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Senior Coalition of Berkeley Township

Friday, January 9, 2026

MINUTES

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by President Signorile.

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence: All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence for those serving in our military, past and present, and for our first responders.

Roll Call:

Present: President Signorile, Vice President DeChiaro, Secretary/Treasurer Pakay, HC Berkeley, HC Carefree, HC South, HC West, Holiday Heights, SRP East, SRP North, SRP West, SRP Westerly, Sonata Bay. Absent: None. All Associations were represented.

Acceptance of December 2025 Minutes: Judi Pakay

Prior to today's meeting, the Minutes of our December meeting were distributed to all members of the Coalition. There were no corrections or additions received via email or from the floor. Motion was made to accept the minutes and seconded. No oppositions were received. The Minutes stand as written.

Acceptance of the Financial Report – Judi Pakay:

Opening Balance as of December 1, 2025	\$5,138.48
Revenue Generated	\$ 130.00
Interest Earned	\$.04
Expenses Disbursed	\$ 586.29
Closing Balance as of December 31, 2025	\$4,682.20

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Mayor John Bacchione and Director of Public Work Shawn Thomas.

Property Alert:

- At the conclusion of today's meeting be sure to take the Property Alert flyers for your communities.
- The flyer provides information on how to be alerted should someone try to access information on your property for the purpose of stealing your identity and changing title where you no longer own your property.
- Deed theft has grown especially throughout the adult communities.
- The flyer is also available on the Coalition website: scofbt.org.

Snow Plowing Issues:

- Once snow begins to fall it is necessary for all vehicles to be removed from the streets to allow emergency and snow removal vehicles full access to the road.
- Plowing begins after two (2) inches of snow has fallen. Front loaders are sent out after 5”.
- The Mayor has discussed the purchase of new equipment with Shawn. Brine machines are a great way to keep the snow from sticking. Brine is a liquid to prevent icing.
- Main roads take priority then auxiliary and lastly cul-de-sacs.
- Contractors will stay on the job as long as they are being paid.
- The first storm cost us \$274,011.92. Please be patient we will get to your street. We have 17 contractors and 15 employees.
- Next year with the new equipment we will be able to get to the cul-de-sacs earlier. We will use brine and small trucks for the cul-de-sacs.
- First storm we pretreated at midnight and plowing began at 4:30. Last person checked out at 6:00 pm.
- We continued the process again the next day.
- We have no choice but to place the snow on your lawn.
- HC Berkeley wasn't plowed until Wednesday and the 230 homes located on cul-de-sacs were closed off by the plowed snow blocking entry.
- HC South: Parking is a problem. HC Berkeley allows parking on the lawn.

- Q&A: Why can't you contract with the HOA contractors? A: All contracts must go out to bid.
- We have 268 miles of roads; we can't pay different rates to different contractors.
- Call the Mayor's office if you have a problem. Or: berkeleystownship.org.
- We are working on software for you to see where the plows are.

Persons with Disability Information:

- Provide a copy of your Person with a disability identification CARD issued to you by the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission.
- Fax, email, or stop by the Public Works office with the proper documentation.
- Public Works will not accept the Handicap Placard.
- You must renew upon the expiration date found on your card.
- Doctor's notes will no longer be accepted.
- Email: publicworks@berkeleystownship.org. Phone: 732-349-4916. Fax: 732-349-7979

Recycle Coach:

Download the app to your telephone:

- Don't miss a collection. Recycle Coach will alert you when you are scheduled for a garbage and robo collections.
- This app will allow you to report a missed pick up through the Report a Problem Tool.

Councilwoman Sophia Gingrich:

Route 37 Building Plans at Bimini

- 24 acres of undeveloped land is owned by Toms River.
- The railroad which is not used is the marker where Berkeley Township begins.
- Unfortunately, when Mr. Hovanian passed away, all of his properties had to be sold within one year.
- The land was purchased by a cluster of investors without any discussion with Berkeley Township officials.
- The builders intention is to built car dealership, gas station, 99 apartment/townhouses, two (2) playgrounds and a restaurant.

- Berkeley Township officials are investigating their intentions and the traffic plan.
- Mayor Bacchione added that we can't stop the development if it meets all the necessary requirements and is allowed by zoning code.
- Mayor Bacchione has a call into the Toms River officials.
- Councilwoman Gingrich suggested an emergency gate which emergency vehicles would use code on their phones to open the gate.
- Resident concerns is that we are senior communities with a large apartment complex with children. How do we mitigate the possibility of children running through our communities, playing in the streets causing headaches for the seniors who did not sign up for this when they moved into our senior communities.
- Q: Do we know if CAFRA and the EPA have given their approvals.
- Several ideas were presented.
- It was suggested that residents attend the Toms River Council meetings to hear the progress and to voice their opinions.
- Contact Sophia if you have any suggestions.
- Once we have substantial information we will come back to the Coalition.

President's Report – Mike Signorile:

Presidents to sign Coalition Bylaw Change voted on 11/6/2025:

- The Presidents who were present signed the document. Hopefully we can complete this at our next meeting.

Anchor/PTR Mtg BT Council Room 1/21/26 10:00 - 12:30

- All Coalition members are invited to attend.
- The Tax Collector will explain all of the updates coming in the next PAS1 booklet.
- Booklets will be mailed in the middle of February.

Meeting with Workforce at OCC w/Dr. Konopka

- A virtual meeting between the Executive Board has been scheduled via Zoom on 1/21/26.

- The purpose of the meeting is to enlighten Dr. Konopka and his staff exactly what man topics we are interested in teaching new Board of Trustees.
- Dr. Konopka and his staff were made aware of the 3-hour proposed course which will be mandated by the DCA

Community Connections Newsletter:

- The Executive Board is aware of the discontinuation of the Newsletter. They will be meeting with Bill Kirms Sr. and Jr. to see if an amicable solution can be found.
- HOA newsletters that are printed by Senior Publishing are up on the Coalition website.

Vice President's Report – Vince DeChiaro:

- No Report

Secretary/Treasurer Report – Judi Pakay

CAI Membership

- Last chance to provide Judi with the name of the person that should receive information from your CAI membership.

Annual Report 2025:

- Once all of the HOA membership dues has been received, the Annual Report will be filed with the state.

New Member Orientation:

- Any new member who would like to learn more about our Coalition should contact Judi. (Website, CAI, ADR, etc.)

Next Coalition Meeting:

- Our February meeting will be held at Silver Ridge Park North HOA, 101 Westport Drive. Time: 10:00 am.

Open Discussion

Flying the American Flag Upside Down/Political Statement Signs:

- Mike reported that he is receiving many telephone calls, especially from Veterans about residents flying the American flag upside down.
- Upside flying indicates distress. Vessels fly the flag upside down to notify individuals that their vessel is in distress. However, it is every homeowner's right to fly the flag upside down if that is their desire.
- HOA Boards should have rules regarding political statement signs on homeowner's property. If there is no written rule, the homeowner resident has the right to express themselves regardless of how offensive it is to others.

HOA Events Collaboration:

- Holiday City Berkeley are in the process of having Senior Publishing do their newsletter. Once in place their event flyers will automatically be uploaded to the Coalition website.
- Judi suggested that flyers should state "Open to the Public" if it is not a resident only event.
- HOA clubs should each have their own Tax ID number and file their own reports. If the club is operating under the HOA Tax ID number the club should be included in the budget.

Move to Adjournment:

- Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted