

**TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN
COUNTY OF OCEAN
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING:
May 22, 2008**

FLAG SALUTE:

ROLL CALL: KRAFT X REILLY Absent VAN PELT X

STATEMENT: Pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting was properly provided by sending copies of the Notice of Meeting to three newspapers The Times-Beacon, The Atlantic City Press and the Asbury Park Press. The Notice was posted at the office of the Township Clerk and on the bulletin board in the Administration Building.

PRESENTATION BY ROTARY – Check for Gazebo

Chief Kenneth Flatt, President of the Rotary Club of Forked River stated every year the Rotary Club works on a community project designated by the President. The Rotary Club covers Forked River, Waretown and Barnegat. The Rotary donated money to build the Rotary Pavilion at the Lake Recreation area. This year's project will be the gazebo at the end of Bryant Road. It needs to be rebuilt at an estimated cost of \$18,000. Chief Flatt presented a check for \$9,000 to rebuild the Gazebo and requested that it be named the Rotary Gazebo.

Mayor Van Pelt thanked the Rotary Club of Forked River and its members for the donation. The town appreciates their hard work and their continued support to the Township of Ocean.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-197 – Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey authorizing the reading of the Budget by Title Only.

A motion of approval was moved by Deputy Mayor Kraft, seconded by Mayor Van Pelt. Roll Call: Kraft: Yes, Van Pelt: Yes.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-172 - (Second Reading- Public Hearing) Municipal Budget of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean for the Fiscal Year 2008. The Budget was introduced at the April 24, 2008 meeting. The Budget was published in the Asbury Park Press in the issue of May 5, 2008. The Public Hearing on the Budget Resolution will be held at the Municipal Building, 50 Railroad Avenue, Waretown, NJ 08758 Meeting Room on May 22, 2008 at 7:30 pm for Final Passage.

Mayor Van Pelt stated the budget is approximately a 3.5 cent tax increase. The Administrator oversees the day-to-day operations, including the budget. The Administrator has had a lot of input on the budget and has met with the Deputy Mayor and members of the public to discuss it. The budget originally had a 6 cent tax increase, and after meeting with the CMFO and Township Administrator, the budget was reduced to a 3.5 cent tax increase, which is approximately \$280,000 to \$300,000 in various cuts. This is all because of this 4% cap, the town is \$276,000 under cap. The town has presented a budget that is stable. The governor is asking for municipalities to grow at 4%. The town is growing at 11% and 12%. The goal is to set a budget where the town can live within its means and at the same time, generate surplus. The town's revenues are going to be off. The town didn't take into account \$4 a gallon for gas. The town did well with some contracts and attempted to do well with other contracts. Those contracts are 11% and 12%.

A motion to open to the public was moved by Deputy Mayor Kraft, seconded by Mayor Van Pelt. Roll Call: Kraft: Yes, Van Pelt: Yes.

John Boden, 1 Eagleswood Drive, inquired if the town didn't use the Utilities Dept. surplus, would the town be running in a deficit.

Mayor Van Pelt stated there was a time when the MUA was generating a lot of revenue. At that time, as the county was increasing the fees for treatment, etc., the utility did not. The utility was subsidizing the county about \$600,000 a year. The utility did not have a rate increase that would have been passed on from the county. Development is slowing and so are connection fees. Earlier this year, the town raised water and sewer fees. There may be an increase in the future.

John Petrosilli, 11 Vessel, inquired if the uncollected taxes in the budget translates to money the town puts aside for people who don't pay their taxes.

Mayor Van Pelt stated it's factored into the budget overall. The town can push that number higher. This town does not do that.

Mr. Petrosilli inquired if the town can collect back on that money.

Christine Thorne, CMFO stated the town has tax sales. There are also properties that the town cannot collect any taxes on at all, such as wetlands, etc. That's all considered in the tax rate.

Greg McGuckin, Township Attorney, stated if a property owner doesn't pay their property taxes, eventually the township gets that money back plus 18% interest. The interest on late payment property taxes is also factored into the budget.

Ralph Avellino, 10 Central Avenue, discussed the public's reaction to an increase in water and sewer. Mr. Avellino discussed residents criticizing the governing body regarding the budget. Mr. Avellino stated maybe the town is at fault for keeping the taxes level for seven years. Maybe the town should have increased the taxes 2, 3 or 5 cents a year.

Mayor Van Pelt stated people love to quote numbers at the governing body. If I tell you that LOSAP is up over 27% and PFR has pensions over 56%. The other pension is over 91%. There are employees that have left this town that were never replaced. If the town had kept everything status quo, the town is looking at double digits. There are positions that the town is not going to fill. I miss having a secretary. It's a luxury the town can't afford. There are more difficult decisions that are going to have to be made. There are two things the town can control, other expenses and the number of heads that work for us.

Ralph Avellino stated the town has done a very good job and to be criticized for it is wrong.

A motion to close to the public was moved by Deputy Mayor Kraft, seconded by Mayor Van Pelt. Roll Call: Kraft: Yes, Van Pelt: Yes.

