLIC DEFENDER	RUMPF LAW	375.00	4-01-43-495-231	B PUBLIC DEFENDER	R	05/14/24	05/15/24		
24-00428 05/14/24 A0024 1 PAYROLL SERVICEPDEND	ACTION DATA SE 4/21/24		4-01-20-130-299	B Finance - Miscellaneous	R	05/14/24	05/15/24		87517
24-00429 05/14/24 COO32 1 CALIBRATE PDCARS 2,3,4	CERTIFIED SPEE 4,5,6,7,8	EDOMETER 385.00	4-01-25-240-297	B Police - Miscellaneous	R	05/14/24	05/15/24		24919
4-00430 05/14/24 H0030 1 POLICE CAR WASHES INV	HOLIDAY CAR WA # 1638		4-01-25-240-297	B Police - Miscellaneous	R	05/14/24	05/15/24		1638
24-00431 05/14/24 A0102 1 PHONE BILL - JUNE 2024	AFFILIATED TEC 4		LUTION 4-01-31-440-275	B TELEPHONE	R	05/14/24	05/15/24		44373
24-00432 05/14/24 S0973 1 STAPLES CARD CHARGES 4	STAPLES 4/24	241.72	4-01-20-120-211	B Clerk - Office Supplies	R	05/14/24	05/15/24		700050486
4-00433 05/14/24 L0098 1 JUNE 2024	LAKEHURST BOAR 1		FION 4-01-55-900-002	B SCHOOL TAXES PAYABLE	R	05/14/24	05/15/24		
4-00434 05/14/24 00145 1 2ND QTR 2024 UTILITIES	OCEAN COUNTY U S CHARGE		4-09-00-105-222	B CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	R	05/14/24	05/15/24		180002742
24-00435 05/14/24 N0029 1 BORO HALL WATER AND CO 2 POLICE DEPT WATER AND		56.97	4-01-20-120-299 4-01-25-240-297	B MISCELLANEOUS B Police - Miscellaneous	R R		05/15/24 05/15/24		

PO # PO Date Vendor Item Description		Charge Account	Contract PO Type Acct Type Description		First Rcvd Enc Date Date	Chk/Void Date	Invoice
24-00435 05/14/24 N0029 3 PW WATER AND COOLER	TWIN ROCKS WATER	Continued 4-09-00-101-299	B MISCELLANEOUS	R	05/14/24 05/15/24	4	
24-00436 05/14/24 S0896 1 PD COPIER INVOICE# #	SHORE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS AR97623 109.32	4-01-25-240-297	B Police - Miscellaneous	R	05/14/24 05/15/24	4	ar97623
24-00437 05/14/24 B9112 1 DUMP TRUCK INVOICE#	B & K EQUIPMENT SERVICES 39268 2,451.06	4-01-26-291-256	B PUBLIC WKS VEHICLE MAINT/REP	R	05/14/24 05/15/24	4	39268
24-00438 05/14/24 B9112 1 TRASH TRUCK INVOICE#	B & K EQUIPMENT SERVICES # 39281 452.91	4-01-26-291-254	B SANITATION VEHICLE MAINT/REP	R	05/14/24 05/15/24	4	39281
24-00439 05/14/24 P0837 1 DM1001 RED INK CARTF	PITNEY BOWES, INC. RIDGES 169.98	4-01-20-120-211	B Clerk - Office Supplies	R	05/14/24 05/15/2	4	1025296991
24-00440 05/14/24 00140 1 ANIMAL SHELTER BILLI	OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF HE ING 4/24 25.00	ALTH 4-01-27-340-299	B MISCELLANEOUS	R	05/14/24 05/15/2	4	
24-00441 05/15/24 A0062 1 MEDICARE REIMBURS. 3		4-01-23-220-228	B Insurance - Medicare Reimbursement	R	05/15/24 05/15/2	4	
24-00443 05/15/24 A0100 1 MEDICARE REIMBURS. 3	AARON J SNYDER 3/24-5/24 524.10	4-01-23-220-228	B Insurance - Medicare Reimbursement	R	05/15/24 05/15/2	4	
24-00444 05/15/24 P0152 1 CLERK SHARE - POSTAG 2 PD SHARE 3 PW SHARE	86.00	4-01-20-120-299 4-01-25-240-297 4-01-26-310-299	B MISCELLANEOUS B Police - Miscellaneous B B&G - MISCELLANEOUS	R R R	05/15/24 05/15/2 05/15/24 05/15/2 05/15/24 05/15/2	4	
24-00445 05/15/24 V0011 1 BORO CELL PHONE BILL	VERIZON WIRELESS 4/24 489.01	4-01-31-440-275	B TELEPHONE	R	05/15/24 05/15/2	4	
4-00446 05/15/24 C0060 1 WATER PLANT CABLE MC	COMCAST CABLE DDEM 96.42	4-09-00-101-275	B TELEPHONE	R	05/15/24 05/15/2	4	
24-00447 05/15/24 C0060 1 PW CABLE MODEM	COMCAST CABLE 110.84	4-01-31-440-275	B TELEPHONE	R	05/15/24 05/15/2	4	

