

APRIL 16, 2009

The South Harrison Township Committee held a special meeting on Thursday April 16, 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 Vote: Robert Campbell – present, Robert Diaz – present, Robert Gaines – present, Gary Spinner – present, Charles Tyson – present, Nancy Kearns, Municipal Clerk – present.

Budget Work Session:

A discussion regarding next certain budget items took place in preparation for next years budget. The initial discussion focused on the Public Works Department and looked at the possibility of reducing costs by decreasing the salary of the supervisory position and reducing the staff to a 2.5 crew.

The Construction Code Office was discussed. The Committee looked at the monetary advantage of outsourcing inspections to a 3rd party inspection firm. The Construction Code Office Clerk's salary was also discussed.

The Committee also had a discussion regarding the Administrative Staff. They looked at reducing the hours of work for the following positions;

Administrator – reduced to 2 days (15 hours) a week

Municipal Clerk – reduced to 15 hours a week

Deputy Clerk – reduced to 30 hours a week

Chief Finance Officer – would stay the same

CFO Clerk – 16 hours a week

Open Meeting to the Public:

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

Jeannine Campbell, 709 Lincoln Road, expressed disappointment at the lack of communication and the behavior of the Township Committee members.

Pam Fuller, 201 Deer Run Ct., commented on several aspects of the discussion. It was her concern that the quality of life in South Harrison would change. She felt that the proposed cuts were hitting the people who actually did the work in the township extremely hard.

Mel Robertson, 103 Foxford Lane, asked about the Township Administrator. He wondered why she was being cut if she paid for herself by the amount of grants that she brought into the township. Mr. Robertson also felt that the proposed cuts were hurting the working people.

Janice Huggins, 22 Lincoln Mill Road, asked what the residents were going to get in return for the cuts and decreased services. She questioned whether our talented staff would stay on under the proposed cuts.

John Campbell, Lincoln Road, asked several questions about permits under the new proposal. How is it better for the residents if they have to pay 25% more for a permit?

Lester Shoemaker, 568 Franklinville Road, asked what type of services we will get if we outsource the Construction Department.

Joe Hegarty, 402 Ferrell Road, asked specifics regarding the numbers and the salary projections. He wondered what all the proposals would get the residents in the long run. He is concerned that 3rd parties will be removed from the responsibilities and accountability of township matters. He felt that the residents are not given numbers or specific information (from the Committee) and this gives them the sense that the Committee doesn't know the numbers.

Radine Konawel, 207 Cedar Grove Road, wanted to know what the cuts were going to save the taxpayer.

Sharon Wade, 1581 Commissioner's Road, asked for clarification regarding her position and hours.

Close Meeting to the Public:

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

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Kearns, RMC
Municipal Clerk