

# **BOROUGH OF TOTOWA**

## **MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

### **REORGANIZATION MEETING**

**January 1, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Mayor John Coiro, presiding, Councilman Louis D'Angelo, Councilwoman Debra Andriani, Councilman William Bucher, Councilman John Capo, Municipal Clerk Joseph Wassel and Municipal Attorney Kristin Corrado.

**ABSENT:** None.

Mayor John Coiro called the meeting to order and asked the Municipal Clerk to call the roll.

Municipal Clerk Joseph Wassel announced that at the General Election held on November 2, 2021, Anthony Picarelli and Patrick Fierro were elected to the Council of the Borough of Totowa.

Mayor Coiro asked Councilman Louis D'Angelo to escort Councilman Elect Anthony Picarelli and Councilwoman Debra Andriani to escort Councilman Elect Patrick Fierro to the dais so that the Oath of Allegiance and Office could be administered.

Mayor Coiro administered the Oath of Allegiance and Office to Councilman Elect Picarelli with his wife Jamie by his side holding the Bible and Councilman Elect Fierro with his dad Nick by his side and mom Cindy holding the Bible.

Badges symbolic to the Office of Council were presented to Councilman Picarelli and Councilman Fierro by Mayor Coiro.

Mayor Coiro congratulated Councilman Picarelli and Councilman Fierro and welcomed them to the Council. The rest of the Council, the Borough Clerk and Borough Attorney also offered congratulations.

Councilman Picarelli thanked all for attending and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Thanked Chairman Peter Murphy, the Mayor and Council, his Mom and Dad and wife Jamie and said that Pat was a great running mate.

Councilman Fierro thanked his parents, the residents, the Mayor and Council for their support and wished all a Happy New Year.

Mayor Coiro reported that Richard Schopperth has been elected as Fire Chief of the Borough of Totowa Fire Department for a term of two (2) years and asked that he come forward to the dais so that the Oath of Allegiance and Office can be administered.

Mayor Coiro administered the Oath of Allegiance and Office to Fire Chief Elect Schopperth with his daughters Courtney and Kristin by his side and holding the Bible.

A badge symbolic to the Office of Fire Chief was presented to Fire Chief Schopperth by Mayor Coiro.

Mayor Coiro congratulated Fire Chief Schopperth.

Fire Chief Schopperth thanked the Mayor and Council for their continued support of the Fire Department, thanked his fellow firefighters, Chief Vincent Marciano, his family and wife, who couldn't attend because she was home watching our granddaughter. Wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mayor Coiro welcomed the guests and citizens to the annual Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Coiro announced that the Reorganization Meeting of the 2022 Borough Council was now in session.

Mayor Coiro asked the Municipal Clerk to call the roll of the 2022 Borough Council.

**PRESENT:** Mayor John Coiro, presiding, Councilman Louis D'Angelo, Councilwoman Debra Andriani, Councilman Anthony Picarelli, Councilman William Bucher, Councilman John Capo and Councilman Patrick Fierro.

**ABSENT:** None.

Mayor Coiro asked Father Marc Mancini to give the invocation.

Mayor Coiro asked everyone to join the Mayor and Council in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following Statement of the Meeting as required by New Jersey Statutes was read by the Municipal Clerk:

This meeting of the Mayor and Council held on this First Day of January, 2022, is being held in accordance with the Annual Notice of the Schedule of Meetings as required by Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 of the State of New Jersey, as amended. The agenda for this meeting has been prepared and distributed to the Mayor and Council and a copy has been on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

Mayor Coiro called for the election of Council President for the 2022 Borough Council.

Councilwoman Andriani nominated Councilman Lou D'Angelo for the position of Council President for the year 2022, seconded by Councilman Picarelli.

There being no further nominations, there was a motion by Councilwoman Andriani, seconded by Councilman Picarelli that Councilman D'Angelo be elected as Council President for the year 2022. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Mayor Coiro announced that Councilman Lou D'Angelo has been elected as Council President of the Borough of Totowa for the year 2022.

Mayor Coiro announced that Councilman Anthony Picarelli will present the following resolutions to the Governing Body for their consideration and adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-2022

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa, that the By-Laws of the Borough Council amended January 1, 2022 are hereby adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa for the Year 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all proceedings of the Council not controlled by the provisions of these By-Laws shall be regulated by Robert's Rules of Order.

RESOLUTION NO. 02-2022

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of the Public Laws of 1975, Chapter 231, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa must set forth in annual notice a schedule of its meetings for the Year 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa, that this Council shall meet during the Year 2022 for its regular meetings, in the Council Chamber on the second floor in the Municipal Complex, 537 Totowa Road at Cherba Place, at 7:30 p.m., in accordance with the following schedule:

January 11 & 25	July 12 & 26
February 8 & 22	August 9 & 23
March 8 & 22	September 13 & 27
April 12 & 26	October 11 & 25
May 10 & 24	November 15 & 29
June 14 & 28	December 13 & 27
Reorganization Meeting:	January 1, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this annual notice be filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk, that it be posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Complex and be transmitted to The Herald News, The Record and The Passaic Valley Today Paper.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-2022

WHEREAS, P.L. 1983, Chapter 8, Local Fiscal Affairs Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-2, has been amended to require that each municipality designate a Cash Management Plan for the deposit of each local unit's monies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following Cash Management Plan of the Borough of Totowa be and is hereby adopted.

A. DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES:

The following financial institutions are designated official depositories:

1. J.P. MORGAN CHASE BANK  
LAKELAND BANK  
NORTH JERSEY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
TD BANK, NA  
VALLEY NATIONAL BANK  
WELLS FARGO
2. Designated official depositories are required to submit to the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Totowa a copy of the State of New Jersey, Department of Banking, Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act Notification of eligibility, which must be filed semiannually in the Department of Banking as of June 30th and December 31st of each year. Said Notices must be available for annual audit.
3. Designated official depositories are required to submit to the Chief Financial Officer a copy of institution's "Annual Report" on an annual basis.

**B. DEPOSIT OF FUNDS:**

All funds shall be deposited within Forty-Eight (48) hours of receipt in accordance with State statute.

1. Opening funds shall be deposited into interest bearing accounts to maximize interest earnings.
2. Capital and Debt service funds may be deposited into interest bearing accounts. Non-interest bearing accounts shall be regularly monitored for the availability of funds for investment.
3. Trust funds may be deposited into interest bearing accounts in accordance with the State statutes regulating the deposit of developer's escrow deposits. Non-interest bearing accounts should be regularly monitored for availability of funds for investment except where either State or Federal laws prohibit the earning of interest on such funds.
4. Payroll and agency remittance funds shall be maintained in regular checking accounts, only insofar as they serve to compensate the bank for payroll data processing services.

C. DEFINITION OF ALLOWABLE INVESTMENT INSTRUMENTS:

The Borough may permit deposits and investments in such depositories as permitted in Section 4 of P.L. 1970, Chapter 236 (C.17:9-44) and other instruments specified below:

1. United States Treasury Bills (T-Bills)
2. Borough of Totowa Bonds or Notes
3. Commercial Bank Deposits and Certificates of Deposit (CD's)
4. Repurchase Agreements (Repo's)
5. Investments in Savings and Loan Association
6. United States Government Agency and Instrumentality Obligations
7. State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund
8. School District Obligations

D. DEFINITION OF ACCEPTABLE COLLATERAL AND PROTECTION OF BOROUGH ASSETS:

1. All designated depositories must conform to all applicable State statutes concerning depositories of Public Funds.
2. All depositories shall obtain the highest amount possible F.D.I.C. and/or F.S.L.I.C. coverage of all Borough Assets (Demand and Certificate of Deposit).
3. Collateral will be required for all deposits and investments of the Borough, except for those in the State Cash Management Fund, collateral must have a market value of not less than 100 percent of all deposits and investments.
4. For pledges by depositories on Borough Funds, the following securities will be considered acceptable for pledges:
  - a. Any security backed by the U.S. Government.
  - b. Any direct obligation of any taxing authority within the Borough of Totowa.
  - c. Real Estate Mortgage Loans for Real Estate property located within the Totowa market area. Pledges of Real Estate Mortgage Loans shall be maintained at a market value of 115 percent of deposits.
  - d. All pledges of collateral must be indicated on an advice copy of the investment instrument which shall be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer or Treasurer.

E. COMPENSATING BALANCE AGREEMENTS:

Where compensating balances are used to offset bank expenses, an agreement between the bank and the Borough shall be executed, specifying the charge for each service. Said agreement shall be reviewed annually.

F. REPORTING PROCEDURES:

The Chief Financial Officer shall prepare for the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa the following investment reports:

1. MONTHLY REPORTING: A detailed listing of all investments purchased in the prior month, specifying the amount, interest percent per annum, number of days, period of investment and maturity date, interest amount at maturity and financial institutions with which investment is placed. This report shall be broken down by fund.
2. QUARTERLY REPORTING: A detailed summary analysis of all investments by fund, specifying the quarterly interest rate earned, quarterly interest earned on NOW and Savings Accounts and Year-To-Date total interest earnings.
3. The Treasurer shall prepare a schedule of outstanding investments for the independent auditors as of December 31st of each year and at other such times as required by the auditors.
4. The Treasurer shall also periodically provide analysis of average daily balances in interest bearing checking accounts vs. other investment vehicle potential.
5. All such reports may include a comparison of current investment income vs. forecast, prior year or market conditions.

G. DIVERSIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer shall closely examine investments to guard against the effects of a financial institution going into default. This may be accomplished through the practice of spreading the investments around in various designated official depositories.

H. MAXIMUM MATURITY POLICY:

Investments shall be limited to a maturity not to exceed one year on all operating funds unless a longer maturity is permitted within the provision of regulation promulgated by either the Federal or State Governments.

I. INVESTMENT PROCEDURES:

Bids for Certificates of Deposit and Repurchase Agreements will be solicited of at least three (3) designated depositories only if the amount is \$100,000 or greater.

Telephone bids will be solicited of designated depositories by the Chief Financial Officer or Treasurer or designated staff member.

The depository shall specify the principal amount of the investment bid on, interest rate and number of days used to calculate the interest to be paid upon maturity.

Interest paid shall be from the date the bid was awarded to the date of maturity.

All bidders may request the results of the bid after the bid is formally awarded.

A check or wire transfer of funds will be made available to the winning bidder on the same business day the bid is awarded.

Each quotation shall be documented to record the date and time of quote, the parties in the discussion, the instrument(s), maturities and rates. A bid form of the Borough may be used.

J. RETURN ON INVESTMENT:

Where the return on a proposed investment does not exceed the cost of making said investment by a minimum amount the Chief Financial Officer and/or Treasurer will not make the investment. The Chief Financial Officer and/or Treasurer shall have the discretion to award an investment to the bank wherein the funds reside, should that bank's quoted rate be less than other quoted rates received in the event that the differential in interest rates is less than 25 basis points, and providing that the term of the investment is less than fifteen (15) days.

