

DECEMBER 10, 2008

The South Harrison Township Committee held a finance and regular meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Harrison Township Municipal Building.

Deputy Mayor Robert Campbell called the meeting to order and was followed by the flag salute.

Requirements of the "Open Public Meetings Act" were met. Notice of this meeting was given by: (1) sending sufficient notice herewith to the Today's Sunbeam of Salem and the Gloucester County Times of Woodbury; and (2) posting notice on the public bulletin board at the South Harrison Township Municipal Building.

Roll Call: James McCall - present, Cornelius McIntyre – present, Charles Tyson - absent, Robert Campbell – present, Gary Spinner – present, Arthur MacDonald, Solicitor - present, Rich Fini, Engineer – present, Christie Melfi, CFO – present, Colleen Bianco, Administrator – present, Celeste Keen, Deputy Clerk – present.

Minutes:

Motion to approve the regular session minutes of March 3, May 5 & May 12, 2008 was made by Cornelius McIntyre, second by James McCall.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - yes, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 4 - yes', 0 - no's, 0 - abstentions. Motion carried.**

Motion to approve the regular session minutes of May 19 & May 27, 2008 was made by Gary Spinner, second by Robert Campbell.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - abstain, Cornelius McIntyre - abstain, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 2 - yes', 0 - no's, 2 - abstentions. Motion carried.**

Motion to approve the regular session minutes of October 15, November 9 & November 19, 2008 was made by Gary Spinner, second by Cornelius McIntyre.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - yes, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – abstain, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 3 - yes', 0 - no's, 1 - abstention. Motion carried.**

Motion to approve the closed session minutes of February 26 & April 2, 2008 was made by Gary Spinner, second by James McCall.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - yes, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 4 - yes', 0 - no's, 0 - abstentions. Motion carried.**

Motion to approve the closed session minutes of March 19, April 16 & April 23, 2008 was made by Gary Spinner, second by Cornelius McIntyre.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - yes, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – abstain, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 3 - yes', 0 - no's, 1 - abstention. Motion carried.**

Motion to approve the closed session minutes of April 9, 2008 was made by Gary Spinner, second by Cornelius McIntyre.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - abstain, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – abstain, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 2 - yes', 0 - no's, 2 - abstentions. Motion carried.**

Motion to table the closed session minutes of May 14, 2008 was made by Gary Spinner, second by Robert Campbell. **Motion carried.**

Motion to approve the closed session minutes of August 13, 2008 was made by Gary Spinner, second by James McCall.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - yes, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 4 - yes', 0 - no's, 0 - abstentions.**
Motion carried.

Motion to approve the closed session minutes of July 9 & October 15, 2008 was made by Cornelius McIntyre, second by Gary Spinner.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - abstain, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – abstain, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 2 - yes', 0 - no's, 2 - abstentions.**
Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Police Department – November 2008 Report
Construction Code Official – November 2008 Report
Public Works Department – December 2008 Report
Engineering Report – December 2008 Report

Tax Collector Report: Taxes collected for the month of November - \$958,131.75.

Treasurer's Report: No additions

Tax Re-Assessment Update

Thomas Colavecchio, Township Tax Assessor, appeared before the Committee. Mr. Campbell advised that he and Mayor Tyson had recently met with Senator Steven Sweeney regarding the proposed county wide re-assessment. Mr. Colavecchio stated that it was his opinion that the legislature necessary to implement such an endeavor would not be made in a timely manner in order for South Harrison Township to adhere to the County mandated timeline. Mr. Colavecchio further added that he felt it possible that the legislature may not be passed. Mr. Campbell requested Mr. Colavecchio to meet with himself and Senator Sweeney to discuss. Mr. Colavecchio agreed. Mr. McIntyre asked if delaying Mr. Colavecchio's mailing would impede on the Township's deadline. Mr. Colavecchio advised that as long as the mailing went out by the early part of January, the Township will be on target.

Old Business: **Ordinance – O-08–24**
An Ordinance Appropriating the Sum of \$3,200.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the New Roof for the Concession Stand at Stewart Memorial Park

Public hearing and final adoption

Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public on Ordinance O-08-24 only was made by Cornelius McIntyre, second by James McCall. Motion carried.

No questions or comments were received from the public.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to close the meeting to the public on Ordinance O-08-24 was made by Cornelius McIntyre, second by Gary Spinner.

Motion to adopt Ordinance O-08-24 was made by James McCall, second by Robert Campbell.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - yes, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 4 - yes', 0 - no's. Motion carried.**

Ordinance – O-08-29

South Harrison Township, Gloucester County Public Contracting Reform Ordinance

Public hearing and final adoption

Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public on Ordinance O-08-29 only was made by Gary Spinner, second by James McCall. Motion carried.

No questions or comments were received from the public.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to close the meeting to the public on Ordinance O-08-29 was made by Robert Campbell, second by Gary Spinner.

