

**AUTHORIZING A COOPERATIVE PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH FOR THE ACQUISITION OF AN
AGRICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION EASEMENT WITH A RIGHT OF
FIRST REFUSAL OPTION TO PURCHASE THE REAL PROPERTY
KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS BLOCK 12, LOTS 10.01, 12 & 13 AND
BLOCK 12, LOT 9.01 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF ABERDEEN, MONMOUTH COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, the Township of Aberdeen (the “TOWNSHIP”) has established the Aberdeen Township Open Space Trust Fund (the “TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE FUND”) for funding TOWNSHIP open space preservation, natural resources, conservation and public park and recreation projects within the TOWNSHIP; and

WHEREAS, the County of Monmouth (“the COUNTY”) has established the Monmouth County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund (the “COUNTY OPEN SPACE FUND”) for funding open space preservation, natural resources conservation and public park and recreation projects within the COUNTY; and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY, through its dedicated COUNTY OPEN SPACE FUND, has the ability and desires to incentivize the funding of municipal land acquisition for the purposes of open space preservation; and

WHEREAS, the Samaha Farm property is designated as Block 12, Lot 9.01 (with an address of 676 and 704 Lloyd Road), and Block 12, Lots 10.01, 12 & 13 (with an address of 650, 670 and 680 Lloyd Road) on the Official Tax Map of the TOWNSHIP (the “PROPERTY”); and

WHEREAS, the TOWNSHIP and the COUNTY both recognize the importance of preserving the PROPERTY in perpetuity for open space preservation, natural resources conservation and public park and recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the TOWNSHIP and the COUNTY both also recognize the value of cooperating with one another to preserve and protect the PROPERTY; and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY has expressed a willingness to fund up to 50% of the cost to acquire an Agricultural and Conservation Easement/Right of First Refusal Option to Purchase the PROPERTY (the “EASEMENT/ROFR”); and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY requires, as a condition of funding 50% of the costs to acquire the EASEMENT/ROFR, that the TOWNSHIP enter into a Cooperative Project Agreement with the COUNTY memorializing the terms and conditions of the COUNTY’S participation in the acquisition; and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY and the TOWNSHIP have negotiated a Cooperative Project Agreement, a copy of which is annexed hereto as EXHIBIT A, and the terms of which are incorporated into this resolution as if set forth at length herein (the “AGREEMENT”); and

WHEREAS, the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, et seq., (the “Act”) permits units of local government to share services for particular purposes and to effectuate agreements for any service of circumstance that will aid and encourage a reduction of local expenses; and

WHEREAS, the TOWNSHIP and the COUNTY are public bodies corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey and are authorized under New Jersey law to enter into the AGREEMENT pursuant to the Act; and

WHEREAS, the AGREEMENT facilitates the TOWNSHIP'S interest in preserving open space in Aberdeen, with the goal of improving the quality of life for all residents, and is in the best interest of the TOWNSHIP;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Council as follows:

1. The above recitals are hereby incorporated into the body of this Resolution as if set forth at length herein.
2. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a Cooperative Project Agreement in a form substantially similar to that which is annexed hereto as EXHIBIT A.
3. The Cooperative Project Agreement, which shall take effect upon full execution by the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners or their designee, shall be open to public inspection in the Clerk's office.
4. The Township Manager is authorized to take such additional action and furnish such documents as may be required to facilitate the purposes of the Cooperative Project Agreement and acquisition of the Agricultural and Conservation Easement/Right of First Refusal Option to Purchase the Property and to act as the principal contact person and correspondent for the Township of Aberdeen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be provided to each of the following:

- a. The County of Monmouth
- b. Bryan Russell, Business Administrator
- c. Angela Morin, Chief Financial Officer

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers Cannon, Hirsch, Kelley, Martucci, Swindle, Deputy Mayor Montone, Mayor Tagliarini

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Aberdeen on April 4, 2024

Melissa Pfeifer
Melissa Pfeifer, Township Clerk