WHEREAS, Section 2-25.13 of the Code of the Borough of Watchung requires that contracts for purchases or services involving more than two thousand dollars be awarded by a resolution of the Mayor and Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the Purchasing Agent be authorized to issue Purchase Orders as follows:

Vendor:

MD Buying Group, 30 Locust Avenue, Unit 2, Berkley Heights, NJ 07922

Item:

3M 8511 Masks

Total Price:

\$16,200.00

Charged to:

0-01-190-231

Vendor:

BIS Digital, Inc., 1350 NE 56th Street, Suite 300, Fort Lauderdale, NJ 33334

Item:

PD - Annual Maintenance Contract

Total Price:

\$2, 976.00

Charged to:

0-01-190-273

Vendor:

NJ Fire Equipment Co., 119-131 Route 22 East, Green Brook, NJ 08812

Item:

FD - Equipment

Total Price:

\$25,257.42

Charged to:

C-02-915-A12

0-01-185-231

Vendor:

Sparta Discount Tire, Inc. 150 Woodport Road, Sparta, NJ 07871

Item:

PD-Tires

Total Price:

\$5,069.52

Charged to:

0-01-190-249

Wendy Robinson, Council President

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

Date:

November 5, 2020

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Purchases

C:

Finance

WHEREAS, as the public health emergency associated with the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the most significant negative financial impacts faced by county and municipal governments throughout New Jersey result from extreme economic contraction, deficits in tax and fee revenues, and extraordinary increases in public safety and health and human services expenditures; and

WHEREAS, severe fiscal stress limits the ability of counties and municipalities to maintain essential services and take the steps necessary to fight COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, without substantial federal assistance, residential taxpayers would absorb the primary impact of meeting these extraordinary needs and closing any associated operating deficits; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs ("DCA"), through the Division of Local Government Services ("DLGS" or "Division"), has been deemed the lead agency for the distribution of the Local Government Emergency Fund (the "LGEF" or "Program"), provided through an allocation of the State of New Jersey's CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF Funds); and

WHEREAS, counties and municipalities excluded from the federal government's direct CRF allocation plan, as well as those counties and municipalities that are currently the most impacted by COVID-19 in comparison to their available resources, are eligible for LGEF funds pursuant to a maximum distribution determined by formula; and

WHEREAS, a total of \$60 million is currently being made available under the Program, with a potential \$60 million more to be allocated; and

WHEREAS, LGEF Grants exist to support costs incurred as part of a local unit's response to COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the Borough of Watchung is authorized to apply for a LGEF Grant in the amount of \$74,512,00.

Wendy Robinson, Council President

Kéith S. Balla, Mayor

Date: November 5, 2020 Index: Finance Misc.

B Hance

CERTIFICATION

I, Edith Gil, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Watching in the County of Somerset, and the State of New Jersey do hereby Certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true copy of the Original Resolution duly passed and adopted by a majority of the full membership of the Mayor and Council at its meeting of November 5, 2020.

Edith G. Gil, Borough Clerk

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset. State of New Jersey, requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of these items of revenue in the budget of the year 2020 which is now available as a revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues: Section F: Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of Local Government Services - Public and Private Revenues Offset with

Appropriations:

State of NJ Recycling Tonnage Grant	\$ 11,239.24
Alcohol Educations, Rehabilitation & Enforcement Grant	\$ 250.06
Clean Communities Grant	\$ 14,272.06

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a like sum be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations: (A) Operations - Excluded from "CAPS": Public and Private Programs Offset by Revenues:

State of NJ Recycling Tonnage Grant	\$ 11,239.24
Alcohol Educations, Rehabilitation & Enforcement Grant	\$ 250.06
Clean Communities Grant	\$ 14,272.06

Date: November 5, 2020 Index: Finance - Budget C: B Hance, NJ DLGS

Adopted:

Attest:

Edith Gil, Borough Clerk

Date Signed: 11/5/2020

WHEREAS, the 2020 added & omitted assessment bills were not finalized in time for the regular mailing date; and

WHEREAS, the Borough must allow for 25 days from the date of mailing for the bills to begin accruing interest.

