

HARMONY TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
February 4, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

A G E N D A

CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS
STATEMENT**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL:**

CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WHICH INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING WHEN AVAILABLE

Reports: Attorney Report Minutes: January 7, 2025
 Engineer Report

Resolutions: R:25-12; A resolution appointing a Municipal Housing Liaison

CORRESPONDENCE:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Farmland Lease extension
2. Schedule Budget Meeting
3. Text My Gov Proposal

OLD BUSINESS:

1. FEMA Update
2. Playground/Walking Path Improvements
3. Zoning Officer Appointment
4. Harmony Station Overgrown Lot Clean Up

VOUCHERS: Approve payment of Vouchers

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (if necessary)

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn

NOTICE

* This Agenda is subject to change by order of the Harmony Township Committee before, and / or during the scheduled meeting *



TO: Mayor Brian Tipton and Township Committee Members **VIA EMAIL ONLY**
FROM: Bryce D. Good, P.E., CPESC
DATE: January 30, 2025
RE: **Harmony Township Engineer's Report for the February 4, 2025 Committee Meeting**
FCE No. 10951.MU.0033

HARMONY SAND AND GRAVEL QUARRY

(No Change from last month)

- Our office has notified HS&G and RMS Environmental by email, dated August 14, 2023 of the requirement to perform the additional soil testing recommended by Slack Environmental. They were also reminded of the requirement for testing of the water Pit 2. Results have not yet been received.
- There has been some recent activity at Pit 2 associated with the grading of the slopes. Fill has been brought in and spread throughout. We are in the process of coordinating with HS&G relative to slope compliance although the areas surrounding the Pit appear to meet the slope requirements. Topsoiling and seeding still need to be placed. I will attempt to get a timeframe from them for this outstanding work.
- Very recently, we were advised of material being delivered to the site and distributed in certain areas. We were not advised by HS&G or Earth Efficient of any fill activity going forward. We reached out to Earth Efficient and had one of our inspectors visit the site and talk to one of the equipment operators. We voiced our displeasure over the lack of notification and the need for certification for the material being delivered which was believed to be topsoil. As of the date of this report we have not been supplied with this information but have been advised that it will be forthcoming. We will continue to coordinate with both Earth Efficient and HS&G regarding this material and the work being conducted at the site.
- During the month of August, there has been an increase in the level of activity at the HS&G site. Per the topsoil deliveries and placement as referenced above, we have received quite a bit of information from Earth Efficient and HS&G's contractor, HardRock Trucking. We have received lab data regarding the topsoil which was delivered to the site. We are currently evaluating said data.
- Based upon the increase in the level of activity, we scheduled a field meeting with Rich Hummer and representatives of his contractors. A field meeting was held on 8/21/24 where we discussed the recent work done at Pit 2 and other work that was still outstanding in an effort to complete the reclamation of Pit 2. We are presently waiting for the water testing results to be forwarded to our office, which we understand has been completed and found to be satisfactory.
- The final stages of work at the site are approaching with HS&G's intent to complete the site clean-up, final landscaping, and the seeding for stabilization of the slopes in the next couple of months. We will continue to monitor the activity at the site.



- Some additional topsoil has been received at the site. Our office has been in contact with the applicant's engineer regarding the need for receipt of a final grading plan and the water testing results. As of the date of this report, we have not received that information.
- Our office has recently contacted representatives from HS&G regarding the outstanding items referenced above. We have spoken with Ron Panicucci, PE, who confirmed that the water test results would be forthcoming. We recently received a water testing report from RMS Environmental, but the report goes back to December, 2023. We will be reviewing same and providing a response to HS&G. Additionally, we will be requesting a more current report from HS&G. We believe that Igor has also been in contact with their Attorney, Scott Wilhelm, regarding the final few items that remain outstanding.

SHANDOR'S USED AUTO PARTS / JUNKYARD LICENSE

(No Change from last month)

- Shandor's 2023 Junkyard License application has not been received as of February 3, 2023.
- The 2023 Shandor Junkyard License Application was received via email from K. Smith on March 1, 2023. Our office will be providing a review of the application for the April 4, 2023 Committee meeting.
- We have been advised by K. Smith that an additional application fee in the amount of \$650 is due from the applicant prior to consideration of the 2023 Junkyard License. The applicant was notified by letter and G. Weber contacted Mr. Riddle by phone on March 27, 2023 regarding the fee. A report on the 2023 license application has been provided by our office under separate cover.
- A draft Resolution for approval of the 2023 junkyard license has been prepared by our office and submitted to K. Smith for possible adoption at the May 2, 2023 Committee meeting. The Committee should ensure that all fees and taxes have been paid along with the owner's consent to file the application.
- The approval resolution for the Junkyard License was adopted by the Committee at the May 2, 2023 meeting.
- The 2024 Junkyard License Application was received. Our office is conducting a site inspection of the facility on April 5, 2024. We hope to be providing a report to the Township Committee in advance of the April 11th Committee meeting.
- The 2024 Junkyard License Application was discussed and approved at the April 11, 2024 TC meeting. The Resolution was approved at the May 7, 2024 TC meeting.

Ridge Road Section 2 (2022 NJDOT Grant Project)

- The Township was notified by the State that they received a grant in the amount of \$131,600 for the resurfacing of Ridge Road Section 2.
- A Budget Memo was sent to the Township which showed a significant shortfall for this work. A shortened section of Ridge Road was also presented in the budget memo for the Township to evaluate and discuss. Obviously, Kathleen will need to be involved in these discussions from an overall budgeting perspective for 2022.
- Based upon the Budget Memo referenced above, it is our understanding that the Township is evaluating some options for proceeding with this project. The Township will need to advise



our office regarding how they would like to proceed with this project for 2022 based upon the fairly significant shortfall of Grant monies (\$131,600.00 vs. the estimated cost of the project).

- The Township has decided to proceed with the full length of roadway. FCE is in the process of surveying the road and creating the base mapping.
- FCE has completed the field survey work and is in the process of developing the base mapping for the project.
- Base mapping has been created, however in response to the Asphalt Price adjustment and Fuel price adjustment FCE is waiting for confirmation on the limits of work.
- As per the escalated costs associated with projects of this type which were evident in conjunction with the Fox Farm Road, Section 2 project, the TWP. Committee has decided not to proceed with Ridge Road, Section 2 this year. We will continue to monitor the cost increases and advise the Committee accordingly.
- FCE is in the process of preparing the bid documents for receipt of bids associated with the pipework portion of the project for potential construction over the winter months.
- FCE has completed the plans for the pipework and will be meeting with the DPW to review the project before requesting bids.
- FCE has requested and received 3 bids for the pipework. All 3 bids have come in well over the bid threshold. We have attached the 3 proposals and associated estimates to this report. Based upon the fact that we do not have an estimate under the bid threshold, the project will need to be publicly bid.
- FCE has put out “to Bid” the drainage work which was previously out “for quotes”, but needed to be Bid as it did not fall under the Bid threshold. Twelve contractors picked up the Bid and the Bid Opening occurred on February 2. A recommendation letter will be forwarded to the Township, under separate cover.
- The Drainage work was awarded to ADS Contractors LLC, at the February 7, 2023 Committee meeting. They have executed the contract and are preparing the balance of the paperwork required. As per our most recent conversation with ADS, they plan to start the work in April.
- The roadway construction plans for Section 2 are nearly complete and will be forwarded to the NJDOT very soon.
- A preconstruction meeting was held on March 27 for the drainage improvement project. Construction is scheduled to begin sometime in mid-April.
- The roadway construction plans will go to the NJDOT during the first week of April.
- The drainage improvement project has been completed. Please see the invoice (under separate cover) for the payment due the Contractor, ADS.
- The roadway construction plans have been sent to the NJDOT.
- The drainage improvements have been completed. However, the contractor has been contacted to repair a sink hole that has developed near two of the inlets.
- The NJDOT has approved the plans and has authorized the Township to go to bid. The Resolution of Award (R:23-20) has been sent to the Township and should be executed at the June 6, 2023 TC meeting in order for the paving to be scheduled thru the Co-Op.
- The contractor, ADS, has returned to the project and has made the necessary repairs to the previously installed drainage improvements.



