MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, July 13, 2026
Council Chambers 7:30pm

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Council President Criscuolo called the meeting to order at 7:31pm.

SALUTE TO FLAG

Council President Criscuolo asked all in attendance to join him in a Salute to the Flag.

SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT

Council President Criscuolo read the Sunshine Statement into the record, as follows:

"In accordance with the provisions set forth in the Open Public Meetings Law, notification of this meeting has been sent to all officially appointed Township newspapers and notice is posted at the Municipal Office and on the Township website."

ROLL CALL

Councilman Tolomeo, Councilman Ben-Yiahy, Councilman Donvan, Council Vice President Sieg and Council President Criscuolo were present.

Also present: Mayor Mark Bromberg, Township Attorney Silvana Raso, Township Engineer Chris Statile, and Township Clerk Karen Campanelli.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Bromberg reported on the July 4th storm, the north end of Town lost power but, in most areas, it was returned the next day. He added that the DPW has been out cleaning up the storm debris.

He announced that for the 250th Anniversary the County will be holding a commemoration of the Baylor Massacre site on September 27th.

The Mayor reported that the new Police Department did receive a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy. He explained that there are still a number of issues that need to be taken care of and it is still not operational.

Township Engineer Report

Mr. Statile reported that the Bergen County Police Department has requested they change some of the striping on Rivervale Road and Prospect Avenue due to safety concerns. This work will be done as part of the Road Program.

The PSEG underground electrical work is complete, and they will return later in the summer to mill and repave the roads. He next reported on the NJDOT grant received for Baylor and Bernita Drive, they are awarding a contract for the work to D & L Paving, which also includes the 2026 Road Program and paving the parking lot used for the Farmer's Market.

Mr. Statile continued that they will also be awarding a contract to Green Valley for the resurfacing of the Tennis Courts. He added that Green Valley also did the Pickleball Courts in Town. Mr. Statile continued that they will be repairing the Allison Drive storm drainpipe as part of the 2026 Road Program. He concluded that they submitted a Bergen County Open Space Grant Application requesting $100,000 for the reconstruction of the Mark Lane Basketball Courts.

Council Vice President Sieg asked if Chris will be overseeing the paving of the roads near Bailey. Mr. Statile assured her that he would be.

Council Comments

Councilman Tolomeo had no comments.

Councilman Ben-Yishay announced that the new flock of deer have been born doubling their numbers in the past six weeks.

Councilman Donovan had no comments.

Council Vice President Sieg commented that the deer situation is out of control. She added that it's a problem that they can't solve alone and the County needs to step up.

Council President Criscuolo had no comments.

1st Hearing of the Public

Motion by Councilman Ben-Yishay second by Councilman Tolomeo to open the meeting to the public.
All in Favor: Aye

Kanchan Devarakonda—544 Bernita Drive—questioned when the Tennis Courts were done a few years ago the proper tennis court surface was not used. She added that her family used to play there but the surface was ridged.

Council President Criscuolo responded that that courts were done several years ago and the surface wasn't improper just different type of surface that was supposed to require much less maintenance. He added that it was great that courts required less maintenance, but the surface was less playable. Council President Criscuolo further commented that they are going back to the traditional tennis court asphalt surface.

Ms. Devarakonda also asked if they were planning on putting up lights at the courts. Council President Criscuolo clarified that the tennis courts were only being resurfaced and no lights are being added.

There being no further questions or comments from the public. Motion by Councilman Tolomeo second by Councilwoman Sieg to close the hearing of the public.
All in Favor: Aye

RESOLUTIONS

Motion by Councilman Tolomeo second by Councilwoman Sieg to approve Resolution #2026-155 as follows:

Resolution #2026-155

RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES JUNE 22, 2026, COUNCIL MEETING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale, that the minutes of the June 22, 2026, Council meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Tolomeo, Councilman Ben-Yishay, and Council Vice President Sieg voted yes. Council President Criscuolo and Councilman Donovan abstained.