K. CONTROLS:

When possible, the internal controls should provide for a separation of the investment placement functions and the accounting activity. Controls must be designed for telephone orders, wire transfers and securities safekeeping. Only specifically designated personnel shall be allowed to conduct this part of the transactions, and all activity should be subject to immediate written confirmation by the designated depository. The Treasurer shall review each day's activity.



L. BONDING:

The following officials shall be covered by surety bonds; said surety bonds to be examined by the independent auditor to insure their proper execution:

Collector  
Municipal Court Administrator  
Deputy Municipal Court Administrator  
Municipal Court Judge

Staff members of the Department of Finance not covered by separate surety bonds shall be covered by a Public Employee's Faithful Performance Bond in the minimum amount of \$50,000.00.

M. COMPLIANCE:

The Cash Management Plan of the Borough of Totowa shall be subject to the annual audit conducted pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:5-4.

N. The official charged with the custody of the monies of the Borough of Totowa shall deposit them as designated by the Cash Management Plan and shall thereafter be relieved of any liability or loss of such monies due to the insolvency or closing of any depository designated in the Cash Management Plan pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:5-2.

O. Where a conflict exists between this Cash Management Plan and State statute, the applicable State statute shall apply.

P. The Cash Management Plan shall be subject to the approval of the Borough Attorney.

RESOLUTION NO. 04-2022

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that the Mayor, Borough Clerk and the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer be hereby designated as the Official Signatories to sign all checks.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-2022

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that the Tax Collector of the Borough of Totowa be named and designated as the Official Tax Search Officer of the Borough of Totowa.

RESOLUTION NO. 06-2022

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that the Borough Clerk is hereby named and designated as the Official of the Borough of Totowa, to make Official Certificates of Searches as to Municipal Improvements authorized by Ordinances of the Borough of Totowa.

RESOLUTION NO. 07-2022

WHEREAS, it is necessary to have a person responsible for processing of all documents pertaining to the Public Employees Retirement System of the State of New Jersey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that the Borough Clerk is hereby named and designated as the Supervisor Certifying Officer for documents pertaining to the Public Employees Retirement System.

RESOLUTION NO. 08-2022

WHEREAS, it is necessary to have a person responsible for processing of all documents pertaining to the Police and Fireman's Retirement System of the State of New Jersey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that the Borough Clerk is hereby named and designated as the Supervisor Certifying Officer for documents pertaining to the Police and Fireman's Retirement System.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-2022

WHEREAS, it is necessary to have a person responsible for the processing of all Social Security Records.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer of the Borough of Totowa be named and designated as the Official in charge of Social Security Records.

RESOLUTION NO. 10-2022

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that the Borough Clerk is hereby named and designated as the Official of the Borough of Totowa, to issue Official Certificates certifying whether or not a sub-division of lands has been recommended by the Planning Board and approved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-2022

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa must establish the interest rate for the delinquent taxes for the year 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to charge interest on delinquent taxes and assessment accounts as follows:

First 10 days of Tax Payments	No Penalty
Thereafter from the due date of Tax Payments for the 1st \$1,500.	8%
Thereafter, the balance in excess of \$1,500.	18%

And in addition to, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 as amended, the following schedule shall apply:

Up to \$1,500. delinquency	8%
Over \$1,500. delinquency	18%
Additional penalty for a delinquency over \$10,000. if not paid prior to the end of the calendar year.	6%

RESOLUTION NO. 12-2022

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa must establish the interest rate for the delinquent water bills for the year 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that the Water Registrar is hereby authorized and directed to charge interest on delinquent water accounts as follows:

First 30 days of Water Payments	No Penalty
Thereafter from the due date of Water Payments for the 1st \$1,500.	8%
Thereafter, the balance in excess of \$1,500.	18%

And in addition to, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 as amended, the following schedule shall apply:

Up to \$1,500. delinquency	8%
Over \$1,500. delinquency	18%
Additional penalty for a delinquency over \$10,000. if not paid prior to the end of the calendar year.	6%

#### RESOLUTION NO. 13-2022

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that appointments of officers and employees, contracts and authorizations for services which were performed during the year 2021 and previously approved, be and are hereby ratified by the Mayor and Council for the Year 2022.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 14-2022

WHEREAS, there is a need to designate the Official Signatories for Municipal Court General Account and Bail Account Checks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that the Municipal Court Judge, Court Administrator, Deputy Court Administrator and Violations Clerk be hereby designated as the Official Signatories to sign all Municipal Court General Account and Bail Account Checks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that any two (2) of the above mentioned four (4) employees will be permitted to sign the checks at any given time.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-2022

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA  
DESIGNATING A PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Division of Contract Compliance and Equal Employment Opportunity in Public Contracts ("Division of Contract Compliance") is charged with enforcing the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 provides that no public contract can be awarded nor any monies paid until the prospective contractor has agreed to comply with the approved Affirmative Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.5, all New Jersey Public Agencies and Municipalities are required to annually designate a Public Agency Compliance Officer ("P.A.C.O.") and submit the name of the P.A.C.O. to the Division of Contract Compliance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that Joseph Wassel, RMC, Municipal Clerk, is hereby designated as the Public Agency Compliance Officer for the Borough of Totowa.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Division of Contract Compliance.

