

Utility Advisory Task Force Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2021  
Warren Craft Meeting Room

Present: Conley, Edelstein, Fields, Fisher, Guibord, Neiman, Romano, Shah  
Absent: Monaco, Robina

1. Flag Salute

2. Mayor's Welcome

Mayor Fields welcomed the Task Force members.

3. Task Force Governance

Mr. Guibord will be the Task Force Chairman and Mayor Fields is the Township Committee liaison.

4. Member Self Introductions

The members introduced themselves and briefly described their backgrounds and Task Force interests.

5. Task Force Mission and Discussion

Chairman Guibord read the Utility Advisory Task Force mission statement as set forth in the Township Committee resolution establishing the Task Force, and opened up discussion on achieving that mission. The members identified the utility companies to be assessed as including JCP&L, Verizon, Altice/Optimum, PSE&G and NJ American Water. The members then discussed the utility companies generally and identified some known issues and concerns. After discussion, upon motion made and seconded, the Task Force unanimously agreed that its first assessment would be of Optimum's internet service. Ms. Shah suggested collecting Optimum service, speed, outage and other relevant data from residents to identify any level-of-service issues. The Task Force by emails will create a survey to facilitate this.

Mayor Fields and Mr. Neiman identified some of the Township's utility contacts and discussed some of the mechanisms and communication channels in place to address utility outages and service issues. Mayor Fields offered to arrange for utility representatives to make meeting presentations to the Task Force if requested. She suggested the Task Force contact other towns to see what they are doing to address utility service issues. The members discussed other information that would be useful in achieving its mission, such as outage statistics and data from the utilities, including the frequency and duration of outages and their plans for maintenance, infrastructure and service improvements in the Township. The members discussed JCP&L's manner of providing outage restoration times and estimates and ways in which that might be improved. Mr. Edelstein reported that PSE&G will be installing smart meters that will enable PSE&G to remotely detect outages and service restorations. The members discussed the concept of introducing competition to improve the level of utility service, noting that this is not practical for water, gas and electric utilities but could work for

internet and cable providers. The members agreed that residents should receive the level of service they are paying for, whether or not their utility has a competitor.

6. February Meeting Agenda

Chairman Guibord requested that each member email him two or three priority items they would like addressed at future meetings.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.