

**MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
JANUARY 6, 2022 - VIRTUAL MEETING**

REORGANIZATION MEETING

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session and reorganization meeting on Thursday, January 6, 2022, at 7:00 p. m. via electronic communication.

Council President Pedroso read the following announcement:

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT OF NEW JERSEY, ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS PROVIDED ON DECEMBER 15, 2021, WITH WRITTEN NOTICE AND ELECTRONIC NOTICE PROVIDED TO THE COURIER NEWS AND THE BREEZE POSTING ON THE WEBSITE AND THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND FILING WITH THE TOWNSHIP CLERK. A SUBSEQUENT NOTICE WITH LIVESTREAM INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED ON JANUARY 4, 2022:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://webinar.ringcentral.com/j/1462607955>

Notice of Meeting

Roll Call

On call of the roll, the following Council members were present:

Councilman Michael Kirsh
Councilman Howard V. Norgalis
Councilman Timothy Ring
Council Vice President Allen F. Kurdyla
Council President Filipe Pedroso

Also Present: Matthew C. Moench, Mayor
Michael Pappas, Township Administrator
Scott Maraldo, Director Office of Constituent Relations
Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney
Linda J. Doyle, Township Clerk
Grace Njuguna, Deputy Township Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Council President Pedroso led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

Invocation was presented by: David Hobbs, Pastor of the Macedonia Baptist Church

Certification of Election

Linda Doyle, Township Clerk read the Certification of Election as follows:

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION

A statement of the determination of the Board of Canvassers of Somerset County, New Jersey, relative to an election held in the County of Somerset on November 2, 2021, for the election of the following mentioned offices in the Township of Bridgewater.

THREE (3) FOUR-YEAR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL SEATS - The said Board does determine that Allen F. Kurdyla, Howard V. Norgalis and Filipe Pedroso were duly elected to the Township Council.

Video of Oaths of Office Scott Maroldo, Director of Office of Constituent Relations presented the videos of each Councilman as they were sworn into Office.

OATHS OF OFFICE MEMORIALIZED

COUNCILMAN - ALLEN F. KURDYLA

Performed by Chris Corsini, Esq.

COUNCILMAN - HOWARD V. NORGALIS

Performed by Linda J. Doyle, RMC

COUNCILMAN - FILIPE PEDROSO

Performed by Assemblyman Erik Peterson, Esq.,

Council President Outgoing Address

Council President Pedroso gave his outgoing address:
The address is appended to the official minutes. [\(Schedule A\)](#)

Council Address

COUNCILMAN - HOWARD V. NORGALIS
The address is appended to the official minutes. [\(Schedule D\)](#)

COUNCILMAN - TIMOTHY RING
The address is appended to the official minutes. [\(Schedule E\)](#)

Selection of Council President

SELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Council President Pedroso nominated Councilman Allen Kurdyla to serve as Council President for the year 2022. Councilman Norgalis seconded the motion. The vote on the foregoing motion was as follows:

Councilman Kurdyla	Abstain
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Council President Pedroso	Aye

Selection of Council Vice-President

SELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

Council President Kurdyla nominated Councilman Kirsh to serve as Council Vice-President for the year 2022. Councilman Norgalis seconded the motion. The vote on the foregoing motion was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Abstain
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

**President's
Message**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT KURDYLA'S MESSAGE

The message is attached to the official minutes. [\(Schedule B\)](#)

**State of the
Township
Address**

MAYOR MATTHEW C. MOENCH STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP ADDRESS

The address is appended to the official minutes. [\(Schedule C\)](#)

**MAYOR APPOINTMENTS WITH ADVICE AND CONSENT
(Staff)**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT KURDYLA READ THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS:

APPOINTMENT OF QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT, ROSE WITT AS 2022 PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, second of Councilman Ring, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-06-001](#) is appended to the official minutes.

APPOINTMENT OF KATHLEEN E. HOWES AS CHIEF MUNICIPAL JUDGE

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, second of Councilman Ring, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye

Council President Kurdyla Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-06-002](#) is appended to the official minutes.

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR CHRISTOPHER M. CORSINI, ESQ. AND THE LAW FIRM OF SAVO, SCHALK, GILLESPIE, O’GRODNICK & FISHER, P.A., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$460,000 FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2022 TO DECEMBER 31, 2022

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, second of Councilman Ring, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-06-003](#) is appended to the official minutes.

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM H. BURR, P.E. OF COLLIERS ENGINEERING & DESIGN AS TOWNSHIP ENGINEER FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2022 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$120,000

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, second of Councilman Ring, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-06-004](#) is appended to the official minutes.

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF SCARLETT DOYLE TOWNSHIP PLANNER AN AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000 FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2022

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, second of Councilman Ring, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
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Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-06-005](#) is appended to the official minutes.

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES: CHIEF MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR JOHN LANZA, ESQ. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$80,000 FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2022

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, second of Councilman Ring, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-06-006](#) is appended to the official minutes.

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES: MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER TO BRITT J. SIMON, ESQ. FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2022 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, second of Councilman Ring, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-06-007](#) is appended to the official minutes.

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES: FIRST ALTERNATE MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER TO SCOTT C. MITZNER, ESQ. FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2022 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,400

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, second of Councilman Ring, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-06-008](#) is appended to the official minutes.

AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF QUALIFIED FIRMS AS CONFLICT MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2022 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, second of Councilman Ring, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-06-009](#) is appended to the official minutes.

AUTHORIZING AN AWARD OF CONTRACT TO ROUND HILL RISK PARTNERS, LLC OF 788 MORRIS TURNPIKE, SUITE 101, SHORT HILLS, NJ 07078 TO SERVE AS THE TOWNSHIP'S RISK MANAGER FOR HEALTH INSURANCE SERVICES FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2022 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS AS DEFINED BY N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.7

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, second of Councilman Ring, the foregoing resolutions were proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-06-010](#) is appended to the official minutes.

AUTHORIZING AN AWARD OF CONTRACT TO NORTH AMERICAN INSURANCE MANAGEMENT (NAIM) OF 1460 ROUTE 9 NORTH, SUITE 310, WOODBRIDGE, NEW JERSEY 07095 TO SERVE AS THE TOWNSHIP'S RISK MANAGER FOR PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE SERVICES FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2022 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS AS DEFINED BY N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.7

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, second of Councilman Ring, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-06-011](#) is appended to the official minutes.

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO GIBBONS, P.C. AS BOND COUNSEL FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, second of Councilman Ring, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-06-012](#) is appended to the official minutes.

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL SULLIVAN OF THE FIRM OF CLARK CATON HINTZ PC AS REDEVELOPMENT PLANNER AND AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2022

On motion of Councilman Pedroso, second of Councilman Ring, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-06-013](#) is appended to the official minutes.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS WITHOUT ADVICE AND CONSENT

THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS WERE READ BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT KURDYLA:

APPOINTMENTS TO THE LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (LEPC)

- i. Howard Norgalis
- ii. Wells Winegar
- iii. James Edwards
- iv. Chris Corsini
- v. Timothy Ring
- vi. Stephen Rodzinak
- vii. Christine Madrid
- viii. Paul Payne
- ix. Richard Shimp
- x. John Auger
- xi. Michael Voorhees
- xii. Thomas Scalera
- xiii. Wayne Carter

APPOINTMENT TO THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- i. Ray Vella (Environmental Rep)

APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS

- i. Class 1 Alternate - Thomas Genova
- ii. Class II - Michael Pappas
- iii. Class III - Timothy Ring
- iv. Class IV - James Magura (Environmental Rep)
- v. Class IV - Henry Wang
- vi. Class IV - Lauren Zarro
- vii. Class IV - Ashley Sikora
- viii. Class IV - Kimberly Forino
- ix. Class IV - Indy Banga (Alternate 1)

APPOINTMENT OF JOINT INSURANCE FUND COMMISSIONERS

- i. Michael Pappas
- ii. Thomas Genova (Alternate)

