

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ALLAMUCHY TOWNSHIP
COUNCIL HELD MARCH 25, 2026 AT 6:30 P.M.**

Mayor Tuohy called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M.

The Township Council convened in open session at 6:31 p.m. on March 25, 2026. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this time, a moment of silence was held for personal intentions. Mayor Tuohy requested the military service men and women be kept in prayers and thoughts.

The Municipal Clerk announced that adequate notice of the time, place, and manner of this in-person Council meeting has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by:

- (1) posting said notice on the municipal building bulletin board.
- (2) emailing said notice to the press and all others who have requested it.
- (3) posting on the official Town website.

1. **PRESENT** - Mayor Tuohy, Council President Bonanno, Councilwoman Chamberlin, Councilman Fabula and Councilman Quinoa.

Attorney Beilin was not present.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- a. 03/11/2026 - Workshop Meeting

Motion by Councilwoman Chamberlin, seconded by Councilwoman Bonanno, carried to approve the 03/11/2026 minutes as submitted. Roll call vote: **AYES** – Councilpersons Chamberlin, Quinoa, Fabula, Bonanno and Mayor Tuohy.

3. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- a. 2026 Hackettstown Area Senior Hall of Fame Sponsorship – Mayor Tuohy advised there were four nominations from Allamuchy Township – Francis X. Gavin, Ann Lapadula, and Royal and Ellen Nadeau. The Mayor inquired that since there were four nominations, would the Township Council be interested in a sponsorship donation for the program.

There were no objections from the Township Council and a recommended donation of \$200.00 was suggested. This would be for a half-page ad on behalf of Allamuchy Township.

Motion by Councilwoman Bonanno, seconded by Councilwoman Chamberlin, carried to authorize a \$200.00 donation to the 2026 Hackettstown Area Senior Hall of Fame Program – half page sponsorship ad. Roll call vote: **AYES** - Councilpersons Chamberlin, Quinoa, Fabula, Bonanno and Mayor Tuohy.

- b. 2026 Municipal Budget Introduction - Mayor Tuohy stated that the 2026 Municipal Budget introduction will take place on April 8, 2026. The proposed adoption date would be May 13, 2026.

4. **ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

Attorney Beilin was not present.

5. **ACCEPTANCE OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS – FEBRUARY, 2026**

- a. Department of Public Works
- b. Water & Sewer Plant Operations – (Exclude as not received – carry to April meeting)
- c. Water & Sewer Collections/Delinquencies
- d. Allamuchy Township Volunteer Fire Department
- e. Tax Collector
- f. Recreation Commission

Motion by Councilman Fabula, seconded by Councilwoman Chamberlin, carried to accept department reports a, c, d, e and f as presented. Roll call vote: **AYES** – All in favor; **NAYES** - None; **ABSTAIN** - None; **ABSENT** – None.

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a. Budget/Finance Committee – 2026 Municipal Budget introduction scheduled for April 8, 2026.
- b. Personnel Committee – Councilman Quinoa advised the Personnel Committee introduced a mail policy. The policy was totally adopted by the Personnel Committee and did not originate from any complaints. He added that the policy has been in the works for two to three weeks.
- c. Special Municipal Services District (SMSD) – Councilwoman Bonanno advised that she has not heard back from the SMSD Attorney. She will follow up with him on SMSD matters.

Mayor Tuohy advised that she had attended the SMSD meeting which was held prior to the Township Council meeting. She stated the issue of road salt was discussed. PVPOA attorneys were present and advised that PVPOA is not allowed to obtain salt through the municipality. There was a question raised as to whether an opinion should be obtained from the DCA (Department of Community Affairs). The Mayor advised that approval was received for PVPOA to obtain a legal opinion from the DCA. Attorney Ursin will receive a copy of the correspondence from PVPOA.

Councilwoman Bonanno stated the salt would be used for the maintenance of the roads which would be a reimbursable expense. She added that she would be interested in seeing DCA's response.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. 2026 Bike Event – Allamuchy Time Trials – Team Somerset – 05/09/2026
The event originates in Green Township. A route map is attached to the correspondence.

Motion by Councilman Quinoa, seconded by Councilman Fabula, carried to approve the 2026 Bike Event as presented. Roll call vote: **AYES** – All in favor; **NAYES** - None; **ABSTAIN** - None; **ABSENT** – None.

