JANUARY 14, 2009

The South Harrison Township Committee held the regular meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Harrison Township Municipal Building.

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: Robert Campbell – present, Robert Diaz – present, Robert Gaines – present, Gary Spinner – present, Charles Tyson – present, John Eastlack Jr., Solicitor - present, Rich Fini, Engineer – present, Nancy Kearns, Municipal Clerk – present.

Committee Reports:

Police Department – December 2008 Report

Chief Mabey advised that in May of 2008 the Police Department went to expanded patrol coverage. With this coverage we had 20 hours a day, seven days a week. The total State Police responses were cut in half. DUI arrests went up along with motor vehicle accidents decreased by 26%. Chief Mabey hopes to continue this expanded coverage and provide the Township with enhanced service and recognized all of the Officers for their dedication and effects. Chief Mabey stated he was hired a little more than 4 years ago to run and manage this small Police Department since then we have made significant progress in the day-to-day operations. Chief Mabey stated he was hired to run a police force and not to engage in politics of any kind and has not engaged in any partisan politics nor will he tolerate any such activity by any member of the Department. The Police Department is just that, a Police Department, we conduct independent, non biased police work which is not always popular, but is conducted without bias or favoritism. Chief Mabey pledges the continued support of the Police Department to the current Township Committee, and looks forward to positive changes in 2009. Mayor Campbell stated we will continue to support the Police Department as we have in the past if possible.

Construction Code Official – December 2008 Report

Engineering Report – January 2009 Report

Lincoln Road Application

Tax Collector Report: Taxes collected for the month of December $230,831.90.

Treasurer's Report: None

Information only

Old Business: **Resolution R-09-13**
South Harrison Township Temporary Budget Appropriations for 2009

Motion to adopt Resolution R-09-13 was made by Robert Diaz, second by Charles Tyson.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – yes, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 5 – yes', 0 – no's. Motion carried.**

New Business: **Resolution R-09-14**
Resolution Appointing Officers for the South Harrison Township, County of Gloucester State of New Jersey for the Terms Specified

Motion to adopt Resolution R-09-14 was made by Charles Tyson, second by Robert Gaines.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – yes, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 5 – yes', 0 – no's. Motion carried.**

Resolution R-09-15
Resolution Appointing Alternate Fund Commissioner to the Municipal Joint Insurance Fund

Motion to adopt Resolution R-09-15 was made by Robert Diaz, second by Gary Spinner.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – yes, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 5 – yes', 0 – no's. Motion carried.**

Resolution R-09-16
South Harrison Township Resolution Awarding the 2009 Contract for Dog Census

Motion to adopt Resolution R-09-16 was made by Gary Spinner, second by Robert Diaz.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – yes, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 5 – yes', 0 – no's. Motion carried.**

Resolution R-09-17
Resolution of the Township Committee of south Harrison Setting Forth the Policies Regarding the Issuance of Press Releases

Motion to adopt Resolution R-09-17 was made by Charles Tyson, second by Robert Gaines.

Information only

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – yes, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 5 – yes', 0 – no's. Motion carried.**

Resolution R-09-18

Resolution Amending Resolution R-08-118 Resolution of the Township of South Harrison Count of Gloucester Approving the Closing of Bruce Paparone, Inc.'s Escrow Account 012-28-04 and Returning of Escrow Monies

Motion to adopt Resolution R-09-18 was made by Robert Diaz, second by Robert Gaines.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – yes, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 5 – yes', 0 – no's. Motion carried.**

Resolution R-09-19

Resolution Amending Resolution R-09-08 "South Harrison Township Resolution to Establish in Writing a Cash Management Plan, Designating Official Depositories of Funds, Authorizing Investment of Funds and Setting Forth Procedures for Disbursement of Funds"

Motion to adopt Resolution R-09-19 was made by Robert Campbell, second by Gary Spinner.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – yes, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 5 – yes', 0 – no's. Motion carried.**