Motion by Councilman Tolomeo second by Councilman Donovan to approve Resolutions #2026-156 through Resolution #2026-165 as a Consent Agenda as follows:

Resolution #2026-156

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE DEVELOPER'S AGREEMENT WITH LAKE TAPPAN VILLAGE, LLC (BLOCK 701, LOT 5)

WHEREAS, the Developer, Lake Tappan Village, LLC, is the contract purchaser of property owned by the Township of River Vale and shown on the Tax Map of the Township of River Vale as Block 701, Lot 5; and,

WHEREAS, the Developer plans to construct an inclusionary for sale affordable housing development in accordance with the Settlement Agreement entered into between the Township and Fair Share Housing Center under Docket No.: BER-L-677-15; and,

WHEREAS, the Settlement Agreement, dated September 8, 2017, contemplates twelve (12) for sale Affordable Housing units to be deed restricted in accordance with the law with eleven (11) of the units counting towards the Township's third round obligation, one (1) unit carrying to the fourth-round obligation, and twenty-three (23) Market Rate for sale units with no restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Planning Board approved the proposed subdivision and site plan by Resolution on January 15, 2025.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign the Developers Agreement with Lake Tappan Village, LLC for the housing development located at Block 701, Lot 5.

Resolution #2026-157

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING CONTRACT WITH APPROVED STATE VENDOR FOR CONTRACTING UNITS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2A (GABRIELLI TRUCK SALES)

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29(c), may by resolution and without advertising for bids, purchase any goods or services under the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program for any State contracts entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the Treasury; and

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale has a need on a timely basis to purchase the following vehicle for the Department of Public Works utilizing State contracts:

2027 Kenworth T480 Truck

WHEREAS, the State Contract price is:

Purchase Price: $ 153,759.23

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds are available in the General Capital Account; and

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale intends to enter a Purchase contract with Gabrielli Truck Sales, 239 Bergen Turnpike, Ridgefield Park, New Jersey (Sourcewell 032824-KTC) through this resolution and properly executed contracts, which shall be subject to all the conditions applicable to the current State contracts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of River Vale authorizes the Purchasing Agent to purchase the above listed vehicle from Gabrielli Truck Sales pursuant to all conditions of the individual State contracts.

Resolution #2026-158

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING CONTRACT WITH APPROVED STATE VENDOR FOR CONTRACTING UNITS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2A (CLIFFSIDE BODY CORPORATION)

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29(c), may by resolution and without advertising for bids, purchase any goods or services under the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program for any State contracts entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the Treasury; and

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale has a need on a timely basis to purchase the following equipment for the 2027 Kenworth T480 truck for the Department of Public Works utilizing State contracts:

Stainless Steel Dump Body/Snowplow/Hydraulic Salt Spreader

WHEREAS, the State Contract price is:

Purchase Price: $ 144,388.00

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds are available in the General Capital Account; and

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale intends to enter a Purchase contract with Cliffside Body Corporation, 130 Broad Avenue., Fairview, New Jersey (BID# ESCNJ 23/24-04 NJ CO-OP #65MCESCCPS) through this resolution and properly executed contracts, which shall be subject to all the conditions applicable to the current State contracts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of River Vale authorizes the Purchasing Agent to purchase the above listed equipment for the 2027 Kenworth T480 truck from Cliffside Body Corporation pursuant to all conditions of the individual State contracts.

Resolution #2026-159

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A MUTUAL AID AND ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE AND THE

PEARL RIVER FIRE DISTRICT

WHEREAS, mutual aid and assistance agreements between municipalities, counties, fire districts, and volunteer fire companies are permitted and authorized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-156.1; and

WHEREAS, the sharing of fire service resources, apparatus, and personnel provides a higher level of protection, health, safety, and welfare for the residents of the Township of River Vale in the event of an emergency that exceeds local resources; and

WHEREAS, mutual aid is the most cost-effective method of providing sufficient resources to a local jurisdiction for those extraordinary occurrences; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Township to enter into a reciprocal mutual aid and assistance agreement with the Pearl River Fire District-New York. .

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign the Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with the Pearl River Fire District-New York.

Resolution #2026-160

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NOT-TO-EXCEED LIMITATIONS FOR

CHRISTOPHER P. STATILE, P.A. (NEW DPW STORAGE BUILDING)

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2026, the Township Engineer, Christopher P. Statile, P.A. submitted a proposal for the preparation of bid specifications and the provision of full-time inspection and monitoring services for the construction of a new DPW Storage Building as follows:

- **Project Design, Specifications and Construction Monitoring Services: $ 83,500.00**

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified the availability of funds in the General Capital Account.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that not to exceed limitations are hereby approved and established in the amount of $ 83,500.00 for the engineering firm of Christopher P. Statile, P.A.

