



Township of Raritan

CLERK'S OFFICE
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September 14, 2022

Mr. John Paff
Opra+request-34854-d319d758@requests.opramachine.com

Mr. Paff,

Your OPRA request sought access to the following:

1. Township Committee resolution (or page from public meeting minutes) approving or ratifying the Settlement Agreement;
2. The Minutes of the July 19, 2022 Township Committee Closed Session;
3. The resolution or motion that appointed an attorney to represent the Township in the matter of "The Communications Workers of America Local 1040/AFL-CIO v. the Township of Raritan;"
4. All detailed legal services invoices submitted by the attorney representing the Township in the matter of "The Communications Workers of America Local 1040/AFL-CIO v. the Township of Raritan;"
5. The petition, complaint or other filing that initiated the matter known as "The Communications Workers of America Local 1040/AFL-CIO v. the Township of Raritan;"
6. The Township's responsive pleading in the matter known as "The Communications Workers of America Local 1040/AFL-CIO v. the Township of Raritan."

The following record is being provided in part with redactions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. as the subject matter falls within attorney-client privilege.

Raritan Township Committee July 19, 2022 Executive Session Meeting Minutes (2 ½ pages)

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The record is being provided via email as per your request.

There is no case or docket number associated with the settlement agreement between the Township of Raritan and the Communications Workers of America as there was no filing of a complaint or petition legally or administratively. There was no action before a tribunal. There are no responsive records for the following:

1. Township Committee resolution (or page from public meeting minutes) approving or ratifying the Settlement Agreement. There was no formal action taken by the Township Committee as per Township Ordinance, the Township Administrator has the authority to hire and remove all employees of the Township with advice and consent of the Township Committee.
2. Resolution or motion appointing an attorney to represent the Township in the matter of "The Communications Workers of America Local 1040/AFL-CIO v. the Township of Raritan." The Township's Labor Counsel, appointed at the annual reorganization meeting, was counsel on record in the matter.
3. All detailed legal services invoices submitted by the attorney representing the Township in the matter of "The Communications Workers of America Local 1040/AFL-CIO v. the Township of Raritan." Said records regarding personnel do not include employee names or specific personnel matters.
4. The petition, complaint, or other filing that initiated the matter known as "The Communications Workers of America Local 1040/AFL-CIO v. the Township of Raritan." The matter was initiated by a response from the CWA challenging the Township Administrator's decision to terminate.
5. The Township's responsive pleading in the matter known as "The Communications Workers of America Local 1040/AFL-CIO v. the Township of Raritan." A Settlement Agreement (which was provided in the August 29, 2022 response) was reached and the matter was withdrawn by the CWA.

Further, pursuant to Executive Order #11:2 and N.J.S.A. 47:1A-9a, "except as otherwise provided by law or when essential to the performance of official duties or when authorized person in interest, an instrumentality of government shall not disclose to anyone other than a person duly authorized by this State or the United States to inspect such information in connection with official duties, personnel or pension records of an individual, except that the following shall be public:

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a) an individual's name, title, position, salary, payroll record, length of service in the instrumentality of government and in the government, date of separation from government service and the reason therefore; and the amount and type of pension receiving;

b) Data contained in information which disclose conformity with specific experiential, educational or medical qualifications required for government employment or for receipt of a public pension, but in no event shall detailed medical or psychological information be released.

If your request for access to a government record has been denied or unfilled within the seven (7) business days required by law, you have a right to challenge the decision by the Township of Raritan to deny access. At your option, you may either institute a proceeding in the Superior Court of New Jersey or file a complaint with the Government Records Council (GRC) by completing the Denial of Access Complaint Form. You may contact the GRC by toll-free telephone at 866-850-0511, by mail at P.O. Box 819, Trenton, NJ, 08625, by e-mail at grc@dca.state.nj.us, or at their website at www.state.nj.us/grc. The GRC can also answer other questions about the law. All questions regarding complaints filed in Superior Court should be directed to the Court Clerk in your County.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions at 908-806-3682 or lisa.fania@raritantwpnj.gov.

Warm regards,



Lisa Fania, RMC
Township Clerk

LF/m
Att.

Cc: J. Sordillo, Esq. Township Attorney
K. Gilbert, Township Administrator

**RARITAN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
RARITAN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022**

PRESENT: Fatooh, Hazard, King, Sipos, Mayor MacDade

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Township Administrator, Karen Gilbert; Municipal Clerk, Lisa Fania;
Township Attorney, Joseph Sordillo

Executive Session began at 6:30 p.m.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Sick/Vacation Leave Policy

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PERSONNEL

Municipal Judge Position

Ms. Gilbert advised that she has received resumes and letters of interest from potential candidates and that the purpose of tonight's discussion is to determine how the Committee wishes to proceed regarding the interview process. It was the consensus of Committee Members that all five members interview candidates together. Ms. Gilbert to schedule interviews. Ms. Fania to provide adequate notice of special meetings accordingly.