Resolution R-09-20

Contract for Professional Services – Conner Strong Risk Control Services

Motion to adopt Resolution R-09-20 was made by Charles Tyson, second by Robert Diaz.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – yes, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 5 – yes', 0 – no's. Motion carried.**

Resolution R-09-21

Resolution for Excluding the Public (Personnel & Litigation)

Motion to adopt Resolution R-09-21 was made by Charles Tyson, second by Robert Campbell.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – yes, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 5 – yes', 0 – no's. Motion carried.**

Resolution R-9-22

Resolution to Make Budget Transfers between Appropriations in the 2008 General Fund Budget

Information Only

Motion to adopt Resolution R-09-22 was made by Robert Diaz, second by Gary Spinner.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – yes, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 5 – yes', 0 – no's. Motion carried.**

Return to Open Session:

Motion to return to open session was made by Robert Gaines, second by Robert Diaz. Motion carried.

Tom Colavecchio, Tax Assessor addressed the Committee regarding the re-assessment of property in South Harrison Township. The Committee advised Mr. Colavecchio to move forward with the project, in house.

Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public was made Gary Spinner, second by Charles Tyson. Motion carried.

Jack Fitzpatrick 911 Monroeville Road asked about Resolution R-09-19 and why the Township changed banks. Mr. Fitzpatrick was advised that the resolution was to add additional banks to the list of banks the Township may use. Mr. Fitzpatrick also asked about Resolution R-09-17 regarding press releases. The Committee explained what the resolution.

Don Moul 433 Franklinville Road asked about the County EMS program and if the Committee has made a decision regarding going to the County EMS. Mayor Campbell advised that no decision has been made and this will be put on the February meeting agenda for discussion and resolution. There was further discussion regarding this matter, the deadline and how the logistics would be worked out.

Marc Nagtegaal 719 Franklinville Road stated that the arrogant behavior of the previous speaker (Don Moul) is amazing. Mr. Nagtegaal feels as a tax payer that Unity Ambulance can stay as long as the want to stay in the Township.

Jeanine Campbell talked about "public question form" that was agreed to, and she feels Mr. Moul is frustrated because he has been coming over and over to ask the same question and is not getting an answer. Ms. Campbell stated she did submit a public question form on January 1, regarding the sub-committee report for the computer breach and what the status is, she has not received an answer. Mayor Campbell advised that this will be discussed in closed session. Mr. Eastlack advised that this has not been resolved to the point of advising the public. Ms. Campbell hopes that this year things are going to change positively to help this community get back together.

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Kat Williams 24 Willowbrook states that as a new resident it is a bit of an embarrassment to hear the negative press that is going on. Ms. Williams asked Committeeman Spinner what is being done with the property taxes. Committeeman Spinner was not sure why she was asking him directly and not the full Committee, but explained that he is no longer on the finance committee, that committee is Mr. Campbell and Mr. Diaz and feels she needs to direct her question to them. Mayor Campbell stated that a very hard stance is being taken on the municipal budget and would like to be able to reduce the budget by 7 ½% and may be even go to a 10% cut. Feels a good chunk of it can be from cutting costs in the building, and by moving to shared services agreements.

Bill McCall 401 Ferrell Road stated if moving forward in a positive manner, one place to start would be for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to offer a public apology for the articles in the Philadelphia Inquire. The article states that they are struggling to control 2700 residents in South Harrison. First, you don't control residents, you use reason with them, and we have freedom of speech. To bring closure to this matter and to say that we are all not racists in this Township an apology would go a long way.

Radine Konawel 207 Cedar Grove Road asked for some reassurance that your goal will not affect the police department coverage. Lowing taxes is good, but does not want to lose what we fought so hard to get. Mayor Campbell stated we are not looking to cut the services of the police department. Mayor Campbell does not see us going to 24 hour coverage, unless there would be a shared services agreement. Committeeman Spinner spoke about the State charging for State Police coverage and which would be more cost effective, pay the State, expand our Department or out source the additional 4 hours, but the State charging issue has gone away for now. Mayor Campbell spoke about investigating shared services. Ms. Konawel asked why the meeting is being video taped. Mr. Eastlack stated there was a Supreme Court decision that says anyone can tape a meeting. She was advised that sometime in the future they may want to put them on the web page. Mr. Eastlack advised that ruling states that anyone can tape a meeting including anybody in the room.