Resolution #2026-161

Resolution Re: Special Emergency – Preparation of Tax Map and

Reassessment Program

WHEREAS, an ordinance has been approved creating a special emergency appropriation of $475,000 to meet certain expenses to be incurred for the preparation of a tax map and a reassessment program, by the Township of River Vale, and no adequate provision was made in the Township budget for the aforesaid purpose, and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53 provides for the creation of a special emergency appropriation for the purposes mentioned, and

WHEREAS, the total amount of the emergency appropriations created including the appropriations to be created by this resolution is $475,000 and three percent of the total operations in the budget for the year 2026 is $624,530;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with NJ.S.A. 40A:4-53:

1. A Special Emergency Appropriation be and the same is hereby made for:

   Preparation of Tax Maps……$100,000

   Reassessment Program…… $375,000
   $475,000

2. Total amount of the ordinance is for $475,000 and the Township hereby requests that an exclusion from the "CAP" be granted by the Director of Local Government services in accordance with P.L. 1981, Chapter 56, in the amount of $95,000 per year in the budgets of the next five (5) succeeding years commencing with the budget of 2027 in accordance with 40A:4-55(c).

3. That a special emergency note or notes be authorized not in excess of $475,000, the amount appropriated by ordinance as stated above.

4. That said special emergency note or notes may be renewed from time to time and at least 1/5 of all such notes and renewals thereof shall mature and be paid in each fiscal year thereafter until all are paid.

5. The Mayor and the Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to execute said notes, and the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to affix the seal of the Township to such notes and to attest such seal and said notes, and said officers are hereby authorized to issue said notes in such form as they may adopt in conformity with law and to recite therein that all requirements and conditions of law have been complied with in the issuance of said notes, and that said notes are within every debt and other limit prescribed by the Constitution or statutes of New Jersey.

6. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell said notes and any renewals thereof from time to time, at not less than par and accrued interest and to determine within the limitations prescribed by this resolution, the date, principal amount, maturity date, and denomination of said notes, and the rate of interest said notes shall bear and to deliver such notes upon receiving the purchase price to be paid therefor.

7. That two (2) certified copies of this Resolution be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Resolution #2026-162

RESOLUTION AWARDING THE

RECONSTRUCTION OF TOWN HALL TENNIS COURTS

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2026, the Township received bids for the Reconstruction of the Town Hall Tennis Courts Project; and

WHEREAS, the bid received from Green Valley Group, Inc., 110 Crooked Hill Road, Pearl River New York has been reviewed and approved and is hereby accepted as the lowest responsible bidder at the price of

Total Base Bid: $ 194,550.00

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available in an amount not to exceed $ 194,550.00 in the Open Space and Bergen County Open Space Grant Accounts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the bid from Green Valley Group, Inc. is accepted as the lowest responsible bidder. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and requested to execute a Contract on behalf of the Township of River Vale for the Reconstruction of the Town hall Tennis Courts Project as described in the Bid Specifications.

Resolution #2026-163

RESOLUTION AWARDING THE

2026 NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID & ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2026, the Township received bids for the 2026 NJDOT Municipal Aid and Road Resurfacing Program; and

WHEREAS, the bid received from D & L Paving Contractors, Inc., 675 Franklin Avenue, Nutley, New Jersey has been reviewed and approved and is hereby accepted as the lowest responsible bidder at the price of

Base Bid: $ 977,848.90

Alternate Bid #1 Manhole Casting/Lid Replacement (20): $ 24,000.00

Alternate Bid #2 Concrete Curb (800 L.F.): $ 36,000.00

TOTAL: $ 1,037,848.90

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available in an amount not to exceed $ 1,037,848.90 in the NJDOT Grant and Capital Accounts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the bid from D & L Paving Contractors. Inc. is accepted as the lowest responsible bidder. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and requested to execute a Contract on behalf of the Township of River Vale for the 2026 NJDOT Municipal Aid and Road Resurfacing Program as described in the Bid Specifications.

