

TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE
Office of the Municipal Manager
2207 Lawrence Road
Lawrence Township, New Jersey 08648

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members
FROM: Kevin P. Nerwinski, Esq., Municipal Manager/QPA
DATE: October 16, 2025
RE: **Manager's Report** for the **October 21, 2025, meeting.**

Special Proclamations, Recognitions, and Presentations

None.

Awarding and/or Rejecting of Bids

9A. # 329-25. Authorizing the award of Bid No. 25-02 to Richard T. Barrett Paving for NJ DOT Trust Fund improvements to Glenn Avenue and Stonicker Drive. This involves mill and overlay work as well as other safety improvements. The amount of the bid is \$653,545.60. This is a part of our overall Road Improvement Program.

9B. #330-25. Authorizing the award of Bid No. 25-14 to Pro Brothers Management, LLC for municipal road and drainage improvements to various roads. The amount of the bid is \$108,700. This is a part of our overall Road Improvement Program.

Introduction of Ordinances

None

Adoption of Ordinances

11A. Ordinance No. 2500-25: An ordinance providing for sidewalk improvements in and by the Township appropriating \$29,588.85, and directing the special assessment of the cost (paid by property owners) as a part of the township's Sidewalk Improvement Program.

11B. Ordinance No. 2501-25: An ordinance to vacate, release, and extinguish any and all dedication of public rights in or to certain portions of Haveson Avenue, adjacent to Block 302, Lot 2. This relates to a paper street to be vacated to the adjoining property owner, Harney's Corner Auto Body.

Note: There are "paper streets" throughout our township. They are defined as streets or roads that appear on an official map, subdivision plat, or deed but were never actually built or opened to public use and are deemed no longer necessary. Under NJ law, a local government may **vacate** unused paper streets by ordinance, reverting ownership (often to abutting property owners) under *N.J.S.A. 40:67-19*. This returns the land to the tax rolls, placing the obligation on the property owner to maintain it.

Manager's Report

12A. The **2025 Best Practices Inventory** has been submitted to the State of New Jersey on behalf of Lawrence Township. This annual state-level questionnaire and scoring system, administered by the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services (DLGS), evaluates how well each municipality operates in accordance with statutory requirements and recognized best practices. It measures compliance with various state laws and assesses whether municipalities have adopted sound fiscal, operational, and administrative policies.

The Inventory serves several important purposes. It promotes transparency and accountability by giving taxpayers, oversight bodies, and state officials insight into how effectively local governments are managing their operations. It also provides a mechanism for the State to identify areas where municipalities may benefit from additional technical assistance or training. In addition, the program incentivizes sound governance by rewarding "best practice" initiatives in areas such as budgeting, procurement, ethics, shared services, and transparency.

A municipality's performance directly affects the release of its final State aid payment. To receive full funding, a municipality must achieve a minimum score of 32 points. Scores below that threshold can result in the withholding of 25%, 50%, or even 100% of the final aid payment, depending on the level of deficiency.

Lawrence Township earned a score of **40.5 out of a possible 43.5 points**, resulting in a **100%** compliance rating and ensuring that no portion of the Township's State aid will be withheld.

Note: For those who may wonder why the Township did not receive a "perfect" score, it is important to recognize that the Inventory encompasses a wide range of statutory, operational, and policy areas. It is uncommon for any municipality to receive full credit on every item, as some questions may be newly introduced, subject to interpretation, dependent on timing, or legitimately marked "Not Applicable" due to local circumstances.

Each year, Lawrence Township reviews its results and explores opportunities to address any missed points in the following year's submission, reflecting our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement and operational excellence.

Resolutions

18. F1 and F2 amend the existing professional service agreements for work needed by the retained professionals until the end of the year.

18. H1 – H6 are necessary amendments to existing contracts by *change orders* that comply with requirements under the NJ Public Procurement laws.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns before the meeting, if possible, so we can avoid tabling important Township business.