NOW,THEREFORE BE **IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to extend the grace period for the 2020 added and omitted assessment bills to November 30, 2020 as per NJ State Statute provisions.

Wendy Robinson, Council President

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

Date: Index:

C:

November 5, 2020

Finance Finance

Tax Collector

WHEREAS, a duplicate tax payment was made by Dustin Michael Antonio, and WHEREAS, the homeowner is requesting a refund of the overpayment.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the refund of said payments be made per the details listed below:

Block 3501 Lot 13

107 Lakeview Avenue

Dustin Michael & Daniela N Antonio

Amount: \$2,526.21

Wendy Robinson, Council President

Keith S. Balla Mayor

Date: November 5, 2020 Index: Finance Misc.

C: B Hance D Gaebele

WHEREAS, a duplicate tax payment was made by Allied Title LLC, and

WHEREAS, the bank is requesting a refund of the overpayment.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the refund of said payments be made per the details listed below:

Block 4312 Lot 6 225 Ridge Road Gustavo & Marybeth Lijo

Make Payable to:
Allied Title LLC
360 Route 24
Chester, New Jersey 07930
Amount: \$6.316.25

Wendy Robinson, Council President

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

Date: November 5, 2020 Index: Finance Misc. C: B Hance

D Gaebele

WHEREAS, escrow money was deposited for performance bonds, planning board fees, board of adjustment fees, and engineering review fees and balances remain as follows.

WHEREAS, Borough Professionals have determined that the projects have been accepted and professional charges incurred have been billed against the escrow accounts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized and directed to return the balance of the escrow deposits to the applicants.

Name	Escrow Account	Amount
Robert Adams	E-E20-102	\$500.00
Deerpath Custom Builders	E-BOND1352	\$4,400.00
Chalet Construction Corp.	E-E17-005	\$500.00
Maha, LLC	E-E20-132	\$500.00
Stella Couchells	E-BOND1559	\$1,400.00

Wendy Robinson, Council President

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

Date: November 5, 2020

Index: Finance Misc., Planning Bd.

C: Finance

WHEREAS, a property located at 65 Gallowae, also known as Block 4402 Lot 4, was sent a bill in the amount of \$465.00 for the 2020 sewer usage fee with a due date of July 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that there is no building on the property; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the property owner should not pay the sewer usage fee until a new building is connected to the sewer line.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the \$465.00 sewer usage fee for 2020 and any interest that may have accrued on it should be waived for the property located at 65 Gallowae and the Tax Collector is instructed to remove this from the ledger.

Wendy Robinson, Council President

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

Date:

November 5, 2020

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Finance Misc.

C:

B Hance

D Gaebele

WHEREAS, a property located at 869 Johnston Drive, also known as Block 6906 Lot 5, was sent a tax bill on July 29, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the homeowners claim that they did not receive the tax bill; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the property owners should not pay delinquent interest on bills that were not received.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the Tax Collector is authorized to reimburse the property \$110.61 in interest that was assessed for the delinquent payment.

Wendy Ropinson, Council President

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

Date: November 5, 2020 Index: Finance Misc.

C: B Hance D Gaebele

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, that the Borough Treasurer be, and is hereby directed to pay bills in the amount of \$7,459,071.97 per the attached bill list. The expenditures can be broken down into the following categories:

Affordable Housing Trust	\$	2,149.50
Animal Control	\$	7.80
Capital Fund	\$	43,127.50
Developer's Escrow	\$	11,147.50
Other Escrow	\$	347,399.75
Somerset County Taxes	\$	10,867.63
Somerset County Open Space Taxes	\$	1,028.73
Somerset County Library Taxes	\$	1,611.10
Watchung Board of Education Taxes	\$	• •
Watchung Hills Regional High School Taxes	*\$	-
Current Fund	\$	6,767,232.46
Grant Fund	\$	274,000.00
Watchung Community Foundation	\$	500.00
Total Expenditures:	\$	7,459,071.97