- A new Resolution of Award needs to be passed at the August 8, 2023 meeting as the Morris County Co-Op Awarded the District 3 Paving Bid to Tilcon for the remainder of the year. A pre-con meeting was held Monday July 31, 2023. Since the drainage repairs are complete, paving of Section 2 will be scheduled. We are anticipating that the roadway paving work will be completed in the very near future (prior to the end of August).
- Milling was completed on August 29, 2023 and paving is scheduled for September 1st and 5th.
- We have requested the drainage work contractor (ADS) to return to the job site and repair the lawn which was damaged. A 1 year maintenance bond will be required of ADS.
- The 1-yr maintenance bond was received from ADS. ADS is scheduled to return to repair the lawn area, but we do not have a firm commitment date at this time.
- Paving was completed on September 6, 2023. Center line striping was also completed but we are waiting for the striping contractor to return and paint a Stop Bar at the Swamp Road intersection. We are also waiting for the results of pavement coring/testing.
- ADS returned and repaired the lawn area.
- The coring results have been received and have resulted in a 2% penalty based upon not meeting the air voids requirement. A 2% penalty will be assessed to Tilcon for this line item.
- This project is now complete. We still need a final inspection from DOT, but are waiting for Section 3 to be complete so we can schedule both Inspections concurrently.
- FCE has requested a final inspection from the DOT.
- The project passed final inspection and FCE is working at submitting the final close out documents to DOT.
- **We are working on the closeout with NJDOT and are waiting for back up documentation from the Township.**

Ridge Road Section 3 (2023 NJDOT Grant Project)

- The Township was notified by the State that they received a grant in the amount of \$160,630 for the resurfacing of Ridge Road, Section 3. A Budget Memo was prepared and discussed at the December 6th, 2022 TC meeting. No action was taken at the December 6th meeting. With the total of both State grants (\$292,230.) for Sections 2 and 3 and input from Kathleen, the Township authorized our office to proceed with both Sections 2 & 3 at the January 10, 2023 meeting. We will continue to keep the Township apprised as we move forward with this project.
- The roadway construction plans for Section 3 are nearly complete and will be forwarded to the NJDOT very soon.
- A field meeting was held on site on March 17 to finalize guiderail requirements on the County structures. The roadway construction plans will go to the NJDOT during the first week of April.
- The roadway construction plans have been sent to the NJDOT.
- The NJDOT has approved the plans and has authorized the Township to go to bid. The Resolution of Award (R:23-21) has been sent to the Township and should be executed at the June 6, 2023 TC meeting in order for the paving to be scheduled thru the Co-Op.



