

APRIL 13, 2011

The South Harrison Township Committee held a finance and regular meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. respectively in the South Harrison Township Municipal Building.

Mayor James McCall 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 Diaz – present, Robert Gaines – present, Mary Howard – present, James McCall – present, Gary Spinner – present, Brain Lozuke, Solicitor – present, Steven Bach, Engineer – present, Christie Ehret, CFO – present, Chuck Owens, Auditor – present, Celeste Keen, Deputy Clerk – present

Minutes:

Motion to table the regular session minutes of June 24, 2009 and March 9, 2011 was made by Robert Diaz, second by Gary Spinner. **Motion carried.**

Committee Reports:

Police Department – March 2011 Report
OIC Nicholas Priore advised that every Sunday in March there was a bike run held. Matthew Warner thanked the South Harrison Township Veterans' Association for their assistance with handling traffic during the events. Mr. Warner's group donated \$500 toward the South Harrison Township Veterans' Association.

Construction Code Official – March 2011 Report
Engineering Report – April 2011 Report

Tax Collector Report:

The Tax Collectors report for March was reviewed with no additions.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's report was reviewed with no additions.

**Old Business:
2011 Municipal Budget**

Resolution R-11-40

Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public on this matter only was made by Robert Gaines, second by Gary Spinner. Motion carried.

Craig Harper of 108 LaFayette Drive appeared before the Committee and stated that his position was not adversarial. Mr. Harper challenged the Committee to do the best that they can for the Township, to look into creative ways to raise revenue. He believes the Committee has attempted everything to avert raising taxes.

Jack Fitzpatrick of 911 Monroeville Road believes an increase in the local purpose tax should be decided on by the voters. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked DM Spinner if he meant it when he said the voters would have to decide. DM Spinner advised that the Committee was made aware after the last budget meeting that South Harrison Township was not in a position to go out for referendum. Mr. Fitzpatrick inquired as to the discrepancy in the surplus. DM Spinner stated that the state mandated the change due to outsourcing the construction code office.

Marc Nagtegaal of 719 Franklinville Road has been involved as a volunteer within the Township for approximately 15 years. The township has been through many changes over those years. Mr. Nagtegaal noted that the problem with the Committee is that Mayor McCall and Deputy Mayor Gary Spinner switch sides.

Mark Townsend of 324 Ferrell Road asked the Committee how we got to this point. Is there a three year plan? How about commercial ratables in the Township? Mr. Townsend was advised that the former P/Z Chair (that just spoke) was the lead in taking the Commercial zoning out of the Master Plan.

Robert Campbell of 1 St. John's Lane finds it interesting that with the exception of Robert Gaines none of the Committee is doing anything to change. Robert Campbell and Henry Ludwigen, in 2009, gave a presentation which showed a significant erosion of the surplus. Mayor McCall knew of the problems and ignored the suggestions made to him. DM Spinner, also in attendance, voiced his opposition to the suggestions made during that presentation. Robert Diaz, also in attendance, also disagreed with the presentation. The surplus will be gone in a matter of months. Mr. Campbell asked Robert Gaines to explain to the public the cuts that he has intended.

Committeeman Gaines recommended that the South Harrison Township Police Force be reduced to two (2) officers; forfeiture of Committee salaries; withhold funds to Harrisonville Fire Department and Unity Ambulance; reduce administrative costs.

Robert Campbell asked that the Committee defer until they can get their act together.

DM Spinner rebutted Robert Campbell's figures from the 2009 presentation.

Joan Meyer of 2A Laurel Drive has been paying top taxes and can not afford another raise in taxes.

Mark Townsend of Ferrell Road asked Committeeman Diaz regarding the money that has been donated to unity ambulance? Committeeman Diaz stated that it is not a part of the municipal budget. Mr. Townsend asked Mayor McCall if money is given to Fire Dept. Brian Lozuke, Township Solicitor, advised that it is a contractual obligation.

Melvin Robertson of 103 Foxford Lane asked Chuck Owens for clarification over the referendum and the results passing or failing. Line items were itemized specifically and would have been cut as written in the referendum. When Gloucester County implemented the ambulance it was in the County Tax of every municipality within the County. As part of the former South Harrison Township Economic Development Committee, Mr. Robertson found that commercial ratables are not viable within the Township as the Township has little to offer by way of low population and lack of public water and sewer. Mr. Robertson has had poor response time from State Police and feels two officers are not sufficient.

Thomas Sorbello of 216 Porches Mill Road advised that he was on Township Committee when money started being given to the Harrisonville Fire Department. GCIA could not build the landfill because the Harrisonville Fire Department could not support it. That is why the contributions to the fire department became part of the contract between the Township and the County. Mr. Sorbello owns property in Woolwich and South Harrison Township, South Harrison Township is a bargain.

Tracey McShea of 426 Fislerville Road stated that she had attended the February meeting during the budget discussions and noted that there had not been many others in attendance. Having been to the meetings and knowing the services that would have been let go, Ms. McShea stated that she wants the services that this tax hike will maintain.

Charles Tyson 1685-A SH 45 directed his comments to Committeeman Diaz; Unity ambulance was bequeathed 37K from a Township resident upon his death. Mr. Tyson feels that those funds should be given to the Township.

