

Township of West Milford
Passaic County, New Jersey

~ Resolution 2012 – 369 ~

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY REQUESTING THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES ENFORCE CURRENT STANDARDS AND IMPLEMENT IMPROVEMENTS OF ELECTRICAL SERVICE PROVIDED TO THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD AMENDED

WHEREAS, the residents of West Milford Township have suffered substantial loss of electricity as a result of hurricane super storm Sandy on October 29, 2012 through October 31, 2012, which caused damage to residents' properties and the loss of electricity which threatened their health, safety and general well-being; and

WHEREAS, the response from Orange & Rockland (O&R) and Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L) to the concerns and power outages to the Township and its residents has been unsatisfactory; and

WHEREAS, residents of the Township have lost electricity for an inordinate period of time and in some cases, residents are still without power; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council have concluded that the delays and inaction of Orange & Rockland and JCP&L was a danger to the health, safety and general welfare of the residents of the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Public Utilities is the regulatory authority with a statutory mandate to ensure safe, adequate and proper utility services at reasonable rates for customers in the Township of West Milford and the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Public Utilities regulates critical services such as natural gas and electricity; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Public Utilities is mandated to insure the provision of safe, adequate and proper utilities and regulated services at reasonable rates; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Public Utilities Division of Reliability and Security is responsible for implementing ongoing strategies for utility disaster preparedness, reliability and infrastructure security in conjunction with the State's Domestic Preparedness and Security Efforts by the comprehensive coordination of utility remediation and recovery actions; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council have concluded that the services provided by Orange & Rockland and JCP&L failed to meet any reasonable standards for safe, adequate and proper service in that Orange & Rockland and JCP&L's failed response to hurricane super storm Sandy is of great concern to the Mayor and Town Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Town Council of the Township of West Milford, in the County of Passaic, and State of New Jersey that it specifically requests that the Board of Public Utilities require that Orange & Rockland and Jersey Central Power & Light provide the residents of the Township of West Milford with proper infrastructure repairs, upgrades and enhancement to insure safe, adequate and proper service to the Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Town Council hereby specifically request the Board of Public Utilities require Orange & Rockland and JCP&L to immediately work with the Township to develop a responsible strategy for utility disaster preparedness for the delivery of electricity to the residents of the Township of West Milford.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the specific minimum standard shall include but not be limited to: (a) an immediate review of the assessment of electrical infrastructure in the Township; (b) the designation of local and regional representatives who will be fully familiar with such review and assessment and shall periodically meet with State, County and Municipal offices of Emergency Management to establish and maintain Emergency Management procedures for the Township; and (c) at the cost and expense of Orange & Rockland and JCP&L, designate, train or otherwise qualify local municipal employees with the authority to assess any electricity service issues so that the local Department of Public Works can safely clear trees and debris surrounding fallen power lines to insure the safety of Township residents and the general public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BPU setup a Commission of Inquiry for the equivalent to investigate the process of recovery and restoration of services after Hurricane super storm Sandy that would include but not be limited to subpoena of records or witnesses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be provided to the following: Governor Chris Christie; Orange & Rockland; Jersey Central Power & Light; Board of Public Utilities; West Milford Township Office of Emergency Management.

Adopted: November 14, 2012

Adopted this 14th day of November, 2012
and certified as a true copy of an original.

Antoinette Battaglia, Township Clerk