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PO # PO Date Vendor Etem Description	Amount Charge Account	Contract PO Type Acct Type Description	Stat/Chk	First Rcvd Enc Date Date	Chk/Void Date Invoice
24-00448 05/15/24 V0855 VERIZON 1 PHONE BILL 2 PHONE BILL	118.59 4-09-00-101-27 118.59 4-09-00-101-27		R	05/15/24 05/15/24 05/15/24 05/15/24	
	237.18				
• •	GAS COMPANY		D	05/15/24 05/15/24	1
1 ESC GAS BILL	521.56 4-01-31-437-26		R	05/15/24 05/15/24	
2 PW GARAGE GAS BILL	538.29 4-01-31-437-26		R	05/15/24 05/15/24	
3 COMMUNITY CENTER GAS BILL	303.36 4-01-31-437-26		R	05/15/24 05/15/24	
4 PD HQ GAS BILL	308.80 4-01-31-437-26			05/15/24 05/15/24	
5 BOROUGH HALL GAS BILL	<u> </u>	9 B NATURAL GAS	R	03/13/24 03/13/24	T
24-00450 05/15/24 J0900 JCP&L 1 ELECTRIC BILL UF	7,579.64 4-09-00-101-27	6 B ELECTRIC	R	05/15/24 05/15/24	4
24-00451 05/15/24 J0900 JCP&L 1 ELECTRIC BILL CF	2,213.30 4-01-31-435-27	6 B ELECTRICITY	R	05/15/24 05/15/24	4
24-00452 05/15/24 J0900 JCP&L 1 RT 70 & ORCHARD LIGHT	62.30 4-01-31-436-27	6 B STREET LIGHTING	R	05/15/24 05/15/24	4

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Totals by Year-Fund Fund Description	Fund	Budget Rcvd	Budget Held	Budget Total	Revenue Total	G/L Total	Total
CURRENT FUND APPROPRIATIONS	4-01	159,073.32	0.00	159,073.32	0.00	0.00	159,073.32
WATER & SEWER OPERATING Yea	4-09 ar Total:	<u> </u>	0.00	<u> </u>	0.00	<u> </u>	<u>65,036.15</u> 224,109.47
	G-02	114,301.07	0.00	114,301.07	0.00	0.00	114,301.07
Total Of Al	11 Funds:	338,410.54	0.00	338,410.54	0.00	0.00	338,410.54

May 15, 2024 02:25 PM		Borough of Lakehurst Bill List By P.O. Number						Page No: 1
P.O. Type: All Range: First to Last Format: Detail without Line Item No Vendors: All Rcvd Batch Id Range: First to Last	Include Non-Budgeted: Y	Open: N Paid: N Rcvd: Y Held: Y Bid: Y State: Y	Void: N Aprv: N Other: Y	Exempt	: Y			
20 # PO Date Vendor Item Description	Amount Charge Account	Contract PO Type Acct Type Description		Stat/Chk	First Enc Date	Rcvd e Date	Chk/Void Date	Invoice
24-00412 05/06/24 00141 OCEAN COUNT 1 2024 2ND INSTALLMENT GEN LIA 2 2024 2ND INSTALLMENT W/C 3 2024 2ND INSTALLMENT 4 2024 2ND INSTALLMENT	TY MUNICIPAL JIF 28,224.25 4-01-23-210-224 32,860.75 4-01-23-215-224 28,224.25 4-09-00-101-228 32,860.75 4-09-00-101-228 122,170.00	B INSURANCE - LIABILITY B INSURANCE-WORKERS COMPENSATION B INSURANCE - OTHER B INSURANCE - OTHER		R R R R	05/06/2 05/06/2	4 05/15/24 4 05/15/24 4 05/15/24 4 05/15/24 4 05/15/24		
Total Purchase Orders: 1 Total		List Amount: 122,170.00 Total Void A	mount:	0.	.00			·

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Totals by Year-Fund Fund Description	Fund	Budget Rcvd	Budget Held	Budget Total	Revenue Total	G/L Total	Total
CURRENT FUND APPROPRIATIONS	4-01	61,085.00	0.00	61,085.00	0.00	0.00	61,085.00
WATER & SEWER OPERATING	4-09	61,085.00	0.00	61,085.00	0.00	0.00	61,085.00
Total Of Al] Funds:	122,170.00	0.00	122,170.00	0.00	0.00	122,170.00

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WHEREAS, Section 18-4 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Lakehurst establishes a two-tiered municipal service fee and the procedures for determining the amount of the fee, **and**

WHEREAS, the following is the formula establishing the municipal service fee when municipal trash pickup is used:

A. 2023 Tax information

- 1. Tax amount raised by residential taxes (Class 2) \$ 3,742,898.77
- 2. Number of residential homes (Class 2 items) 695 residential homes
- 3. Average tax paid per week (A1 divided by A2 divided by 52 weeks) \$103.57

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- 1. Total Number of Mobile Homes: 70 mobile homes
- Percent of mobile homes verses residential homes: (70 ÷ 695) 9.15%
- 3. Percent rate times base home rate (\$103.57 x 9.15%) \$9.48
- 4. Trash disposal per week (Tipping fees \div (695+70) \div 52) \$2.55
- 5. \$ 12.03 per week, (\$9.48 + 2.55); and

WHEREAS, both parks use municipal trash pickup,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Lakehurst, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey that the 2024 municipal service fee when municipal trash collection is used shall be \$ 12.03 per pad per week, said fee to be collected and remitted in accordance with Section 18 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough by the mobile home park owner.

I, Maryanne Capasso, Municipal Clerk, of the Borough of Lakehurst, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the above resolution was approved by the Mayor and Council at the meeting of May 16, 2024.

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the appointment of an engineer to provide engineering services for the update of the Borough's Stormwater Management Plan, Stormwater Control Ordinances, and Pinelands Stormwater Control Ordinances and

WHEREAS, the funds are available for this purpose;

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids must be publicly advertised, and the contract itself must be available for public inspection.

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

That Alan Dittenhofer of Remington, Vernick, & Vena Engineers, 9 Allen Street, Toms River, NJ 08753 is appointed to provide engineering services for the update of the Borough's Stormwater Management Plan, Stormwater Control, and Pinelands Stormwater Control Ordinances in an amount not to exceed \$5,800; and

CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS: I, Wayne M. Sibilia, Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Lakehurst, do hereby certify that funds in the amount of \$5,800 are available contingent on the adoption of the 2024 municipal budget.

This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services: under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because the above named firm is highly experienced in their specific area of expertise, and, in the opinion of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Lakehurst, can best provide the appropriate services for the Borough of Lakehurst.

I, Maryanne Capasso, Municipal Clerk, of the Borough of Lakehurst, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the above resolution was approved by the Mayor and Council at the meeting of May 16, 2024.

WHEREAS, the Borough of Lakehurst and AFSCME Council 63 have entered into negotiations to establish a contract between the Borough and the bargaining unit, **and**

WHEREAS, the current contract expired on December 31, 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Borough and AFSCME have resolved all issues raised in negotiations, and

WHEREAS, this agreement has been drafted as a contract document covering the years January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027.

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

1. Approve the contract between the Borough and AFSCME covering the years 2024; 2025; 2026; 2027.

2. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the contract for the Borough of Lakehurst.

3. An executed copy of the contract will be on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

I, Maryanne Capasso, Municipal Clerk, of the Borough of Lakehurst, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the above resolution was approved by the Mayor and Council at the meeting of May 16, 2024.

WHEREAS, two bids were received by Remington & Vernick Engineers for New Jersey Department of Transportation required core testing for the NJDOT FY2023 project; and

WHEREAS, the Lakehurst Borough Council has reviewed the recommendations made by Alan Dittenhofer, Municipal Engineer, to award the contract to the apparent low bidder, Martin A. Ackley Associates, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Lakehurst, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey hereby recommends that the New Jersey Department of Transportation required core testing for the NJDOT FY2023 project be awarded to Martin A. Ackley Associates, Inc., 416 White Horse Pike, Atco, NJ 08004 in the amount of \$1,350.00.