Dan Webster 300 Ferrell Road addressed the Committee stating he also is looking for a change in '09. We should not let events shape us, but instead, it is our individual response to those events does more to shape who we are. Mr. Webster offered his sincere condolences for the events that have happened to our neighbors over the past year and have shaped how South Harrison sadly perceives itself. Those perceptions are being blown up in newspapers. You, the Committee, bear the responsibility, as our representatives to represent us in the best light despite what has happened to you personally, despite what you see happen to your neighbor, it is your responsibility. You don't air our dirty laundry in public trying to make the perception that that small dirty bit of laundry is the entire basket, because that is not the case. You need to spend more time fixing South Harrison and a public apology is warranted. You need to start the healing now, no retaliation, drop all of the nonsense and more forward.

Ed Crispin 681 Harrisonville Road spoke about trash pick-up and that we pick-up household trash and we are picking-up commercial property on Ferrell Road, it is a horse boarding farm. Mr. Crispin spoke about the 4 day work schedule to save money. You

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have to have a base to work from, you need a year's history to determine any savings, and I don't believe we saved a nickel. Mr. Crispin was advised that the Township went back to a 5 day week last Monday. Committeeman Spinner advised that the administrator does have the numbers and he will get back to Mr. Crispin. Mr. Crispin stated he is disappointed by the lack of self control displayed by many of the residents in the audience. Mr. Crispin spoke about the need to honor flag etiquette when displaying the flag.

Theresa Roeder Revere Drive stated we do not want to reiterate what happened last year and need to move forward. Ms. Roeder reported on an agenda the Recreation Committee has put together for this year, March 2 is South Harrison day, April 4 is the seniors' luncheon and June 6 is schedule for an old fashioned picnic in the park.

Mel Robertson 103 Foxford Lane spoke about the flooding on Route 538 and is concerned that it will cause a head on collusion and when cold it freezes. Township Engineer will send letter to the County regarding these issues. Mr. Robertson asked if we pay $110,000 a year to the County Library System. The Committee advised that it is a little more than that. If there are 2700 residents in the Township that would be about $40.00 a person, are we allowed to partner with another library in the county as long as we provided library service to the residents? You will still have to pay. Just asking because of the County EMS issue, Mr. Robertson feels we should keep Unity Ambulance and use the County as a back up. If you move your house to any other community in the County you are going to pay as much or more in taxes. Mr. Robertson, when giving blood the other day said he lives in South Harrison and the nurse replied aren't you embarrassed to say that.

Ben & Sarah Freeman 781 Eldridges Hill Road spoke about the fees charged for a minor subdivisions/lot line adjustments, she has spent $2,500.00 to date for her lot line adjustment and feels the fees are absurd. Mr. Freeman stated he was billed 10 hours from Federicci & Atkins and never saw them on his property nor was there a break down on the bill. Just feels the fees are excessive. Mr. Freeman asked if the fees for the residents can be reduced by a percentage. Mr. Eastlack said you can not have separate fees: equal protection under the law. Mr. Eastlack briefly explained the procedure and advised that a minor subdivision and lot line adjustment are the same. The same steps have to be done for both.

Mary Howard reminded everybody that tomorrow the Girl Scout Cookie Sale starts and there are 92 girls who worked over a thousand hours of volunteer service in this community last year.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Robert Diaz, second by Robert Gaines. Motion carried.

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Approve Payment of the Bills:

Motion to approve payment of the bills was made by Robert Diaz, second by Gary Spinner.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Campbell – yes, Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Gary Spinner – yes, Charles Tyson – yes. **R.C.V.: 5 – yes', 0 – no's. Motion carried.**

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Gary Spinner, second by Robert Diaz. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Kearns, RMC
Municipal Clerk

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