Resolution #2026-164

Payment of Bills

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Business Administrator is hereby authorized to pay the following claims:

CURRENT ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 563,168.37
RESERVE CURRENT ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 235,690.56
GOLF COURSE UTILITY OPERATING ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 347,984.87
RESERVE GOLF COURSE UTILITY OPERATING ACCT claims in the amount of:	$
HOUSING TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	
TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 170,033.92
SNOW REMOVAL TRUST claims in the amount of:	$ 30,898.03

ANIMAL TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$
RECREATION TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 9,254.10
PRIVATE DUTY TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$
STATE & FEDERAL GRANT claims in the amount of:	$
OPEN SPACE TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	
CAPITAL ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 124,953.53
UTILITY CAPITAL ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$
ACCUMULATED ABSENCE TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	
PROJECT/BUILDERS ESCROW ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 4,920.00
PLANNING BOARD TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 55.50
SPECIAL TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 410.00
ZONING BOARD TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	

TOTAL CLAIMS TO BE PAID $ 1,514,368.88

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the following claims have been paid by the Business Administrator prior to the Bills List Resolution in the following amounts:

CURRENT ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 5,776,814.54
RESERVE CURRENT ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 52,752.47
GOLF COURSE UTILITY OPERATING ACCOUNT claims in the amount of	$ 511,301.74
RESERVE GOLF COURSE UTILITY OPERATING ACCT claims in the amount of:	
HOUSING TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$
STATE & FEDERAL GRANT claims in the amount of:	$
PAYROLL AGENCY ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 4,006.50
RECREATION TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 6,640.25
OPEN SPACE TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$
ACCUMULATED ABSENSES ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 125,815.71
UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$
GOLF COURSE UTILITY CAPITAL ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 42,255.56
CAPITAL ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 132,663.91
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TRUST claims in the amount of:	
TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 350.00
PLANNING BOARD TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 1,922.86
SPECIAL TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 2,817.50
ZONING BOARD TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	$ 1,163.78
PERFORMANCE BOND claims in the amount of:	

TOTAL CLAIMS PAID **$ 6,655,687.32**

TOTAL BILLS LIST RESOLUTION **$ 8,170,056.20**

MANUAL DISBURSEMENTS BILLS LIST JULY 13, 2026

06/15/2026 Transfer Payroll	$ 351,994.49
06/30/2026 Transfer Payroll	$ 439,870.06
07/15/2026 Transfer Payroll	$ 407,416.07

TOTAL STATUTORY DISTRIBUTIONS **$ 1,199,280.62**

Resolution #2026-165

RESOLUTION ENDORSING REVOLUTION NJ IN COMMEMORATING THE 250th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION

WHEREAS, Governor Philip Murphy and the New Jersey State Legislature created RevolutionNJ in 2018 to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, New Jersey's pivotal role in the American Revolution, and the contributions of its diverse peoples to the nation's past, present, and future; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Historical Commission, under the leadership of Secretary of State Tahesha Way, with its non-profit partner Crossroads of the American Revolution established RevolutionNJ to advance the role that history plays in public discourse, community engagement, education, tourism, and scholarship in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, RevolutionNJ will engage New Jerseyans in all 21 counties and 564 municipalities through its officially recognized programs, initiatives, and events over the next ten years; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and desirable that we commemorate the beginning of the Nation and the role New Jersey played over the past 250 years as well as its present and future role as part of the United States, with particular focus on the individuals, ideas, and events that shaped our Country, State, and Township; and

WHEREAS, RevolutionNJ will consider the role New Jersey played during the American Revolution when it saw more battles and skirmishes than any other state and was truly the Crossroads of the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, RevolutionNJ will highlight the role New Jerseyans played beyond the battlefield during the American Revolution when people of diverse backgrounds contributed to the development of the State and the Nation in various ways and fought for the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, preserving, studying, and enjoying state history strengthens communities and builds bonds between New Jersey residents as we work together toward the goals of justice and equality embedded in the United States Constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of River Vale hereby endorses RevolutionNJ and its mission to advance the role that history plays in public discourse, community engagement, education, tourism and scholarship in New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

1. The Township Council of the Township of River Vale commemorates the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the United States as an independent Nation.