APPOINTMENTS TO THE 2022 SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM

- i. Michael Pappas
- ii. Wells Winegar (Alternate)

- iii. Allen Kurdyla
- iv. Timothy Ring (Alternate)

APPOINTMENT TO THE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- i. Thomas Genova

**MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS WITH ADVICE AND CONSENT
(Boards & Committees)**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT KURDYLA READ THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS:

APPOINTMENTS TO CREATIVE ARTS COMMITTEE

- i. Kristen Rath-Velasco
- ii. Christina Petrilli
- iii. Christine Juechter

APPOINTMENTS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

- i. Alex Mycio
- ii. Addison Reilly
- iii. Ray Vella (Open Space Rep)
- iv. Aimee Alonso
- v. James Magura (Planning Board Rep)
- vi. Linda Sikora

APPOINTMENTS TO THE GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION

- i. Thomas Genova
- ii. Michael Kirsh
- iii. Timothy Ring (Alternate)

APPOINTMENT TO THE HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

- i. Stanley Stellakis

APPOINTMENTS TO THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

- ii. Olivia Lopes
- iii. Kimberly Osborne
- iv. Mei Rehman

APPOINTMENTS TO THE PARK BOARD

- i. Ashley Sikora
- ii. Elizabeth Savnik

APPOINTMENTS TO THE RARITAN AND MILLSTONE FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION

- i. Thomas Genova
- ii. Wells Winegar
- iii. Michael Kirsh
- iv. Timothy Ring

APPOINTMENTS TO THE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

- i. Lindsay Schambach
- ii. Fabiola Folino

APPOINTMENTS TO THE REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

- i. Mayor Matthew C. Moench
- ii. Michael J. Pappas
- iii. Andrew Fresco
- iv. Filipe Pedroso
- v. Timothy Ring (Alternate)

APPOINTMENTS TO THE SHADE TREE BOARD

- i. Barbara Ronca
- ii. Jeremy Li

APPOINTMENTS TO THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- i. Scott Maraldo
- ii. Michael Minaides

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, second of Councilman Ring, the foregoing resolutions were proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE APPROVED.

Copies of resolutions [22-01-06-014 thru 22-01-06-024](#) are appended to the official minutes.

**COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS
(Staff)**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT KURDYLA READ THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS:

APPOINTMENT OF ASSESSMENT SEARCH OFFICER

- i. William H. Burr, IV

APPOINTMENT OF TAX SEARCH OFFICER

- i. Darrow Murdock

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, second of Councilman Norgalis, the foregoing resolutions were proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE APPROVED.

Copies of resolutions [22-01-06-025 thru 22-01-06-026](#) are appended to the official minutes.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR - SUPLEE CLOONEY & COMPANY, 308 EAST BROAD STREET, WESTFIELD, NJ 07090-2122 IN A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, second of Councilman Kirsh, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-06-027](#) is appended to the official minutes.

**COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS
(Boards & Committees)**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT KURDYLA READ THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS:

APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

- i. Gary LaSpisa - Regular member
- ii. Kevin Wrobel- Alternate member #1
- iii. Bruce Bongiorno - Alternate member #2
- iv. John Gayeski - Alternate member #3

APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING BOARD

- i. Timothy Ring - Class III

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- ii. Yan Ren
- iii. James Weideli
- iv. Allen Kurdyla
- v. Howard Norgalis (Alternate)

APPOINTMENT TO THE SOMERSET REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- i. Filipe Pedroso
- ii. Toni Hoffman
- iii. Robert Devnani
- iv. Richard Ernst

APPOINTMENT TO THE SOMERSET VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

- i. Howard Norgalis
- ii. Joseph Lifrieri

APPOINTMENT TO THE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- i. Howard V. Norgalis

On motion of Councilman Ring, second of Councilman Norgalis, the foregoing resolutions were proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE APPROVED.

Copies of resolutions [22-01-06-028 thru 22-01-06-033](#) are appended to the official minutes.

RESOLUTIONS

2022 TEMPORARY BUDGET-CURRENT FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,797,649.85

The Current Fund Temporary Budget is set not to exceed 26.25% of the 2021 year’s budget to meet obligations and payments due prior to approval of the budget for 2022.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, second of Councilman Kirsh, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-06-034](#) is appended to the official minutes.

2022 TEMPORARY BUDGET-SEWER UTILITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,318,957.55

The Sewer Fund Temporary Budget is set not exceed 26.25% of the 2021 year's budget to meet obligations and payments due prior to approval of the 2022 budget.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, second of Councilman Kirsh, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-06-035](#) is appended to the official minutes.

ESTABLISHING CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN AND NAMING OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES

The Cash Management Plan is prepared pursuant to the provisions of NJSA 40A 5-14 in order to set forth the basis for deposits and investments and name certain depositories for Township funds.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, second of Councilman Kirsh, the foregoing resolution was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

A copy of resolution [#22-01-06-036](#) is appended to the official minutes.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT KURDYLA READ THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS THEN CALLED FOR A CONSENT VOTE:

GENERAL BUSINESS

The General Business resolution sets certain rates, designates the Courier News as the Township Official Newspaper for all legal Notices and The Breeze as the online newspaper it also names certain department heads specific authorities to operate in 2022.

2022 TOWNSHIP COUNCIL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The Schedule of Meetings set the 2022 Township Council Meeting Dates throughout the year; they are also posted on the website.

AUTHORIZING BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP ENGINEER WILLIAM H. BURR, IV, TOWNSHIP ENGINEER TO EXECUTE NJDEP, NJDOT, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND SOMERSET COUNTY PERMITS ON BEHALF OF THE TOWNSHIP

It is required to name by resolution and authorizes William Burr, P.E. as Township Engineer to sign permits from NJDOT, NJDEP, State of New Jersey and Somerset County on behalf of the Township.

On motion of Councilman Ring, second of Councilman Kirsh, the foregoing resolutions were proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Aye
Councilman Ring	Aye
Councilman Kirsh	Aye
Council President Kurdyla	Aye

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE APPROVED.

Copies of resolutions [#22-01-06-037 thru #22-01-06-039](#) are appended to the official minutes.

Meeting Open to Public

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting was opened to the public.

Members of the public wishing to address the Council on any matter will be allowed two minutes to speak, unless there are unusual circumstances.

Scott Maraldo advised the public on the various ways they can be heard as follows:

- ⇒ Use raise hand feature to give audio comments
- ⇒ Use Q&A feature for written comments
- ⇒ Text 908-912-4247 for written comments

There was a two (2) minute recess to allow the public additional time to submit public comment via the various ways discussed above.

Scott Maraldo offered there was no public comment.

On motion of Councilman Kirsh, seconded by Councilman Ring, the public portion of the

meeting was closed.

Benediction The benediction was presented by Rabbi Daniel Selsberg of Temple Sholom

Adjournment On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Ring, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Allen F. Kurdyla
Council President

Outgoing Council President Address

Happy and healthy new Year's to everyone.

The past year has been full of challenges, tribulations and accomplishments. COVID continued to impact all our lives, and challenged both our community and this governing body. But I'm proud of this Council and everything we've accomplished together in 2021.

A year ago, this Council started the year with virtual council meetings. As the number of COVID cases decreased, I decided it was time to resume in-person meetings. This Council took great steps to be thoughtful to people's various sensitivities to COVID, and resumed in-person meetings with two sections in this Chambers, a masked-only, six-foot separation seating area, and a regular seating area for those with a different preference. In addition, for the first time in this governing body's history, our in-person Council meetings were broadcast live via livestream to the public to watch. This is something that I anticipate will permanently continue into the future.

And while our Township's budget was stressed in the midst of a pandemic, with millions of dollars in lost revenue due to a reduction in mall rentals, hotel occupancy, and more, this Council and Mayor found a way to keep our municipal tax rate flat, maintaining Bridgewater's position as the township with the lowest municipal tax rate in Somerset County. Since 2017, this Council has been a strong vigilant against overspending by a prior Administration, and, for the past 2 years, has worked closely with Mayor Moench to assure that as much money as possible stays in our residents' bank accounts, resulting in five continuous years as the township with lowest municipal tax in Somerset County.

