

**TOWNSHIP OF STILLWATER  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**MARCH 17, 2026  
MEETING MINUTES**

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Stillwater Township Committee was called to order by Mayor V. Rumsey at 6:01 p.m. Mayor V. Rumsey stated that this meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of P.L. 1975, Ch. 231, Secs. 4 & 13 the Sunshine Law and that adequate notice of the meeting has been published in the New Jersey Herald as to the time, place, and date of meetings, and is posted in the usual location of posted notices in the municipal building as well as electronically on the township website.

**ROLL CALL:** Committeeman D. Manser, Deputy Mayor D. Delaney, Committeewoman L. Chammings, Committeeman G. Scott, and Mayor V. Rumsey

**Also Present:** Township Attorney E. Bernstein

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** held in the Stillwater Township Municipal Building.

A **MOTION** was made by Deputy Mayor D. Delaney, seconded by Committeeman D. Manser, with all members in favor, to adopt the Resolution permitting the Committee to go into Executive Session at 6:02 p.m.

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**WHEREAS**, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Stillwater, in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from that portion of this meeting.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows: Attorney-Client, Litigation/Potential Litigation, Contract
3. As nearly as can now be ascertained, the matter or matters to be discussed at this time will be disclosed to the public when such matters are resolved.

A **MOTION** was made by Committeeman G. Scott and seconded by Committeeman D. Manser, to suspend Executive Session, and go back into Regular Session at 7:03 P.M.

**ROLL CALL:** Committeeman D. Manser; yes, Committeewoman D. Delaney; yes, Deputy Mayor V. Rumsey; yes, Committeeman G. Scott; yes, Mayor L. Chammings; yes. Motion carried with all in favor.

Township Attorney E. Bernstein stated that he will give his recap after the continued Executive Session following the Regular Meeting.

**FLAG SALUTE:** Mayor V. Rumsey led the Flag Salute.

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

Mayor V. Rumsey stated to add Resolution 2026-064, and under Discussion-Gas Line, and to remove Animal Control and Hampton Road.

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION (Agenda items only - 3 min time limit)**

No Public Comment.

**Public Session Closed**

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Samantha Ruitenberg- National Honor Society community service project called the Clear Vision Eyeglasses Drive

Mayor V. Rumsey stated that Samantha Ruitenberg, a senior at Kittatinny High School, is organizing a National Honor Society community service project called the Clear Vision Eyeglasses Drive. She will be collecting gently used eyeglasses for the Kiwanis Club of Warren County. The Kiwanis Club works with the New Jersey Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center to ensure donated glasses are cleaned, refurbished, and distributed to individuals in underserved communities around the world who lack access to proper vision care. She is requesting to be allowed to place a collection box at the Stillwater Municipal Building during the collection period. The Committee agreed this was a wonderful idea.

A **MOTION** was made by Committeeman G. Scott and seconded by Mayor V. Rumsey, with all members in favor, to approve the Clean Vision Eyeglasses Drive.

**CONSENT AGENDA** - All items with an Asterisk (\*) are considered to be routine and non-controversial in nature. All such items will be handled by one (1) motion, one (1) second, and one (1) vote. There will be no separate discussion of any of these items unless a Committee member requests the same, in which case the item(s) will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.

**\*MINUTES:** March 3, 2026 Regular & Executive Meeting Minutes

**\*CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Sussex County Division of Health January – February 2026 Public Health Nursing

**\*REPORTS:**

1. Community Center Receipt Report – February 2026
2. Recreation Commission Report – February 2026
3. Board of Health Receipts –February 2026
4. Vacant/Abandoned Property Registration Report – February 2026
5. Convenience Center Report – February 2026
6. Registrar Report – February 2026
7. Certified Copies Report – February 2026
8. ACO Report – February 2026
9. Landlord Registration Fees- February 2026
10. DPW Monthly Report- February 2026
11. Tax Collector’s Report- February 2026
12. Office of Construction Official Report- February 2026
13. Food License Renewal Report- February 2026
14. Zoning Officer’s Report- February 2026
15. Stillwater Township Zoning Board Annual Report 2025
16. Sussex County Health Department Inspection Report February 2026
17. Sussex County Monthly Rabies Data for February 2026

**\*RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION 2026-061**                      AUTHORIZING REFUND OF DRIVEWAY BOND

**RESOLUTION 2026-062**                      MAYOR’S ACCEPTANCE OF THE RESIGNATION OF  
JEFF GARDNER AS DPW MECHANIC/TRUCK  
DRIVER

**RESOLUTION 2026-064**                      RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION  
LICENSE THAT IS CURRENTLY INACTIVE FOR  
2025-2026

**APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Committeewoman L. Chammings asked that Report #8, ACO Report, be pulled from the Consent Agenda as she feels that it is not a full report. The Clerk will contact Newton to ask for a full report.

**A MOTION** was made by Deputy Mayor D. Delaney and seconded by Committeeman D. Manser to adopt the Consent Agenda with the exception of Report #8.

Committeewoman L. Chammings stated that she will recuse herself from the Landlord Registration Report as she’s on it. Mayor V. Rumsey asked to see a list of all the registered landlords, as she feels more should have been licensed at this time.