2. The Township Council of the Township of River Vale authorizes the appointment of a committee to develop a plan for this commemoration that will promote the maximum

involvement of our residents, neighborhoods, businesses, schools, civic organizations, and institutions in the commemorations.

3. The Township Council of the Township of River Vale further urges all its residents to reflect upon the significance of this event and the role that our State and its diverse people have played in the history and development of our Nation and to participate in this important commemoration, endeavoring to include the stories of all those whose lives are part of the history of what we now know as New Jersey, and understanding that the revolution continues today as we uphold the revolutionary ideals articulated in our founding documents.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Tolomeo, Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, Council Vice President Sieg and Council President Criscuolo voted yes.

Ordinances for 1st Reading

ORDINANCE #479-2026

Motion to Introduce: Councilman Donovan

Second: Councilman Ben-Yishay

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 142 OF THE CODE ENTITLED "LAND USE" PART 5 "SHADE TREES" TO REMOVE ARTICLE XXVI SECTIONS 142-134 THROUGH 142 "SHADE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE" IN ITS ENTIRETY

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale, that Chapter 142 of the Township Code is hereby amended as follows:

Article XXVI **Shade Tree Advisory Committee**

~~§ 142-134 **Establishment; membership; terms; appointment.**~~

~~There is hereby established the Advisory Shade Tree Committee of the Township of River Vale. The Committee shall consist of seven members, three of whom shall be the Property Maintenance Officer and the Superintendent of Public Works and the Land Use Administrator. Their terms of office shall commence upon the day of their appointment. The terms of office of the additional five members shall commence upon the day of their appointment and be for the respective periods of one, two, three, four and five years, beginning on January 1 next succeeding such appointment. The terms of each appointee shall be designated in his or her appointment. All subsequent appointments, except to fill vacancies, shall be for the full term of five years, to take effect on January 1. The members shall be residents of the Township, appointed by the Mayor and shall serve without compensation except as hereinafter provided.~~

~~§ 142-135 **Organization.**~~

~~The Committee shall organize within 30 days after the appointment of its total membership for the remainder of the then calendar year, and thereafter annually by the election of one of its members as Chairperson and the appointment of a Secretary, who need not be a member.~~

~~§ 142-136 **Definitions.**~~

~~As used in this Part **5**, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:~~

~~**PERSON** Any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation or other entity.~~

~~**PUBLIC PLACE** Includes any public street or highway, including the right-of-way, and any park, playground or other property or place owned by or under the control of the Township of River Vale.~~

TREE Trees of all types having a diameter of two inches or greater measured at a point 4 1/2 feet above the ground (diameter breast height) and any and all shrubs or hedges over three feet in height.

§ 142-137**Powers and duties.**

A.

The Advisory Shade Tree Committee shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all trees and shrubs within the right-of-way lines of public streets in the Township and is authorized to plant, remove, maintain and protect trees and shrubs within the right-of-way lines of public streets and highways and zoned Conservation Districts in the Township.

B.

To regulate and control the use of the ground surrounding the same so far as may be necessary for their proper growth, care and protection.

C.

Move or require the removal of any tree or part thereof dangerous to public safety. The Committee shall give reasonable notice of its intention to remove, or cause the removal of, a tree or part of a tree dangerous to public safety, unless public safety requires immediate removal, in which case no notice shall be necessary.

D.

To recommend to the Township the creation of amendments to or repeal of ordinances adopted by the governing body necessary or proper for carrying out the provisions hereof.

E.

To order treatment and/or removal of any tree situated upon private property which is believed to harbor a disease or insects readily communicable to neighboring healthy trees in the care of the municipality and to enter upon private property for that purpose with the consent of the owner thereof, provided that the suspected condition is first confirmed by a certificate issued by or on behalf of the Department of Agriculture.

F.

To study and recommend methods of funding, outside of municipal taxation, by grants and aid, both state and federal.

G.

To develop a program of tree planting and overall beautification in areas along the public right-of-way and upon public property and to develop a master plan for the care and control of existing shade trees and ornamental trees and the planting of new trees throughout the Township. Said survey and master plan shall be submitted to Township Council for its review and approval annually, but in no event later than March 31 of the next succeeding year.

H.

To give advice relative to shade tree issues to the Township Joint Planning Board.

I.