2021 was also the year that this Council implemented year one of Mayor Moench's Comprehensive 5-Year Road Plan by approving and committing \$8,000,000 towards fixing roads in 2021 alone. This was the largest amount ever spent in a single year towards road improvements, and significantly so, amounting to 45% more than any other time. Residents started seeing real, meaningful road improvements, with a transparent and fair process. Infrastructure improvements involve more than roads, and the Council proactively took steps to improve the Gilbride and Middlebrook Sewer Pump Stations.

With historically low bond rates, the Council took swift action and refinanced a large amount of township debt, saving millions of dollars. And when the State recklessly passed legislation that would force recreational cannabis sales in Bridgewater for a minimum of 5 years if we didn't act, the Council quickly and timely took action blocking this mandate and illegalized marijuana use in our public parks to protect Bridgewater's quality of life.

When Mother Nature brought us Hurricane Ida, our community sustained much damage and even the unfortunate loss of human life. But our community came together, and, through social media and neighborhood activism, helped each other through this disaster – truly demonstrating what makes Bridgewater the best place to live – *the people* that call Bridgewater home. This Council quickly took action, and worked closely with Mayor Moench, to get the financial resources the Administration needed to clean up and rebuild our township. Through this prompt action, the impact of Hurricane Ida was lessened and we all came through it together.

Over the course of the past year, this Council has been the forum for various celebrations and recognitions. Whether it was the Girl Scout's or the World Champion Bridgewater Baseball team, we hosted numerous groups and shared important moments together. And I'd like to acknowledge and thank Mayor Moench for taking the time to present several Proclamations in this Chambers in 2021, including proclamations for Black History Month, Women's History Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month, Arbor Day, Emergency Medical Services Week, the Hobbstown's 100th Anniversary, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and to Nick Dirla our hometown UPS Driver hero who helped save stranded flooded motorists during the Ida flood.

In 2021 we lost members of our community. We continue to mourn the loss of those residents who passed due to COVID, the 3 deaths from Ira, Steve Kalafer who contributed so much to our community through the Patriots baseball team or his numerous philanthropic activities, retired Police Chief Dick Voorhees who was a charter member of the Bridgewater Police Department in 1965 and its second police chief, and Bridgewater employee Chip Mills who served over 40 years as an engineer for the township. And, of course, Bridgewater lost Lt. Col. Thomas Robert Vaucher, a war hero, aviation pioneer, national history treasure, and a visionary builder of Bridgewater Township. Simply known as Bob to his friends, during his 102 years of life, over 70 of which were right here in town, Bob contributed towards the establishment of the Board of Education and our first high school, the creation of the Bridgewater Police Department, lobbied to save

Hobbs town, was instrumental to the formation of this very government, was key player in the establishment of the Raritan Valley Community College, led a campaign to preserve open space, and advocated against overdevelopment and for preserving our quality of life in too-many-to-name zoning board and planning board matters. Without a doubt, no single person was more instrumental in shaping Bridgewater and preventing its overdevelopment than Bob, and I hope that one day soon this governing body will do the right thing by appropriately paying tribute to someone who unselfishly gave so much to his country and township.

In 2021 the fight against the monstrosity that is proposed on the Center of Excellence property continued. I thank Mayor Moench for his unwavering support of this fight, and for using every resource possible to attempt to mitigate this overdevelopment project.

And finally, we closed out 2021 with foresight into 2022 with an overview of a Park plan review process to assess uses and improve our public parks. Throughout this year, I encourage members of the public to take an active part in the development of a park plan that is truly beneficial to our community.

Over the past year, this Council has accomplished much under the financial and personal challenges of a worldwide pandemic. I am proud of how dedicated each of you are to the betterment of Bridgewater. I want Bridgewater residents to know what I do, that they have a Council government that works tirelessly and passionately to keep Bridgewater *affordable* with fiscally lean budgets, *safe* by its steadfast support of our law enforcement, and the best place to live by protecting *quality of life*.

And lastly, over the past year as Council President, I got firsthand insight as to how wonderful it is to have a Mayor and Administration that is dedicated to working closely with the Council so that we can all do what is *best* for Bridgewater. Everything that I mentioned before could not have been accomplished without the cooperation and leadership of Mayor Matthew Moench. Thank you Mayor Moench for having a transparent and open administration that worked closely with me over the past year, for sharing a common vision, and having a policy of cooperation and team work.

The Council has a fabulous staff, and our clerks are amazing. Thank you Clerk Linda Doyle, Deputy Clerk Grace Karanja, and Krista Gaffney for making me look good. There are too many people in the Administration to mention. Administrator

Mike Pappas has done a fabulous job, and thank you for making me feel like an important part of your team.

On behalf of the Council, I thank the many, many volunteers who served our township on various boards and committees. And the volunteers of our rescue squads and fire departments, who bravely endured the challenges of COVID to assist our families, friends and neighbors.

I look forward to 2022. I am confident we will accomplish much together, and continue to work together to keep Bridgewater the best place to live.

Incoming Council President Address

1/5/2022

At this time, I welcome everyone to our 2022 reorganization meeting. It is my pleasure to serve as Council President for 2022

Before I speak about the Township, I want to thank my wife, Nancy my special advisor Amanda and my entire family for supporting me during my time serving as a Bridgewater Township Councilman. In addition to my family, I want to thank the voters of Bridgewater Township for your support by casting your votes to support my candidacy, in addition to my fellow Council members for selecting me as Council President.

As Council President the main responsibility that I have is to keep the business of the Township in focus and moving forward. I offer the opinion that we in Bridgewater have an excellent professional staff working for all Bridgewater residents. Our Township Administrator Michael Pappas and Municipal Clerk Linda Doyle are outstanding administrators and, in my opinion, second to none.

It is my opinion also, that the relationship between Mayor Matthew Moench and the Township Council is excellent. Our role on the Township Council is to work with the mayor to constantly improve areas of concern for all Township residents. Typically, this work is focused on public safety, budget, infrastructure issues and land use projects. I do know that our Council working with Mayor Moench share common goals for Bridgewater to provide services not only for today but for years to come. Mayor Moench will be presenting these goals in his Township Address.

With the arrival of the New Year, our priority is to develop the 2022 budget. As I had stated in my 2018 address:

“ I want everyone to know what I believe to be true, while there may be differences of opinion on this body, each of us has a core set of values

based on the realization that our decisions are not only for today, not only for ourselves, but for years to come, including the other 46,000 residents calling Bridgewater home, and by the way our families which includes our children. Hopefully our decisions will help our children's children speak fondly of Bridgewater and the contributions we have made.”

In addition to the business of the Township, a concern that I share with all is how to proceed while mitigating the effects of Covid. At this time, I have proposed that our January 13'th meeting and the February 7'th meetings will be virtual. After the February 7'th meeting, a decision will be made on how to proceed. I am hopeful that we will be able to meet in public. Until that time I ask that all Bridgewater residents adhere to the CDC guidelines to minimize the spread of this deadly virus.

Thank you and may God Bless America, and each of you for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Allen F. Kurdyla
Council President

Good Evening.

Welcome to this year's reorganization meeting. It is my privilege to be able to outline for all of you—friends, family, colleagues and residents—the state of our Township at the dawn of this new year.

I would like to begin by acknowledging and congratulating Council President Filipe Pedroso, Council Vice President Allen Kurdyla and Councilman Howard Norgalis. The residents of Bridgewater wisely saw fit to reelect them this past November so that they may continue their dedicated work on behalf of Bridgewater Township and all who call it home. Your passion for Bridgewater and care for our residents is apparent to all, and I look forward to our continued work together over the coming year.

I want to take a moment to especially recognize the fine work that outgoing Council President Pedroso did in 2021. Through a difficult and tumultuous year, he kept the Council on a steady and productive course. I know that incoming Council President Kurdyla will do an equally excellent job at steering the governing body, no matter what challenges or obstacles 2022 may bring.

