

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
February 25, 2010

Flag Salute

Sunshine Statement:

In compliance with the 'Open Public Meetings Law' the Regular Meeting was duly advertised by an annual notice sent to the News of Cumberland County, the Press of Atlantic City, and WSNJ on January 15, 2010. Notices were placed on the Municipal Office bulletin board on the same date.

Officials Present: Hankins, Facemyer, Freitag, Ritter, Shoemaker. Others: Sol. T. Henry Ritter, Asst. Sol. Matthew Ritter, A. Clerk E. Daddario, Treasurer Lois Buttner. Others: Bruce Cobb, Tom Tedesco and Planning Board Member Alfred Caggiano, Jr.

Shoemaker, seconded by Ritter, moved for **Approval of Minutes** of 2/11/10 Regular Meeting. (Including Resolutions Passed). Approved (5-0).

Shoemaker, seconded by Ritter, moved for **Approval of Minutes** of 2/11/10 Closed Executive Session Meeting. Approved (5-0).

Treasurer Buttner distributed a package of reports, including the 2010 Municipal Information Sheet distributed by the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services.

Facemyer, seconded by Ritter, moved to approve the **Treasurers Report of Account Balances 2/25/10** as submitted. Approved (5-0).

DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrator reported on the February 5th theft at the Hopewell/Greenwich Convenience Center (Approximately \$455.00 in items stolen). He reviewed the NJ State Police report on the February 18th Hopewell Crest school bus accident on Cubby Hollow Road (No Injuries). Woolwich Township's donation of courtroom furniture to Hopewell Township was well received. The committee suggested that a letter of thanks be drafted and signed by the Mayor and Township Committee Members. **Assessor** recommendation to approve a 2010 Electronic File Maintenance Proposal/Contract was discussed.

Shoemaker, seconded by Facemyer, moved to approve the **Electronic File Maintenance Contract** submitted by J. H. Services Inc. in the amount of \$3000.00. (Approved 5-0)

Clerk distributed copies of the Cumberland Regional High School 2010-2011 Preliminary Budget Review which projected a shortfall of approximately \$2,000,000.00. **Dog Registrar** reported that 2010 Dog Licenses are now available and that 229 Licenses have been issued as of 2/24/10. **Convenience Center** 1203 Permits have been issued as of 2/24/10. **Economic**

Development: The Economic Development Committee has been actively pursuing businesses to occupy the Fisher Food Center building, Susquehanna Bank building and Business Park sites.

Tax & Sewer Collector submitted the January 2010 Cash Book Report \$703,850.73 including interest and \$52,320.44 sewer. **Senior Center** received a quote of \$1,770.20, for installation of an in-line Humidifier, from South Jersey Mechanical.

A bill list dated 02/25/10 prepared by Treasurer Buttner was provided. Ritter, seconded by Facemyer, motion for **Approval of bills** totaling **\$544,250.34** on the prepared list (Including Payroll) was approved 5-0.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments and opened the meeting to **PUBLIC COMMENTS**. Tom Tedesco asked if the township had any projections as to the amount of state aid cuts for the 2010 budget. It was suggested that after the Governor's budget address in mid March we may have a better indication. He also questioned the status of The Council on Affordable Housing to which Solicitor, T. H. Ritter explained the court stay of the previously imposed executive order implementing a 90 day period of "no action" by Governor Christie. There being no further public comment, at 7:21pm, Facemyer, seconded by Freitag, moved the meeting to **OLD BUSINESS**.

OLD BUSINESS:

COAH: The Committee reviewed a letter sent to Marcia A Karrow, Chairperson, Housing Opportunity Task Force, submitting suggestions for future affordable housing legislation.

Comcast Franchise Renewal Update: The Committee reviewed a letter sent to Michael J. Darcy, CAE, Assistant Director, New Jersey League of Municipalities, addressing the competitive disadvantages of rural municipalities with regard to the availability of high speed internet service.

Sewer Upgrade Project: New bid specifications should be finalized within 10 days upon review of specifications with Gus Maier.

Bostwick Lake Commission: In a February 5th 2010 letter to the Township Committee, Bruce Cobb expressed his dissatisfaction with the Bostwick Lake Commission and the way in which the adjacent campsites and grounds are managed. He mentioned numerous issues and thought that the addressing of these issues is overdue. He was assured by the committee that the problems will be resolved. Mayor Hankins has been trying to arrange a meeting with the Mayors of the three municipalities involved. Solicitor T. H. Ritter will review the present bylaws of the commission and will have recommendations at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The following Resolutions were approved:

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION No. 10-23 Resolution to refund overpayment of taxes to property owner

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey, as follows:
WHEREAS, property owner, Rebecca Maltese, Block 47 Lot 6, 76 Hitchner Avenue, had been approved by the Veteran's Administration as the widow of a totally and permanently disabled Veteran and Hopewell Township passed Resolution 09-28 on March 25th, 2009 to cancel taxes due for that year; and
WHEREAS, payments for 3 quarters of 2009 tax have been made by Maltese's mortgage company even though the collector canceled the billed amounts; and
WHEREAS, Ms. Maltese is requesting a refund of the overpayments on her property,
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Hopewell Township refund Rebecca Maltese three quarters of 2009 tax totaling \$3398.53.