To provide a procedure for removing or trimming existing trees where necessary because the tree is either dead, diseased or injured by storm or similar consequences.

§ 142-138**Cost of planting.**

The cost and expense of planting trees and for caring for trees which may have been planted or for which care has been provided by the Committee may be paid for by the Shade Tree Committee out of such money as may be appropriated from time to time by the Township Council.

§ 142-139**Permit required for certain activities.**

No person, except Township employees acting under instruction for the Township Council, shall do or cause to be done any of the following acts within the Township of River Vale street rights-of-way or the zoned Conservation District without a written permit issued by the Department of Public Works, on recommendation of the Property Maintenance Officer:

A.

Cut or trim any limb two inches or more in diameter, break, climb with spikes, disturb the roots of or otherwise injure or spray with any chemical or remove any living tree or shrub or injure, misuse or remove any structure or device placed to support or protect such tree or shrub.

B.

Plant any tree or shrub.

C.

Fasten any rope, wire, electrical attachment, sign or other device to a tree or shrub or to any guard about such tree or shrub, except support ropes or wire.

D.

Close or obstruct any open space provided about the base of a tree or shrub which will prevent access of air, water or fertilizer to the roots of such tree or shrub.

E.

Pile any building material or make any mortar or cement within six feet of a tree or shrub.

F.

Allow any herbicidal gaseous, liquid or solid substance to make contact with the stem or roots of any trees or shrub within the Township right-of-way.

G.

Top any tree, "topping" being defined as the severe cutting back on limbs to stubs larger than three inches in diameter within the tree's crown to such a degree so as to remove the canopy and/or disfigure the tree. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes or certain trees under utility wires or other obstructions where normal pruning practices are impractical may be exempted from this chapter at the discretion of the Shade Tree Committee.

§ 142-140**Trees to be reduced to surface.**

Any person who has received written permission to remove any tree or shrub must reduce it to the surface of the ground.

§ 142-141**Interference with Advisory Shade Tree Committee.**

No person shall delay or interfere with any lawful work undertaken by the Advisory Shade Tree Committee or its authorized agent.

§ 142-142**Violations and penalties.**

Any person who shall violate any provision of this Part **5** shall be liable to a fine for the violation of each rule or regulation in the amount not exceeding $300 for each violation and/or a replacement of tree illegally removed. Summons for violation of this Part **5** are to be issued by the Property Maintenance Officer.

This Ordinance shall take effect following adoption and approval in a time and manner prescribed by law.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Tolomeo, Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, Council Vice President Sieg and Council President Criscuolo voted yes.

ORDINANCE #480-2026

Motion to Introduce: Councilman Donovan

Second: Councilman Ben-Yishay

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 225 OF THE CODE ENTITLED "TREE REMOVAL"

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale, that Chapter 225 of the Township Code is hereby amended as follows:

Chapter 225 Tree Removal **& Maintenance (ADD)**

§ 225-2 **Definitions.**

STREET TREE (ADD)

A tree growing within the public right-of-way. In the Township of River Vale, property owners are responsible for the maintenance, including removal, of all trees within the public right-of-way adjacent to their property.

§ 225-4 **Permit required.**

B. (1)

A tree removal permit shall be required prior to the cutting for removal of more than one tree on a tax lot within any twenty-four-month period. Any tree removal ~~conducted in conjunction with the issuance of a soil moving permit or building permit~~ shall require the replacement of two trees for every tree removed regardless of the number removed. All tree replacement shall be in accordance with § **225-5D**. Donations to the Shade Tree Fund may be approved when the required replacement is not feasible.

C.

All tree removals on public lands, including the public right-of-way, shall be reviewed by the Enforcement Officer prior to cutting. At the discretion of the Enforcement Officer, the tree replacements as prescribed in § **225-5D** shall be provided. Property owners are responsible for the maintenance, including removal, of all street trees within the public right-of-way adjacent to their property.

ADD New Section

§ 225-12 Permit required for certain activities**.**

No person, except Township employees acting under instruction from the Enforcement Officer, shall do or cause to be done any of the following acts within the Township of River Vale street rights-of-way and/or easement without a written permit issued by the Enforcement Officer:

A. Cut or trim any limb six inches or more in diameter, break, climb with spikes, disturb the roots of or otherwise injure or spray with any chemical or remove any living tree or shrub or injure, misuse or remove any structure or device placed to support or protect such tree or shrub.