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I also want to take a moment to acknowledge two devoted public servants who are no longer with us. We tragically lost Chip Mills and Tom Marshall in 2021, and on behalf of all of Bridgewater, I must tell you how much we miss them both. Both Chip and Tommy worked and lived in Bridgewater for decades, and touched an innumerable amount of lives

for the better. Tommy volunteered for the Finderne Fire Department and Rescue Squad for more than 40 years. Chip's love for this town was surpassed only by his knowledge of its history. We will miss both of them long into the future, and we will find the right way to properly commemorate their long service to this Township in 2022.

Last year at this time, I stood before you virtually due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those impacts are still with us, and always will be. We must never forget the devastating impact that this disease has wrought in our community, our country and the world. To date, 114 of our residents have passed away due, at least in some part, to COVID-19.

The remnants of Hurricane Ida brought to us the worst and most severe flooding event Bridgewater has seen in recent memory. A soaking and windless storm, Ida delivered nearly 11 inches of rain—or over a quarter of our average annual rainfall—in just a few short hours. In those few hours we saw tragic loss of life and unimaginable devastation. Many of us will never forget the images of Ida, like the flooded Somerset Patriots Stadium, or the entire roadways that were ripped up and destroyed, or houses torn from their foundations.

I would like to pause now for a moment of silence to remember all of our residents lost too soon as a result of both of these tragic events.

(pause for moment of silence)

Thank you.

Even in these most challenging times, our community does not falter in our resilience, nor in our generosity. Through the storm and its aftermath, I heard about and witnessed countless acts of both extraordinary heroism and everyday decency—all of which remain a reflection of the character of the people of Bridgewater.

I heard a story about a young man named Nick Dirla. Nick, a young UPS driver who was born and raised in Bridgewater, was on his way to deliver his last few packages of the evening of September 1st when the storm water rose and trapped him on the road. Nick was stuck on Route 22 when he noticed stranded travelers endangered by the rising water. He pulled 8 people into the safety of his truck and tried to keep the individuals calm with his positive attitude and sense of humor. He kept everyone in his truck until it became unsafe and then helped to lead them through the treacherous conditions to the safety of a residential neighborhood. Nick's selflessness in the face of danger and adversity personifies what makes Bridgewater a special community.

Nick's story stands out because he was an ordinary citizen doing extraordinary things. But I would be completely remiss to not recognize our everyday heroes. Our first responders, both Police and our volunteer fire and EMS squads, answered the call as they always do. They put themselves in harms way to try to help people who were in danger and distress and did so with the professionalism, courtesy and courage that we have all come to expect from our first responders. We must never take these heroes for granted and today, I join all Bridgewater residents in thanking them for all they do.

In order to make sure that we do not lose sight of their service and their sacrifices, the Council recently approved the design and construction of a Heroes Corner in the courtyard

of the Municipal building. This monument will recognize and honor the service of all first responders—police, fire departments, and EMS personnel—of Bridgewater Township. I look forward to watching this project come to fruition through October of this year, when we plan to unveil the finished product. It is nearly impossible to express tangibly the gratitude owed to our first responders but this memorial will be a step in the right direction.

The damage from Hurricane Ida affected everything in Bridgewater and we as a Township, with the help of the Governing Body, had to act quickly. On the infrastructure front, the storm had devastated entire lengths or portions of dozens of municipal roadways, including a failed retaining wall that compromised the structural stability of Vosseller Avenue. We also lost over 150 feet of sewer main pipe, the sewerage from which was threatening the Middlebrook.

We moved with urgency and purpose to secure funding and vendors to make the emergency repairs needed. I am happy to say now as we stand here today, all of these repairs are complete.

Alongside this work, we did our best to help the most impacted of our residents in their efforts to recover. Over the course of several weeks, the Township staged a massive debris pick-up program that removed more than 500 tons of debris from all impacted residents in Bridgewater. This was an enormous undertaking and unlike any that has ever taken place in this community. It would not have been possible without our dedicated public works crews, who worked tirelessly on all aspects of storm recovery. I thank our public works

personnel for their heroic efforts throughout this arduous recovery process, and for the work they do every day for our residents.

Additionally, dozens of streams, waterways and drainage channels were blocked, significantly changed course, or severely damaged during the storm. Some of these became a continued threat to already impacted properties. We worked hard to restore as many as we could back to their pre-storm condition and alleviate many of those concerns.

That wasn't possible for all scenarios, however. In many places, more work needs to be done. Our staff is diligently working to identify the remaining issues and potential state and federal funding sources to help address them. This work on behalf of our residents will continue over the coming months and years and we will be relentless in our pursuit of remedies on behalf of our constituents.

That is why I will be asking the Council to approve a Universal Drainage Assessment. We would engage an independent engineering firm to conduct an exhaustive and detailed survey of the entire drainage system contained in the Township. After the Universal Drainage Assessment is completed, the performing engineers will submit their report, and their data will allow the Township to make empirically informed and fiscally responsible decisions about the drainage system into the future.

You may remember that back in August of 2020, we hired an independent engineering firm to conduct a Universal Road Assessment. The purpose of the Road Assessment was to empirically assess all of our Township roadways. 2021 was the first year in which that data was available for us to use, and we took full advantage of this opportunity and, despite the challenges of Hurricane Ida, our 2021 capital road plan was a success. The empirical

data of the Road Assessment saved us significant amounts time, effort and, most importantly, taxpayer money.

Last year, the Administration and the Council collaborated to commit the Township to a five-year road improvement plan. 2021 was the first year of that five-year cycle, and we are now entering year 2.

In 2021, we planned to reconstruct a total of 42 roads in Bridgewater, and to extend the useful life of another 22.

I am proud to be able to report that of the 64 roads planned for reconstruction, work was substantively complete on 62 of them before the beginning of this year. Only 2 roads scheduled to be reconstructed this year will have to wait until the Spring to be completed. Altogether, that's 62 roads—and over 16 miles of roadway—reconstructed or preserved in 2021 alone.

Given the widespread destruction and project delays brought on by Hurricane Ida, I must tell you that I am immensely pleased with that result. Our incredible Engineering Department—especially Township Engineer Bill Burr, Engineer Tony Gallo, and Director of Municipal Services Tom Genova—all deserve immense credit for our success last year.

But we are not going to rest on last year's accomplishments. Together with the Council, we committed to a five -year program, because that is what is necessary to bring our residents the infrastructure they deserve. This means that there is a tremendous amount of work yet to be done. I intend to follow through on the commitments we made to our residents at the beginning of my term:

First, we're going to keep paving your roads. I appreciate Council's enduring budgetary commitment to our five-year plan, and I look forward to aggressively pursuing our road reconstruction goals in 2022. We can only get our roads where they need to be with a sustained commitment of focus, energy and capital over time.

Second, my Administration will pursue an aggressive road repair program in 2022, and we will announce the initial slate of 2022 roads before the end of the first quarter of this year.

Third, we plan to update the Universal Assessment sometime this winter, so we can take into account the vast progress we made in 2020 and 2021—and also observe any damage from Ida which may still remain.

Finally, we will continue to maintain transparency and accountability with respect to all of our road projects. If you visit OurBWroads.com, you can find the universal assessment data, a list of projects we're working on, and how close they are to completion. Our Office of Constituent Relations maintains and updates this website throughout the year so that our residents can see what progress we're making on their roads any time they like.

The only thing that keeps our streets safer than keeping them well-maintained is our Police Department. Under the strong and effective leadership of Chief Paul Payne and with the implementation of the Pitman schedule, residents are now seeing more neighborhood patrols and increased community engagement. Chief Payne has been diligent in getting his officers the additional training they need to be effective in the ever-changing landscape of law enforcement. In this day and age, that is no small feat.