Motion: Shoemaker

Aye: Hankins, Facemyer, Freitag, Ritter, Shoemaker

Absent: None

Second: Ritter

Nay: None

Abstain: None

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION NO. 10-24 Resolution in Opposition to Senate Bill S-458

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S-458, if signed into law, would remove the municipality's responsibility for assessing real property within the corporate bounds; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S-458; if signed into law, would remove the municipality's responsibility for collecting property taxes within the corporate bounds; and

WHEREAS, some municipalities within the County will inherit additional costs shifted to them from other municipalities within the same county particularly when costs pertain to the defense of tax appeals; and

WHEREAS, if signed into law, the bill will deprive the municipality's of efficient and diligent control of property taxes and expenditures, which, as has been proven time and again, is best left to municipal government officials; and

WHEREAS, a municipality is a corporate body organized to provide local government services designed to **most effectively and efficiently serve the residents** of that jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, there exists no empirical data of factual studies showing a transfer of the assessing and collections functions to a county authority will in any way reduce the taxes for the municipality or the county; and

WHEREAS, a basic tenet of American political philosophy is that local governments have the inherent right to exercise authority to provide local services to its constituents and adopt ordinances and regulations for the good of the general public; and

WHEREAS, in New Jersey, municipalities are dubbed creatures of the State with the State exercising its supremacy in granting both implied and express powers to local governments while at the same time reserving unto itself the indispensable right to legislate mandates to be implemented by counties and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, local taxpayers will be at a loss of service they are accustomed to that they would typically receive from the Tax Assessment and Tax Collection offices; and

WHEREAS, other municipal departments and the business community will be at a loss of services they are accustomed to Receiving from the assessor's and collector's office;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and members of the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell in Cumberland County that:

1. They hereby adopt the facts and determinations as set forth in the preamble of this resolution as if the same were more fully set forth herein at length.
2. They hereby memorialize their vigorous opposition to the Pending Legislation known as S-458 and the inherent additional costs and dilution of services associated with it.
3. The Municipal Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Governor Chris Christie; Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney; Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver; the Tax Collectors and Treasurers Association of New Jersey, the New Jersey Association of County Tax Boards, the Municipal Assessors of New Jersey as well as Hopewell Township's legislative officials.

Motion: Facemyer

Aye: Hankins, Facemyer, Freitag, Ritter, Shoemaker

Absent: None

Second: Shoemaker

Nay: None

Abstain: None

RESOLUTION 10-25

Authorizing 1/12 Appropriations of 2009 budget

WHEREAS, due to a delay in State Aid certifications and no adequate provision being made in the 2009 Temporary Appropriations for the aforesaid purpose, and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of a temporary appropriation for the purpose above mentioned, and

WHEREAS, the total temporary resolutions adopted in the year 2010 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 95, P.L. 1951(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20) including this resolution total \$762,363.25 in the Current Fund

with \$578,661.26 being the original temporary appropriations and an additional \$183,701.99 being this Resolution appropriation; \$117,583.33 is the total temporary resolutions adopted in the year 2010 in the Sewer Utilities Fund with \$89,250.00 being the original temporary appropriations and an additional \$27,833.33 being this Resolution appropriation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20:

1. A temporary total appropriation be and the same is hereby made in the amount of \$762,363.25 for the Hopewell Township 2010 Current Fund Budget and in the amount of \$117,583.33 for the Hopewell Township 2010 Sewer Utilities Fund Budget.
2. That said appropriations (will be) provided for in the Hopewell Township 2010 Municipal Budget.
3. That one certified copy of this resolution will be filed with the Director of Local Government Services.

Motion by: Facemyer

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Hankins, Facemyer, Freitag, Ritter, Shoemaker

Absent: None

Second by Ritter

Nay: None

Abstain: None

CORRESPONDENCE & NOTES & FILINGS include: **Cumberland County Utilities Authority** Monthly User Charge and Loading Report, Agenda from the February 18th Regular Meeting, **NJ Department of Environmental Protection** request for re-submission of the proposed Cohansey River Basin Wastewater Management Plan, **Cumberland County Improvement Authority** 2009 Recycling Tonnage Figures, 2010 Holiday Calendar, **Philly.com Court stays suspension of affordable housing laws**, **NJLM S-2, S-3, S-4 and SCR-1** on pension reform, Governor declares fiscal emergency, S-1352 new OPRA mandates would increase local costs and decrease local revenues, Revised-important OPRA fees, **DCA** Division of Local Government Services review of new local financial and general government laws, **NJLM Affordable Housing Update**.