B. Plant any tree or shrub.

C. Fasten any rope, wire, electrical attachment, sign or other artificial device to a tree or shrub, except support ropes or wire.

D. Close or obstruct any open space provided about the base of a tree or shrub which will prevent access of air, water or fertilizer to the roots of such tree or shrub.

E. Pile any building material or dispose of any mortar or cement within six feet of a tree or shrub canopy.

F. Allow any herbicidal gaseous, liquid or solid substance to make contact with the stem or roots of any trees or shrub within the Township right-of-way.

G. Top any tree, "topping" being defined as the severe cutting back on limbs to stubs larger than three inches in diameter within the tree's crown to such a degree so as to remove the canopy and/or disfigure the tree. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes or certain trees under utility wires or other obstructions where normal pruning practices are impractical may be exempted from this chapter at the discretion of the Enforcement Officer.

This Ordinance shall take effect following adoption and approval in a time and manner prescribed by law.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Tolomeo, Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, Council Vice President Sieg and Council President Criscuolo voted yes.

Ordinance for 2nd Reading and Public Hearing

ORDINANCE #478-2026

Motion to Adopt: Councilman Tolomeo

Second: Councilman Ben-Yishay

Motion by Councilwoman Sieg second by Councilman Tolomeo to open the Public hearing on Ordinance #478-2026.

There being no questions of comments from the public. Motion by Councilman Ben-Yishay and second by Councilman Donovan to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #478-2026.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THE PREPARATION OF A TAX MAP AND A REASSESSMENT PROGRAM, AND AUTHORIZING SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS OF $475,000 THEREFOR AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL EMERGENCY NOTES

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY (NOT LESS THAN TWO-THIRDS OF all members thereof affirmatively concurring) AS FOLLOWS**:**

SECTION 1. For the preparation of a reassessment program to update and make current a previous revaluation of real property in the Township of River Vale as ordered by the Bergen County Board of Taxation, there is hereby appropriated the sum of $375,000 as a special emergency appropriation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53(b).

SECTION 2. For the preparation of an approved tax map there is hereby appropriated the sum of $100,000 as a special emergency appropriation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53(a).

SECTION 3. For the purpose of financing the special emergency appropriations referred to in Sections 1 and 2 herein, special emergency notes of the Township are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of $475,000 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-55. At least one-fifth (1/5) of all such special emergency notes, and the renewals thereof, shall mature and be paid in each year, so that all such special emergency notes shall have matured and have been paid not later than the last day of the fifth year following the date of adoption of this ordinance.

SECTION 4. All special emergency notes issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer; provided that no note shall mature later than one (1) year from its date. The notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer. Chief Financial Officer shall determine all matters in connection with notes issued pursuant to this ordinance, and the Chief Financial Officer's signature upon the notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. All notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-55(b). The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the notes from time to time, at not less than par and accrued interest, at public or private sale and to deliver them to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price plus accrued interest from their dates to the date of delivery thereof. The Chief Financial Officer is directed to report in writing to the governing body at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the notes pursuant to this ordinance is made. Such report shall include the amount, the description, the interest rate and the maturity schedule of the notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

SECTION 5. All special emergency notes issued pursuant to this ordinance shall be executed by the Chief Financial Officer and the Mayor of the Township and shall be under the seal of the Township and attested by the Township Clerk. Such officers are hereby authorized to execute and deliver all documents necessary or convenient in connection with the issuance, sale and delivery of the special emergency notes.

SECTION 6. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53, the Clerk is directed to file a copy of this Ordinance as adopted with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption as provided by N.J.S.A. 40:49-27.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Tolomeo, Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, Council Vice President Sieg and Council President Criscuolo voted yes.

2nd Hearing of the Public

Motion by Councilman Ben-Yishay second by Councilman Tolomeo to open the meeting to the public.
All in Favor: Aye

There being no questions or comments. Motion by Councilman Donovan second by Councilwoman Sieg to close the meeting to the public.
All in Favor: Aye

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Donovan second by Councilman Tolomeo to adjourn the meeting 7:50pm.
All in Favor: Aye

Council President Criscuolo

ATTEST: *Karen Campanelli, Township Clerk*