Deputy Mayor Kraft stated he would have liked to have all members of the governing body vote on the budget. Deputy Mayor Kraft stated he didn't know if it is wise to pass this budget prior to the state finalizing all the decisions the state is trying to make.

Mayor Van Pelt stated if the governor 's budget holds true, the town will put it in the current fund or surplus. 50 cents is probable two-tenths of a penny increase. The town is not getting the \$140,000 back. I would be surprised if the town gets \$50,000 back.

Deputy Mayor Kraft inquired with the Township Administrator if he sees anyway the town can cut this number.

Township Administrator Mosca stated the town has to look into the future. Mr. Mosca wants to look into certain areas in 2010. There's not a lot in the budget the town could cut out. There could be cuts in the utilities costs and see what the town could make up at the end of the year from savings in other areas. Nothing will substantially change the number.

Deputy Mayor Kraft's concern is the people. The cost of living in New Jersey is growing exponentially, especially for retirees and the amount of money they get for pensions.

Township Administrator Mosca stated there are some things that are out of our control. The township tried to strike a reasonable contract. The town went to arbitration and the town lost. That's over \$155,000. This budget, with the PFRS and the lost state aid, the town is looking at more than \$430,000. The township has no control over this increase. The town has it a lot better than other towns. There has been good management here. It's finding that balance and understanding what you have control over.

Rocco Orlando, 180 Brigantine Blvd., stated the town is setting a dim picture for the residents. There has to be some light at the end of the tunnel, namely, an increase in tax revenue. Is the town going to get that from all these developments?

Mayor Van Pelt states stated absolutely. Every rooftop in that community pays approximately \$3,000 to the school, \$1,000 to the municipality and \$1,000 to the county. To the town it means added police protection, new ambulances, fire equipment, trash reimbursement. There is not one added cost to that institution. Since 2002, they received \$3.2 million additional tax revenue.

Township Administrator Mosca stated the school went down a half cent, when it could have gone down at least a penny.

Mayor Van Pelt stated the Assembly passed a bill on Tuesday to move school board elections to November and remove the right to vote on a budget, unless it's over 4%. There used to be a good working partnership between the school and the municipality. This relationship has been discontinued.

Township Administrator Mosca stated he does meet with Kathy Barneman, School Administrator. There is a list of services the town and the school would like to share with the neighboring municipalities.

Mayor Van Pelt stated since he has been a member of the governing body, the town has maintained all the school-owned fields, given them gas in the past without being reimbursed, collected their trash without being reimbursed and they have a DARE officer.

Mr. Orlando inquired if the line item titled, reimbursement, is going to disappear.

Mayor Van Pelt stated no, it will always be part of the budget. Now people can understand why the town did a pilot on the Shop Rite project. If the town left it a traditional tax scenario, the town would have received \$43,000 a year. Now the municipality receives \$243,000. The school doesn't receive anything. Shop Rite doesn't generate a single pencil or desk for the school, but for the town it provides fire, police, ambulances

and other services. The town gets that pilot payment once the C.O.'s are issued on all the buildings. That payment graduates 3.5% to 4% a year and ends up being about \$680,000. It's a graduated payment scale.

Mr. Orlando inquired how can I get the town to approach the Board of Education and review their budget page by page.

Township Administrator Mosca stated if it's okay with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, we will go to the school together and review the budget. It's embarrassing how many times the town has asked them for a copy of the budget and the town has never gotten it.

Mr. Orlando inquired what the county breakdown in taxes is.

Mayor Van Pelt stated the county is going down to 21. Do not quote me. The county has this equalized 10%. The library is wrapped up into that number.

A motion to close to the public was moved by Deputy Mayor Kraft, seconded by Mayor Van Pelt. Roll Call: Kraft: Yes, Van Pelt: Yes.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 2008-172 was moved by Deputy Mayor Kraft, seconded by Mayor Van Pelt. Roll Call: Kraft: Yes, Van Pelt: Yes.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-196: Payment of Claims – as presented to the Township Committee for payment thereof in the amount of \$123,022.66.

A motion of approval was moved by Deputy Mayor Kraft, seconded by Mayor Van Pelt. Roll Call: Kraft: Yes, Van Pelt: Yes.

RESOLUTIONS

CONSENT AGENDA

The below listed items are considered to be routine by the Township Committee of the Township of Ocean and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no formal discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, this item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered separately.