RESOLUTION NO. 16-2022

AUTHORIZING AND ADOPTING A STANDARD  
TORT CLAIM NOTICE FORM

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa is a member of the Garden State Municipal Joint Insurance Fund ("GSMJIF"); and

WHEREAS, the "GSMJIF" and the Borough of Totowa have determined that it is reasonable and necessary to develop a standard form and procedure by which persons are required to notify the Borough of Totowa of claims which arise under the authority of N.J.S.A. 59:1-1, et seq. ("Tort Claims Act").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa hereby adopts the Tort Claim Notice Form in the format attached hereto.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-2022

Resolution to introduce and adopt the 2022 Temporary Budget of the Borough of Totowa.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo that the foregoing resolutions be adopted. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to approve Resolution No. 2022-01 for the payment of bills. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Mayor Coiro acknowledged our newly elected Passaic County Commissioner Nick Gallo who was in attendance.

Mayor Coiro made the following appointments with the advice and consent of the Council for the year 2022 or for the term appointed.

APPOINTMENTS

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>TERM/ YEARS</u>	<u>APPOINTED</u>
Deputy Municipal Clerk	1	Kathryn Wasilewski
Municipal Attorney	1	Kristin M. Corrado
Tax Appeal Attorney	1	Reddin Masri
Tax Appeal Consultant	1	Appraisal Consultants Corp.
Municipal Auditor	1	Lerch, Vinci & Higgins
Municipal Engineer	1	Alaimo Group-Consulting Engineers
Municipal Planner	1	Colliers Engineering & Design
Risk Management Consultant	1	Strategic Insurance Partners
Bond Counsel	1	
Special Counsel	1	
Grant Writer	1	Millennium Strategies
Affordable Housing Administrative Agent	1	
Municipal Housing Liaison	1	Judith Wright

Tax Collector	4	Lisa Nash
Media Consultant	1	Brian Sedita
Licensed Water Operator	1	Michael Paese
Licensed Sewer Operator	1	Bernard Sivik
Department of Public Works Foreman	1	Sean Yennie
Water Registrar	1	Jennifer Bernardo
Deputy Water Registrar	1	John Waryas
Prosecutor	1	
Prosecutor's Assistant	1	Colby Bierach
Substitute Prosecutor	1	Scott Fahrney
Public Defender	1	Ramsey Merhi
Court Administrator	1	
Deputy Court Administrator	1	Irine Upritchard
Violations Clerk	1	Keri Giacchi
Police Dispatcher	1	Carl Baker
Police Dispatcher	1	Daniel Urban
Police Dispatcher	1	Vincent E. Marciano
First Aid Director	1	Matthew Barbieri
Police & Fire Mechanic	1	Fred Dell'Aquila
Fire Official	1	Richard Schopperth
Fire Inspector	1	Mark Henry
Fire Inspector	1	Vincent A. Marciano
Fire Inspector	1	Craig Puglise
Construction Official	1	Allan Burghardt
Building Sub-Code Official	1	Allan Burghardt
Zoning Official	1	Allan Burghardt
Code Enforcement Officer	1	Allan Burghardt
Flood Plain Administrator	1	Allan Burghardt
Zoning Officer	1	John Waryas
Zoning Inspector	1	James Booth
Deputy Zoning Officer	1	Ernie Bavazzano
Deputy Zoning Officer	1	Giovanni D'Ambrosio
Property Maintenance Inspector	1	
Property Maintenance Inspector	1	James Booth
Property Maintenance Inspector	1	Giovanni D'Ambrosio
Plumbing Sub-Code Official	1	Raymond Keeley
Electrical Sub-Code Official	1	Vincent A. Marciano
Fire Sub-Code Official	1	Richard Schopperth
Projects Manager	1	John Waryas
Housing Officer	1	Allan Burghardt
Housing Officer	1	
Housing Officer	1	James Booth
Board of Assessments	1	Kevin Hanrahan
Board of Assessments	1	Brendan Mulligan

Board of Assessments	1	Christopher Jacob
Board of Adjustment	4	
Board of Adjustment	4	Jay Carr
Board of Adjustment (Alt. 2)	2	Mark Henry
Board of Health	4	Gregory Luciano
Board of Health	4	Patricia Manzo
Library Board	5	
Library Board	3 (Unexp)	Robert Coyle
Library (Mayor's Alternate)	1	Debra Andriani
Parking Utility Commission	5	Peter D'Angelo
Flood Control Board	1	William Bucher, Jr.
Flood Control Board	1	James Niland
Flood Control Board	1	Philip Puglise
Flood Control Board	1	Amy Coiro
Flood Control Board (Mayor's Designee)	1	Anthony Zarek
School Crossing Guard	1	Renee Adili
School Crossing Guard	1	Lori Ann Badan
School Crossing Guard	1	Dawn Barbato
School Crossing Guard	1	Lauri Cato
School Crossing Guard	1	Michelle DiGangi
School Crossing Guard	1	Sharon Maley
School Crossing Guard	1	Stephanie Masi
School Crossing Guard	1	Danielle Matthaei
School Crossing Guard	1	Karin Sciacca
School Crossing Guard	1	Denise Tillie
School Crossing Guard	1	Leticia Valentin
School Crossing Guard	1	Pauline Vander Berg
School Crossing Guard	1	Frances Vogt
School Crossing Guard	1	Roy Wells
Physician & Surgeon	1	Joseph Vitale
Physician & Surgeon	1	Francis Ferrante
Physician & Surgeon	1	John Ambrose
Physician & Surgeon	1	Marzena Odorczuk
Physician & Surgeon	1	Scott Coleman
Physician & Surgeon	1	Francesco Lima
Chaplain	1	Fr. Marc Mancini
Chaplain	1	Fr. Joseph Mactal
Chaplain	1	Rev. Teresita Matos-Post