Lindsay Goodfoe Dary Eisenberg Knegten
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William J. Hance

mes Damato, Administrator

Date: November 5, 2020 M/9 (20 Index: Finance C: Finance

Whereas, the backbone of this great nation is its history; and

Whereas, historic preservation is a conversation with our past, about our future and is an important way for us to transmit our understanding of the past to future generations; and

Whereas, long-standing resident and former First Lady of Watchung Dorothy Addario started her first volunteer position in 1986 as a volunteer of the Watchung Rescue Squad where she "rode" as an EMT until 2008, but continued her service in other ways; and

Whereas, her leadership skills and commitment lead her to serve as the President of the Rescue Squad where she helped start the Tree of Light ceremony in Watchung, which now has a permanent location at the village green; and

Whereas, volunteerism is vital, fulfilling, and enriching to the participants as well as the recipients and Dorothy is certainly not shy about "giving back" to the community that she so loves. Dorothy served as President of the NJ Dietetic Association, was recognized as a winner of the 2011 "Profiles of Positive Aging" award by Somerset County, known as an advocate for every organization she becomes involved in, and cited for her signature home-baked cookies; and

Whereas, it is bittersweet that the Mayor and Council have accepted Dorothy's wishes to not renew her term as a Regular Member of the Historical Committee, where she spent hours along with other members gathering and organizing displays at the Texier House and spearheaded the Committee's goals while serving as Chair; and

Whereas, we know that Dorothy will continue to be a contributor and a mentor to those who will carry on the duties of the Historical Committee and it is only appropriate and with great honor that Dorothy Addario receive the

"Historical Committee Lifetime Member Emeritus"

distinction for her selfless dedication, devotion, contributions, and hard work in an effort to tell Watchung's story for our residents, past and present, and for those generations to come.

Lindsay Goodloe, Council Member

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

Date: November 5, 2020

Index: Misc.

C: Historical Comm.

WHEREAS, the Borough of Watchung's Recreation Commission wishes to sponsor a program to be hosted by Watchung Recreation Travel Basketball, and

WHEREAS, Governing Body of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey wishes to authorize said program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung that the use of Mobus Field is authorized for the intended use as noted below:

- 1. Watchung Recreation Travel Basketball, to hold basketball tryouts, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on November 7th, (Rain date: November 8th).
- 2. All approvals are subject to having a covid plan approved by the Office of Emergency Management and the Board of Health.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the Borough sponsored recreation program is approved as noted above.

Stephen Black, Council Member

tephen I. Black

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

Date:

November 5, 2020

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Recreation

C:

LM

^{*}During Public Portion, the Governing Body was made aware that this event would no longer move forward.

WHEREAS, the Governing Body previously adopted Resolution R12 on October 15, 2020 authorizing payment of accumulated benefits to Arlene McCoy, who resigned effective September 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, it was determined that additional time was unaccounted for and there is a need to revise the previously adopted resolution; and

WHEREAS, Arlene McCoy accumulated 676 hours of sick time to be paid at 25% of her current hourly rate and 75 hours of vacation time to be paid at her current hourly rate of pay.

NOW,THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung. County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that resolution R12 adopted October 15th be amended to reflect that Arlene McCoy receive payment for accumulated employee benefits as follows:

Vacation Time 75 hours x \$50.20 \$3,765.00

Sick Time 676 hours x \$12.55 \$8,483.80

Total: \$12,248.80

Ronal Jubin, Council Member

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

Date: November 5, 2020 Index: Finance Misc. C: BH, EH

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG RESOLUTION

ADOPTING REMOTE PUBLIC MEETING PROCEDURES AND PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS DURING A DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Division of Local Government Services recently released emergency regulations establishing standard protocols for remote public meetings held by a local public body during a Governor-declared emergency; and

WHEREAS, Local Finance Notice 2020-21 was released on September 24, 2020, to accompany and further explain the new regulations promulgated by the Division of Local Government Services; and

WHEREAS, these regulations include provisions concerning notice, public comment, and minimum requirements for remote meeting technologies, to ensure continuity of government operations and transparency in conducting public business when an emergency requires a governing body to meet remotely; and