Motion to adopt Ordinance O-08-29 was made by Gary Spinner, second by James McCall.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - yes, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 4 - yes', 0 - no's. Motion carried.**

Ordinance – O-08-30

An Ordinance Appropriating the Sum of Not to Exceed \$400.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the Purchase of a Digital Camera and Related Equipment for the Construction Code Office

Public hearing and final adoption

Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public on Ordinance O-08-30 only was made Gary Spinner, second by Cornelius McIntyre. Motion carried.

No questions or comments were received from the public.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to close the meeting to the public on Ordinance O-08-30 was made by Gary Spinner, second by James McCall.

Motion to adopt Ordinance O-08-30 was made by Gary Spinner, second by Robert Campbell.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - yes, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 4 - yes', 0 - no's. Motion carried.**

Ordinance – O-08-31

An Ordinance Appropriating the Sum of Not to Exceed \$1,685.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the Purchase of a (1) Colt Rifle Model LE6920, (1) Eotech Holographic Rifle Sight and (1) Surefire Forend Weaponlight for the Police Department.

Public hearing and final adoption

Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public on Ordinance O-08-31 only was made James McCall, second by Cornelius McIntyre. Motion carried.

No questions or comments were received from the public.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to close the meeting to the public on Ordinance O-08-31 was made by Robert Campbell, second by Gary Spinner.

Motion to adopt Ordinance O-08-31 was made by Cornelius McIntyre, second by Gary Spinner.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - yes, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 4 - yes', 0 - no's. Motion carried.**

Ordinance – O-08-32

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance O-08-25 Entitled an Ordinance Amending Chapter 90 of the Code of the Township of South Harrison to Amend the Mandatory Development Fee Requirements to Assist the Township in Meeting Its Affordable Housing Obligations

Ms. Bianco advised the Committee that due to a recent update from the Council on Affordable Housing, the Committee has before them an amendment to this amendment which will be addressed later in the meeting. Mr. MacDonald, Solicitor, agreed and advised the public hearing could be held at the Township Close Out meeting, date to be determined later in the evening.

Public hearing and final adoption

Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public on Ordinance O-08-32 only was made Gary Spinner, second by Cornelius McIntyre. Motion carried.

No questions or comments were received from the public.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to close the meeting to the public on Ordinance O-08-32 was made by Gary Spinner, second by Robert Campbell.

Motion to adopt Ordinance O-08-32 was made by Gary Spinner, second by Robert Campbell.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - yes, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 4 - yes', 0 - no's. Motion carried.**

Ordinance – O-08-33

An Ordinance of the Township of South Harrison Amending Chapter 90, The Land Use and Development Ordinance of the Township of South Harrison

Public hearing and final adoption

Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public on Ordinance O-08-33 only was made Cornelius McIntyre, second by Gary Spinner. Motion carried.

Joseph Marino of 402 Harrisonville Road questioned the Committee as to why the road frontage requirement was being changed to 200'. Mr. Spinner advised that with the current ordinance the side yard setbacks and farmland buffers make the current 150' of road frontage difficult to allow a three (3) acre lot to be developed. Mr. Marino advised that his lot is large enough to potentially subdivide in the future for one of his children to build a home however with this ordinance he would not have adequate road frontage. Mr. Marino was advised that those cases could apply for a variance.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to close the meeting to the public on Ordinance O-08-33 was made by Robert Campbell, second by Cornelius McIntyre.

Motion to adopt Ordinance O-08-33 was made by Gary Spinner, no second.

Re-Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to re-open the meeting to the public on Ordinance O-08-33 only was made by Gary Spinner, second by Robert Campbell. Motion carried.

Marc Nagtegaal, Planning/Zoning Board Chair, advised Mr. Marino of an application before the Board that, in an attempt to subdivide, created a plan for a flag lot. The applicant's attorney advised that with the current 150' of road frontage the setbacks and farmland buffers made it considerably difficult to position a house and offered 200' frontage may suit three (3) acre minimums more effectively. Mr. Marino asked if the applicants conformed.

Jonathan Feinbaum of 6 Raccoon Creek Court asked the Committee why we would allow an applicant's attorney to dictate our ordinances. Mr. Spinner explained that it was stated by the applicant's attorney that it was the current 150' road frontage that allowed the applicant to apply for a three (3) lot subdivision. If the road frontage in the township was 200' the applicant may not have applied with the plan of three lots.

Melvin Robertson of 103 Foxford Lane, Planning/Zoning Board member, stated that with the 150' frontage minimum, once the setbacks and buffers are instituted it does not allow for a home to be placed easily.

Harold Holmstrom advised that as per Roberts Rules there was a motion to adopt, there was no second therefore the motion dies.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to close the meeting to the public on Ordinance O-08-33 was made by Gary Spinner, second by Cornelius McIntyre.

Ordinance O-08-33 not adopted.