For each of the aforementioned appointments, there was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to confirm the appointments. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative. For Parking Utility Commissioner (Peter D'Angelo), there was a motion by Councilwoman Andriani, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to confirm the appointment. Councilman D'Angelo abstained from the voting on this appointment.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to adopt the following professional resolution for the Borough Attorney. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 18-2022

#### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR 2022

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa requires the services of an attorney to serve as the Municipal Attorney for the Borough of Totowa and represent the interests of the Borough of Totowa; and

WHEREAS, the professional services to be provided by the Municipal Attorney include but are not limited to attending all meetings of the Mayor and Council and Committee meetings as required; preparing Resolutions, Ordinances and contracts; reviewing documents as requested; and performing all general legal services as needed; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa did advertise for receipt of sealed proposals for the professional legal services in accordance with its specifications entitled "Request for Proposals for the Position of Municipal Attorney for the Borough of Totowa"; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa did receive proposals at its Municipal Building on December 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Finance and Administration Committee did examine all proposals for professional legal services; and

WHEREAS, Kristin M. Corrado, Esq., Corrado & Corrado, Esqs., 142 Totowa Road, Suite 2, Totowa, New Jersey 07512, has submitted a proposal to provide the professional legal services, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, Kristin M. Corrado, Esq., possesses the necessary experience and expertise to provide the professional legal services; and

WHEREAS, for providing the required services, the Borough of Totowa will compensate Kristin M. Corrado, Esq. in accordance with the Fee Schedule set forth in his proposal; and

WHEREAS, the term of this contract shall be for a period of one year commencing on January 1, 2022 and terminating on December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the professional legal services shall be awarded as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize the Borough of Totowa to enter into a contract with Kristin M. Corrado, Esq., Corrado & Corrado, Esqs., to serve as the Borough of Totowa Municipal Attorney and provide professional legal services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Totowa does hereby authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute any and all necessary instruments relating thereto.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to adopt the following professional resolution for the Tax Appeal Attorney. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 19-2022

#### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR 2022 TAX APPEALS

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa requires the services of an attorney to serve as Special Tax Counsel for the Borough of Totowa; and

WHEREAS, the professional services to be provided by the Tax Attorney include but are not limited to defending against all tax appeals filed against the Borough of Totowa; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa did advertise for receipt of sealed proposals for the professional legal services in accordance with its specifications entitled "Request for Proposals for the Position of Tax Attorney for the Borough of Totowa"; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa did receive proposals at its Municipal Building on December 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Finance and Administration Committee did examine all proposals for professional legal services; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Reddin, Esq., Reddin Masri, LLC, 485 Totowa Road, Totowa, New Jersey 07512, has submitted a proposal to provide the professional legal services, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Reddin, Esq. possesses the necessary experience and expertise to provide the professional legal services; and

WHEREAS, for providing the required services, the Borough of Totowa will compensate Raymond Reddin, Esq. in accordance with the Fee Schedule set forth in his proposal not to exceed the sum of \$15,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the term of this contract shall be for a period of one year commencing on January 1, 2022 and terminating on December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the professional legal services shall be awarded as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize the Borough of Totowa to enter into a contract with Raymond Reddin, Esq. Reddin Masri, LLC, to serve as the Borough of Totowa Tax Attorney and provide professional legal services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Totowa does hereby authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute any and all necessary instruments relating thereto.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to adopt the following professional resolution for the Tax Appeal Consultant. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 20-2022

#### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL TAX APPEAL AND CONSULTING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa desire to retain the services of a professional real estate appraisal and consulting firm on an as-needed basis in order to prepare and defend against the various tax appeals filed against the Borough of Totowa; and

WHEREAS, these professional services include but are not limited to the physical inspection of each property, verification of zoning and development approvals, preparation of appraisals, attendance at conferences and depositions and providing expert witness testimony at each trial as needed; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa did advertise for receipt of sealed proposals for the professional tax appeal and consulting in accordance with its specifications entitled "Request for Proposals for the Position of Tax Appeal Consultant for the Borough of Totowa"; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa did receive proposals at its Municipal Building on December 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Finance and Administration Committee did examine all proposals received for professional real estate appraisal and consulting firm services; and

WHEREAS, Appraisal Consultants Corp., 293 Eisenhower Parkway, Suite 200, Livingston, New Jersey 07039, has submitted a proposal to provide the required appraisal and consulting services, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Appraisal Consultants Corp. possesses the necessary expertise and experience to perform the professional real estate and consulting services; and

WHEREAS, for providing the required services, the Borough of Totowa will compensate Appraisal Consultants Corp. in accordance with the Fee Schedule set forth in the proposal; and

WHEREAS, the term of this contract shall be for a period of one year commencing on January 1, 2022 and terminating on December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the professional legal services shall be awarded as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize a contract with Appraisal Consultants Corp. to provide professional real estate appraisal and consulting services on an as-needed basis in order to prepare and defend against the various tax appeals filed against the Borough of Totowa.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Totowa does hereby authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute any and all instruments relating thereto.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to adopt the following professional resolution for the Borough Auditor. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-2022

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR  
PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES FOR 2022

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa desire to retain the services of a professional accounting firm to serve as the Municipal Auditor for the Borough of Totowa; and