Township Engineer

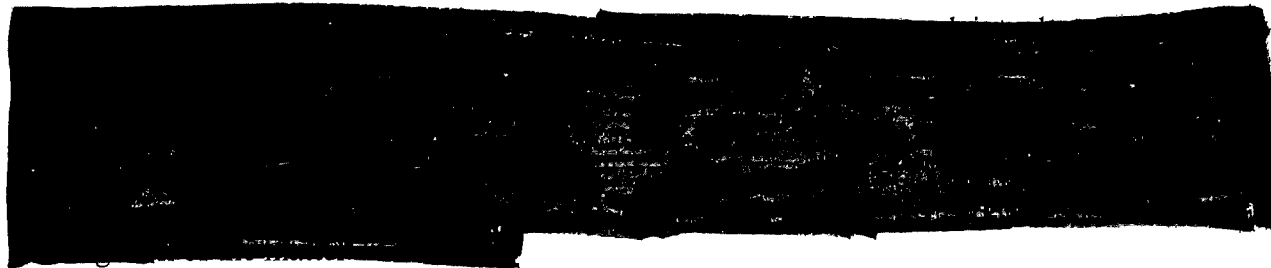
Ms. Gilbert informed Committee Members that Tony Hajjar, Township Engineer, is no longer employed with the Township and that the CWA has challenged his termination. Ms. Gilbert continued that she has submitted her response to the CWA documenting the reasons for termination. Ms. Gilbert further explained that the Township is required to have a professional engineer on staff or by professional services agreement. Ms. Gilbert continued that in light of this requirement, she is meeting with the Township's appointed conflict engineer to discuss coverage until a decision is made regarding Mr. Hajjar's replacement. Ms. Gilbert also proposed a restructuring of the current Planning/Engineering/Zoning Department into two separate departments: Planning/Zoning and Engineering and spoke of qualifications of existing staff.

Municipal Court Administrator Position

Ms. Gilbert provided an update on the status of the hiring of a Court Administrator advising that interviews were conducted by a panel consisting of Ms. Gilbert, Judge Shamey, the East Amwell Court Administrator and Committee Member Sipos. Ms. Gilbert continued that the Township's current Deputy Court Administrator, Bianca Watkins has been selected. Ms. Gilbert explained that Ms. Watkins is seeking a salary of \$68,000.00. Ms. Gilbert proposed \$66,000.00 with a \$2,000.00 increase upon completion of the required certification. There were no objections.

ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE

Hunterdon Creekside Master Association, Inc.



Regular meeting reconvened at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Fania, RMC
Township Clerk

Lisa Fania

From: John Paff <opra+request-35001-89ba2c3c@requests.opramachine.com>
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2022 7:21 PM
To: OPRA
Subject: OPRA request - Documents describing action underlying the settlement agreement (20220829-4.txt)

CAUTION:

This email originated from outside of our email domain. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If unsure, do not reply to this email and call the sender directly.

Dear Ms. Fania:

Please accept this as my request for government records under both OPRA and the common law right of access. Thank you very much for your commitment to transparent government.

BACKGROUND:

In your August 29, 2022 response to my prior OPRA request, you disclosed a July 26, 2022 "Settlement Agreement" that was captioned "The Communications Workers of America Local 1040/AFL-CIO v. The Township of Raritan." The caption, however, does not list any case or docket number or the tribunal within which the captioned action was (or still might be) pending. If there is or was an action before any tribunal to which the settlement agreement pertains, I would like to know the name of the tribunal and the docket, case or file number the tribunal assigned to it.

RECORDS REQUESTED:

1. Township Committee resolution (or page from public meeting minutes) approving or ratifying the Settlement Agreement.
2. The minutes of the July 19, 2022 Township Committee closed session.
3. The resolution or motion that appointed an attorney to represent the Township in the matter of "The Communications Workers of America Local 1040/AFL-CIO v. The Township of Raritan."
4. All detailed legal services invoices submitted by the attorney representing the Township in the matter of "The Communications Workers of America Local 1040/AFL-CIO v. The Township of Raritan."
5. The petition, complaint or other filing that initiated the matter known as "The Communications Workers of America Local 1040/AFL-CIO v. The Township of Raritan."
6. The Township's responsive pleading in the matter known as "The Communications Workers of America

Please use deliver records electronically via email to the below UNIQUE address for all replies to this request:
opra+request-35001-89ba2c3c@requests.opramachine.com

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https://opramachine.com/change_request/new?body=raritan_township

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