

**JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**  
**MEETING LOCATION: JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**1033 WELDON ROAD**  
**LAKE HOPATCONG, NJ 07849**  
**CONTACT: 973-208-6132/33**  
[www.jeffersontownship.net](http://www.jeffersontownship.net)

**OCTOBER 24, 2022**  
**SPEICAL MEETING – 8:00 AM**  
**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Senatore called the meeting to order at 8:01 am and read the meeting statement as follows: This Special Meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notice of this meeting was sent to the official newspapers of the Township, the Daily Record and the Star Ledger, on **October 19, 2022**. In addition, notice was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on **October 19, 2022** and is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk. Proper notice having been given, the Township Clerk is directed to include this statement in the minutes of this meeting, as well as the purpose of this meeting, which is to hold a discussions regarding withdrawal from the State Health Benefits Program and enrollment in the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund, as well as to discuss or act upon public business.

**2. ROLL CALL**

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mr. Birmingham</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Mr. Kalish</b>		<b>X*</b>
<b>Mr. Smith</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Vice President Dunham</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>President Senatore</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Mr. Ryan, Township Attorney</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Ms. Reilly, Township Clerk</b>	<b>X</b>	

Ms. Reilly called the roll. All Council members were present except for Councilman Kalish, who arrived at 8:04 am. Also in attendance were Mayor Eric Wilsusen and Administrator Debi Millikin.

**3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Council President Senatore led the flag salute.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Senatore opened the public comment portion of the meeting with the consent of the members present and asked speakers to state their name and address for the record.

With no one wishing to be heard, Council President Senatore closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 22-247**

**“RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF JEFFERSON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, WITHDRAWING FROM THE STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM”**

**WHEREAS**, the State Health Benefits Program (“SHBP”), governed by N.J.S.A. § 52:14-17.25 et seq., offers medical, prescription drug, and dental coverage to qualified state and participating local government public employees, retirees, and eligible dependents; and

**WHEREAS**, all SHBP plans are self-funded meaning that the money paid out for benefits comes directly from a SHBP account funded by the state, participating local employers, and member premiums; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Health Benefits Commission, comprised of state officials and union representatives, annually considers the calendar year premium levels for the Local Government Employer Group of the SHBP based on recommendations found in the Rate Setting Recommendation Analysis of the Local Government Employee Group; and

**WHEREAS**, the rate increases for the 2023 Local Government Employer Group, approved by the State Health Benefits Commission on September 14, 2022, included a 24% increase for Active Medical, a 3.7% increase for Active Pharmacy, a 15.6% increase in Early Retiree Medical, and a 0.7% increase for Medicare. Early Retiree Pharmacy had a 5.7% decrease; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Treasury has reported that rates for active members and early retirees would likely be increased between 12% - 20% across the various plans for the upcoming year; and

**WHEREAS**, such rate increases will fall upon the local property taxpayer along with the local public employees at a time where there is record inflation and continuing financial uncertainty; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council finds it unreasonable and unsustainable to impose such increased costs upon Jefferson Township's tax payers and public employees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council of the Township of Jefferson in the County of Morris has found it is proper to withdraw completely from the SHBP effective December 31, 2022.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Jefferson, County of Morris, State of New Jersey:

1. The Township of Jefferson, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, SHBP No. 0019-00, hereby resolves to terminate its participation in the State Health Benefits Program (Medical Plan, Prescription Drug Plan, and Dental Plan) thereby cancelling coverage provided by the SHBP (N.J.S.A. § 52:14-17.28 et seq.) for all its active and retired employees.
2. We shall notify all active employees of the date of their termination of coverage under the Program.
3. We understand that the New Jersey Division of Pensions & Benefits (“NJDPB”) will notify retired employees of the cancellation of their coverage.
4. We understand that all COBRA participants will be notified by the NJDPB and advised to contact our office concerning a possible alternative health, prescription drug, and dental insurance plan.

5. We understand that this resolution shall take effect the first of the month following a 60-day period beginning with the receipt of the resolution by the State Health Benefits Commission.

Council Member	By	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham		X	X			
Mr. Kalish						X
Mr. Smith			X			
Vice President Dunham	X		X			
President Senatore			X			

Council President Senatore requested the record reflect that Councilman Kalish had joined the meeting.

**RESOLUTION 22-248**  
**“NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND RESOLUTION”**

**WHEREAS**, a number of public entities in the State of New Jersey have joined together to form the **North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund**, hereafter referred to as "FUND", as permitted by N.J.S.A. 11:15-3, 17:1-8.1, and 40A:10-36 et seq., and;

**WHEREAS**, the FUND was approved to become operational by the Departments of Insurance and Community Affairs and has been operational since that date, and;

**WHEREAS**, the statutes and regulations governing the creation and operation of a joint insurance fund, contain certain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a FUND;

**WHEREAS**, the governing body of the Township of Jefferson, hereinafter referred to as "LOCAL UNIT" has determined that membership in the FUND is in the best interest of the LOCAL UNIT.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the governing body of the LOCAL UNIT hereby agrees as follows:

- i. Become a member of the FUND for the period outlined in the LOCAL UNIT's Indemnity and Trust Agreements.
- ii. Will participate in the following type (s) of coverage (s):
  - a.) Health Insurance and/or Dental and/or Prescription as defined pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17B:17-4, the FUND's Bylaws, and Plan of Risk Management.
- iii. Adopts and approves the FUND's Bylaws.
- iv. Execute an application for membership and any accompanying certifications.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the governing body of the LOCAL UNIT authorizes and directs the Mayor and Township Clerk to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the FUND as required by the FUND's Bylaws, and to deliver these documents to the FUND's Executive Director with the express reservation that these documents shall become effective only upon:

- i. Approval of the LOCAL UNIT by the FUND.
- ii. Receipt from the LOCAL UNIT of a Resolution accepting assessment.
- iii. Approval by the New Jersey Department of Insurance and Department of Community Affairs.

Council Member	By	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Birmingham			X			
Mr. Kalish			X			
Mr. Smith		X	X			
Vice President Dunham	X		X			
President Senatore			X			

**6. ADJOURNMENT AT 8:05 AM**

Motion made by Councilman Smith, second by Council Vice President Dunham, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 am, with all members in favor signifying by "Aye."

October 24, 2022

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 Michele Reilly, RMC, Township Clerk

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 Melissa Senatore, Council President