

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – September 5, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.**

**Meeting Location: Neptune Senior Center, 1607 Corlies Ave. Neptune, NJ 07753**

Mayor Cafferty calls the meeting to order and asks the Clerk to call the roll:

<b>Township Committee</b>	Present/ Absent	<b>Professionals</b>	Present/ Absent
Dr. Michael Brantley	<u>Absent</u>	Gina LaPlaca, Business Administrator	<u>Present</u>
Robert Lane, Jr.	<u>Present</u>	Gabriella Siboni, Township Clerk	<u>Present</u>
Nicholas Williams	<u>Present</u>	Michael Celli, Assistant Township Attorney	<u>Present</u>
Tassie D. York	<u>Present</u>		
Keith Cafferty	<u>Present</u>		

**MOMENT OF SILENCE AND FLAG SALUTE**

The Clerk states, "Fire exits are located in the rear of the room and to my right. In the event of a fire, you will be notified by fire alarm and/or public address system, then proceed to the nearest smoke-free exit."

Mayor Cafferty announces that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 have been satisfied by the publication of the required advertisement in The Coaster on August 17, 2023, posting the notice on the Board in the Municipal Complex, and filing a copy of said notice with the Municipal Clerk. In addition, the meeting agenda is posted on the Township web site ([www.neptunetownship.org](http://www.neptunetownship.org)).

**POLICE PROCESSIONAL**

**INVOCATION by Pastor Darrell Dunn**

Pastor Dunn stated that character and moral integrity are our gems. Pastor Dunn stated that when a man is of good character, his reputation will precede him. This is not to suggest he is perfect, as we are all works in progress. It does however, put him in a position to see blessings. Pastor Dunn stated he believed Mr. Gualario is this man and is proud to be here to recognize this promotion.

Pastor Dunn blessed the event and Mr. Gualario.

**COMMENTS FROM THE DAIS**

Comments from the Dais regarding business on this agenda or any reports on recent events in their respective departments.

- Committeeman Williams Mr. Williams stated that last year the Committee had the honor to swear in Chief Larry Fisher. Chief Fisher’s time flew by and this year, this Committee will swear in Anthony Gualario. Mr. Williams stated he knew that Mr. Gualario will keep moving this Police Department forward
- Committeeman Lane Mr. Lane thanked Chief Fisher for his service. Mr. Lane stated that Mr. Gualario’s file showcased that Mr. Gualario has a heart for service as showcased by his military experience and as a lifeguard. Mr. Lane stated it is a pleasure and honor to have Mr. Gualario serve as Chief and Neptune is lucky to have him.
- Deputy Mayor York Ms. York stated she had the honor and privilege of being a friend to Chief Fisher. Ms. York thanked Chief Fisher for his service. Ms. York stated she prays everyday for the police force because they put their lives on the line for Neptune everyday. Ms. York stated she is excited for Mr. Gualario to take his position and is looking forward to working with Mr. Gualario.

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE**

**Swearing in of Chief of Police**

Mayor Cafferty stated Anthony Gualario started his law enforcement career in 1995 in the Borough of Belmar where he spent two years as a Special Law Enforcement Officer. He was hired as a police officer with the Neptune Township Police Department in 1996 where he was assigned to the patrol division until he was promoted to Sergeant in 2008 and assigned to the Traffic Safety Bureau. In 2012 he was promoted to Lieutenant and transferred to the patrol division where he served as a Shift Commander. In 2013 he was transferred to the Professional Responsibility Division where he was responsible for internal affairs, training, grants, forfeiture, accreditation and police records. In 2016 he was promoted to Captain leading the Professional Responsibility Division as Division Commander overseeing the detective bureau, identification bureau, accreditation, training, grants, forfeiture, budgeting, special projects and in addition administrative duties.

Anthony is a native of Neptune Township where he attended Neptune Public Schools graduating from Neptune High School in 1990. Upon graduation he served our country in the United States Army completing his basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama. He then was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division (light infantry), Fort Drum New York. Immediately after Hurricane Andrew devastated South Florida in 1992, he was deployed along with 22,000 military personnel as part of “Joint Task Force Andrew”, which was the largest relief operation in US history. Shortly after in late 1992,

Anthony was deployed once again to Somalia along with over 30,000 military personnel where he was engaged in ground operations in a chaotic African country with no functional government, starvation, disease and conflict, known as “Operation Restore Hope”. For his distinguished military service and tours completed during Operation Restore Hope and Joint Task Force Andrew, Anthony was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Emblem, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Ribbon and New Jersey’s highest military award for his tour in Somalia, the Distinguished Service Medal for operating in a combat theater.

Anthony is a graduate of the Monmouth County Police Academy’s SLEO II’s 21st class where he was awarded the Academic Award for the highest-grade point average in his class. He also attended the Monmouth County Police Academy’s Basic Police Officers 52nd class where he was awarded the Merit Award for “the most likely to advance and succeed”.