**ROLL CALL:** Committeeman D. Manser; yes, Deputy Mayor D. Delaney; yes, Committeewoman L. Chamings; yes/abstain from Report #9, Committeeman G. Scott; yes, Mayor V. Rumsey; yes. Motion carried with all in favor.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Contiguous Owner Property Sale List

Mayor V. Rumsey stated that the township-owned unbuildable lots have been provided to the committee to review. The list has been reviewed by the Zoning Officer and Tax Collector for any liens. The zoning officer removed two properties because they were buildable. The list of properties will be available to contiguous owners and will be merged with their properties. She stated that she would like all the properties to be up for sale. All contiguous owners will be notified. The Township Attorney will review the Ordinance, and the sale will be sometime in May. There will be a separate land sale for the larger, buildable properties sometime in the future.

2. Fireworks

Mayor V. Rumsey stated that she and Deputy Mayor D. Delaney will hold a joint meeting with Fredon & Hampton to discuss rotating fireworks displays instead of each town paying for them every year, which is too expensive. Each town can rotate and have an evening of fireworks. They will report back after the meeting.

3. Open Space Trails Grant

Committeewoman L. Chamings stated that she wanted to get permission to look into the Open Space Trails Grant further. It's due on May 15<sup>th</sup>. She and the Environmental Commission would be completing the grant paperwork. They are looking to extend the walking path over at Veterans Park. One part will be paved, and the other part along the river will need to use a different material due to DEP regulations. One section would be done this year, and maybe the other section could be completed next year. They will have the information ready for the resolution for the first meeting in May.

**A MOTION** was made by Mayor V. Rumsey and seconded by Committeeman G. Scott, with all members in favor, to approve Committeewoman L. Chamings & the Environmental Commission to move forward with the Open Space Trails Grant.

4. Elizabethtown Gas

Mayor V. Rumsey stated that Elizabethtown Gas reached out to Paulinskill Lake Association President Scott Douglas regarding adding natural gas lines through Paulinskill Lake. Mayor V. Rumsey asked whether they would come to a Township Committee meeting to present to the Township on whether it would be possible to benefit all residents. They will do a presentation at the April 21, 2026, meeting. Committeewoman L. Chamings suggested they do a presentation for the Paulinskill Lake Association before coming to the town meeting, since they contacted

them first. Mayor V. Rumsey stated she felt it would be better to just have one meeting, and everyone could attend. If they think there's going to be a larger turnout, they could have the meeting at the Community Center.

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

Township Resident L. Sylvester thanked the committee for their support of the Grist Mill. He provided an update on Kittatinny's 2026-2027 budget, the regionalization study, a fundraising event on March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Newton VFW, and a new cell phone policy that they would introduce in June, before school ends, so students know what's expected coming back for the following year.

Committeewoman L. Chamings shared that Deputy Fire Chief Steven Sugar has been voted in to be on the Sussex County Vocational School's Board of Education. She stated that she thinks it's good for Stillwater Township to have someone representing them on the Board.

Township Resident S. Michaelman asked if bringing in a public utility like natural gas would affect the township's affordable housing obligations. The Township Attorney replied that it would not affect the affordable housing obligations unless it also included public water and sewer.

Mayor V. Rumsey stated that she purchased the yellow ribbons outside of town hall in support of the service men and women. She thanked Committeewoman L. Chamings and Clerk V. Ingles for tying them to the poles before the meeting.

No further public comment.

**PUBLIC SESSION CLOSED.**

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

The Township Attorney will continue his report during the executive session.

**BILLS LIST #5      \$ 148,726.76**

**RESOLUTION 2026-063    AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**

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

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Stillwater that the current bill lists, dated March 17, 2026, are on file and available for public

inspection in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer and approved by the Chief Financial Officer for payment, be paid.

**A MOTION** was made by Committeeman G. Scott and seconded by Committeeman D. Manser to adopt Resolution 2026-063, funds permitting.

**ROLL CALL:** Committeeman D. Manser; yes, Deputy Mayor D. Delaney; yes, Mayor V. Rumsey; yes, Committeeman G. Scott; yes, Committeewoman L. Chammings; yes. Motion carried with all in favor.

### **RETURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A MOTION** was made by Deputy Mayor D. Delaney and seconded by Committeeman D. Manser, to go back into Executive Session for Attorney-Client Privilege, Litigation/Potential Litigation/Contracts at 7:36 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Committeeman D. Manser; yes, Deputy Mayor D. Delaney; yes, Committeewoman L. Chammings; yes, Committeeman G. Scott; yes, Mayor V. Rumsey; yes. Motion carried with all in favor.

**A MOTION** was made by Committeeman G. Scott and seconded by Deputy Mayor D. Delaney, to go back into Regular Session at 8:20 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Committeeman D. Manser; yes, Deputy Mayor D. Delaney; yes, Committeewoman L. Chammings; yes, Committeeman G. Scott; yes, Mayor V. Rumsey; yes. Motion carried with all in favor.

Township Attorney E. Bernstein stated that the record should reflect that all members of the governing body were present, commencing from the first executive session and the second Executive Session, and are present to recommence this open session, along with the Township Attorney and the Township Clerk. Also present for a portion of the first executive session were Brian Gullace & Tom McClone, the Teamsters Local 125 Representatives, relative to two-step 2 DPW grievances. The Township Committee deliberated, and the Township Attorney will respond accordingly. There was a further discussion on the disciplinary issues, and direction was given to the Township Attorney/Labor Council. There was also some discussion relative to the upcoming retirement of the Tax Assessor, who agreed not to be present for the executive session under the RICE notice. Direction has been given; no formal action needs to be taken at this time. There was also a discussion on ongoing issues with animal control and the contract with Newton. The Township Clerk will schedule a meeting with the Town of Newton to discuss. No formal action needs to be taken.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION** was made by Mayor V. Rumsey and seconded by Deputy Mayor D. Delaney, with all members in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Ingles, RMC Township Clerk