8. **MUNICIPAL CLERK’S REPORT:**

- a. Approval of Raffle Applications – Elle Foundation, Inc., - Basket Raffle and 50/50 On-Premise Raffle – 06/15/2026 – Panther Valley Golf and Country Club – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- b. Approval of Raffle Application - Rutherford Hall Foundation – 08/01/2026 – 50/50 Off-Premise Raffle – 08/01/2026 – 12:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- c. Approval of Raffle Application – Little Hill Foundation for the Rehabilitation of Alcoholics dba Alina Lodge – 50/50 Off-Premise Raffle – Panther Valley Golf and Country Club – 10/05/2026 – 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Motion by Councilwoman Chamberlin, seconded by Councilwoman Bonanno, carried to approve items a-c as presented. Roll call vote: **AYES** – All in favor; **NAYES** - None; **ABSTAIN** - None; **ABSENT** – None.

Mayor Tuohy advised that four of the Allamuchy Township Volunteer Firemen went to Wisconsin to inspect the new aerial ladder truck – Chief Michael Rafferty, Assistant Chief David Berkenbush, James Bessemer and Phil Garcia. The truck is scheduled to be delivered April 20, 2026. She added that the wet down is tentatively scheduled for the end of August. The truck will need to be sent out after arrival as there is additional firefighting equipment that needs to be added.

9. **PUBLIC SESSION:**

- a. Charles Fineran, retired Open Space Director, was present and stated that he had attended the Warren County Trail meeting which includes the Warren Highlands Trail and the Lehigh Railroad Trail which Warren County is very interested in. There were many State representatives present at this meeting. Mr. Fineran stated that he had updated the attendees on the various grants that were applied for and obtained. He added that Mary Lennon, member of the Allamuchy Trails Advisory Committee, also attended this meeting. He along with Ms. Lennon will be at the Allamuchy Freight House at 10:00 am on 03/28/2026 to participate in the grant acceptance for the Freight Depot Improvement Project.

Mayor Tuohy stated that if anyone wants to attend please feel free to do so. She advised that Rutherford Hall Historian Joan Salvias will be also be in attendance. The grant money will be used towards the necessary repairs and maintenance of the Freight Depot.

Mr. Fineran stated that the representatives from the State advised that the Township could improve the proposed Rails-to-Trails property that is owned by the State. If the Township does not do the maintenance it most likely will not get done. The Township has permission to clear the property the State owns according to the State officials that were present.

Councilwoman Bonanno mentioned that the dangerous tree located on Long Bridge Road has been removed by Warren County. The tree broke off from the bottom and was leaning on other trees.

- b. Mayor Tuohy stated that she had spoken to Warren County on some issues and they will be reviewing Catswamp Road now that the weather is clear. The County will also be out looking at the bridges. She stated hopefully Catswamp Road will be taken over by the County and Allamuchy Township will be taking over one of the county roads.

Councilwoman Chamberlin stated that she wanted to mention the northbound Route 517 traffic lights were out. The first set of lights there are one or two red lights that are out. The traffic lights in question are located by the Route 80 Westbound exit/Route 517 interchange.

The Municipal Clerk advised that the NJDOT maintains that area. She will call the State Police to report the lights out.

Councilwoman Bonanno questioned if there were any discussions with Panther Valley on street sweeping.

Mayor Tuohy advised that PVPOA provided the name of a company. She is waiting for a quote.

Mayor Tuohy advised that she had a meeting with the municipal engineer regarding the Dog Park/Green Acres Parking Lot located off of Freeborn Lane and the Municipal Building parking lot. The contractor will be coming back to do some work and correct some areas that need to be corrected. She stated that engineer is trying to negotiate with the contractor an additional two-year bond guarantee.

Mayor Tuohy stated hopefully there will be an agreement as the same contractor will be doing the Shades of Death Road improvement project.

10. **ORDINANCES – FIRST READING**

None.

11. **ORDINANCES – SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.**

- a. # 2026-01 - **CALENDAR YEAR 2026 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14).**

Motion by Councilman Quinoa, seconded by Councilwoman Bonanno, carried to adopt Ordinance # 2026-01 on second reading.

At this time, the meeting was opened to the public.

Tom Smith, 7 Meadow Rose Court, Allamuchy, NJ was present and questioned the numbers in the ordinance - \$32,684.15 and \$76,263.01. He inquired what is the amount subject to the 1.5%. He was new and not sure where these numbers are coming from.