Anthony holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Arts and Master’s Degree in Administrative Science from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He also holds a Post-Graduate Certificate in Law & Public Safety Administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University and an Undergraduate Certificate in Criminal Justice Education from the University of Virginia. Anthony attended the prestigious (FBI) Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy for 11 weeks in Quantico, Virginia graduating the 274th class. He also attended the NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police “West Point” Command & Leadership Academy along with the FBI leadership and supervision school, NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police New Police Chiefs Orientation School. In addition he attended the Executive Leadership for Public Safety Personnel Course at Fairleigh Dickinson University, NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police Contemporary Supervision Techniques Course and Penn State’s High Impact Supervision Course.

Anthony is a proud life member of the (VFW) Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1333 in Neptune and currently is serving his second term as Jr. Vice Commander.

Anthony has also volunteered his time in coaching youth sports such as flag football, mitey mites tackle football and biddy basketball.

Mayor Cafferty stated that While a member of this committee, I have had a voice on various subjects that have had an impact on the future of this community, but there are few that match the importance of what we are doing today. The position of Chief of Police in a very tangible way, shapes and guides public policy to a degree that can’t be overstated. As the Chief, not only do you have the ability to mold the career of new officers and shape the interactions between the department and residents of the town, you also impact the tenor of the town as a whole. How you conduct yourself is reflected throughout the department and to the community in every interaction.

Such a weighty position requires a special person to step in and our new Chief of Police, Anthony Gualario, is ready. In my time working with him, I have found him to be a dedicated and diligent individual who I believe will strive to do right by Neptune Township and its residents. I have the utmost respect for his professionalism and compassion, and I look forward to many years with him at the helm.

I could take time to list out all of the qualities that make our new Chief the right person for the role before him, but I’m sure most of you are very much aware already. Instead, I want to just say to him “Thank you for taking on this difficult and demanding position. I know that it will have its good days and bad, but know that even in the most difficult times you have the faith and backing of the Township Committee and the residents of Neptune. I look forward to our work together.”

Mayor Swore in Anthony Gualario

### **Presentation of Badge**

Chief Gualario had his son AJ remove his Deputy Chief badge and his wife Jessica placed his Chief Badge on.

### **PRESENTATION**

- Senator Gopal

Senator Gopal congratulated Chief Gualario, thanked Chief Fisher for his service and historic tenure. Senator Gopal stated that Neptune has been left in good hands. Senator Gopal thanked all those who travelled here today. Senator Gopal stated this was a great department in a tough environment. Senator Gopal stated Neptune is a special place for him and he has been proud to see Neptune served by Chief Fisher and now Chief Gualario. Senator Gopal stated it is wonderful to see the comradery as Deputy Chief McGhee led the standing ovation for Chief Gualario. Senator Gopal presented a citation to Chief Anthony Gualario.

- Assemblywoman Marilyn Piperno and Assemblywoman Kim Eulner

Assemblywoman Eulner and Assemblywoman Piperno expressed praise and congratulations to Chief Gualario.

Assemblywoman Piperno stated she was able to meet Mr. Gualario through VFW Post 133. Assemblywoman Piperno stated she believes Chief Gualario leads with kindness and public service. Assemblywoman Piperno stated she is very thankful to our police force for all they do for this community.

Assemblywoman Eulner congratulated Chief Gualario and stated they support Neptune Township Police.

- Director Arnone

Director Arnone stated this is a special night for all of Monmouth County. Director Arnone stated what a wonderful thing it is to have someone who knows Neptune so well. Director Arnone stated Chief Gualario knew he wanted to be an officer when they were pumping gas. Director Arnone stated that all those in Monmouth County support law enforcement one hundred percent. Director Arnone stated Chief Gualario will do a great job leading this amazing force.

Director Arnone presented a proclamation naming September 5 Chief Gualario day in Neptune Township.

- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1333 Neptune Commander Wilbur Martin

Commander Martin stated when he first met Tony he could not get his last name correct. Mr. Martin stated that Mr. Gualario has been a member of VFW Post 1333 for 2 years and has held the position of Junior Vice Commander. Mr. Martin stated it is like he has known Tony all of his life. Commander Martin stated during his time at VFW he has updated the website, received clothing donations, among many other efforts. Mr. Martin stated Tony is a tremendous addition to the VFW. Mr. Martin presented Chief Gualario with a lifetime member hat.

- Police Committee Member and Jersey Shore Worship Pastor Nancey Jackson Johnson

Pastor Nancey Jackson Johnson congratulated her “Vanilla Brother” on this honor that is so well deserved. Pastor Jackson Johnson read a scripture in honor of Chief Gualario. Pastor Jackson Johnson stated that Mr. Gualario was, built for this; chosen for this position. Pastor Jackson Johnson led a prayer for Chief Gualario and the Neptune Township Police Department.

Chief Gualario stated First and foremost, I would like to thank the Police Committee led by our Business Administrator Gina LaPlaca and the Governing Body (Mayor Cafferty, Deputy Mayor York, Committeeman Lane, Committeeman Brantely and Committeeman Williams) for your support and confidence that you have in my abilities to lead this agency into the future. I am grateful for the trust and confidence you have bestowed in me. Humbled by the highest honor any police officer can hope for, inspired to take up the greatest challenge of my career.