It is no secret that law enforcement officers have come under increased scrutiny nationally in recent years. Some have gone beyond scrutiny, and leveled vicious and unwarranted criticisms at our department and departments across the country. Let me be unmistakably clear: the Bridgewater Township Police Department enjoys the unqualified confidence and unyielding support of the Township government, and of the residents who live here. We are able to enjoy the safety and security of our community only because of the bravery, dedication and selflessness of our police officers.

Our support for the men and women of our police force must go beyond words. We must provide them the tools they need to succeed. That is why in the past year we have expanded body cam availability, funded new bulletproof vests, and opened up new opportunities for VR-based training simulations.

Another tool we have provided our officers in Bridgewater is called the Community/Police Alliance. The Alliance stemmed from an experience I had several years ago, when I saw the implementation of a program called On POINT in Ocean County. While our program is called the Community/Police Alliance, the sum and substance of it is the same: it is a true partnership between social service workers and police officers which is designed to rapidly address resident situations having to do with mental health, addiction or homelessness, so that those situations don't become exacerbated in the future. In short, the Community/Police Alliance is designed to provide our officers the help and tools they need to assist our most vulnerable residents. Through the Community/Police Alliance, everyone wins: police officers can call on the skills of social workers when they need them, social workers can access vulnerable populations with police protection, and those who need

help in our community can get it from both the police and social services at the same time. I truly believe that programs like the Alliance and OnPoint are the future of effective policing in America. -That is why I was so excited to announce, with Somerset County, the formation of such a partnership with Bridgewater serving as the pilot.

The Community/Police Alliance is already serving our Bridgewater residents by making sure they get the help they need, so that their situations do not become worse and place our officers, our residents, or others in danger.

The man hired to serve in this new role is no stranger to Bridgewater. Damien Stackhouse has been a fierce advocate for his communities for years and has met this challenge with the same vigor and compassion. He is actively working with our police department to identify individuals in crisis and connecting them to the resources they need. Thank you to Damien and Chief Payne for helping to make this endeavor a success for and credit to Bridgewater.

This program is not a fix-all. We know, especially with the length of and pressures put on to us by the pandemic, that mental health remains of paramount concern to all communities, including Bridgewater. More work remains to be done.

During the last two years, we have seen a dramatic spike in the substance abuse disorders which have continued to plague communities like ours. The isolation of continued COVID lockdowns—most especially those endured by our school-age young people, who are especially vulnerable to sociological harm—have only further contributed to the endemic and ongoing tragedy of substance abuse. I have been passionate about pursuing this issue for many years, but with decreases in State funding, it has proven difficult. As individuals

and families wage their personal wars against the disease of addiction, we must be there to support them.

I am proud to stand here today to say that, with the approval of the Council, the Township has joined suit against opioid manufacturers, distributors and retailers who have contributed to the riddling of our communities with addiction and pain.

The money that Bridgewater will receive from this settlement will be earmarked to help to abate the impact that this epidemic has wrought on so many and seek to prevent its spread to others.

My Administration will be working closely with the Municipal Alliance Committee to ensure that any funds we receive are put to use in an impactful way.

In the same vein of community health, this pandemic has taught us the importance of being outdoors. I am proud of the many recreational activities and park facilities that Bridgewater provides and I would like to personally acknowledge our Superintendent of Recreation Rachel Barrett, Senior Center Coordinator Jen Osterberg and DPW Superintendent Richard Shimp for providing the programs and maintenance required to keep our residents engaged and active. But, in Parks and Recreation, as with anything, times change and, with them, needs arise.

Last month, my Administration presented to the public and Council an update on our Parks system and proposed, as its centerpiece, a revised Parks Master Plan. We accomplished many of the goals from the 2010 Master Plan but, as I said, the needs of the community

change over time. These facilities are too important to the health and well-being of our community to address in an ad-hoc manner or in a vacuum.

That is why we are working toward a new Master Plan for the entire Township, which will be designed to prudently and efficiently manage not just our parks and recreational facilities, but the future development of the entire Township. We cannot allow overdevelopment to consume Bridgewater, and my Administration will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that it does not, especially through this new plan. A revised Master Plan, with substantive community input, is the only clear way forward to bring our residents the quality of life that they expect when living in a community like ours. My Administration will establish a channel for public input on this issue in the coming months, and we look forward to hearing from our residents as we construct the new Master Plan this year.

Transparency, responsiveness and community input have been the cornerstones of my Administration since day one. I am proud that we have committed to having a robust Office of Constituent Relations whose sole mission is to get residents the information they need and want both reactively and proactively. We are increasing our social media presence and our electronic newsletters, and we plan on being even more aggressive on this front in the new year.

Despite the tremendous challenges of 2021, I enter 2022 with the same enthusiasm and hope that I had when I took office two years ago. I encourage you all to hold on to your renewed sense of community spirit so that we may continue to make Bridgewater the best it can possibly be.

Thank you and God bless Bridgewater and the United States of America.

Howard's statement

Good evening and welcome to the first Council Meeting of 2022. For most of us the previous year, no make that the previous two years would best be forgotten. But that would be unfair to the numerous family milestones and successes that hopefully eclipse the Covid fears and recent flooding event.

As I look forward to the new year” it is with a renewed sense of hope and anticipation that things will improve.

I want to say THANK YOU to the 9000 Bridgewater residents who elected me for a sixth time to a Council Seat. I particularly appreciate the scores of voters from across the political aisle who told me they were breaking with tradition and voting for me even though I am a Republican.

But in being called to serve for the next four years, I want to reflect on the same promise that I have steadfastly made over the years to you, the residents and business owners in our town. That political promise was really an OATH in which I swore to diligently, honestly and openly perform the duties of this office. I will make decisions in 2022 , just as I have done in the years before, on data based upon factual financial and operational issues.

And I am always available to discuss any township business issues with an open mind. Just call me or email me. I wish you all a happy and healthy 2022. May GOD Bless and Protect our wonderful town.

Thank you

Thank You Council President Kurdyla and Good Evening all- 2021 has come to a close- a year which for many resident and employees may be best remembered for the remnants of Hurricane Ida move through the township, long time township employees Chip Mills and Tommy Marshall, Sr, and retired Police Chief Richard Voorhees passing away, and of course COVID 19's continued impact to our residents and businesses. While these events of 2021 will live in our memories for a long time to come, tonight is also about looking forward to 2022 and the new challenges ahead.

Tonight, we recognize Howard Norgalis, Allen Kurdyla and Filipe Pedroso- the three of whom who were chosen this past November by the residents of Bridgewater to serve as their representatives on the Township Council. Howard, Allen and Filipe have collectively amassed over 40 years of experience on the governing body, repeatedly demonstrating their commitment to serving the Township and the residents of Bridgewater. Having worked closely with Howard, Allen and Filipe over the last two years, I am confident that their

continued service to the residents will be one filled with lots of hard work and admiration.

While the Township Council and Mayor often receive the recognition, like most great teams, there is a group of individuals who work very hard in the background helping to make sure everything goes smoothly. Congratulations and Best of Luck to all those residents that are being appointed tonight to one of the many committees and boards that are so critical to the operation of the town.

There are also some folks don't always get the recognition they deserve, so tonight I take a moment to say thank you the staff of Clerk's Office Linda, Grace and Krista, the staff of OCR, Wells, Scott and Dan, as well as Our Township Administrator Mike Pappas for all of your hard work, help, support and guidance during 2021 and I look forward to continuing to work with you in 2022. In addition to these individuals I mentioned, there are many township employees working around the clock to ensure Bridgewater remains a great place to reside. While we sit here tonight, the fine men and women of the Bridgewater Police

Department are working hard to keep our community safe, Public Works staff is getting ready for snow later tonight and tomorrow morning, Recreation Department planning for possible cancellations tomorrow.

So to all of the township employees that work hard day in and day out, I extend my heartfelt thanks for everything you do to help make Bridgewater a great place. I know that you will continue to work hard, despite the challenges that may lie ahead in 2022.

Congratulations again to Howard, Allen and Filipe.

Outgoing Council President Address

Happy and healthy new Year's to everyone.

