

THE MONDAY, MAY 17, 2010 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WATERFORD, CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:35 BY THE MAYOR, MARYANN MERLINO.

NOTICE OF TIME AND DATE FOR THIS MEETING WAS SENT ON MAY 13, 2010 TO THE RECORD BREEZE, COURIER-POST AND INQUIRER NEWSPAPERS AS A SUNSHINE NOTICE AND IS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE "OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW".

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:**OPENING PRAYER:****ROLL CALL:**

Committeeman Condo - Present
Committeewoman Finnerty - Present
Committeeman Halbert - Absent
Committeeman Hamilton - Present
Mayor Merlino - Present

ALSO PRESENT:

Virginia L. Chandler, Township Clerk - Present
Lawrence C. Ruocco, Township Administrator - Present
John P. Maroccia, Esq., Township Solicitor - Present

EMERGENCY ITEMS:

Moved by Condo, 2nd by Finnerty to authorize resolutions be added to the agenda because of exigent circumstances of the need for the service of a Department of Public Works Employee and the installation of a temporary cooling tower system for the Township Municipal Building.

Voice Vote:

Committeeman Condo - Yes
Committeewoman Finnerty - Yes
Committeeman Hamilton - Yes
Mayor Merlino - Yes

Resolution #2010-137 through Resolution #2010-139 moved to the beginning of the meeting.

Resolution #2010-137

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF SHAWN MCSORLEY FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF WATERFORD DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS EFFECTIVE MONDAY, MAY 17, 2010.

Resolution #2010-138

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RECALL OF A UFCW EMPLOYEE BY SENIORITY BY CONTRACT.

Resolution #2010-139

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WAIVING OF ALL PERMIT FEES REQUIRED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A TEMPORARY COOLING TOWER SYSTEM FOR THE WATERFORD TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING .

Moved by Hamilton, 2nd by Condo to adopt Resolution #2010-137 through Resolution #2010-139.

Poll Vote:

Committeeman Condo - Yes

Committeewoman Finnerty - Yes

Committeeman Hamilton - Yes

Mayor Merlino - Yes

Mayor Merlino acknowledged and invited Margaret "Peggy" Nicolosi, Executive County Superintendent and Rita Hanna, Business Administrator Camden County Department of Education to inform the public of the procedure regarding the Defeated School Board Budget.

Margaret Nicolosi explained the process when a school budget is defeated by the voters.

Discussion ensued with Margaret Nicolosi regarding the Defeated School Board Budget. She noted the Township is at 13,825.00 per child and the State average is \$11,500.00 per child and the middle of the way would be \$12,850.00 per child. She noted it is not uncommon to share principals between buildings. She noted there is a suggested guide for the amount of children per principal which is four hundred (400) children for one (1) principal. She informed that Waterford Township Schools have nine hundred and thirty two (932) children including the special ed children.

Administrator Ruocco inquired by eliminating principals if there is any reason for school to open late.

Margaret Nicolosi noted it would be difficult but the School Board has three (3) months and it should not delay the school from opening.

Committeeman Condo gave a brief overview of the process used by the Township in their review and actions on the Defeated School Budget. This included timelines and procedural matters required by statute and past practice. He noted that the Board submitted in a timely manner a voluminous amount of documents that had to be reviewed by himself, the Mayor and other Township Officials. He also advised that the Sub-Committee of the Township tried on several occasions to schedule meetings with the entire School Board or at least several members of the School Board but to no avail. An invitation to have a joint public meeting between the Board of Education and the Township Committee was rejected by the Board President & Vice President. He stated that the proposed resolution by the Township regarding the Budget is educational and financially sound. It calls for no further reductions in teaching staff or direct aid to the classroom while meeting the mandate of the voters to reduce the tax impact. Its main objection was to reduce the number of administrators and mandate more shared services with the Hammonton School District.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION OF THE MEETING:

MAYOR OPENS THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS:

Gabe Cimino, Jackson Road (Newly Elected School Board Member) noted the School Board never saw the recommendations of the Superintendent.

Committeeman Condo noted there was a written invitation sent to the School Administration and the School Board for a joint meeting with the Township and the Township was denied the request by the Superintendent of Schools. He noted with the Township's recommendations for cuts to the School Board Budget if enacted would bring it to a zero increase.

Ron Passarella, Almira Avenue thanked the Mayor and Township Committee, Margaret Nicolosi, Rita Hanna and Governor Christie for their efforts regarding the Schools Budget. He noted that even with a Zero increase the Waterford Township School Children will still be above the average cost per child. He noted his displeasure with the Township Superintendent of Schools.

Bill Hurley, Pamela Court (School Board Member) thanked Committeeman Condo, the Township Committee and Margaret Nicolosi for all their efforts with the Defeated School Board Budget. He noted his displeasure with the way the matter was handled by the school noting the School Board Members were not informed by the school administration.

Lawrence Ruocco noted the School Board was invited to attend the meeting tonight.

Bill Hurley noted he is on the School Board Finance Committee and was not included in the process by the school.

Tina Kennedy, Condo Avenue inquired if the Resolution with the attachment that is provided to all members of the public is the proposed cuts.

Committeeman Condo responded yes to Tina Kennedy.

Theresa Thurston, Condo Avenue inquired why the School Board did not meet with the Township and indicated that Gary Dentino runs the show at the school and not the School Board.

Colleen David, Old White Horse Pike noted her displeasure with the School Board.

Committeeman Condo noted he went to the School Board Meeting and was told he could only ask one question and they were cutting off people that were trying to speak.

Committeeman Hamilton noted people need to get involved and vote them out.

Committeewoman Finnerty noted the School Board had pulled the recess from the children.

Mayor Merlino thanked Committeeman Condo for all his hard work on the Defeated School Board Budget.

Committeeman Hamilton noted he hopes the school listens this time the last time they got rid of the bus drivers and look what happened. He thanked Committeeman Condo for all his hard work on the Defeated School Board Budget.

MAYOR CLOSES THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS:

DEFEATED SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET:

Resolution #2010-136

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING REDUCTIONS IN THE 2010/2011 PROPOSED WATERFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET.

Moved by Condo, 2nd by Finnerty to adopt Resolution #2010-136.

Poll Vote:

Committeeman Condo - Yes

Committeewoman Finnerty - Yes

Committeeman Hamilton - Yes

Mayor Merlino - Yes

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION OF THE MEETING:

MAYOR OPENS THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS:

THERE WERE NO COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC EXCEPT CLAPPING FROM THE AUDIENCE.

MAYOR CLOSES THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT: (7:45 PM)

Moved by Condo, 2nd by Hamilton to adjourn.

ALL IN FAVOR:

Committeeman Condo - Yes

Committeewoman Finnerty - Yes

Committeeman Hamilton - Yes

Mayor Merlino - Yes

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

Virginia L. Chandler, RMC
Township Clerk

