

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ESSEX
FELLS, ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Held at the Essex Fells Municipal Building in said Borough on March 17, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Present
Mayor Edward A. Davis
Councilman Michael Cecere
Councilwoman Carolyn Goldman
Councilman John King
Councilwoman Maggie O’Connor

Absent
Councilman BJ D’Avella
Councilman William Sullivan

Also Present
Borough Administrator /Borough Clerk Francine T. Paserchia
Borough Attorney Robert Oostdyk

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order. He stated that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law (Chapter 231, Public Laws of 1975) notice of this meeting was transmitted to The Progress and The Star Ledger and was filed with the Borough Clerk and is posted on the Bulletin Board of the Borough Hall.

Mayor Davis led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

Councilman King moved, Councilman Cecere seconded approval of the minutes of January 6th and March 3rd, 2026

And was carried on call of the roll:

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Michael Cecere	None	BJ D’Avella
Carolyn Goldman		William Sullivan
John King	<u>Abstain</u>	
Maggie O’Connor	None	

Mayor Davis asked the Clerk to report on written communications.

The Clerk reported receipt of the following:

A. Written:

February, 2026 Department Reports:

- Construction Department Cash Receipt & Permit Fee Log Report
- Police Department Report

Mayor Davis said if there were no objections to the above, they will be placed on file. Hearing no objection, it was so ordered.

Councilman Cecere moved, Councilman King seconded, approval of the following resolutions on consent:

2026-50

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISCRETIONARY AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR A DEMING 5061 HSC PUMP TO HAYES PUMP, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$23,680.00

WHEREAS, the Borough of Essex Fells solicited quotes material and labor for replacement of a pump at the Hawthorne Road Booster Staton and Hayes Pump, Inc. LLC provided the lowest quote; and

WHEREAS, the lowest quote obtained is \$23,680.00 and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Pay-to-Play Law N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq. requires contracts in excess of \$17,500 to be issued in a fair and open or non-fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, Hayes Pump, Inc. has provided the required documentation, which is on file in the office of the Borough Clerk, for a non-fair and open contract to be awarded; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available to make the award within the amount identified; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Water Superintendent that the contract be authorized.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Essex Fells, County of Essex as follows:

- 1. The contract for material and labor for replacement of a pump at the Hawthorne Road Booster Station to Hayes Pump Inc., as provided for in a Quotation dated 2/25/2026 in an amount not to exceed \$23,680.00
- 2. The appropriate Borough Officials are hereby authorized and directed to execute the necessary documents related to this award.

2026-51

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2026 APPROPRIATION RESERVE TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, various 2025 bills have been presented for payment this year, which bills represent obligations of the prior fiscal year and were not covered by order number and/or recorded at the time of transfers between the 2025 Budget in the last two months of 2025; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-59 provides that all unexpended balances carried forward after the close of the fiscal year are available, until lapsed at the closed of the succeeding year, to meet specific claims, commitments or contracts incurred during the preceding fiscal year, and allow transfers to be made from unexpended balances to those which are expected to be insufficient during the first three months of the succeeding year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey, (2/3 of the majority of the full membership concurring herein) that the transfers in the amount of \$25,500.00 be made between the 2026 Budget Appropriation Reserves as follows:

<u>CURRENT FUND</u>	<u>TRANSFER IN</u>	<u>TRANSFER OUT</u>
LEGAL - O/E	\$ 1,000.00	
ENGINEERING O/E	\$ 6,000.00	
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - O/E	\$ 13,000.00	
SANITARY SEWER - O/E	\$ 4,500.00	
PHONES	\$ 1,000.00	
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION - O/E		\$ 10,000.00
EMPLOYEE GROUP HEALTH		\$ 15,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 25,500.00	\$ 25,500.00

2026-52

RESOLUTION TO CANCEL OUTSTANDING CHECKS

WHEREAS, there are a number of checks which have been outstanding for over six months and,

WHEREAS, said checks can no longer be cashed, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Chief Financial Officer that the following checks be canceled:

ACCOUNT	Check Date	Check #	Vendor Name	Amount
CURRENT FUND	5/2/2023	26001	JESCO INC	\$ 29.66
CURRENT FUND	5/2/2023	26001	JESCO INC	\$ 8.98
CURRENT FUND	7/20/2023	26176	VIGILANT SOLUTIONS LLC	\$ 1,092.00
CURRENT FUND	11/7/2023	26421	NORTH CREEK LLC	\$ 4,872.00
CURRENT FUND	5/21/2024	26930	DIAL PEST CONTROL, INC.	\$ 161.20
CURRENT FUND	5/21/2024	26930	DIAL PEST CONTROL, INC.	\$ 1,051.22
CURRENT FUND	8/20/2024	27127	ESSEX COUNTY POLICE ACADEMY	\$ 180.00
CURRENT FUND	12/12/2024	27421	VIGILANT SOLUTIONS LLC	\$ 550.00
CURRENT FUND	1/16/2025	27513	STERN, SHERYL	\$ 37.50
CURRENT FUND	3/13/2025	27675	NJ MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION	\$ 75.00
CURRENT FUND	3/13/2025	27675	NJ MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION	\$ 75.00
CURRENT FUND			TOTAL	\$ 8,132.56
GENERAL CAPITAL	9/19/2023	3593	CONFERENCE TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	\$12,563.36
GENERAL CAPITAL			TOTAL	\$12,563.36
WATER UTILITY	2/7/2023	12874	SUREWAY BATTERY LLC	\$ 47.50
WATER UTILITY	1/16/2025	13398	USA BLUE BOOK	\$ 151.45
WATER UTILITY			TOTAL	\$ 198.95
RECREATION TRUST	4/10/2025	30	LEE-ZAR SPORTING GOODS	\$ 477.00
RECREATION TRUST			TOTAL	\$ 477.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Essex Fells that, the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to cancel the checks listed above in the amounts specified.

2026-53

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE MAINTENANCE BOND

WHEREAS according to our Filming Ordinance § 129-3 a Cash Bond is required to be posted.

WHEREAS, as per section § 129-3 (c) of our Ordinance, the Borough shall return the Cash Bond.

WHEREAS SGIFM Productions Inc. made payment in the amount of \$5,000 for the Filming Permit (2026-01) Cash Bond on February 19, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Essex Fells, that the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Essex Fells return the amount of \$5,000.00 to SGIFM Productions Inc., 827 Hilldale Avenue, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

2026-54

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Essex Fells, that;

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk is in receipt of a Social Affairs Permit from the Essex Fells Fire Company which will be holding a Picnic on Monday, May 25, 2026 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm at The Green on Oak Lane and Wootton Road in Essex Fells; and

WHEREAS, approval from the Borough Clerk and Police Chief are mandatory as per the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Essex Fells hereby authorize the Borough Clerk and Police Chief to sign the Social Affairs Permit, as well as allow the use of Borough Property for the event and the posting of signs.

2026-55

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF ESSEX FELLS AND JOHN WEISGERBER, INC. ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES

WHEREAS, there is a need for additional professional engineering services in the Borough of Essex Fells in connection with the Police Station HVAC Project; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has received a proposal dated February 16, 2026 from John Weisgerber, Inc. for mechanical engineering services and determined that it is in the best interest of the Borough to accept the proposal submitted by John Weisgerber, Inc.

WHEREAS, the maximum amount of this amendment: \$9,500.00 for services; and

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 and the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified the availability of funds.

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

Section 1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with John Weisgerber, Inc. for professional engineering services for the Police department HVAC Project in the amount of \$9,500.00 as set forth in a proposal dated February 16, 2026.

Section 2. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because the contract is for a service performed by a person(s) authorized by law to practice a recognized profession that is regulated by law.

Section 3. Notice of this action shall be provided as required by law.

2026-56

Authorization for Payment of Bills

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Essex Fells that;

WHEREAS, the bill list as attached has been presented by the Chief Finance Officer for payment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Essex Fells that the bill list as presented is approved.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Current	5-01	\$3,529.56
Current	6-01	\$274,026.33
Borough Capital	C-04	\$41,476.89
Water	5-05	\$10,892.00
Water	6-05	\$62,168.15
Grant	04	\$0
Water Capital	C-06	\$2,531.00
Animal Control	T-10	\$58.20
Trust	T-11	\$12,989.04
Payroll	T-13	\$137,435.44
	T-16	\$384.00

And was carried on call of the roll:

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Michael Cecere	None	BJ D’Avella
Carolyn Goldman		William Sullivan
John King	<u>Abstain</u>	
Maggie O’Connor	None	

On motion made by Councilwoman O’Connor, seconded by Councilman Cecere and approved unanimously by the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Francine T. Paserchia
Municipal Clerk