The past year has been full of challenges, tribulations and accomplishments. COVID continued to impact all our lives, and challenged both our community and this governing body. But I'm proud of this Council and everything we've accomplished together in 2021.

A year ago, this Council started the year with virtual council meetings. As the number of COVID cases decreased, I decided it was time to resume in-person meetings. This Council took great steps to be thoughtful to people's various sensitivities to COVID, and resumed in-person meetings with two sections in this Chambers, a masked-only, six-foot separation seating area, and a regular seating area for those with a different preference. In addition, for the first time in this governing body's history, our in-person Council meetings were broadcast live via livestream to the public to watch. This is something that I anticipate will permanently continue into the future.

And while our Township's budget was stressed in the midst of a pandemic, with millions of dollars in lost revenue due to a reduction in mall rentals, hotel occupancy, and more, this Council and Mayor found a way to keep our municipal tax rate flat, maintaining Bridgewater's position as the township with the lowest municipal tax rate in Somerset County. Since 2017, this Council has been a strong vigilant against overspending by a prior Administration, and, for the past 2 years, has worked closely with Mayor Moench to assure that as much money as possible stays in our residents' bank accounts, resulting in five continuous years as the township with lowest municipal tax in Somerset County.

2021 was also the year that this Council implemented year one of Mayor Moench's Comprehensive 5-Year Road Plan by approving and committing \$8,000,000 towards fixing roads in 2021 alone. This was the largest amount ever spent in a single year towards road improvements, and significantly so, amounting to 45% more than any other time. Residents started seeing real, meaningful road improvements, with a transparent and fair process. Infrastructure improvements involve more than roads, and the Council proactively took steps to improve the Gilbride and Middlebrook Sewer Pump Stations.

With historically low bond rates, the Council took swift action and refinanced a large amount of township debt, saving millions of dollars. And when the State recklessly passed legislation that would force recreational cannabis sales in Bridgewater for a minimum of 5 years if we didn't act, the Council quickly and timely took action blocking this mandate and illegalized marijuana use in our public parks to protect Bridgewater's quality of life.

When Mother Nature brought us Hurricane Ida, our community sustained much damage and even the unfortunate loss of human life. But our community came together, and, through social media and neighborhood activism, helped each other through this disaster – truly demonstrating what makes Bridgewater the best place to live – *the people* that call Bridgewater home. This Council quickly took action, and worked closely with Mayor Moench, to get the financial resources the Administration needed to clean up and rebuild our township. Through this prompt action, the impact of Hurricane Ida was lessened and we all came through it together.

Over the course of the past year, this Council has been the forum for various celebrations and recognitions. Whether it was the Girl Scout's or the World Champion Bridgewater Baseball team, we hosted numerous groups and shared important moments together. And I'd like to acknowledge and thank Mayor Moench for taking the time to present several Proclamations in this Chambers in 2021, including proclamations for Black History Month, Women's History Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month, Arbor Day, Emergency Medical Services Week, the Hobbstown's 100th Anniversary, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and to Nick Dirla our hometown UPS Driver hero who helped save stranded flooded motorists during the Ida flood.

In 2021 we lost members of our community. We continue to mourn the loss of those residents who passed due to COVID, the 3 deaths from Ira, Steve Kalafer who contributed so much to our community through the Patriots baseball team or his numerous philanthropic activities, retired Police Chief Dick Voorhees who was a charter member of the Bridgewater Police Department in 1965 and its second police chief, and Bridgewater employee Chip Mills who served over 40 years as an engineer for the township. And, of course, Bridgewater lost Lt. Col. Thomas Robert Vaucher, a war hero, aviation pioneer, national history treasure, and a visionary builder of Bridgewater Township. Simply known as Bob to his friends, during his 102 years of life, over 70 of which were right here in town, Bob contributed towards the establishment of the Board of Education and our first high school, the creation of the Bridgewater Police Department, lobbied to save

Hobbs town, was instrumental to the formation of this very government, was key player in the establishment of the Raritan Valley Community College, led a campaign to preserve open space, and advocated against overdevelopment and for preserving our quality of life in too-many-to-name zoning board and planning board matters. Without a doubt, no single person was more instrumental in shaping Bridgewater and preventing its overdevelopment than Bob, and I hope that one day soon this governing body will do the right thing by appropriately paying tribute to someone who unselfishly gave so much to his country and township.

In 2021 the fight against the monstrosity that is proposed on the Center of Excellence property continued. I thank Mayor Moench for his unwavering support of this fight, and for using every resource possible to attempt to mitigate this overdevelopment project.

And finally, we closed out 2021 with foresight into 2022 with an overview of a Park plan review process to assess uses and improve our public parks. Throughout this year, I encourage members of the public to take an active part in the development of a park plan that is truly beneficial to our community.

Over the past year, this Council has accomplished much under the financial and personal challenges of a worldwide pandemic. I am proud of how dedicated each of you are to the betterment of Bridgewater. I want Bridgewater residents to know what I do, that they have a Council government that works tirelessly and passionately to keep Bridgewater *affordable* with fiscally lean budgets, *safe* by its steadfast support of our law enforcement, and the best place to live by protecting *quality of life*.

And lastly, over the past year as Council President, I got firsthand insight as to how wonderful it is to have a Mayor and Administration that is dedicated to working closely with the Council so that we can all do what is *best* for Bridgewater. Everything that I mentioned before could not have been accomplished without the cooperation and leadership of Mayor Matthew Moench. Thank you Mayor Moench for having a transparent and open administration that worked closely with me over the past year, for sharing a common vision, and having a policy of cooperation and team work.

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Mike Pappas has done a fabulous job, and thank you for making me feel like an important part of your team.

On behalf of the Council, I thank the many, many volunteers who served our township on various boards and committees. And the volunteers of our rescue squads and fire departments, who bravely endured the challenges of COVID to assist our families, friends and neighbors.

I look forward to 2022. I am confident we will accomplish much together, and continue to work together to keep Bridgewater the best place to live.

Incoming Council President Address

1/5/2022

At this time, I welcome everyone to our 2022 reorganization meeting. It is my pleasure to serve as Council President for 2022

Before I speak about the Township, I want to thank my wife, Nancy my special advisor Amanda and my entire family for supporting me during my time serving as a Bridgewater Township Councilman. In addition to my family, I want to thank the voters of Bridgewater Township for your support by casting your votes to support my candidacy, in addition to my fellow Council members for selecting me as Council President.

As Council President the main responsibility that I have is to keep the business of the Township in focus and moving forward. I offer the opinion that we in Bridgewater have an excellent professional staff working for all Bridgewater residents. Our Township Administrator Michael Pappas and Municipal Clerk Linda Doyle are outstanding administrators and, in my opinion, second to none.

It is my opinion also, that the relationship between Mayor Matthew Moench and the Township Council is excellent. Our role on the Township Council is to work with the mayor to constantly improve areas of concern for all Township residents. Typically, this work is focused on public safety, budget, infrastructure issues and land use projects. I do know that our Council working with Mayor Moench share common goals for Bridgewater to provide services not only for today but for years to come. Mayor Moench will be presenting these goals in his Township Address.

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In addition to the business of the Township, a concern that I share with all is how to proceed while mitigating the effects of Covid. At this time, I have proposed that our January 13'th meeting and the February 7'th meetings will be virtual. After the February 7'th meeting, a decision will be made on how to proceed. I am hopeful that we will be able to meet in public. Until that time I ask that all Bridgewater residents adhere to the CDC guidelines to minimize the spread of this deadly virus.

Thank you and may God Bless America, and each of you for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Allen F. Kurdyla
Council President

Good Evening.

Welcome to this year's reorganization meeting. It is my privilege to be able to outline for all of you—friends, family, colleagues and residents—the state of our Township at the dawn of this new year.