Solicitor's Report: T.H. Ritter and officials from the Hopewell/Stow Creek Fire Company are currently reviewing a draft of the bylaws. They will be meeting soon to finalize the document.

Mr. Ritter suggested that a resolution be drafted to honor LeRoy "Roy" Brooks, former mayor and longtime public servant of Hopewell Township. The suggestion was echoed by the entire Township Committee.

At 7:40pm Facemyer, seconded by Freitag, moved the meeting into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** for the purpose of discussing possible litigation and real estate.

At 7:52pm the meeting was returned to **Open Session**.

Facemyer, seconded by Shoemaker, moved to draft a resolution to declare the former Susquehanna Bank building, at 500 Shiloh Pike, "no longer needed for public use" and to advertise it for public auction, with a minimum bid of \$225,000.00 and with no use variance required by the successful bidder. (Approved 5-0)

At 8:10pm Ritter, seconded by Shoemaker, moved the meeting into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** for the purpose of discussing real estate.

At 8:44pm the meeting was returned to **Open Session**.

There being no further business Freitag, seconded by Facemyer, motion to **ADJOURN** was approved by all. Mayor Hankins adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm.

Eugene Daddario, A. Clerk

cc:

**Committee,
Township Bulletin Bd.,
Sol. T. H. Ritter**

AGENDA
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
February 25, 2010

Flag Salute

Sunshine Statement:

In compliance with the 'Open Public Meetings Law' the Regular Meeting was duly advertised by an annual notice sent to the News of Cumberland County, the Press of Atlantic City, and WSNJ on January 15, 2010. Notices were placed on the Municipal Office bulletin board on the same date.

Roll Call: Township Committee: Hankins, Freitag, Facemyer, Ritter, Shoemaker; Others:

***Approval of Minutes** of 2/11/10 Regular Meeting (Including Resolutions Passed)

***Approval of Minutes** of 2/11/10 Closed Executive Session Meeting

Treasurers Report:

DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrator: Convenience Center theft report, State Police report on Hopewell Crest school bus accident, Woolwich Township's donation of courtroom furniture to Hopewell Township

Assessor: Recommendation to approve 2010 Electronic File Maintenance Proposal/Contract (J.H. Services Incorporated)

Clerk: *2010-2011 Preliminary Budget Review (CRHS)

Construction Dept.:

Dog Registrar: 2010 Dog Licenses are now available. 229 Licenses issued as of 2/24/10.

Convenience Center: (Hankins) 1203 Permits issued as of 2/24/10

Economic Development: The Economic Development Committee has been actively pursuing businesses to occupy the Fisher Food Center building, Susquehanna Bank building and Business Park sites.

Engineer:

Environmental Commission:

Fire Department: (Hankins)

Insurance: (Facemyer/Ritter)

Public Works/Road: (Shoemaker)

Planning and Zoning Boards: (Shoemaker/Ritter)

Tax & Sewer Collector: *January 2010 Cash Book Report \$703,850.73 incl. interest and \$52,320.44 sewer

Senior Center: (Freitag) Humidifier quote received (\$1,770.20) from South Jersey Mechanical

***Approval of bills:** Total Bills \$544,250.34 on Treasurers 02/25/10 prepared list (Including Payroll).

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

OLD BUSINESS:

COAH: (Shoemaker) *Letter to Marcia A Karrow, Chairperson, Housing Opportunity Task Force

TDR Project: (Shoemaker/Ritter)

Comcast Franchise Renewal Update (Facemyer) *Letter to Michael J. Darcy, CAE, Assistant Director, New Jersey League of Municipalities

Township Email Policy

Sewer Upgrade Project: New bid specifications should be finalized within 10 days

Bostwick Lake Commission: *Letter from Bruce Cobb

NEW BUSINESS

***Resolution No. 10-23:** Resolution to refund overpayment of taxes to property owner

***Resolution No. 10-24:** Resolution in Opposition to Senate Bill S-458

***Resolution No. 10-25:** Emergency Appropriation Resolution

CDC: (Mayor)

CORRESPONDENCE & NOTES & FILINGS include: **Cumberland County Utilities Authority** Monthly User Charge and Loading Report, Agenda from the February 18th Regular Meeting, **NJ Department of Environmental Protection** request for re-submission of the proposed Cohansey River Basin Wastewater Management Plan, **Cumberland County Improvement Authority** 2009 Recycling Tonnage Figures, 2010 Holiday Calendar, **Philly.com Court stays suspension of affordable housing laws**, **NJLM S-2, S-3, S-4 and SCR-1** on pension reform, Governor declares fiscal emergency, S-1352 new OPRA mandates would increase local costs and decrease local revenues, Revised-important OPRA fees, **DCA** Division of Local Government Services review of new local financial and general government laws.

Solicitor's Report:

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (If Needed)

ADJOURN

Eugene Daddario, A. Clerk
cc:
Committee,
Township Bulletin Bd.,
Sol. T. H. Ritter