Mr. McCall updated the Committee regarding the Sub-Committee, consisting of himself and Committeeman Spinner, the investigation into the alleged computer hacking incident is still ongoing and there will definitely be information available at the Close out meeting (date and time of meeting to be determined later this evening). Mr. Campbell referenced the June 27, 2007 minutes which established a resident task force to look into possible computer security issues. Mr. Spinner reminded Mr. Campbell that Mr. Eastlack advised, regarding a different issue, that resolutions are only good for the calendar year. Mr. Spinner reiterated that the investigation will be discussed at the Close out meeting.

The Committee was advised that the Ethics Board had delivered a letter regarding the recent discussions between their Board and the Committee.

Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public on this matter only was made Cornelius McIntyre, second by James McCall. Motion carried.

Daniel Webster of 300 Ferrell Road, Ethics Board member, asked the Committee for a final decision whether or not the Township is to maintain the Ethics Board.

Joe Marino of 402 Harrisonville Road asked what the purpose was for having an Ethics Board and how many other municipalities have them? Mr. Campbell answered approximately five (5) in Gloucester County. Mr. McIntyre questioned Mr. Campbell's answer and stated that his research produced less than 10 of all of the 566 municipalities in the State.

Mr. McIntyre summarized the creation of the Ethics Board and stated that he was opposed to it in 2007 nevertheless voted for it and now regrets his decision.

Jeannine Campbell, 706 Lincoln Road stated that a local ethics board may have been helpful however is willing to go to the State if necessary. Ms. Campbell suggested that the Committee make a decision as it is unfair to the Board members to go on in limbo.

Joe Marino asked the Committee how the Board members are picked. Mr. Campbell answered that they are appointed by the Committee.

Mr. Feinbaum inquired as to whether or not all of the members are residents of South Harrison Township. The Committee answered that no, they were not.

John Coleman advised the residents that the forming of the Ethics Board was bi-partisan; 2 – democrats, 2 – republicans and 2 – independent.

Robert Diaz of 108 Foxford Lane advised that during the recent questionable ethic matters go on in the Township currently, the Board is unable to hear them. Due to the fact that although ethically questionable none of the matters include gaining monetarily, which are the only cases that local ethics boards are able to hear.

Russell Marino of 245 Porches Mill Road suggested to the Committee that the appointment procedure be re-evaluated.

Lester Shoemaker, Jr. of High Street, Mullica Hill asked whether or not the decisions of the local ethics board can be appealed. Mr. McCall answered yes, they can.

Robert Schenk of 105 Antelope Drive asked for clarification of previous question. The outcome of a local ethics board is not binding? Answer: Correct.

William McCall of 401 Ferrell Road agreed with an earlier comment from the audience stating that the Committee appointing the Ethics Board is like hiring one's own babysitter. If the outcomes are not binding why waste people's time with the process.

Jack Fitzpatrick of 911 Monroeville Road asked Mr. Campbell when he and the mayor forfeited their salaries to go toward the Ethics Board were checks written and deposited. Mr. Campbell answered that it was a matter of line item transfers.

Eileen Sharp of Commissioner's Road asked if the Ethics Board is currently functioning. The Committee replied, not at this time. Mrs. Sharp asked if the Ethics Board member's names were public information. The Committee stated that they are public information. Mrs. Sharp further requested that the Committee has heard the public's opinion and believes the Committee should make a decision.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Cornelius McIntyre, second by Gary Spinner.

James McCall made a motion to adopt Ordinance O-08-35 on first reading by title, repealing Ordinance 07-04 which established a Board of Ethics, second by Cornelius McIntyre.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - yes, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – no, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 3 - yes', 1 - no's. Motion carried.**

Mary Howard updated the Committee regarding the newly created “Citizen Question Form”. The form was created with the help of residents and Township Administrative staff. It will be available in the Township Building Administrative offices as well as online. It is expected to be a useful tool in facilitating answers to questions that the residents may have as well as preparing the Committee for questions that may be asked during public meetings. Ms. Howard would like to begin utilizing the form January 1, 2009.

Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public on this issue only was made by Cornelius McIntyre, second by James McCall. Motion carried.

Jonathan Feinbaum suggested that questions that arise regularly be put on the website as a possible Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) web page. The Committee agreed.

Daniel Webster offered his assistance to allow the form to be filled out online and submitted automatically. The Committee agreed.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Gary Spinner, second by Cornelius McIntyre.