I would like to begin by acknowledging and congratulating Council President Filipe Pedroso, Council Vice President Allen Kurdyla and Councilman Howard Norgalis. The residents of Bridgewater wisely saw fit to reelect them this past November so that they may continue their dedicated work on behalf of Bridgewater Township and all who call it home. Your passion for Bridgewater and care for our residents is apparent to all, and I look forward to our continued work together over the coming year.

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I also want to take a moment to acknowledge two devoted public servants who are no longer with us. We tragically lost Chip Mills and Tom Marshall in 2021, and on behalf of all of Bridgewater, I must tell you how much we miss them both. Both Chip and Tommy worked and lived in Bridgewater for decades, and touched an innumerable amount of lives

for the better. Tommy volunteered for the Finderne Fire Department and Rescue Squad for more than 40 years. Chip's love for this town was surpassed only by his knowledge of its history. We will miss both of them long into the future, and we will find the right way to properly commemorate their long service to this Township in 2022.

Last year at this time, I stood before you virtually due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those impacts are still with us, and always will be. We must never forget the devastating impact that this disease has wrought in our community, our country and the world. To date, 114 of our residents have passed away due, at least in some part, to COVID-19.

The remnants of Hurricane Ida brought to us the worst and most severe flooding event Bridgewater has seen in recent memory. A soaking and windless storm, Ida delivered nearly 11 inches of rain—or over a quarter of our average annual rainfall—in just a few short hours. In those few hours we saw tragic loss of life and unimaginable devastation. Many of us will never forget the images of Ida, like the flooded Somerset Patriots Stadium, or the entire roadways that were ripped up and destroyed, or houses torn from their foundations.

I would like to pause now for a moment of silence to remember all of our residents lost too soon as a result of both of these tragic events.

(pause for moment of silence)

Thank you.

Even in these most challenging times, our community does not falter in our resilience, nor in our generosity. Through the storm and its aftermath, I heard about and witnessed countless acts of both extraordinary heroism and everyday decency—all of which remain a reflection of the character of the people of Bridgewater.

I heard a story about a young man named Nick Dirla. Nick, a young UPS driver who was born and raised in Bridgewater, was on his way to deliver his last few packages of the evening of September 1st when the storm water rose and trapped him on the road. Nick was stuck on Route 22 when he noticed stranded travelers endangered by the rising water. He pulled 8 people into the safety of his truck and tried to keep the individuals calm with his positive attitude and sense of humor. He kept everyone in his truck until it became unsafe and then helped to lead them through the treacherous conditions to the safety of a residential neighborhood. Nick's selflessness in the face of danger and adversity personifies what makes Bridgewater a special community.

Nick's story stands out because he was an ordinary citizen doing extraordinary things. But I would be completely remiss to not recognize our everyday heroes. Our first responders, both Police and our volunteer fire and EMS squads, answered the call as they always do. They put themselves in harms way to try to help people who were in danger and distress and did so with the professionalism, courtesy and courage that we have all come to expect from our first responders. We must never take these heroes for granted and today, I join all Bridgewater residents in thanking them for all they do.

In order to make sure that we do not lose sight of their service and their sacrifices, the Council recently approved the design and construction of a Heroes Corner in the courtyard

of the Municipal building. This monument will recognize and honor the service of all first responders—police, fire departments, and EMS personnel—of Bridgewater Township. I look forward to watching this project come to fruition through October of this year, when we plan to unveil the finished product. It is nearly impossible to express tangibly the gratitude owed to our first responders but this memorial will be a step in the right direction.

The damage from Hurricane Ida affected everything in Bridgewater and we as a Township, with the help of the Governing Body, had to act quickly. On the infrastructure front, the storm had devastated entire lengths or portions of dozens of municipal roadways, including a failed retaining wall that compromised the structural stability of Vosseller Avenue. We also lost over 150 feet of sewer main pipe, the sewerage from which was threatening the Middlebrook.

We moved with urgency and purpose to secure funding and vendors to make the emergency repairs needed. I am happy to say now as we stand here today, all of these repairs are complete.

Alongside this work, we did our best to help the most impacted of our residents in their efforts to recover. Over the course of several weeks, the Township staged a massive debris pick-up program that removed more than 500 tons of debris from all impacted residents in Bridgewater. This was an enormous undertaking and unlike any that has ever taken place in this community. It would not have been possible without our dedicated public works crews, who worked tirelessly on all aspects of storm recovery. I thank our public works

personnel for their heroic efforts throughout this arduous recovery process, and for the work they do every day for our residents.

Additionally, dozens of streams, waterways and drainage channels were blocked, significantly changed course, or severely damaged during the storm. Some of these became a continued threat to already impacted properties. We worked hard to restore as many as we could back to their pre-storm condition and alleviate many of those concerns.

That wasn't possible for all scenarios, however. In many places, more work needs to be done. Our staff is diligently working to identify the remaining issues and potential state and federal funding sources to help address them. This work on behalf of our residents will continue over the coming months and years and we will be relentless in our pursuit of remedies on behalf of our constituents.

That is why I will be asking the Council to approve a Universal Drainage Assessment. We would engage an independent engineering firm to conduct an exhaustive and detailed survey of the entire drainage system contained in the Township. After the Universal Drainage Assessment is completed, the performing engineers will submit their report, and their data will allow the Township to make empirically informed and fiscally responsible decisions about the drainage system into the future.

You may remember that back in August of 2020, we hired an independent engineering firm to conduct a Universal Road Assessment. The purpose of the Road Assessment was to empirically assess all of our Township roadways. 2021 was the first year in which that data was available for us to use, and we took full advantage of this opportunity and, despite the challenges of Hurricane Ida, our 2021 capital road plan was a success. The empirical

data of the Road Assessment saved us significant amounts time, effort and, most importantly, taxpayer money.

Last year, the Administration and the Council collaborated to commit the Township to a five-year road improvement plan. 2021 was the first year of that five-year cycle, and we are now entering year 2.

In 2021, we planned to reconstruct a total of 42 roads in Bridgewater, and to extend the useful life of another 22.

I am proud to be able to report that of the 64 roads planned for reconstruction, work was substantively complete on 62 of them before the beginning of this year. Only 2 roads scheduled to be reconstructed this year will have to wait until the Spring to be completed. Altogether, that's 62 roads—and over 16 miles of roadway—reconstructed or preserved in 2021 alone.

Given the widespread destruction and project delays brought on by Hurricane Ida, I must tell you that I am immensely pleased with that result. Our incredible Engineering Department—especially Township Engineer Bill Burr, Engineer Tony Gallo, and Director of Municipal Services Tom Genova—all deserve immense credit for our success last year.

But we are not going to rest on last year's accomplishments. Together with the Council, we committed to a five -year program, because that is what is necessary to bring our residents the infrastructure they deserve. This means that there is a tremendous amount of work yet to be done. I intend to follow through on the commitments we made to our residents at the beginning of my term:

First, we're going to keep paving your roads. I appreciate Council's enduring budgetary commitment to our five-year plan, and I look forward to aggressively pursuing our road reconstruction goals in 2022. We can only get our roads where they need to be with a sustained commitment of focus, energy and capital over time.

Second, my Administration will pursue an aggressive road repair program in 2022, and we will announce the initial slate of 2022 roads before the end of the first quarter of this year.

Third, we plan to update the Universal Assessment sometime this winter, so we can take into account the vast progress we made in 2020 and 2021—and also observe any damage from Ida which may still remain.

Finally, we will continue to maintain transparency and accountability with respect to all of our road projects. If you visit OurBWroads.com, you can find the universal assessment data, a list of projects we're working on, and how close they are to completion. Our Office of Constituent Relations maintains and updates this website throughout the year so that our residents can see what progress we're making on their roads any time they like.

The only thing that keeps our streets safer than keeping them well-maintained is our Police Department. Under the strong and effective leadership of Chief Paul Payne and with the implementation of the Pitman schedule, residents are now seeing more neighborhood patrols and increased community engagement. Chief Payne has been diligent in getting his officers the additional training they need to be effective in the ever-changing landscape of law enforcement. In this day and age, that is no small feat.