Joseph Hegarty of 402 Ferrell Road stated that politics are on display. Mr. Hegarty loves living in South Harrison Township. He has known Robert Diaz and James McCall for many years. Finds the budget difficult to read and inquired as to the CAPITAL line item. Mayor McCall advised that the funds will go toward Cedar Grove Road improvements as well as Lincoln Mill and Vestry Road improvements. Mr. Hegarty inquired as to the uncollected taxes. Mayor McCall advised that the previous Tax Collector did not hold a tax sale in 2010 due to transferring to another municipality. Chuck Owens explained the process of the taxes being collected and subsequently disbursed to the schools and the County, etc. Mr. Hegarty suggested that residents get rid of their own brush. Mr. Hegarty asked that the Committee honor the school vote and if the voters vote down the school budget please maintain that result. Mr. Hegarty addressed Committeeman Gaines and the Enough is Enough letter that he gave Mr. Hegarty. Committeeman Gaines stated that he knew nothing about the contents of the letter. Committeeman Gaines advised that the Police Department does not pay for itself with the tickets that it writes.

Richard Valentino of 119 Danton Lane has lived in the Community for six months and hopes that this does not become a trend.

Nancy Pierro of 6 Laurel Drive is lucky that she and her husband are working. If one of them loses their jobs they'll be forced to move.

John Campbell of 15 Raccoon Creek Court referenced Mr. Harper's earlier comments. Mr. Campbell was supposed to retire this year but is unable. Mr. Campbell noted that the local purpose tax is the smallest portion of the tax bill. He believes that the chipping program is a service that the residents can do without.

Debbie Cunningham of 648 Monroeville Road addressed the Committee as the South Harrison Board of Education President as well as a resident. Ms. Cunningham stated that she is not in favor of having State Police coverage as she had to wait 1 ½ hours for a report of gunshots. The average class size is 23 per classroom. 31 Abbott districts cost more than the local schools.

Tom Sorbello asked for salary clarification for the Planning/Zoning Clerk & Secretary. Mr. Sorbello was advised that the Planning/Zoning Clerk and Secretary were two separate salaries paid from the Planning Board Salary & Wages Budget Line Item.

Louis Chiulli of 488 Bridgeton Pike looks like nothing was accomplished. It appears that this is a done deal; he asked that the Committee take some of the suggestions that were given. Committeewoman Howard disputed Mr. Chiulli's comments as he has not been to the meetings that have led up to the budget that is currently before the Committee.

Mark Townsend asked when the website had last been updated; he was looking for minutes from previous Committee meetings. Committeewoman Howard advised that the website has been updated recently. Committeeman Diaz stated that the information that Mr. Townsend is looking for is not able to be uploaded due to lack of electronic signature to authenticate. Mr. Townsend suggested that the website should be shut down.

Debbie Cunningham stated that the Enough is Enough letter is inaccurate and noted that the school numbers specifically are inaccurate as they are elevated by roughly 1/3.

Ms. McShea stated that she does not want the website taken down. She utilized it just today to get information regarding the dog license procedure.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to close the meeting to the public on this matter was made by Gary Spinner, second by Robert Diaz. Motion carried.

Motion to adopt Resolution R-11-40 was made by Gary Spinner, second by Robert Gaines.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Mary Howard – yes, James McCall – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 5 – yes', 0 – no's. Motion carried.**

Resolution R-11-36

Resolution of the Township Committee on the Township of South Harrison, in the County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving the Return of Construction and Zoning Code Fees Inadvertently Supplied to South Harrison Township Construction Office by RCL Enterprises, Inc.

Motion to adopt Resolution R-11-36 was made by Gary Spinner, second by Robert Diaz.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Mary Howard – yes, James McCall – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.:** 5 – yes', 0 – no's. **Motion carried.**

New Business:

Resolution R-11-42

Resolution of the Township Committee Authorizing Contract for the Furnishing of Public Health Services by the County of Gloucester

Resolution R-11-43

Resolution of the Township of South Harrison Appointing Jon Sukeforth to the Part-Time Position of Cleaning Personnel

Resolution R-11-44

Resolution of the Township of South Harrison Authorizing and Approving Settlement Agreement and Consent Order of Settlement of Dismissal

Resolution R-11-45

Resolution of the Township of South Harrison Authorizing Addendum to Collective Bargaining Agreement

Resolution R-11-46

Resolution of the Township Committee Authorizing the Refund of Duplicate Payment

Motion to adopt Resolutions R-11-42, R-11-43, R-11-44, R-11-45 and R-11-46 was made by Robert Diaz, second by James McCall.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Mary Howard – yes, James McCall – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.:** 5 – yes', 0 – no's. **Motion carried.**

The owners of Wagonhouse Winery which maintains a plenary license from another municipality has applied for a transfer within South Harrison Township. State has requested any comment from the Committee. The winery will fall under the Right to Farm Act laws. Alcohol laws would have to be put into place within the Township.

Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public was made by Gary Spinner, second by Robert Diaz. Motion carried.

Debbie Cunningham noted that the school budget is on both the South Harrison Township Elementary and Kingsway Regional School websites

Close Meeting to the Public:

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

Approve Payment of the Bills:

Motion to approve payment of the bills with the exception of item #11-00300 in the amount of \$4,090.00 was made by Gary Spinner, second by Robert Gaines.

Roll Call Vote: Robert Diaz – yes, Robert Gaines – yes, Mary Howard – yes, James McCall – yes, Gary Spinner – 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,

Celeste Keen, RMC
Deputy Clerk