08-199 Resolution Authorizing release of escrow money held in the name of Lawrence & Gladys Crawford in the amount of \$57.88

08-200 Resolution consenting to the propose water quality management Plan Amendment entitled Ocean County Central Planning Area Wastewater Management Plan

08-201 Resolution authorizing RV&V Engineering to provide engineering services and go out to bid for the design of Well House #7

08-202 Resolution authorizing the relocation of the transformer by JCP&L in the amount of \$6,049.23

08-203 Resolution authorizing the electrical work for the relocation of the transformer by R.T.F. Electric in the amount of \$9,940.00

- 08-204 Resolution appointing Jessica Layton as a recreational aide skatepark to be paid the hourly rate of \$7.15**
- 08-205 Resolution authorizing release of performance bond for Section 3, Phase A, concrete monuments, Greenbriar Oceanaire Performance Bond amount \$1,944.00 and cash bond \$216.00**
- 08-206 Resolution authorizing release of performance bond for Section 3, Phase C, concrete monuments, Greenbriar Oceanaire Performance Bond amount \$2,160.00 and cash bond \$240.00**
- 08-207 Resolution authorizing release of performance bond for Section 3, Phase B, retaining wall, Greenbriar Oceanaire Performance Bond amount \$70,335.00 and cash bond \$7,815.00**
- 08-208 Resolution authorizing release of performance bond for Section 3, Phase B, concrete monuments, Greenbriar Oceanaire Performance Bond amount \$4,104.00 and cash bond \$456.00**
- 08-209 Resolution authorizing Bond reduction No.1 for the Arch Culver No. 3, Greenbriar Oceanaire, performance bond guarantee in the amount of \$170,878.59, cash bond in the amount of \$17,087.86**
- 08-210 Resolution authorizing the release of performance guarantee for water sewer connection Ocean Memorial Plaza, Block 41, Lot 35.02 – posting Maintenance Bond in the amount of \$1,732.05, escrow inspection in the amount of \$800.00**
- 08-211 Resolution authorizing a contract with Remington, Vernick and Vena Engineers for the preparation of a Transportation Improvement/Development district for the Township of Ocean in accordance with the proposal submitted in the amount of \$67,340.00.**

The Resolutions were read by title.

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS 2008-199 through Resolution 2008-211:

A motion of approval was moved by Deputy Mayor Kraft, seconded by Mayor Van Pelt. Roll Call: Kraft: Yes, Van Pelt: Yes.

Motion to Approve use of the Community Center:

1. Pebble Beach Homeowners Association – October 15, 2008

A motion of approval was moved by Deputy Mayor Kraft, seconded by Mayor Van Pelt. Roll Call: Kraft: Yes, Van Pelt: Yes.

Motion to Approve use of Waretown Memorial Recreation Park

1. Easter Seals Lacey – Barbecue Picnic – June 6, 2008

A motion of approval was moved by Deputy Mayor Kraft, seconded by Mayor Van Pelt. Roll Call: Kraft: Yes, Van Pelt: Yes.

CAUCUS / AGENDA

Motion to move into Caucus/Agenda meeting was moved by Deputy Mayor Kraft, seconded by Mayor Van Pelt. Roll Call: Kraft: Yes, Van Pelt: Yes.

TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN
COUNTY OF OCEAN
Caucus/Agenda MEETING:
June 12, 2008

ROLL CALL: KRAFT ___ REILLY ___ VAN PELT _____

MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION OF APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES OF May 22, 2008

ORDINANCES:

NEW ORDINANCES

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-: Payment of Claims – as presented to the Township Committee for payment thereof in the amount of \$

Plus the Township Clerk and Township Committee may place other items as

Mayor Van Pelt stated the town needs to pass an ordinance not allowing parking on Railroad Avenue.

Township Administrator Mosca stated Township Attorney McGuckin drafted the ordinance. Chief Flatt has made some amendments to it. Township Administrator Mosca will give the amendments to Township Attorney McGuckin.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion to open to the public was moved by Deputy Mayor Kraft, seconded by Mayor Van Pelt. Roll Call: Kraft: Yes, Van Pelt: Yes.

Ralph Avellino, 10 Central Avenue, stated he is disturbed that there are only 12 people in the audience. People should take more of an interest.

John Boden, 1 Eagleswood Drive, asked if the Homeowners Association was told in advance that the bonds were going to be released.

Township Administrator Mosca stated we do not normally do that.

Mr. Boden stated it was his understanding that the Township Engineer was going to work with the bond counsel, employed by the association, and notify that person.

Township Administrator Mosca stated he mentioned it to Mr. Ritter.

Mayor Van Pelt stated the Township Engineer goes out and inspects before we release the bonds. There is a bill that's going to be drafted that will require a public hearing before the release of any bonds.

Motion to close to the public was moved by Deputy Mayor Kraft, seconded by Mayor Van Pelt. Roll Call: Kraft: Yes, Van Pelt: Yes.

Deputy Mayor Kraft reported that Founder's Day is Saturday, May 24, 2008, 9a-2p at the Frederic A. Priff school. There are vendors and rides. The fireworks are at dusk at the end of Bryant Road. Deputy Mayor Kraft congratulated the Founder's Day Committee on the successful fundraiser last Sunday at the Lighthouse Tavern. They did an outstanding job. The money that is raised is to support the Founder's Day event.

Mayor Van Pelt thanked the Township Administrator and Township Clerk for the town receiving a \$134,818 reimbursement for property the town purchased. This amount from Green Acres is applied directly to the principal, which reduces our interest payment.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting was moved by Deputy Mayor Kraft, seconded by Mayor Van Pelt. Roll Call: Kraft: Yes, Van Pelt: Yes.

Signed and Submitted:

Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC
Township Clerk

Date