New Business: Resolution R-08-115
Resolution of the Township of South Harrison Requesting the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to Authorize the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the 2008 Budget of the Township of South Harrison, County of Gloucester

Motion to adopt Resolution R-08-115 was made by Cornelius McIntyre, second by Robert Campbell.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - yes, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 4 - yes', 0 - no's. Motion carried.**

Resolution R-08-116
Resolution of the Township of South Committee of the Township of South Harrison Regarding Repairs to Lake Street

Motion to adopt Resolution R-08-116 was made by Cornelius McIntyre, second by James McCall.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - yes, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 4 - yes', 0 - no's. Motion carried.**

Resolution R-08-117
Resolution to Make Budget Transfers Between Appropriations in the 2008 General Fund Budget

Motion to adopt Resolution R-08-117 was made by James McCall, second by Robert Campbell.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - yes, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 4 - yes', 0 - no's. Motion carried.**

Resolution R-08-118

Resolution of the Township of South Harrison, County of Gloucester Approving the Closing of Bruce Paparone, Inc.'s Escrow Account and Returning of Escrow Monies

Motion to adopt Resolution R-08-118 was made by Gary Spinner, second by Cornelius McIntyre.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - yes, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.:** 4 - yes', 0 - no's. **Motion carried.**

The Committee discussed the setting of the Annual Close Out meeting. It was decided that it would be held on Monday, December 29, 2008 at 6:00 pm. The Committee also determined that the 2009 Reorganization Meeting will be held on Monday, January 5, 2009 at 7:30 pm.

Letter of Resignation

Letter of resignation was received from John Coleman resigning from the South Harrison Township Planning/Zoning Board of Adjustment. Mr. McCall questioned the date on the letter of November 4, 2008 and none of the Committee members being aware of it at the November 12, 2008 meeting. Mr. McCall also questioned the address on the letter as Mr. Coleman did not reside within the Township for quite some time.

Motion to accept John Coleman's resignation was made by James McCall, second by Gary Spinner. Motion carried.

Mr. McCall recommended the appointment of Chris Kudless as Mr. Kudless was assured a position on the Board some time ago. Mr. McIntyre agreed that Mr. Kudless would be an excellent candidate. Mr. McCall urged Mr. Campbell to make the appointment. Mr. Campbell was not prepared to do so at the current time.

Mr. Campbell stated that the Committee has not received the Auditor's report. Christie Melfi, Township CFO, advised that she was uncertain as to a date to expect the report. Mr. Campbell inquired as to the corrective action items and whether they have been initiated. Ms. Melfi stated that the Township would first have to accept the Auditor's report.

Colleen Bianco addressed the Committee and public in attendance with the Administrator's 2008 Annual Report. The report documents the accomplishments and progress made in South Harrison Township in 2008. Matters reviewed were grants received; Human Resource departmental improvements; internal documentation processes streamlined; conservation efforts; community building programs; finance office progress; and continuing education of employees.

Mr. Spinner noted that Ms. Bianco's contract is up in January of 2009 and feels the Committee should consider extending her contract. Mr. McCall and Mr. McIntyre agreed.

Mr. MacDonald, Solicitor, stated that the contract cannot be done this evening thereby binding the 2009 Committee to a contract. Mr. McIntyre questioned Mr. MacDonald's opinion due to the fact that Ms. Bianco's initial contract, signed in July of 2007 for an 18 month term automatically bound the 2008 Committee in the same manner. Mr. MacDonald suggested tabling the issue so that he may research the matter and if the Committee still wanted to do so it could be done at the December 29th meeting. Mr. McCall pointed out Mr. Eastlack's prior error, citing the state statute, when stating that a Planning/Zoning member could not be removed for cause. Mr. McIntyre noted that the Committee is to ask for the professionals opinions but ultimately it is for the Committee to decide how to proceed. Mr. Spinner recommended that Ms. Bianco's contract be extended through December, 2009.

Resolution R-08-119

Resolution of the Township Committee Re-Appointing Colleen Bianco as Administrator for South Harrison Township and Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Employment Agreement with Colleen Bianco

Motion to adopt Resolution R-08-119 was made by Cornelius McIntyre, second by James McCall.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - yes, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – no, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 3 - yes', 1 - no. Motion carried.**

Ordinance O-08-34

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance O-08-32 Entitled an Ordinance Amending Chapter 90 of the Code of the Township of South Harrison to Amend the Mandatory Development Fee Requirements to Assist the Township in Meeting Its Affordable Housing Obligations

Introduction and first reading

Motion to adopt Ordinance O-08-34 on first reading was made by Gary Spinner, second by James McCall.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - yes, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 4 - yes', 0 - no's. Motion carried.**

Public hearing and final adoption set for December 29, 2008 at 6:00 pm.