WHEREAS, the professional services to be provided by the Municipal Auditor include but are not limited to auditing the financial statements for the Borough of Totowa; preparing the unaudited annual financial statement; review and certification of the annual budget; and preparing the annual debt statement and performing all general auditing services as needed; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa did advertise for receipt of sealed proposals for the professional auditing services in accordance with its specifications entitled "Request for Proposals for the Position of Municipal Auditor for the Borough of Totowa"; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa did receive proposals at its Municipal Building on December 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Finance and Administration Committee did examine all proposals for professional auditing services; and

WHEREAS, Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP, a New Jersey Limited Liability Partnership having its principal place of business at 17-17 Route 208, Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410, has submitted a proposal to provide the required auditing services, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP possesses the necessary experience and expertise to perform the professional auditing services; and

WHEREAS, for providing the required services, the Borough of Totowa will compensate Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP in accordance with their proposal; and

WHEREAS, the term of this contract shall be for a period of one year commencing on January 1, 2022 and terminating on December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the professional auditing services shall be awarded as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize the Borough of Totowa to enter into a contract with Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP to serve as the Borough of Totowa Municipal Auditor and provide professional auditing services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Totowa does hereby authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute any and all necessary instruments relating thereto.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to adopt the following professional resolution for the Borough Engineer. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 22-2022

#### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR 2022

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa desire to retain the services of a professional engineering firm to serve as the Municipal Engineer for the Borough of Totowa; and

WHEREAS, the professional services to be provided by the Municipal Engineer include but are not limited to attending meetings of the Mayor and Council, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment as required; preparing plans, designs and specifications for all public works and improvement projects; reviewing all subdivision, site plan and variance applications; and performing all general engineering services as needed; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa did advertise for receipt of sealed proposals for the professional engineering services in accordance with its specifications entitled "Request for Proposals for the Position of Municipal Engineer for the Borough of Totowa"; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa did receive proposals at its Municipal Building on December 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Engineering and Public Property Committee did examine all proposals for professional engineering services; and

WHEREAS, Alaimo Group Consulting Engineers, a New Jersey Corporation having its principal place of business at 200 High Street, Mt. Holly, New Jersey 08060, has submitted a proposal and Fee Schedule to provide the required engineering services, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Alaimo Group Consulting Engineers possesses the necessary experience and expertise to perform the professional engineering services; and

WHEREAS, for providing the required services, the Borough of Totowa will compensate Alaimo Group Consulting Engineers in accordance with the Fee Schedule set forth in their proposal; and

WHEREAS, the term of this contract shall be for a period of one year commencing on January 1, 2022 and terminating on December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the professional engineering services shall be awarded as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize the Borough of Totowa to enter into a contract with Alaimo Group Consulting Engineers to serve as the Borough of Totowa Municipal Engineer and provide professional engineering services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Totowa does hereby authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute any and all necessary instruments relating thereto.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to adopt the following professional resolution for the Borough Planner. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 23-2022

#### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL PLANNING SERVICES FOR 2022

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa requires the services of a professional planner to provide general consulting services on an as-needed basis to assist the Borough of Totowa, Planning Board and Board of Adjustment; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa did advertise for receipt of sealed proposals for the professional planning services in accordance with its specifications entitled "Request for Proposals for the Position of Municipal Planner for the Borough of Totowa"; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa did receive proposals at its Municipal Building on December 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Liaison and Inspection Committee did examine all proposals for professional planning services; and

WHEREAS, Colliers Engineering & Design having its principal place of business at 53 Frontage Road, Suite 110, Hampton, New Jersey 08827, has submitted a proposal to provide the required planning services, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Colliers Engineering & Design possesses the necessary experience and expertise to perform the professional planning services; and

WHEREAS, for providing the required services, the Borough of Totowa will compensate, Colliers Engineering & Design in accordance with their proposal; and

WHEREAS, the term of this contract shall be for a period of one year commencing on January 1, 2022 and terminating on December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the professional planning services shall be awarded as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize the Borough of Totowa to enter into a contract with Colliers Engineering & Design to serve as the Borough of Totowa Municipal Planner and provide professional planning services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Totowa does hereby authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute any and all necessary instruments relating thereto.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to adopt the following professional resolution for the Risk Management Consultant. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.



RESOLUTION NO. 24-2022

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR  
RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR 2022

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa desire to retain the services of a licensed firm to serve as the Risk Management Consultant for the Borough of Totowa; and

WHEREAS, the professional services to be provided for the Borough of Totowa by the Risk Management Consultant include but are not limited to identifying its insurable exposures, selecting the various coverage's, reviewing Certificates of Insurance from contractors, vendors and professionals and assisting with the settlement of claims as needed; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa did advertise for receipt of sealed proposals for the professional risk management services in accordance with its specifications entitled "Request for Proposals for Risk Management Consultant Services for the Borough of Totowa"; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa did receive proposals at its Municipal Building on December 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Finance and Administration Committee did examine all proposals for professional Risk Management Consultant services; and

WHEREAS, Strategic Insurance Partners, 492 Franklin Avenue, Nutley, New Jersey 07110, has submitted a proposal to provide the grant writing and alternative financial consulting services, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Strategic Insurance Partners possesses the necessary experience and expertise to perform the professional Risk Management Consulting services; and

WHEREAS, for providing the required services, the Borough of Totowa will compensate, Strategic Insurance Partners in accordance with their proposal; and

WHEREAS, the term of this contract shall be for a period of one year commencing on January 1, 2022 and terminating on December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the professional Risk Management Consultant services shall be awarded as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize the Borough of Totowa to enter into a contract with Strategic Insurance Partners to serve as the Borough of Totowa Risk Management Consultant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Totowa does hereby authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute any and all necessary instruments relating thereto.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to adopt the following professional resolution for the Grant Writer. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-2022

