

MARCH 25, 2009

The South Harrison Township Committee held a special meeting on Wednesday March 25, 2009 at 6:00 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 Vote: Robert Campbell – present, Robert Diaz – present, Robert Gaines – present, Gary Spinner – present, Charles Tyson – present, Nancy Kearns, Municipal Clerk – present.

Work Session:

Resolution R-09-55

Resolution for Excluding the Public (potential shared services with neighboring municipality and personnel and personnel police matters)

Motion to adopt Resolution R-09-55 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.**

Open Meeting to the Public:

In preparation for the upcoming budget the committee discussed several topics and budget line items.

Motion to open the meeting to the public was made by Charles Tyson, second by Robert Diaz. Motion carried.

Karen Urte West, 14 Gazelle Court, asked about the status of Phase 3 of Deer Run. In particular she was interested in the status of the water retention basin and its clean-up.

Jim McCall, 46 Cedar Grove Road, asked several questions regarding the contract with Wheelabrator and what is happening with the upcoming county contract. He is concerned about the bypass days where non-incinerated trash is sent directly to the landfill. He would like to protect this resource.

Sara Freeman, 781 Eldridges Hill Road, asked why discussions regarding shared services are being discussed in closed session. If in the initial phases and specifics are not being discussed than why can't it be done in public? The Solicitor explained that closed

session is necessary due to possible contract information and in order to protect everyone's interest.

Jim McCall, 46 Cedar Grove Road, warned that the committee must proceed cautiously and make sure they compare everything carefully.

Mary Howard, 4 Hollybrook Road, asked when the public would be included and have an input in the shared services being discussed in closed session. The Solicitor said there would be a public hearing. The Mayor also stated he would have several Town Hall meetings. Ms. Howard asked why the committee is not pursuing grants for feasibility studies for these shared services. These studies would provide valuable information and help make educated decisions. Questions arose as to possible violation of OPMA (Open Public Meetings Act) since the committee is not even sharing basic information as to what shared services are being explored.

Janice Huggins, 22 Lincoln Mill Road, asked if the opinion of the public had any impact on the board and their decisions since their actions were suggesting that it didn't matter what the residents wanted or not.

There was further discussion, debate and disagreement from the board. It was brought up that Ms. Bianco left instructions that if personnel matters involving her were discussed she would request an open session. She specified this via a RICE notice. The Solicitor determined that they would not discuss any part of personnel matters regarding Ms. Bianco and that this topic was not on the agenda for the closed session. He further explained that if it was put on the agenda it would be discussed in open session.

Close Meeting to the Public:

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

Return to Open Session

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

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Charles Tyson, second by Robert Diaz. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Kearns, RMC
Municipal Clerk