DM Campbell read a prepared statement. DM Campbell asked the residents of South Harrison Township to step back for a moment and take notice of things that are happening in the Township. We have people running around saying that we need leadership to get out of the hatred that is spreading. The irony of all of this is that the ones spreading the hate are the ones calling for leadership. There are people in this community sending emails, making phone calls, sending letters and gossiping at get-togethers. Some of these people have purposely and grossly distorted the facts in an attempt to gain some sort of political agenda. The word political is going to come up a lot in the next couple of minutes. I promise this to the town, in the interest of what Mrs. Campbell calls unity, some of us will make it our goal to expose these people and we will take every action necessary to hold them accountable for their actions. We will also seek justice for the people who have been victimized by the hate that some people have been orchestrating. Every incident that has occurred within the last six months has been handled properly and precisely by outside agencies. When you call in the County Prosecutor, the State Police Crime Unit and the FBI no one can criticize the town or the Mayor, accusing them of sweeping things under the rug. This is idiotic, constitutes a lie and in my opinion is libelous. Once the Prosecutors close a case without filing charges, it is time to go on with the work of our town. Unfortunately that has not been happening. Some of this Committee and very unfortunately some on this Police force do not seem to be concerned with this. To the contrary, what they have shown is only a concern of outcomes of certain matters. What we're witnessing is a demonstration of hatred that goes beyond anything I've seen in my life and I grew up in the sixties. There have been five major incidents in the past two (2) years in this tiny town as follows. We had a town resident from Fox Haven who charged our police force with brutality and harassment, at that time, myself included, all of us stood behind our police force. Why wouldn't we? None of us could believe that any of our officers would be capable of such allegations. This past April a police report was filed by a high ranking school district official with our police department claiming that "a suspicious black man in a black car is loitering in the school parking lot." The person in question is the Mayor. He was just sitting in his car. A car that is well known in this town and it has tags that say Mayor1. The police determined that the police report was false and chose to take no action. This occurred at a time when this Committee was questioning this year's school budget. By the way the filing of a false police report is a very serious matter. Then we had the alleged computer hacking. Even though the FBI, the Prosecutor's Office and the State Police Crime Unit, all of these agencies exonerated the accused, we still refuse to honor or accept their findings. And then we had the alleged harassment of one of our officers by a fellow resident who had just weeks before the alleged incident filed charges

against one of our officers for allegedly harassing his family. This keeps going back and forth like a pendulum. Here's what bothers me and actually it's at the point that it's starting to scare me. In the first harassment case I mentioned, that was filed against our police department the person that made the accusations is African-American. Then came the multiple incidents involving Mayor Tyson who we all know is African-American. The attacks against him and his family were clearly racially motivated. Then came the alleged computer hacking case; here the accused is white however he's married to a wonderful young lady who happens to be African-American. Then we have the person that everyone wants to hang for allegedly harassing one of our police officers; he himself is one half African-American. For the icing on the cake we have a police officer that alleged assaulting and pushing our African-American mayor at his home on September 30th. This incident is now in the hands of the Prosecutor's Office. Now I ask you how can we have five (5) major incidents in this small town and all involving people of color as the targets. Does this not strike any of you as suspicious? If some of the officials in this community do not begin to take the side of justice maybe it's time to call in the U.S. Justice Department. The current members of the South Harrison Hate Club, that's not their official name, we have been able to identify many of them; are hard at work attempting to increase their membership. Oh yes, we have an email identifying them, these people will be exposed. What I am asking every one in this town to do is to let the proper authorities do their jobs if and in fact it occurs. And if one of your neighbors or other resident tries to stir up hate, as these emails and letters are clearly trying to do, step back and make sure you find out the truth as opposed to the version of the story they want to give you.

Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public was made by Cornelius McIntyre, second by James McCall. Motion carried.

Harold H. Holmstrom, President of PBA 122 referenced Mr. Campbell's previous comments and inquired as to relevance to agenda items. Mr. Holmstrom asked of the Mayor's whereabouts and why he was not at this meeting. Mr. Campbell advised that the Mayor was on vacation. Mr. Holmstrom cited a letter to Mayor Tyson from the PBA Local 122 dated November 10th; Mr. Holmstrom is still waiting for a reply.

Radine Konawel of 207 Cedar Grove Road read the definition of ethics. Ms. Konawel reviewed the events surrounding Officer Barbetta's promotion and the Mayor's opposition to that promotion and the subsequent attempt to discipline the Municipal Clerk for not removing the promotion from the agenda. Ms. Konawel conveyed the activities in the municipal building hallway on the night of the general election of November 4th among Deputy Mayor Campbell, Planning/Zoning Board Chair Mr. Nagtegaal as well as Robert Diaz and Robert Gaines, Jr. both of whom were running for election. Ms. Konawel stated that at the November 5th Township Committee meeting Committeemen Spinner, McIntyre and McCall voiced their outrage and called for Mr. Gaines' to decline his newly elected position. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Diaz confirmed that statements were made but did not elaborate. At which time Mayor Tyson and Mr. Campbell stated that they were not in a position to make any decisions at that time. Ms. Konawel voiced her concern over Mayor Tyson's absence at the last several meetings but noted that Mayor Tyson was seen attending the December 8th court hearing for Mrs. Gaines;

Jeannine Campbell of 706 Lincoln Road acknowledged Mr. Robert Gaines, Jr.'s attendance at the meeting. Ms. Campbell advised that she has a petition asking for Mr. Gaines not to assume the Township Committee seat for which he was elected as well as asked for his resignation from the Economic Development Committee. Ms. Campbell also noted that if anyone wanted a copy of the complaints filed by Officer Barbetta or Corporal Weston, she had copies available. Ms. Campbell addressed Robert Campbell and stated that Mr. Campbell apparent disregard during the Administrator's annual report was blatant and disrespectful. Ms. Campbell objected to Mr. Campbell's statement earlier in which he implicated her 'Unity' group as a hate group.