- A new Resolution of Award needs to be passed at the August 8, 2023 meeting as the Morris County Co-Op Awarded the District 3 Paving Bid to Tilcon for the remainder of the year. A pre-con meeting was held Monday July 31, 2023. Since the drainage repairs are complete, paving of Section 3 will be scheduled. We are anticipating that the roadway paving work will be completed in the very near future (prior to the end of August).
- Milling was completed on August 29, 2023 and paving is scheduled for September 1st and 5th.
- Paving was completed on September 5, 2023. Center line striping was also completed but we are waiting for them to come back and paint a Stop Bar at the Roxburg Hill Road intersection.
- We have received a quote from KDP Developers, Inc for the repair work on Ridge Road. Please reference correspondence sent under separate cover.
- RSS will be out to upgrade the Guiderail as required. We are waiting for the results of pavement coring/testing.
- We are waiting for confirmation when RSS will return to complete the upgrade of the Guiderail as required. At the October 3, 2023 TC meeting, KDP was awarded a contract for \$149,200.00 for the Ridge Road improvements resulting from the July storm damage. As soon as the Guiderail work is completed, they will be mobilizing to do the required repair work at the subject location.
- The coring results have been received and have resulted in a 2% penalty for one of the lots in Section 3 based upon not meeting the air voids requirement. A 2% penalty will be assessed to Tilcon for this line item.
- We have contacted RSS several times but still do not have a date when the necessary guiderail will be installed. As you know, the roadway work and storm damaged section of Ridge Road cannot be repaired until the guiderail is installed.
- We recently have been contacted by RSS and they have scheduled the work for the week of January 15th. We anticipate that KDP will be able to schedule their work on the Ridge Road repairs immediately subsequent to the completion of the guiderail.
- As of the date of this report, RSS is working on the Guiderail and the work should be completed by weeks end. We are expecting KDP to begin their work shortly.
- RSS has completed the guiderail work.
- As discussed with the Township Committee at the March 5th Committee meeting, KDP is now able to perform the repair work as the balance of the Ridge Road Section 3 project (through the 2023 NJDOT Grant) has been completed. We are working on scheduling and the coordination of the work with KDP.
- A Meeting with KDP took place on April 30th. They are slated to begin work the week of May 6th. If the Township cannot do the traffic Control, KDP will need to provide.
- KDP has completed the bank stabilization work. They have a few punch list items to complete. Our office has contacted the Morris Co. CO-OP contractor, Riverview Paving, to schedule the paving work, but as of the date of this report, no date has been confirmed.
- KDP has completed all work, their invoice is on the bill list to be paid in full. Riverview Paving has not returned our calls to set up a date for paving.
- Riverview Paving continues to fail in returning our calls to set up a date for the paving.



- Riverview Paving has finally called us back and given us a tentative paving date of late September to early October.
- We have recently been given a tentative paving date of October 17th.
- Riverview paved the final area of the roadway on October 17, 2024. Striping has been requested and should be completed very soon.
- Striping was completed and a final inspection from the NJDOT has been requested.
- The project passed final inspection and FCE is working at submitting the final close out documents to DOT.
- **We are working on the closeout with NJDOT and are waiting for back up documentation from the Township.**

MS4 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System General Permit

- The Township received a July 1, 2022 letter from NJDEP indicating that the Township is being reassigned as a Tier A Municipality. It is currently and has been a Tier B. The letter explains that the main reason for the change is the level of pollutants which are found to be present within many of the streams and waterways within the Township. It is our understanding that all Tier B Townships within the County and many around the State are being upgraded to Tier A. The upgrade imposes more responsibilities on the Township to conform to its NJDEP General Stormwater Permit, including, but not limited to, additional responsibilities for the DPW, preparation of Township wide storm sewer outfall maps, preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SPPP), etc. At this point we are not certain whether this decision can be appealed. We will continue to monitor the “situation” and keep you informed. For your information and interest, please take note that all of the Municipalities we represent in Warren County that were originally designated as Tier B, have all been upgraded to Tier A.
- On August 24th, Gene Weber and I attended a virtual meeting hosted by the NJDEP for the Township MS4 Tier B Reassignment. Further instructions, schedule, and Grant availability will be provided to the Township in the near future. We will continue to advise the Township as the Reassignment process moves forward.
- A copy of the Township’s 2023 MS4 General Stormwater Permit was received from NJDEP last week. The permit, effective January 1, 2023, has re-assigned Harmony Township as a Tier A municipality. Our office will be preparing a memo to the Committee summarizing changes from the previous 2018 Tier B Permit and documenting additional responsibilities placed upon the Township.
- FCE provided a memo, dated February 14, 2023 to the Committee listing additional Township responsibilities under its new Tier “A” designation and MS4 Permit. There is substantial work required to comply with the new permit. I am happy to report that we have been advised by NJDEP that grants of up to \$75,000 will be available through the end of 2023. With the Committee’s authorization, our office will obtain the grant information and prepare the Grant application.
- A grant application in the amount of \$75,000 was submitted to NJDEP on March 9, 2023.