I, Maryanne Capasso, Municipal Clerk, of the Borough of Lakehurst, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the above resolution was approved by the Mayor and Council at the meeting of May16, 2024.

WHEREAS, the Borough of Lakehurst Historical Society, Inc. has applied for Raffles Licenses to conduct two on-premise draw raffles (one 50/50 cash raffle and one raffle awarding merchandise as a prize) scheduled for July 4, 2024 with a rain date of July 6, 2024, **and**,

WHEREAS, the Statement of Findings and Determinations shows no reason why these licenses should not be issued.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Borough of Lakehurst, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey that the Raffles Licenses for the Borough of Lakehurst Historical Society, Inc. are hereby approved.

I, Maryanne Capasso, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Lakehurst, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the above resolution was approved by the governing body at the meeting of May 16, 2024.

CALLING FOR THE MODERNAZATION OF THE OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT (OPRA) AND THE SWIFT PASSAGE OF S-2930/A-4045

WHEREAS, in the 2002 "lame duck" session the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) was approved to make government records, "readily accessible for inspection, copying, or examination by the citizens of this State, with certain exceptions, for the protection of the public interest" while protecting "a citizen's right to a reasonable expectation of privacy"; and

WHEREAS, as local leaders we reaffirm our support and commitment to open and transparent government and public access to records, at the same time, we strongly support necessary reforms; and

WHEREAS, in the twenty years since the enactment of OPRA and with the advent of new technologies, we have witnessed unintended consequences and, in some cases, abuses of OPRA that place an unfair burden on local governments and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, municipal staff and budgets are increasingly utilized to accommodate the requestors and commercial entities who inundate municipalities with public records requests to the extent that in some instances, additional personnel are hired primarily to handle such requests; and

WHEREAS, OPRA has become broadly construed in favor of access and the requestor who prevails in any proceeding in appealing a denial of access of records is permitted to collect exorbitant attorney's fees, which impacts the taxpayers and municipalities who must pay these fees; and

WHEREAS, municipalities have seen outside businesses and interests who abuse OPRA for marketing and commercial gains while utilizing municipal employees paid by the taxpayers for this benefit; and

WHEREAS, due to court decisions over the years, reasonable expectations of privacy have been diminished when it comes to the balance of transparency and OPRA perpetuates for-profit data-mining, unsolicited marketing, and uncontrolled publications of records on internet search engines specifically designed to circumvent and bypass what few protective measures currently exist under OPRA, all while allowing the requestor to remain cloaked in anonymity, should they choose to exercise that option; and

WHEREAS, when commercial entities are constantly emailing OPRA requests looking for the latest lists of dogs licensed that month, inground pool permits issued, solar roof permits issued, etc., it causes our residents to not want to license their dogs, comply with permits, or interact with the municipality because they don't want to lose their privacy and/or have their information tracked and monetized for commercial purposes; and

WHEREAS, reforms to modernize OPRA are long overdue, among them: the need to address requests by commercial entities that utilize public records and the services of local government employees to generate profits, mandatory prevailing attorney fees, which created a cottage industry, and to add language so that such fees are based on facts and circumstances and not an automatic granting; and

WHEREAS, Senators Sarlo and Bucco and Assemblyman Danielsen and Assemblywoman Flynn have introduced S-2930/A-4045, which makes commonsense reforms that do not hinder residents or journalists from using OPRA to access public records, but will protect citizens' personal information from disclosure, addresses the burdensome commercial requests and provide discretion when awarding prevailing attorney fees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the governing body of the Borough of Lakehurst in the County of Ocean respectfully request the adoption of much-needed reforms to modernize and strengthen the legislative intent of the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and urges the swift passage of S-2930/A-4045; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as local leaders, we reaffirm our support and commitment to open and transparent government and public access to records but at the same time, we strongly support necessary reforms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Senator Carmen Amato, Jr, Assemblyman Brain E. Rumpf and Assemblyman Gregory E. Myhre, Governor Murphy, and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

I, Maryanne Capasso, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Lakehurst, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the above resolution was approved by the Mayor and Council at the meeting of May 16, 2024.