Michelle McCall of 46 Cedar Grove Road asked the public how many believe Mr. Campbell's earlier comments regarding racism in our Township. Ms. McCall asked how it could be interpreted as racially motivated to object to what Committeeman-Elect Gaines said.

Mr. Campbell advised that he could not answer. Ms. McCall asked the Committee how residents change the form of government in order to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. It was stated that a referendum would have to be put to the voters.

Daniel Webster of 300 Ferrell Road stated that at this critical time, he does not feel that this is the correct venue to use inciting words such as racism.

Don Moul of 433 Franklinville Road asked the Committee if there was a decision being made regarding utilizing the county wide EMS. Mr. Campbell stated that a decision will be made at the January committee meeting.

Marc Nagtegaal of 719 Franklinville Road asked the Administrator about the timely publication of the agendas and minutes on the website. Ms. Bianco stated that it was never conveyed to her that there was a time constraint regarding agenda and minute uploads to the website. Mr. Nagtegaal also stated that he was dismayed by the receipt of a subpoena issued by the Sub-Committee regarding the alleged Township computer hacking attempt incident. The Sub-Committee advised that they were not at liberty to discuss the matter as they were still investigating.

Chief Warren Mabey, while not willing to comment on an ongoing investigation, he is vehemently opposed Mr. Campbell's earlier comments which are reprehensible, the implication that his officers and he are racist are untrue.

Paul Prince of 808 Lincoln Road advised that there are charges pending. South Harrison Township is not a racial community. Mr. Miles of Ferrell Road served for approximately 15 years on the Committee. Chester Randal was the first African- American police chief who also served on the Township Committee. Racism has never been an issue until Charles Tyson became involved.

Michael Bowen of 619 Tomlin Station Road stated that 30 years ago he purchased his property in South Harrison Township and it was the proudest day of his life. Mr. Bowen then stated that Mr. Campbell had just made today the worst day of his life. Mr. Campbell's accusations are unfounded as the township residents were united in their desires to seek justice for the racially motivated crimes committed against Mayor Tyson. Mr. Bowen stated that he feels Mr. Campbell should step down.

John Campbell of 15 Paccoon Creek Court directed his comment to Mr. Robert Campbell stating that he had sunk to the lowest level imaginable when he blamed the residents of South Harrison of being racist. John Campbell stated that Mr. Robert Campbell should be ashamed and demanded an apology.

Barbara Visani of 670 Franklinville Road has lived here for 48 years. After her son passed away, the people of the black church reached out in an effort to get a seniors group of whites and blacks together. We've grown up together. Charles Tyson has been considered a brother. The different direction promised by Charles Tyson and Robert Campbell is not working.

Robert Schenk 105 Antelope Drive stated that as he listened tonight something occurred to him and that is the reason the Committee sit up there is to serve the public. When decisions are made that do not benefit the public but rather personal interests is when the Committee finds themselves in trouble. The problem, as he sees it, has become a credibility issue as they have lost public trust. When the Committee can not agree on something as seemingly simple as extending the Administrator's contract, leaves some wondering what interest is being served.

Mary Howard of 4 Hollybrook Road asked the Committee if they agree with Mr. Campbell's previous statement. Mr. Campbell suggested that there are five (5) incidents that were racially motivated; she would like an explanation as to how they are racially based. Is it ok for citizens to ask questions and to receive answers? Ms. Howard specifically cited the computer hacking incident. At the August 13 and September meeting questions were asked and you chose not to answer. Because you chose not to answer the questions asked, that is why there is a sub-committee. It could have been as simple as saying this is what happened;

this is what was done; and this is what found out to be true. The voters then could have taken the information and voted accordingly. The reason that this has been blown out of proportion is because questions were not answered. Ms. Howard asked the opinions of the other Committeemen if they believe, as DM Campbell does, that these issues are racially motivated.

Neil McIntyre not involved in law enforcement or any investigation; he does not condone what happened to Mayor Tyson. It is Mr. McIntyre's personal belief that the incident that occurred on election night had nothing to do with Mayor Tyson. Mr. McIntyre noted that he during the November 5th meeting he predicted retaliation due to the fact that he and Committeeman Spinner were standing behind the police department. Mr. McIntyre then read an email from Mayor Tyson, without stating a cause, removing Committeeman Spinner from the Personnel Committee and the Police Committee. Mr. McIntyre stated that he has worked six committeemen over the past three (3) years. Mr. Spinner is one of the most diligent committeemen he has worked with, he does his homework, his attendance record is close to 100% and there is no reason given to explain why Mr. Spinner would be removed from these committees. Mr. McIntyre stated that it is his personal opinion that the residents of South Harrison Township should watch in 2009 for a move to consolidate the police department or to merge with other townships in the name of saving money. Mr. McIntyre asked the residents to question the legitimacy of such actions.

