

WHITE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING JULY 27, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeff Herb called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated that in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" this meeting has been advertised in the July 21, 2010 issue of the Express-Times. This is re-scheduled from the previously advertised July 22, 2010 Regular Meeting. The Agenda has been posted at the Municipal Building.

FLAG SALUTE

The Mayor asked everyone to stand for the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Herb, Committeepersons Race and Mackey, Substitute Attorney Jessica Cardone, Esq. and Clerk Kathleen Reinalda.

OLD BUSINESS

The ADA compliant improvements will be discussed in Executive Session as a contractual matter.

Mr. Race presented a response to the Highlands Council's review of the 14 RMP Updates and Map Adjustments requests submitted with the township's initial Municipal Petition for Plan Conformance in December 2009. The committee was agreeable to Mr. Race's letter and approved it on motion by Mr. Race, seconded by Mrs. Mackey and carried by unanimous favorable vote. Herb – yes, Mackey – yes, Race – yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public present.

RESOLUTIONS

Res. 2010-33: Motion made by Mrs. Mackey, seconded by Mr. Race and carried by unanimous favorable vote to approve the following resolution. Herb – yes, Mackey – yes, Race – yes. Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT PROPERTY TAX REFORM WITH PASSAGE OF THE "MUNICIPAL TOOLKIT" AND MANDATES RELIEF

WHEREAS, difficult times demand difficult choices, and facing an unprecedented revenue gap this year, Governor Christie introduced, and the Legislature passed, a budget that cut municipal property

tax relief funding by about \$450 million, from last year's already reduced totals; and

WHEREAS, realizing that a 20% cut in revenue replacement funding, instead of the statutorily required increase, would present a serious challenge to local budget makers, Governor Christie intended to provide local officials with meaningful tools to limit the, otherwise devastating, impact of the cuts; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's "Tool Kit to Meet Today's Fiscal Challenges" was supposed to accomplish six objectives: collective bargaining reform; pension and benefits reform; civil service reform; management reform; a constitutional cap on increases in spending for direct State government services; and a constitutional cap on property tax increases; and

WHEREAS, Governor Christopher Christie and the State Legislature have agreed on and enacted a 2% statutory cap for annual property tax levy increases; and

WHEREAS, the Governor was correct when he said, 'New caps without the toolkit are unworkable.' and

WHEREAS, with the cuts assured in the State's new budget and with bi-partisan agreement reached on new property tax caps, New Jersey Mayors - from municipalities, large and small, and from all around our Garden State - still wait for Trenton policy makers to enact meaningful local government cost containment reforms; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of White calls for immediate passage of the "Toolkit" reforms and mandates relief, including, but not limited to interest arbitration reform, civil service reforms, public employee pension and benefits, disciplinary procedures, school and special district elections, reforms to the Fair Housing Act and the Council on Affordable Housing and mandates relief; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that statutory arbitration reforms must limit the full economic impact of awards to conform to the 2% cap; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that statutory Health benefit reforms must conform future health benefit costs to the 2% cap; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that municipal revenues, such as the Energy Tax, which are now collected by, and diverted to, the State, but which are legally intended for municipal property tax relief, must be constitutionally dedicated for their original purpose; or in the alternative, those taxes should be reformed to allow collection directly by municipalities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Administration and Legislature must advance immediate mandates relief initiatives to assist municipalities in managing within the 2% cap; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Administration and Legislature must advance reforms to the Fair Housing Act and the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a cap exception for the costs associated with tax appeals should be included, and costs mandated by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) should be excepted from the 2% cap or the costs of new AOC mandates should be capped at 2%; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to New Jersey Governor Christopher Christie, to Senate President Stephen Sweeney, to Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, to our State Senator, to our two Representatives in the General Assembly, and to the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

Res. 2010-34: Motion made by Mr. Race, seconded by Mrs. Mackey and carried by unanimous favorable vote to approve the following resolution. Herb – yes, Mackey – yes, Race – yes. Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION EXTENDING PAYMENT OF THIRD QUARTER TAXES

WHEREAS the annual tax bills were not mailed by the statutory mailing date pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-66 because the 2010 tax rate was not set; and

WHEREAS the mailing of the annual tax bills occurred on or before July 28, 2010; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Statute, no interest may be charged for 25 days after mailing.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Mayor and Governing Body of White Township, that the third installment of the 2010 tax bill shall be due and payable without penalty by August 23, 2010. Any payments received after that date will accrue interest back to August 1, 2010.

Res. 2010-35: Motion made by Mr. Race, seconded by Mrs. Mackey and carried by unanimous favorable vote to approve the following resolution. Herb – yes, Mackey – yes, Race – yes. Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DSM TAX CREDIT BE EXTENDED OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD

WHEREAS, at a meeting held on May 13, 2010, the White Township Committee unanimously approved the DSM tax credit be extended over a three (3) year period; and

WHEREAS, the 1/3 credit will begin with the 2011 tax year; and

WHEREAS, this information was conveyed to the Township Tax Assessor and subsequently verbally conveyed to the County Tax Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the County Tax Administrator requires this information in the form of a Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the White Township Committee desires to have the DSM tax credit extended over a three year period.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

Ord. 2010-5: Motion made by Mr. Race, seconded by Mrs. Mackey and carried by unanimous favorable vote to pass the following Ordinance on First Reading. Herb – yes, Mackey – yes, Race – yes.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITE PROVIDING FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF \$110,000.00 FOR ‘MUNICIPAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS’ FROM GENERAL CAPITAL – “RESERVE FOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS”

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of White, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The sum of \$110,000.00 shall be appropriated for the following items, from General Capital – “Reserve for Municipal Building Improvements”:

Municipal Building Improvements - \$110,000.00

2. The sum of \$110,000.00 is available in General Capital – “Reserve for Municipal Building Improvements”.
3. The appropriation herewith does not authorize any debt of the Township of White.
4. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately on final passage and publication as provided by law.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public present.

NEW BUSINESS

Construction Official, Ralph Price was present to request additional hours for the building department secretary. Mr. Price explained that due to the recently reduced hours, Mrs. Hammel has not been able to complete required paperwork in a timely manner. Mr. Price suggested six

additional hours per week making her work hours 8am to 3pm Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This request was approved on motion by Mr. Race, seconded by Mrs. Mackey and carried by unanimous favorable vote with the stipulation that the hours will be consistently reviewed to determine if they can be decreased if the workload becomes less at any point in time. Herb – yes, Mackey – yes, Race – yes. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Race, seconded by Mrs. Mackey and carried by unanimous favorable vote, the committee approved the July 8, 2010 Minutes of the Regular Meeting and July 8, 2010 Executive Session Meeting. Herb – yes, Mackey – yes, Race – yes. Minutes approved.

NEW BUSINESS

The Road Department workload analysis will be discussed in Executive Session as a matter of Personnel.

On motion by Mrs. Mackey, seconded by Mr. Race and carried by unanimous favorable vote, the following Resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION - EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of White, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion, and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter, July 27, 2010, 7:27pm:

Personnel Matters
(Road Department analysis)

Contract Negotiations
(Municipal Building ADA compliant improvements)

2. It is anticipated at this time, the above-stated subjects will be made public at such time when the matters discussed are no longer sensitive. Motion passed.

On motion by Mr. Race, seconded by Mrs. Mackey, the meeting was re-opened to the public at 8:53pm. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28pm on motion by Mrs. Mackey, seconded by Mr. Race and carried by unanimous favorable vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen R. Reinalda, RMC
Township Clerk

