TOWNSHIP OF STILLWATER
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 1, 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
ABSENT: None
Also Present: Attorney Eric Bernstein, Esq. and Township Clerk V. Ingles

EXECUTIVE SESSION: held in the Stillwater Township Municipal Building.

A MOTION was made by Committeeman G. Scott, seconded by Committeeman D. Manser, with all present 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 the meeting.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows: Personnel, Litigation/Potential Litigation, Attorney-Client
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 Deputy Mayor D. Delaney and seconded by Committeewoman L. Chammings, to end Executive Session, and go back into Regular Session at 6:51 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Committeeman D. Manser; yes, Deputy Mayor D. Delaney; yes, Committeewoman L. Chammings; yes, Committeeman G. Scott; yes, and Mayor Rumsey; yes. Motion carried forward 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 Executive Session, and are present to recommence this open session, along with the Township Attorney and the Township Clerk. There was a discussion regarding ongoing litigation involving a former employee; direction was given to the Township Attorney. No formal action is needed at this time. There was a discussion regarding ongoing litigation with affordable housing; advice has been given to the Township Attorney; no formal action needs to be taken. There was a request to rehire DV to the position of acting assistant supervisor/truck driver retroactive to August 24th, 2026, based on his request to be reemployed.

Mayor V. Rumsey made an announcement regarding a procedure for those using Zoom to join the Township Committee meetings. She stated that anyone joining remotely will be muted, but if you wish to speak during the open public portions of the meeting, please use the 'Raise Hand' feature on Zoom, and you will be prompted to unmute yourself by the meeting host. Once your comment is complete, you will be muted again. Mayor V. Rumsey thanked everyone on Zoom for their cooperation and for joining the meeting tonight.

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

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:

Mayor V. Rumsey noted there would be an addition of Resolution 2026-149. This Resolution is for the rehiring of the Acting Assistant Supervisor and Truck Driver, Douglas Vaughan, effective August 24, 2026.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION (Agenda items only - 5 min time limit):
Opened to the Public at 7:02 p.m.

Township Resident K. Draghi spoke regarding Resolution 2026-142, which is about the resignation of the Clean Communities Coordinator. She inquired as to whether this resignation would have an impact on the upcoming clean-up day but was reassured by Mayor V. Rumsey that there would be no impact.

There being no one from the public who wished to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed to the public at 7:04 p.m.

Public Session closed.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2026-139 MAYOR & COMMITTEE'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE RESIGNATION OF DOUGLAS VAUGHAN AS DPW RECYCLING COORDINATOR

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor D. Delaney and seconded by Committeewoman L. Chammings, to adopt Resolution 2026-139.

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

RESOLUTION 2026-140 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STILLWATER AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF MATT LAMBERT AS RECYCLING COORDINATOR

A MOTION was made by Committeeman G. Scott and seconded by Committeeman D. Manser, to adopt Resolution 2026-140.

Committeewoman L. Chammings asked if M. Lambert would be getting half the stipend since Township Clerk V. Ingles will be appointed as the Secondary Recycling Coordinator. Mayor V. Rumsey clarified that M. Lambert would be receiving half the stipend and V. Ingles would be receiving the other half.

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

RESOLUTION 2026-141 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STILLWATER AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF VALERIE INGLES AS SECONDARY RECYCLING COORDINATOR

A MOTION was made by Committeeman G. Scott and seconded by Committeeman D. Manser, to adopt Resolution 2026-141.

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

RESOLUTION 2026-142 MAYOR & COMMITTEE'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE RESIGNATION OF TAMMY LEONARD AS CLEAN COMMUNITIES' COORDINATOR EFFECTIVE 12/31/2026

Committeewoman L. Chammings noted that this Resolution could be removed because the position is a yearly appointed position and the resignation is effective at the end of this year; this Resolution is unnecessary. This resolution was removed.

RESOLUTION 2026-143 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF FY2026 SUSSEX COUNTY TRAILS GRANT

A MOTION was made by Committeeman G. Scott and seconded by Committeeman D. Manser, to adopt Resolution 2026-143.

Committeewoman L. Chammings noted she would be abstaining from voting on this resolution as she sits on the Sussex County Open Space Committee. She noted that while applications and presentations were being discussed, anyone who sat on the Open Space Committee and also in the Township presenting would recuse themselves and step out of the room so that discussion could take place with no influence.