James McCall stated that he does not feel the actions were racially motivated. He has lived in South Harrison Township for twenty years and has never heard of this sort of thing. Most of the hatred in the township is coming from retaliation from certain people in the township. For example the retaliation against Janice Huggins who was removed as Chairperson of Parks and Recreation because she would not allow campaign signs during a Community Day event. Leann Azzari, a member of the school board, runs for township committee and the school budget comes into the spring. Retaliation against the police department for trying to stop a commotion.

Gary Spinner disagrees with the Deputy Mayor's comments. Believe the residents deserve answers and retaliation is an issue. Mayor Tyson appeared at Mr. Spinner's home the night after the Committee meeting and advised him that he was being removed from the committees. Mr. Eastlack later informed him that Mayor Tyson does not have the power to do that.

Duane Sarmiento of PBA 122 advised that he has been present at the last couple of meetings. There is no doubt in his mind that if there is retaliation in 2009 the PBA, one of the strongest unions in the state, will be behind the South Harrison Township Police Department.

Melvin Robertson of 103 Foxford Lane would like to speak to the Committee and the residents. It was not long ago that the Committee consisted of two (2) African-American men out of a five (5) member Committee. Those two men were elected by the residents of South Harrison Township. He clarified that a man from out of state was found guilty in actions taken against Mayor Tyson. The Mayor and the Chief of Police flew down to testify against the individual. Mr. Robertson has not always agreed with former Committeeman Chet Randall, but has always respected him. Although he recognizes Mr. Randall's race it has never affected his judgment. Mr. Robertson concluded by thanking James McCall and Neil McIntyre for their service while working on the Township Committee.

Lester Shoemaker, Jr. of Mullica Hill has lived in South Harrison Township for 50 years. The township he grew up in was not a racist township and stated that he is offended by the accusations that it is. Mr. Shoemaker stated that Mr. Randall, as the police chief, arrested him for the first time. But with any differences people in South Harrison may have had it was never racist. With what he's read regarding the event of election night, at a bare minimum someone needs anger management.

Daniel Webster of 300 Ferrell Road asked DM Campbell to clarify that he did not mean that there is racism amongst the Township but that there are specific people who are racist, is that correct? DM Campbell stated that there are specific incidents.

Sgt. Nicholas Priore of the South Harrison Township Police Department began by stating that he resents the comments made by DM Campbell. Earlier in the month Sgt. Priore submitted three initiatives for the upcoming year to Chief Mabey and Colleen Bianco, Township Administrator. At this time Sgt. Priore made known that the initiatives for 2009 are Community Wide Watch Program a.k.a. Community Watch; develop a Residential Business Security Survey; and a focus on identity theft. Implementation of these initiatives will reaffirm the Police Department's commitment to serve the residents as well as their conviction to the strict adherence to the mission statement that is proudly displayed on the Township's website.

Chester Randall of 960 Lincoln Road asked to pose a question to DM Campbell. First he wanted to state that he has lived in the community for 70 years and has been involved for 40-45 years and has never experienced racism. As DM Campbell stated earlier that these incidents started around two (2) years ago and that is when he was elected to the Committee. None of the other committeemen, including Mayor Tyson, ever bring up issues of racism. Mr. Randall stated that DM Campbell is the only one who continually stirs the pot by reading a reports or a statement about a racial incident. Why?

DM Campbell replied that the incidents are accurate and he's tired of it. Mr. Randall stated that DM Campbell seems to be the one at the bottom of it. DM Campbell denied it being behind anything. Mr. Randall noted that when the first incident occurred no one outside of the Democratic Executive Committee knew that Mayor Tyson was going to be the mayor.

Sarah Freeman of 781 Eldridge's Hill Road stated that she finds it very disheartening that Lake Street has been left in the condition that it is in. It looks awful and something should be done.

Jeannine Campbell apologized to DM Campbell if she appeared to be disrespectful earlier. Something she has been touting since the school budget issues is the lack of respect from within the committee and to the community. The complaint that some of the residents have seen regarding Mr. Gaines. He is still going to trial on harassment and disorderly charges, he has not yet been charged. The County Prosecutor did investigate the original charges which is what has been read into the record. There is still a trial and Mr. Gaines has a right like everyone else to that trial. Ms. Campbell noted that Mr. Gaines is in the audience and she would still like to hear from him. Ms. Campbell questioned Mr. Gaines' ability to be an impartial member of the Committee in 2009.

Sgt. Priore clarified Mr. Gaines has been charged with the local police department with harassment and disorderly conduct.