It is no secret that law enforcement officers have come under increased scrutiny nationally in recent years. Some have gone beyond scrutiny, and leveled vicious and unwarranted criticisms at our department and departments across the country. Let me be unmistakably clear: the Bridgewater Township Police Department enjoys the unqualified confidence and unyielding support of the Township government, and of the residents who live here. We are able to enjoy the safety and security of our community only because of the bravery, dedication and selflessness of our police officers.

Our support for the men and women of our police force must go beyond words. We must provide them the tools they need to succeed. That is why in the past year we have expanded body cam availability, funded new bulletproof vests, and opened up new opportunities for VR-based training simulations.

Another tool we have provided our officers in Bridgewater is called the Community/Police Alliance. The Alliance stemmed from an experience I had several years ago, when I saw the implementation of a program called On POINT in Ocean County. While our program is called the Community/Police Alliance, the sum and substance of it is the same: it is a true partnership between social service workers and police officers which is designed to rapidly address resident situations having to do with mental health, addiction or homelessness, so that those situations don't become exacerbated in the future. In short, the Community/Police Alliance is designed to provide our officers the help and tools they need to assist our most vulnerable residents. Through the Community/Police Alliance, everyone wins: police officers can call on the skills of social workers when they need them, social workers can access vulnerable populations with police protection, and those who need

help in our community can get it from both the police and social services at the same time. I truly believe that programs like the Alliance and OnPoint are the future of effective policing in America. -That is why I was so excited to announce, with Somerset County, the formation of such a partnership with Bridgewater serving as the pilot.

The Community/Police Alliance is already serving our Bridgewater residents by making sure they get the help they need, so that their situations do not become worse and place our officers, our residents, or others in danger.

The man hired to serve in this new role is no stranger to Bridgewater. Damien Stackhouse has been a fierce advocate for his communities for years and has met this challenge with the same vigor and compassion. He is actively working with our police department to identify individuals in crisis and connecting them to the resources they need. Thank you to Damien and Chief Payne for helping to make this endeavor a success for and credit to Bridgewater.

This program is not a fix-all. We know, especially with the length of and pressures put on to us by the pandemic, that mental health remains of paramount concern to all communities, including Bridgewater. More work remains to be done.

During the last two years, we have seen a dramatic spike in the substance abuse disorders which have continued to plague communities like ours. The isolation of continued COVID lockdowns—most especially those endured by our school-age young people, who are especially vulnerable to sociological harm—have only further contributed to the endemic and ongoing tragedy of substance abuse. I have been passionate about pursuing this issue for many years, but with decreases in State funding, it has proven difficult. As individuals

and families wage their personal wars against the disease of addiction, we must be there to support them.

I am proud to stand here today to say that, with the approval of the Council, the Township has joined suit against opioid manufacturers, distributors and retailers who have contributed to the riddling of our communities with addiction and pain.

The money that Bridgewater will receive from this settlement will be earmarked to help to abate the impact that this epidemic has wrought on so many and seek to prevent its spread to others.

My Administration will be working closely with the Municipal Alliance Committee to ensure that any funds we receive are put to use in an impactful way.

In the same vein of community health, this pandemic has taught us the importance of being outdoors. I am proud of the many recreational activities and park facilities that Bridgewater provides and I would like to personally acknowledge our Superintendent of Recreation Rachel Barrett, Senior Center Coordinator Jen Osterberg and DPW Superintendent Richard Shimp for providing the programs and maintenance required to keep our residents engaged and active. But, in Parks and Recreation, as with anything, times change and, with them, needs arise.

Last month, my Administration presented to the public and Council an update on our Parks system and proposed, as its centerpiece, a revised Parks Master Plan. We accomplished many of the goals from the 2010 Master Plan but, as I said, the needs of the community

change over time. These facilities are too important to the health and well-being of our community to address in an ad-hoc manner or in a vacuum.

That is why we are working toward a new Master Plan for the entire Township, which will be designed to prudently and efficiently manage not just our parks and recreational facilities, but the future development of the entire Township. We cannot allow overdevelopment to consume Bridgewater, and my Administration will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that it does not, especially through this new plan. A revised Master Plan, with substantive community input, is the only clear way forward to bring our residents the quality of life that they expect when living in a community like ours. My Administration will establish a channel for public input on this issue in the coming months, and we look forward to hearing from our residents as we construct the new Master Plan this year.

Transparency, responsiveness and community input have been the cornerstones of my Administration since day one. I am proud that we have committed to having a robust Office of Constituent Relations whose sole mission is to get residents the information they need and want both reactively and proactively. We are increasing our social media presence and our electronic newsletters, and we plan on being even more aggressive on this front in the new year.

Despite the tremendous challenges of 2021, I enter 2022 with the same enthusiasm and hope that I had when I took office two years ago. I encourage you all to hold on to your renewed sense of community spirit so that we may continue to make Bridgewater the best it can possibly be.

Thank you and God bless Bridgewater and the United States of America.

Howard's statement

Good evening and welcome to the first Council Meeting of 2022. For most of us the previous year, no make that the previous two years would best be forgotten. But that would be unfair to the numerous family milestones and successes that hopefully eclipse the Covid fears and recent flooding event.

As I look forward to the new year” it is with a renewed sense of hope and anticipation that things will improve.

I want to say THANK YOU to the 9000 Bridgewater residents who elected me for a sixth time to a Council Seat. I particularly appreciate the scores of voters from across the political aisle who told me they were breaking with tradition and voting for me even though I am a Republican.

But in being called to serve for the next four years, I want to reflect on the same promise that I have steadfastly made over the years to you, the residents and business owners in our town. That political promise was really an OATH in which I swore to diligently, honestly and openly perform the duties of this office. I will make decisions in 2022 , just as I have done in the years before, on data based upon factual financial and operational issues.

And I am always available to discuss any township business issues with an open mind. Just call me or email me. I wish you all a happy and healthy 2022. May GOD Bless and Protect our wonderful town.

Thank you

Thank You Council President Kurdyla and Good Evening all- 2021 has come to a close- a year which for many resident and employees may be best remembered for the remnants of Hurricane Ida move through the township, long time township employees Chip Mills and Tommy Marshall, Sr, and retired Police Chief Richard Voorhees passing away, and of course COVID 19's continued impact to our residents and businesses. While these events of 2021 will live in our memories for a long time to come, tonight is also about looking forward to 2022 and the new challenges ahead.

Tonight, we recognize Howard Norgalis, Allen Kurdyla and Filipe Pedroso- the three of whom who were chosen this past November by the residents of Bridgewater to serve as their representatives on the Township Council. Howard, Allen and Filipe have collectively amassed over 40 years of experience on the governing body, repeatedly demonstrating their commitment to serving the Township and the residents of Bridgewater. Having worked closely with Howard, Allen and Filipe over the last two years, I am confident that their

continued service to the residents will be one filled with lots of hard work and admiration.

While the Township Council and Mayor often receive the recognition, like most great teams, there is a group of individuals who work very hard in the background helping to make sure everything goes smoothly. Congratulations and Best of Luck to all those residents that are being appointed tonight to one of the many committees and boards that are so critical to the operation of the town.

There are also some folks don't always get the recognition they deserve, so tonight I take a moment to say thank you the staff of Clerk's Office Linda, Grace and Krista, the staff of OCR, Wells, Scott and Dan, as well as Our Township Administrator Mike Pappas for all of your hard work, help, support and guidance during 2021 and I look forward to continuing to work with you in 2022. In addition to these individuals I mentioned, there are many township employees working around the clock to ensure Bridgewater remains a great place to reside. While we sit here tonight, the fine men and women of the Bridgewater Police

Department are working hard to keep our community safe, Public Works staff is getting ready for snow later tonight and tomorrow morning, Recreation Department planning for possible cancellations tomorrow.

So to all of the township employees that work hard day in and day out, I extend my heartfelt thanks for everything you do to help make Bridgewater a great place. I know that you will continue to work hard, despite the challenges that may lie ahead in 2022.

Congratulations again to Howard, Allen and Filipe.