- The Township was approved for a \$75,000 NJDEP grant. Our office intends to provide the Committee with a budget estimate for completion of the tasks which are required pursuant to the new 2023 MS4 Permit.
- Our office began preparation of a draft Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SPPP) as required by the new MS4 Permit and provided the draft to R. Hoffman to provide information which is required to be contained within the plan. Also, we believe the CFO has already received an initial grant payment of \$25,000 from the state.
- The Highlands Council has just advised that funding is being made available to aid in compliance with the new MS4 requirements. Our office will keep you advised as more details become available.
- Unless directed to the contrary by the Committee, our office will be preparing a request for additional funds from the Highlands Council.
- The Letter to the Highlands Council Requesting additional funds has been forwarded to the Township in order for the Township to send it to the Highlands Council. The required Ordinances have been sent to the Township for a first Reading in January. The DEP has scheduled the required site inspection for December 6, 2023.
- The Highlands Council has received the request for additional funds and requested additional information, we are preparing the reply and it will be sent out in the near future. The SPPP plan has been submitted to the State, we are waiting for final acceptance of the plan.
- FCE is working with the DPW to respond to the Highlands Council. The DEP has sent additional comments on the SPPP plan which will be addressed by our office.
- The revised SPPP plan was sent to the DEP. The DEP has now approved the plan and thus the Township was approved for the remaining \$50,000 in grant money.
- The revised letter to the Highlands Council requesting additional Grant monies has been sent and we are awaiting their approval of same.
- The Annual Report was submitted on April 30, 2024.
- The additional Grant funds from the Highlands Council in the amount of \$32,000.00 were received by the Township on May 7th. These additional funds will assist the Township in supplementing the costs for compliance with the “new” MS4 regulations.
- FCE has started the survey work for the mapping requirements.
- FCE continues to perform the survey work for the mapping requirements.
- The Survey work required in conjunction with our MS4 Permit has been completed and FCE is presently working towards submissions to both the NJDEP and the Highlands.
- FCE met with DPW to review completed mapping and have a second meeting set up to figure out plan to complete mapping.
- **FCE and DPW continue to work together to complete the mapping requirements.**

2024 State Municipal Aid Applications (River Road)

- Applications have been submitted for the 2024 State Municipal Aid Grants. The Township submitted an application for River Road and Marble Hill Road. Resolutions for the submission of the Grants have been sent to the Township to be passed at the July 11th TC meeting.



- The Resolutions were uploaded to PMRS before the July 31 deadline.
- NJDOT has sent out a Notice thru PMRS, that Harmony Township has received a Grant in the amount of \$136,782.00 for the River Road Resurfacing Project.
- Our office received authorization from the Township Committee at the December 5, 2023, TC Meeting, to proceed with the project. Please see the attached Budget Memo for the 2024 project.
- At this time, this project is on hold until more information is received from FEMA for the pipe replacement project which is located approximately in the middle of the section of River Road slated for improvements.
- A field meeting was held on the Garrison End of River Road to look at the drainage issues that need to be addressed. FCE will proceed with preparation of plans and specs for submittal to DOT for this section of River Road.
- FCE has completed the field survey work for the section of River Road to be resurfaced.
- We have been proceeding forward with the project design and the development of construction plans for the project.
- A final check of the plans with the DPW was conducted on July 23rd. The plans have been sent to the NJDOT for their final review prior to the project going to construction.
- We continue to wait for the NJDOT's approval of our plans and spec.'s which will put us in a position to go out to bid.
- The DOT has recently approved the plans and the project will be out to bid in November, 2024. The Bid Opening is set for November 21, 2024 so the contract for the project can potentially be awarded at the December 3, 2024 TC meeting.
- Only one contractor picked up the bid packages. Unfortunately, no one submitted a bid for the November 21, 2024 Bid opening. The Committee could choose to go out to bid again with the identical project, or we could try to solicit quotes for the drainage work only and hope that the quotes come in under the threshold, as allowed with a QPA. We could then proceed with doing the paving work through the Co -Op in the spring of 2025.
- The committee chose to solicit quotes. FCE is revising the plans to reflect just the drainage work then quotes will be solicited.
- **FCE requested quotes from three contractors and received quotes from two of the contractors. Please see the attached quotes and the recommendation of award letter.**