Robert Diaz of 108 Foxford Lane noted that Mr. Campbell's earlier comments are his opinion and he is entitled to them but further stated that this is not the correct place to present during a public meeting. Mr. Diaz stated that it deflects from what is going on and creates a bad atmosphere. As to the attacks to Charles Tyson, Mr. Diaz has read some of what has taken place and it is despicable. In reference to the Planning/Zoning Board member that has been accused of attempting to hack into the Township's server, Mr. Diaz noted that he was the one that brought that out during a Committee meeting. Mr. Diaz stated that he did not know nor does he care what color his wife is, he didn't even know he was married, the fact remains that he lied to our police. If he hadn't lied to our police it would not have escalated the way it did. Mr. Diaz questioned the cost to the Township in relation to this investigation. DM Campbell advised that it was \$1,600 dollars. Mr. Diaz noted that that does not include all of the hours of time involved by the employees and officers of the Township.

In reference to the incidents on November 4th, one of the incidents has resulted in a complaint filed against Mr. Diaz by Mayor Tyson for allegedly chasing the Mayor into his office then slamming the door closed to protect himself. Later that evening, Mr. Diaz was the one whom Committeeman-elect Gaines was initialing hollering. Mr. Diaz, later that evening, wrote his statement as to the events of the evening. Mr. Diaz noted that he was unaware of Mr. Gaines' ethnicity. Mr. Diaz advised that he himself is Hispanic and has been subjected to slanderous comments also. He then stated that Mr. Gaines is larger than he is therefore during the confrontation was not concentrating on what was being said. He did not have a

recorder on him and his brain is not trained for doing that. He doesn't believe that Ofc. Barbetta or Corp. Weston got an actual transcription of what was said. The rapidity of Mr. Gaines' comments made it difficult to transcribe verbatim however the gist of it is definitely there. Mr. Diaz noted that he was interviewed by the Prosecutor's office and added that he would like to know who was not. The Prosecutor advised that he spoke with those people who had information and were willing to speak to him regarding the incident. He is aware that DM Campbell, Mr. Nagtegaal and himself had spoken with the Prosecutor and questioned who would have refused to speak to the Prosecutor's office. Mr. Diaz noted that he does not feel that all that happens to Mayor Tyson is racially motivated. He believes that most of it is his personality.

Regarding previous comments about vindictiveness, Mr. Diaz stated that he has not been seen in the building for two (2) years. When asked why by residents, he has advised them that it is due to the fact that he did not want the Ambulance Squad to be punished for things he said during Committee meetings. He knows of the vindictiveness that is on this Committee. He has now been elected and would like to believe that it is not politically motivated that DM Campbell stated that the Ambulance Squad will be gone in January. Mr. Diaz stated that there will be a time when the Township should go into service with the County however, now is not the time. Mr. Diaz advised that next month when this matter comes before the Committee he will have to step down due to conflict. He asked the Committeemen voting to stay with Unity Ambulance.

Marc Nagtegaal of Franklinville Road stated that three (3) years ago a company named United Computer came to the Township at no cost to review the computer network. Mr. Nagtegaal's son works for United Computer. Mr. Nagtegaal stated that the computers in the building have been being built by the IT provider. Upon reviewing the network, Mr. Nagtegaal's son advised that there were viruses on the network and things were not maintained properly. Mr. Nagtegaal asked the 2009 Committee to make computer security a priority.

Russell Marino of Porches Mill Road requested that DM Campbell be courteous enough to look those speaking to him in the eye and stated that his conduct this evening has been unprofessional.

John Coleman although not a resident of the Township he would like to say that although he is a friend of DM Campbell's; he did not hear DM Campbell state that this is a racist community. Mr. Coleman advised that DM Campbell stated that the incidents surrounding Mayor Tyson were racially motivated but he did not say that the other incidents were racially motivated. Committeeman McIntyre disagreed with that statement. Mr. Coleman then noted that several people stood up and spoke about potential retaliation; they are talking about things that have not happened. Mr. Coleman added that he was involved with Mayor Tyson was receiving threats and noted and stated his appreciation of the Police Department's protection and involvement. When Mr. Coleman was campaigning throughout the Township there were comments made by some of the residents regarding Mayor Tyson that were not very kind.

Robert Diaz requested a copy of the letter, read by DM Campbell earlier in the evening, be provided rather than OPRA'd. DM Campbell advised that no one could receive a copy at this time due to the fact that there were notes on his only copy.

Jeannine Campbell noted the amount of time invested by her, other residents and certain Committeemen to obtain information that should have been readily available. Transparency was a word that was used quite a lot during the time that Messrs. Campbell and Spinner were campaigning; and again when Messrs. Gaines and Calabro were campaigning. Somewhere along the way transparency has been gone by the wayside.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Cornelius McIntyre, second by James McCall. Motion carried.

Approve Payment of the Bills:

Motion to approve payment of the bills was made by Gary Spinner, second by Cornelius McIntyre.

Roll Call Vote: James McCall - yes, Cornelius McIntyre - yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 4 - yes', 0 - no's. Motion carried.**

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Gary Spinner, second by Cornelius McIntyre. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Keen, RMC
Deputy Clerk

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Information