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR  
PROFESSIONAL GRANT WRITING SERVICES FOR 2022

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa desire the services of a professional grant writing firm to assist the Borough of Totowa with securing federal and state appropriations, grant procurement and alternative funding methodologies; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa did advertise for receipt of sealed proposals for the professional grant writing services in accordance with its specifications entitled "Request for Proposals for the Position of Municipal Grant Writer for the Borough of Totowa"; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa did receive proposals at its Municipal Building on December 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Finance and Administration Committee did examine all proposals for professional grant writing services; and

WHEREAS, Millennium Strategies LLC, 60 Roseland Avenue, Caldwell, New Jersey 07006, has submitted a proposal to provide the grant writing and alternative financial consulting services, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Millennium Strategies LLC possesses the necessary experience and expertise to perform the professional grant writing services; and

WHEREAS, for providing the required services, the Borough of Totowa will compensate, Millennium Strategies LLC in accordance with their proposal; and

WHEREAS, the term of this contract shall be for a period of one year commencing on January 1, 2022 and terminating on December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the professional grant writing services shall be awarded as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize the Borough of Totowa to enter into a contract with Millennium Strategies LLC to serve as the Borough of Totowa Municipal Grant Writer and provide professional grant writing services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Totowa does hereby authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute any and all necessary instruments relating thereto.

The following appointments were made by Mayor Coiro and do not require Council consent or confirmation:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>TERM/ YEARS</u>	<u>APPOINTED</u>
Planning Board Class IV	4	Robert Festa, Jr.
Planning Board Class IV	4	Anthony Zarek
Planning Board Class IV (Alt. 2)	2	Kevin Hanrahan
Planning Board Class III	1	Louis D'Angelo
Planning Board Class II	1	James Niland
Board of Recreation	5	Thomas Mele
Board of Recreation	5	Danny Palazzo
Shade Tree Commission	5	Kendall Murphy
Senior Citizen Coordinator	1	Maria Murphy
Local Assistance Board	1	Debra Andriani
Local Assistance Board	4	Douglas Upritchard

Mayor Coiro announced the following Council Committees for the year 2022. The first Councilman/Councilwoman listed is the Chair of that Committee.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

PICARELLI	D'ANGELO	CAPO
Auditor	Budgetary Control	Insurance
Assessor	Tax Collector	Treasury
Legal	Garbage	Municipal Court
Uniform Construction Code		Street Lighting

PUBLIC SAFETY

D'ANGELO	CAPO	BUCHER
Police	Fire	First Aid
Dog License		Uniform Fire Code

PUBLIC WORKS

BUCHER	FIERRO	PICARELLI
Roads	Storm Drainage	Water
	Flood Control	

ENGINEERING & PUBLIC PROPERTY

CAPO	ANDRIANI	D'ANGELO
Engineering	Sewer	All Public Property

LIAISON & INSPECTION

ANDRIANI	BUCHER	FIERRO
Board of Health	Recreation	Swimming Pool
Library	Planning Board	Board of Adjustment
Shade Tree		Local Assistance Board

LEGISLATIVE & ORDINANCES

FIERRO	PICARELLI	ANDRIANI
Ordinances	Legislation	Licenses

Mayor Coiro asked Father Marc Mancini to give the benediction.

Mayor Coiro gave his annual New Year's State of the Municipality Address and Message to the Citizens of the Borough of Totowa.

Dear Fellow Residents,

As I do each New Year's Day, I would like to review some of the events and accomplishments that took place in our town during the past year and to announce some of the plans we have for 2022. First, I'd like to welcome Anthony Picarelli and newcomer Patrick Fierro to the Council and congratulate them on their recent election victory. I know that both Anthony and Patrick will work hard throughout the year for our residents. They will be involved in many of our town's operations and I am sure I can count on them to serve Totowa well into the future. At this time, I do want to acknowledge and thank Lisa Palazzo for her three years of service as a Councilwoman and her contributions to our residents.

I would also like to congratulate Rich Schopperth as he begins his third term as Fire Chief. His dedication to our volunteer firefighters should be commended. The Council and I look forward to working with our Chief for the next two years.

Well, it seems like 2021 was just as odd as 2020 was for all of us with the ongoing pandemic. The year started with all of us looking for vaccines. By Spring, most of us were able to get our shots if we so chose to. Our artificial turf was installed and completed in the Spring and was ready for use in April. Unfortunately, we had to cancel Totowa Day and the Memorial Day parade in 2021. However, on the positive side, in June, we were able to open the municipal building to the public, we had a successful summer camp for our youth, we opened our town pool to a record number of members, and held 11 summer concerts on our lawn in front of the municipal building that were well attended.

Then, at the end of August, our town was hit by Hurricane Ida. The amount of rainfall we received in a short time overwhelmed our sewer system as was seen across New Jersey. Streets looked like rivers and areas of our town that hadn't flooded before suddenly did. Our firefighters worked tirelessly throughout that evening and night, rescuing over 20 people in flooded vehicles while in knee deep water and one individual by boat in the Passaic River. Our First Aid Squad was also on call that night administering to several people. I would like to pause here to thank our volunteers in both the Fire Department and First Aid Squad not only for their efforts during the hurricane but for their efforts throughout the year to our community. Our police department should also be recognized as they were moving nonstop that evening with all of the road closures, abandoned vehicles, and other emergencies they had to deal with. And our DPW staff had to keep the pumps running that night and assisted in the days and weeks after with the clean-up. We saw the best of our community come out with neighbors helping neighbors and our own Councilwoman Andriani and Senator Corrado distributing clean up kits from the Red Cross to affected

residents. The library offered food and essential nonfood items to needy residents through the generous donations of Totowa residents. Let's hope we don't have to face one of those storms again any time soon.