WHEREAS, the regulations further require a local public body to adopt by resolution standard procedures and requirements for public comment period during a remote public meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung have determined to establish and adopt said procedures attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey hereby adopt the Remote Public Meeting Procedures and Procedures for Public Comment during a Declared State of Emergency attached hereto as **Exhibit A.**

Daryl Eisenberg Knegten, Council Member

Daryl Eisenberg Knegten

Keith S. Ball, Mayor

Date: November 5, 2020

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EXHIBIT A

Borough of Watchung Mayor and Council Remote Public Meeting Procedures during a Declared State of Emergency

Mayor and Council Meetings

To the extent possible, in-person public meetings remain the default during a declared emergency. Room capacity restrictions for in-person meetings shall be followed pursuant to Federal and/or State guidelines. In an effort to maximize transparency and the ability of the public to attend and offer public comment, the Mayor and Council have determined to adopt a hybrid public meeting model to conduct its Mayor and Council Meetings, which shall provide: (i) physical access to the public meetings at Borough Hall, subject to room capacity restrictions; and (ii) access through the electronic communication ZOOM platform for the members of the governing body and public's remote access. The hybrid-meeting model, with an online communication platform, is made available to provide many opportunities for the public's participation in the local government business without physical attendance during a declared state of emergency with attendant physical distancing limitations. In the event the Mayor determines that it is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Borough of Watchung to discontinue a hybrid public meeting model, the Mayor and Council may conduct its public meetings solely via electronic communications ZOOM platform, upon the issuance adequate notice to the public of the change in format of the meeting.

Notice of Meetings

Unless publicly noticed otherwise, public meetings of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung shall be conducted via a hybrid public meeting model allowing for in-person public attendance and access to the meetings via electronic communications platform. The Annual Notice of the Mayor and Council Meeting for 2020 shall be amended and published advising of the hybrid public meeting model to be utilized by the Mayor and Council for the remainder of 2020. Supplemental meeting notices, which include clear and concise instructions for accessing the meetings remotely, means for making public comment, and where relevant documents, if any, can be found, are: (i) advertised on the Borough website, www.watchungnj.gov; (ii) sent by email to all who requested copies of the regular meeting schedule, and (iii) posted on the indoor bulletin board and the main door of the Municipal Building.

Technology & Procedural Matters

Remote Meeting Platform

Until such time it is determined by the Mayor and Council that the Borough can safely accommodate the anticipated in-person public attendance for the Mayor and Council meetings, the Zoom electronic communication platform shall be available for every public meeting. The access phone number and computer link for the specified meeting will be available, at a minimum, two days prior to the public meeting. Members of the public attending the meeting

remotely may make public comment by via Zoom by way of audio and/or video during the meeting using computer and/or telephone access in accordance with the notice. Comments sent via chat on Zoom will not be accepted and will not be made part of the record/minutes.

Public Comments Submitted Prior to Meeting

The public may submit questions or comments via e-mail to publiccomment@watchungnj.gov no later than 6:00 pm on the day of the scheduled Mayor and Council meeting. The public may also submit public comments in written form via mail or hand delivered to Edith G. Gil, Borough Clerk at 15 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, NJ 07069, during regular business hours (8 am to 4 pm Monday-Friday), but in any event not later than 6:00 pm the day of the scheduled Mayor and Council meeting. Public comments received by electronic mail, U.S. mail, other paid carrier, or hand delivered after said date and time shall be read at the next regularly scheduled Mayor and Council meeting. Public comments submitted in writing prior to the meetings shall specifically state that the submission is for public comment at the Mayor and Council public meeting. In the event that said written public comment received relates to an issue on the Agenda, it shall be read aloud during the section of the meeting designated for Public Portion / Agenda Items Only. If the written public comment does not relate to or refer to a specific matter on the meeting agenda, the written public comment shall be read aloud during the Public Portion - General Discussion part of the Meeting.

Previously submitted public comments shall be read aloud and addressed during the public meeting that will be heard by all remote participants and the public. A three (3) minute time limit will be placed on the reading of each written comment. Each comment will be read from the beginning until the time limit is reached. Multiple public comments submitted by the same individual and/or entity shall be read in succession until the time limit is reached. The Mayor and/or Presiding Officer may pass over duplicate written comments; however, each duplicate comment will be noted for the record with the content summarized.