ROLL CALL: Committeeman D. Manser; yes, Deputy Mayor D. Delaney; yes, Committeewoman L. Chammings; abstain, Committeeman G. Scott; yes, and Mayor Rumsey; yes. Motion carried forward.

RESOLUTION 2026-144 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STILLWATER, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN SUPPORT OF NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 149 (AR-149), SUPPORTING ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND URGING EACH COUNTY AND

MUNICIPALITY TO SIMILARLY EXPRESS SUCH SUPPORT

A MOTION was made by Committeeman G. Scott and seconded by Committeeman D. Manser, to adopt Resolution 2026-144.

Committeewoman L. Chammings noted she would be abstaining due to her family's past involvement with law enforcement; she feels this could be seen as a special interest, although she is in full support of this resolution. Mayor V. Rumsey noted she's also abstaining due to her previous employment with the Stillwater Police Department and her family's past involvement with law enforcement, although she is also in full support of the resolution.

ROLL CALL: Committeeman D. Manser; yes, Deputy Mayor D. Delaney; yes, Committeewoman L. Chammings; abstain, Committeeman G. Scott; yes, and Mayor Rumsey; abstain. Motion carried forward.

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:**	August 18, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

***RESOLUTIONS:**

RESOLUTION 2026-145	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 REDUCING THE CONTRACT AMOUNT FOR THE MT. BENEVOLENCE PHASE 4 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WITH DENVILLE LINE PAINTING, INC.
RESOLUTION 2026-146	RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE CERTIFICATE #25-00006 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 949 PLYMOUTH LAKE DRIVE, STILLWATER NJ
RESOLUTION 2026-147	RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF REDEMPTION FOR TSC 24-00008 FOR PROPERTY

LOCATED AT 911 MAIN STREET, STILLWATER, NEW JERSEY

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Committeeman G. Scott noted he would be abstaining from voting on the approval of the August 18, 2026 Minutes as he was absent from that meeting.

Committeewoman L. Chammings inquired as to why the wording for Resolution 2026-146 and Resolution 2026-147 is different despite being for seemingly the same thing. Township Attorney E. Bernstein clarified that one is for one is redemption of a public sale and one is payment of a tax lien.

A MOTION was made by Committeeman G. Scott and seconded by Deputy Mayor D. Delaney to adopt the Consent Agenda.

ROLL CALL: Committeeman D. Manser; yes, Deputy Mayor D. Delaney; yes, Committeewoman L. Chammings; yes, Committeeman G. Scott; yes/abstained from minutes, and Mayor Rumsey; yes. Motion carried forward.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION (any subject – 5 minute limit):
This portion of the meeting was opened to the public.

Township Resident D. Gatanas asked for the following to be entered into the township minutes: "Good evening. My name is Dimitri Gatanas, and I live on Maple Avenue in Stillwater. I have eight brief questions. I do not expect complete answers tonight, but for anything that cannot be answered, I am asking for a written response or discussion at an upcoming meeting.

First, the Community Center. My understanding is that the Township did not receive the recreation grant sought for the entryway, air conditioning, furnace, generator and door work. Can you confirm that and tell us the estimated cost, urgency, funding source and timeline? The community wants to know how we intend to keep this building usable and hopefully one day FREE to the residents of Stillwater.

Second, Zoom. If the plan is to make Zoom view-only beginning in January, please reconsider it. The Township adopted a 2026 schedule stating meetings would be held at Municipal Hall and via Zoom. Committeeman George Scott participated in multiple meetings by Zoom, and residents were still giving public comment by Zoom as recently as April 7. Stillwater is roughly 27 square miles, the average commute to work is about 36 minutes, and about half our residents are 50 or older. A screen name used while viewing is not anonymous testimony. Require speakers to state their real name and municipality, enforce decorum, and make sure the Zoom

operator can immediately end disruptions. I hope the Committee preserves remote public comment.

Third, Stillwater School. I am glad the Board of Education will attend the September 15 Committee meeting. Will that meeting address current enrollment and five-year projections, the engineering basis for the work, alternatives, risk of deferral, debt-service impact, state aid, and why there are two referendum questions? Have there also been liaison or other discussions between Committee and Board members about this project outside publicly noticed meetings? I am not alleging anything improper. I am asking how those discussions are reported to the public.

Fourth, commercial ratables. I raised the decline in commercial activity in December 2024. Since then we have repeatedly discussed revitalization, an Economic Development Commission and reviving the Business Commercial District. What has actually been implemented? We must follow the Master Plan! Stillwater already has established NC, Commercial and Commercial Recreation zones. I believe we should be looking at how to revive and strengthen those commercial districts, attract appropriate businesses, and preserve viable commercial properties rather than continuing to lose commercial activity and ratables. I prepared an inventory of NC, Commercial and Commercial Recreation properties, underused sites and commercial-to-residential conversions to give us a head start. It is time for a serious review and an actual plan.

Fifth, legal costs. The legal-services appropriation increased from $64,500 to $85,000, about 32 percent. What is driving that increase? Can the CFO provide year-to-date legal spending at the next meeting, including a non-confidential breakdown and what portion is reimbursed through escrow?

Sixth, DPW. The Township has made leadership appointments and added several employees, yet it was still advertising for a full-time truck driver/laborer in August. Before winter, can you provide the staffing, equipment, and backup information necessary to show residents that DPW is operationally ready for winter?

Seventh, Sheriff patrols. The Township authorized up to $20,000 this year. How much has been spent, how many patrol hours have been delivered, what aggregate activity can be reported, and where do enforcement fines or fees legally go? Please provide the same type of patrol report we received last year.

Finally, storm mitigation. The Township and JCP&L have identified recurring outage areas and discussed trimming and system redundancy. I propose an OEM-supervised program where trained volunteers safely document tree, drainage, and roadway concerns from public locations for professionals to evaluate. As we move into the peak of hurricane season and then winter storm season, will the Committee develop a proactive mitigation plan?

I am hoping we can receive answers by the next meeting or be told when the information will be available."

Committeewoman L. Chammings noted the Stillwater School would be having a presentation at the next Township Committee meeting. There was discussion about changing the location of the

meeting to better accommodate the anticipated influx of people present at the meeting for the presentation. Ultimately, the Committee decided not to change the venue for the next meeting and, if enough people show up to exceed the room's capacity, a discussion would be had then.

Township Resident R. Kelsky spoke, stating his personal opinion regarding the Stillwater Schools referendum vote. He noted the school has spent over $8 million this year and wants to add another over $4 million with this referendum. His main concern is that this will increase the school tax by, according to his math, approximately 7% per year, which is almost double this current tax year's increase.

Township Resident S. Michaelman inquired as to how the DPW or Township Committee decides what roads are to be redone. She states she's asked multiple times a year for years for Possum Hill to be fixed, mainly due to a pothole that is 'larger than a car.' Mayor V. Rumsey responded, stating that the Township had applied for a grant and is waiting for the 'go-ahead' for both Possum Hill and Hampton Road. S. Michaelman asked what the timeline is for hearing back on the grant. Mayor V. Rumsey stated she didn't know. S. Michaelman inquired about the plan for winter, which will inevitably cause more damage. Mayor V. Rumsey stated again that the Township was waiting to hear back from the State and that the roads need more than just oil & stone, it needs to be widened and need better drainage. Committeewoman L. Chammings stated that, in her experience, to hear back about these grants takes anywhere from 3-9 months, and the Township had only applied in July.

There being no further public comment, the meeting was closed to the public.
Public Session Closed.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:
Township Attorney E. Bernstein stated he gave his report during Executive Session.

BILLS LIST #14: **$175,271.43**

RESOLUTION 2026-148 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 September 1, 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 2026-148, funds permitting.

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

Resolution 2026-149, which has not been typed up but was discussed during Executive Session, is to rehire DV retroactive to 8/24/2026 as assistant supervisor/truck driver.

A MOTION was made by Committeeman G. Scott and seconded by Mayor V. Rumsey to adopt Resolution 2026-149.

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

Committeewoman L. Chammings spoke, stating she wants everyone to take a moment to acknowledge the tragedy that has occurred in Nepal. Approximately 5,000 people are missing or have lost their lives due to flash flooding. A local family lost one of their children; fundraisers are being posted online. She asked that everyone take a moment to be thankful for what you have.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Committeeman G. Scott and seconded by Mayor V. Rumsey, with all members in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Ann Leatham
Deputy Township Clerk