During the Fall, we were able to hold our 5K Turkey Trot once again and the number of participants swelled from the prior two years. The fire truck parade with the Totowa and West Paterson Fire departments was also held again and the number of trucks in the parade doubled from two years ago. The toys collected by our volunteer firefighters surpassed the prior year totals and were donated to children in local hospitals.

And speaking of parades, in December, we were fortunate to have a convoy of trucks from Wreaths Across America rumble through our town on Union Boulevard to crowds of supporters who lined the street. We also held our annual tree lighting ceremony in person with the school choir and musicians.

With respect to our infrastructure, PSEG completed the replacement of older gas lines in our town in 2021. This was done to try to avoid some of the gas problems that occurred during Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy. The roads in our town where PSEG had been digging and have been repaved this year by them or by our town with assistance from grants from the Department of Transportation include the entire length of Stewart Terrace, Meadow Drive, Knollwood Drive, Pamela Drive, Carr Place, Roseda Drive, Glen Terrace, Rutherford Court, Artillery Park Road, Knox Terrace, Colonial Court and portions of Columbus Ave. and Bogert Street. With a grant from the Department of Transportation, we repaved Dey Hill Trail, Craig Court, and Commerce Way. And with our own funds, we repaved Crescent Ave., Margaret St. and Bullens Lane. This long list will improve many of our roads by making them smooth again. In 2021, we have received a grant from the DOT for Hamilton Trail, Stirling Terrace and Fellner Place. We will look to repave all roads in Arlington Estates in addition to those mentioned.

We completed the replacement of all of the park equipment at the Bogert Street park and look to do the same for the park by Riverview firehouse with a grant we are applying for.

We applied for another grant from Passaic County to continue relining our sanitary sewers. Our most recent award is for a portion of Lincoln Avenue. These efforts will help alleviate some of the infiltration that enters our sanitary sewer system. We have begun on the project to replace the pumps and infrastructure at the William Place pump house. We are in the engineering planning stage for an upgrade to the Riverview Drive pump station. These are both expensive projects but the upgrades are necessary as the existing systems are quite outdated. We will continue looking at ways to improve our water and sewer system while alleviating flooding to our residents.

Real estate development continued in Totowa in 2021. While we are pleased that developers have confidence in our borough, we also want the development to be done smartly and we must consider the impact on our infrastructure. On the former North Jersey

Development Center site on Minnisink Road, the construction of the medical office building is almost complete and should open in phases this year. As part of the agreement with the developer, Minnisink Road and Vreeland Ave. will be widened at the intersection of those roads and traffic lights installed as part of the obligation of the developer.

Digital Realty has begun construction of data centers on Union Boulevard just south of Route 46. The additional ratables from the projects mentioned and other construction taking place should provide ratables and ease the tax burden on our residents.

Our community continues to be strengthened by the support of our professional staff, all of our employees, and, of course, volunteers. In addition to the fire fighters and first aid squad members I previously mentioned, there are also volunteers at the PAL and on our municipal boards who donate their time selflessly in the best interest of our community and all of these efforts are truly appreciated by the Council and me. In particular I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our Board of Recreation and their Director this past year. While I only mentioned a few of the events that the Board sponsored in 2021, there were others as well for the benefit of our children and adults.

Our Totowa Public Library continues to flourish with new and expanded programs offered as well as assistance to our senior citizens and residents in need. Under the direction of the Board and its director, the library has become more than a library- it is a community center. And special recognition goes out to Janet Saunders, who just retired from the Library Board after serving 40 years, with over 30 of them as President. Her time in leading the Board is much appreciated.

On the property tax front, in 2021, our total tax rate decreased by 1.6%. This was attributable to several factors including favorable tax treatment from Passaic County and Passaic Valley High School and an increase in ratables in our town. As you have heard me say many times, we are determined to be fiscally prudent. In Totowa we have decided to make tough choices and not place a financial burden on future budgets and future generations. The turf field that was installed and the upgrades to the William Place pump station I spoke about are being funded without incurring any debt. We have now achieved our tenth consecutive year without any long-term debt in our municipality, a claim only a handful of municipalities across New Jersey can make. Our core belief is that we should pay currently to meet our obligations where we can and not borrow if possible. By freeing ourselves of debt, we can utilize those funds for much needed improvements to our infrastructure and replacing outdated equipment. In 2021, Totowa continues the distinction of having the lowest tax rate of the 16 municipalities in Passaic County. The Council and I will once again work hard to maintain the lowest tax rate for our residents.

The Council and I will remain active in our community's affairs in 2022. While we have seen a surge in positive cases in our community over the past few weeks, the projections indicate that we should begin seeing a drop in positive cases by mid to end of January. Our future is bright and I am confident that we will continue our improvements to our town as

well as our stability here in Totowa. On behalf of our Council members, I would like to wish everyone a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Thank you.

Mayor Coiro invited everyone in attendance to the Barnyard & Carriage House on behalf of the Republican Club/Party to enjoy some refreshments.

There being no further business to come before the Council, there was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani that the meeting be adjourned. The next regular Council Meeting will be held on January 11, 2022. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

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Joseph Wassel, RMC  
Municipal Clerk