Written public comments shall be read aloud after all members of the public in physical attendance and remote participants who wish to provide public comment are accommodated.

Public Comments & Conduct from Remote Participants

The procedures and requirements for making public comment, along with an explanation of the audio muting function of the Zoom platform being used, will be announced by the Mayor, Presiding Officer and/or their designee at the beginning of the remote public meeting. The Mayor, Council and Borough Clerk will facilitate a dialogue with all commenters to the extent permitted by Zoom technology.

All participants must keep their microphones muted until directed otherwise. The Borough Clerk will also engage the Zoom Meeting mute function until the public comment section of the agenda is reached. Subsequent to the in-person members of the public engaging in public comment, all remote participants will be unmuted and asked to state their names and home addresses before making comment. The Borough Clerk will manage the order of the remote participants' comments.

If a member of the public becomes disruptive during a remote public meeting, including during any period for public comment, the Borough Clerk, at the direction of the Mayor and/or Presiding Officer, shall mute or continue muting the disruptive member of the public and warn that continued disruption may result in their being prevented from speaking during the remote public meeting or removed from the remote public meeting. Disruptive conduct includes sustained inappropriate behaviors such as, but not necessarily limited to, shouting, interruption, and/or use of profanity. Time permitting, the disruptive individual shall be allowed to speak after all other members of the public have been given the opportunity to speak. Should the person remain disruptive, the individual may be muted or kept on mute for the remainder of the remote public meeting, or removed from the remote public meeting.

Presentations or Documents

All documents made available in hard copy format to the public who appear in person will be available for download prior to the meeting. In addition to the Meeting Agenda and Remote Meeting Instructions, and to the extent available, documents will be accessible at www.watchungnj.gov.

AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF <u>BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG V.</u> <u>CENTURYLINK, INC., ET AL., DOCKET NUMBER SOM-L-1323-18</u>

WHEREAS, on or about October 10, 2016 there was a sanitary sewer line strike on Route 22 in the Borough of Watchung, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Watchung incurred costs and expenses as a result of the sanitary sewer strike; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Watchung filed a complaint in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Somerset County seeking recovery for the costs and expenses incurred as a result of the sanitary sewer strike in the matter titled <u>Borough of Watchung v. CenturyLink, Inc., et al.</u>, Docket Number SOM-L-1323-18 (the "Lawsuit"); and

WHEREAS, after extensive negotiations between the Parties through their legal counsel, and the assistance of a Court settlement conference, defendants have offered to resolve the matter for the payment of forty-five thousand six hundred nine dollars and eighty- three cents (\$45,609.83) in exchange for the dismissal of the Lawsuit and the execution of a Release of all claims against the defendants in the Lawsuit by the Borough; and

WHEREAS, after consultation with its legal counsel assigned to prosecute the Lawsuit, the Mayor and Council have determined that it is in the best interest of the Borough of Watchung to authorize the settlement of the Lawsuit.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey hereby authorizes the settlement of the matter titled <u>Borough of Watchung v. CenturyLink, Inc., et al.</u>, Docket Number SOM-L-1323-18, for the payment of forty-five thousand six hundred nine dollars and eighty- three cents (\$45,609.83) in exchange for the dismissal with prejudice of the Lawsuit and the execution of a Release of all claims against the defendants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Watchung that it hereby authorizes and directs the Mayor, and other officials and employees, including assigned legal counsel, to take all necessary actions in order to effectuate the terms and provisions of this Resolution and the settlement of the Lawsuit, including but not limited to the execution of a dismissal with prejudice of the Lawsuit and a Release in a form acceptable to special legal counsel assigned by the Borough to this matter.

Ronald Jubin, Council Member

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

Date: November 5, 2020

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WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(1-9) permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, as follows:

- 1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of the closed session of November 5, 2020.
- 2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

Personnel Matter Contract Negotiation Litigation Matters

- 3. Minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public.
- 4. The Borough Council may take official action on those items discussed in executive session upon completion of the executive session.

Wendy Røbinson, Council President

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

Date: November 5, 2020

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