Councilwoman Bonanno stated that every year the State dictates what the limit is on appropriations. There are certain items inside the cap and certain items outside the cap. The Township, by passing this ordinance, can bank the amount permitted.

Mayor Tuohy stated that the numbers in the ordinance and percentages are based on the previous year's municipal budget only – the percentage is based on the municipal budget and not inclusive of the school or county budget.

Councilwoman Bonanno advised that she would be willing to provide Mr. Smith with the exact numbers the calculations are based on.

Mr. Smith thanked Councilwoman Bonanno and welcomed the explanation.

There being no further comments, the public session was closed.

Roll call vote: **AYES** - Councilpersons Chamberlin, Fabula, Quinoa, Bonanno and Mayor Tuohy.

12. **RESOLUTIONS**

- a. **# 2026-58 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ALLAMUCHY, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AWARDED CC # 26-01 TO JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FOR WATER/ SEWER OPERATING SERVICES AS A FAIR AND OPEN AWARD.**
- b. **# 2026-59 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ALLAMUCHY ACCEPTING PROPOSAL FOR PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT/INSPECTION OF THE IMPROVEMENTS TO SHADES OF DEATH ROAD.**
- c. **# 2026-60 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ALLAMUCHY ACCEPTING PROPOSAL FOR PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR DESIGN &**

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT/INSPECTION OF THE IMPROVEMENTS TO LEHIGH AND HUDSON RIVER RAIL TRAIL.

- d. # 2026-61 - **RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ALLAMUCHY AMENDING RESOLUTION # 2026-55 APPROVING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY WATER MAIN REPAIRS - HARRINGTON CONTRACTORS.**
- e. # 2026-62 - **RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ALLAMUCHY REGARDING SHARED SERVICE FOR SEWER CLEANING AND TV INSPECTION SERVICES BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF ALLAMUCHY AND THE HACKETTSTOWN MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY.**

Motion by Councilman Fabula, seconded by Councilman Quinoa, carried to adopt resolutions a-e as presented. Roll call vote: **AYES** – Councilpersons Chamberlin, Quinoa, Fabula, Bonanno and Mayor Tuohy.

13. **NEW BUSINESS/PENDING BUSINESS**

- a. Internet Service for non-serviced areas - Planet Networks
- b. Ordinance(s) Review
- c. Sand Filter Replacement — Project in design phase – Funding under review.
- d. Striping Freeborn Lane, Municipal Parking Lots. Municipal Parking Lot at Dog Park
- e. RFP – Administrative Agent – Affordable Housing
- f. SMSD — Advisory Committee
- g. 2025 Local Recreation Improvement Grant Application — Trail Improvements — \$82,000.00 Grant Received – Trail Update # 1 uploaded in portal.
- h. 2024 Local Recreation Improvement Grant Status — Playground — \$64,000.00 Grant Received - Status of Reimbursement from the State – Grant money received.
- i. 2026 Recreation Improvement Grant – Phase II of Rails to Trails – Grant Application filed 02/13/2026.
- j. 60,000 Water Tank at Plant – Close Out & Reimbursement from I-Bank – Funds were received from the I-Bank.
- k. 2026 DOT Municipal Aid Grant for Shades of Death Road – Municipal Engineer provided a scope of work. The work was approved by Resolution # 2026-59.

14. **PUBLIC SESSION**

There were no comments from the public and the public session was closed.

15. **APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS AND BILL LIST**

Motion by Councilwoman Chamberlin, seconded by Councilman Fabula, carried to

approve the purchase orders and bill list subject to review by the Finance Committee.
Roll call vote: **AYES** - Councilpersons Chamberlin, Fabula, Bonanno and Mayor
Tuohy; **ABSTAIN** – Councilman Quinoa. .

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

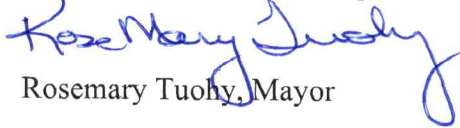
17. **ADJOURNMENT** - 7:09 P.M.

There being no further business, motion by Councilwoman Bonanno, seconded by
Councilman Fabula, carried to adjourn at 7:09 P.M. Roll call vote: **AYES** – All in
favor; **NAYES** – None; **ABSTAIN** - None; **ABSENT** – None.

Respectfully Submitted,



Anne Marie Tracy, Municipal Clerk



Rosemary Tuohy, Mayor