Good evening, family, friends, colleagues, elected officials, distinguished guests, and members of the Neptune Township Police Department: Special thanks and love to my wonderful wife Jessica, my daughter Alexis, my son AJ and my daughter Kaitlyn who is away at college and was unable to be here today.

Thank you, Senator Gopal, Assemblywoman Eulner, Assemblywoman Piperno and Monmouth County Commissioner, Director Arnone for taking the time out of your busy schedules and being here today to share your kind words and support. I also want to thank the Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office, Prosecutor Santiago, First Assistant Prosecutor Julia Alonso, Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor Chris Decker and Chief of Detectives John McCabe. Thank you also to the Monmouth County Chief’s Association and all of the Chiefs who are present to show their support.

Thank you for the invocation, Pastor Dunn and thank you Pastor Nancey Jackson Johnson for the kind words and blessings. Commander Martin, VFW Post 1333 and the VFW Auxiliary thank you as always for supporting me and your fellow veterans and keeping to our motto, “No one does more for veterans”.

It is such a great privilege to be appointed to the position of Chief of Police of a community where I was raised and educated by the Neptune Township Public School System. I am eager for the days, weeks, months and years ahead as I embark upon the next chapter of this progressive police department and its service to Neptune Township.

The Neptune Township Police Department has worked very hard in building a solid reputation of excellence within Monmouth County especially when it comes to how we treat our community and the seriousness we take towards our profession. Every person we encounter I expect nothing less than fairness, professionalism and respect and that is my expectation from the members of our department and my commitment to you.

As the 11th Police Chief in our department’s history, I’ve been fortunate enough to work for five Chiefs and one Police Director. I want to thank and acknowledge the Police Chiefs and Police Director who are present and who have impacted my career in some fashion; Chief James Ward, Chief Robert Adams, Chief James Hunt, Chief Larry Fisher and Director Mike Bascom. I want to sincerely express my thanks and appreciation to Chief Larry Fisher for his support, friendship and dedication and service to our township, which was exemplified by the attention and time that he spent devoted to making this transition as smooth as possible.

I will make it a priority to increase civic engagement and continue to follow our core values of being an agency that is dedicated to being Noble, Trustworthy, Professional and Diverse, qualities we take great pride in.

My pledge to you is that I will approach every day with a determined work ethic and focus on officer wellness, community concerns, school safety and innovative ways to decrease crime within our township. It is my responsibility to adjust our policing techniques and initiatives to conform to our ever-changing community needs.

As your Police Chief, I will represent this agency with one who represents positive change, forward thinking, being open minded, accountability, transparency, professionalism and a leader who leads by example.

I assure you I will rise to the challenge in continuing to build off Neptune Township Police Department’s strong history of community outreach and establishing new partnerships with community organizations to facilitate open and positive dialogue.

I am well aware of challenging times our law enforcement community faces today. I am extremely grateful to our elected officials, residents, businesses and faith-based partners who continue to support and believe in our department. New Jersey Law Enforcement Accreditation is widely recognized as a means of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism, excellence and competence. We have achieved this status since 2016. Roughly 43% of NJ law enforcement agencies are accredited and only 12% have achieved reaccreditation twice. We have it achieved it twice. I will ensure that this prestigious achievement continues throughout my tenure as Chief.

**TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE NEPTUNE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

I am extremely proud and thankful for everything you do. You have made our community a better place to live and raise a family. Your sacrifices in keeping our community safe does not go unnoticed. I am proud to lead this department and all of the hard-working men and women who proudly provide public safety services and work to enhance the quality of life to all of our residents and visitors. It is truly an honor to be your Chief.

I will leave you tonight with a quote by U.S. Army General Douglas MacArthur:

“A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent.”

Thank you all for coming out tonight and showing your support and may God bless you all.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Members of the public may address any concern relating to the Township.

The public comment portion of our meeting is to allow the public to bring to the Committee’s attention their concerns or comments. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 10: 4-12(a) and the Neptune Rules of Committee, the Committee asks the public to limit their comments to five minutes or less. The Committee will respect the public’s time by refraining any comment until the speaker has finished with their allotted time. It should be further noted that public comment portion of our meeting is not structured as a question-and-answer session. If a member of the public has questions, they seek answers to, an appointment can be made with the appropriate office, Business Administrator or Township Committee Liaison during regular business hours. The Township Clerk will regulate the time during the comment portion of our meeting. The Committee reserves the right to respond to comments or questions at the conclusion of the speaker’s time.

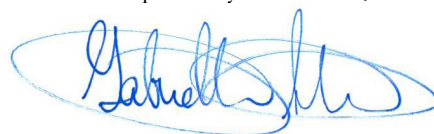
**There was no public comments**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Offered by: York Seconded by: Williams

Time adjourned: 7:07PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Gabriella Siboni  
Township Clerk