2025 NJDOT Municipal Aid Applications

- Applications are now being accepted for the 2025 NJDOT Municipal Aid Grants. The Township may submit two applications. Last year the Township submitted applications for River Road and Marble Hill Road. Only half of River Road is going to be constructed this year. Therefore, I would suggest we submit applications for River Road Section 2 as our Number 1 application and Marble Hill Road as Number 2 for 2025.
- The applications were submitted. The Resolutions for the applications are on the agenda for the July meeting and must be uploaded to PMRS.
- The application and Resolutions have been accepted by the NJDOT.



- The Township received a grant for the Marble Hill Road Resurfacing Project in the amount of \$179,046.00. This was our #2 choice with River Road, Section 2, as our #1 choice. As of the date of this report, PMRS has not indicated whether the River Rd., Section 2, application has been awarded or denied. We hope to have an update for the December 3, 2024 Committee meeting.
- **DOT has denied the River Road Section 2 grant request. Awaiting directions from Committee concerning the Budget memo for Marble Hill Road provided last month.**

cc: Kelley Smith, Clerk, via email only
Kathleen Reinalda, CFO, via email only
Randy Hoffman, DPW, via email only
Igor Bykov, Esq., via email only



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January 30, 2025

VIA E-MAIL ONLY

Mayor Tipton & Township Committee Members
Harmony Township
3003 Belvidere Road
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

Re: **Contract Award Recommendation**
River Road Drainage Improvements
Harmony Township, Warren County
10951.MU.0028.001

Mayor Tipton & Township Committee Members:

Finelli Consulting Engineers, a Division of UTRS, emailed three contractors to solicit bids for the above-mentioned project. Two (2) contractors responded with quotes for the River Road Drainage Improvements project. The Quotes received were as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. K & A Paving Contractors, LLC | \$ 39,899.65 |
| 2. Salmon Brother., Inc | \$ 43,700.00 |

Both contractors submitted their Business Registration Certificate and the Certificate of Registration under "The Public Works Contractor Registration Act" as requested. Please see the attached Quotes.

The low bidders Bid, as submitted, appears to be complete and compliant, therefore our Office would recommend the Township Committee award a contract to K & A Paving Contractors LLC for the River Road Drainage Improvements project. Township CFO Kathleen Reinalda should provide confirmation that adequate funds have been appropriated for the River Road Drainage Improvements Project.

I will be available at the February 4 Committee Meeting to discuss this matter further, if necessary.

Very truly yours,

FINELLI CONSULTING ENGINEERS
A DIVISION OF  **UTRS**



Bryce D. Good, P.E., CPESC
Director of Operations

Cc: Kathleen Reinalda

Harmony Township
Warren County, New Jersey
R:25-12

WHEREAS, pursuant to P.L. 2024, c.2, Harmony Township is required to appoint a Municipal Housing Liaison for the oversight of administration of Harmony Township's affordable housing program to enforce the requirements of the law and N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1 et. seq.; and

WHEREAS, Harmony Township has amended Chapter 120 entitled Affordable Housing Regulations to provide for the appointment of a Municipal Housing Liaison to administer Harmony Township's affordable housing program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of Harmony Township in the County of Warren, and the State of New Jersey that Kelley Smith is hereby appointed by the Governing Body of Harmony Township as the Municipal Housing Liaison for the administration of the affordable housing program, pursuant to and in accordance with Sections 120-27 of Harmony Township's Affordable Housing Code.

I, Kelley D. Smith, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Harmony, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Harmony Township Committee at a meeting held on February 4, 2024.

Kelley D. Smith
Municipal Clerk