

Formally adopted on April 20, 2010:

**MINUTES OF A CAUCUS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HADDON, IN THE
COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY, HELD ON MARCH 16, 2010,
IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AT 7:00 PM.**

A caucus meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Haddon was convened in the Municipal Building, 135 Haddon Avenue, Westmont, NJ on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

Mayor Teague requested all stand for the flag salute

Mayor Teague announced that Chapter 231, Public Law 1975 requires adequate notice of this meeting be provided specifying time, place and agenda. This was done by placing Annual Notice in the Courier-Post and Retrospect Newspapers and by posting on two bulletin boards in the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL:	Mayor Teague	Present
	Commissioner Foley	Present
	Commissioner Dougherty	Present

Stuart Platt, Esq., Gregory Fusco, Chief Cavallo, Jim Stevenson, Jennifer DellaValle, Lee Palo, Martin Blaskey, Kate Burns and Denise P. Adams were also present.

Commissioner Foley moved, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty to approve the minutes of the Caucus meeting held on February 16, 2010, with all members voting in the affirmative.

The Clerk reported that the March 23, 2010 Meeting Agenda would be comprised of the following items:

ORDINANCES

#1251 – Authorize Acquisition of the Shusted Property	(2 nd Reading)
#1252 – Authorize Acquisition of the Commonwealth/Media Property	(2 nd Reading)

RESOLUTIONS

#2010-042 – Bill Resolution (Payment of Claims)
#2010-043 – Authorizing the Correction of Tax and Water/Sewer Postings

OTHER BUSINESS

Raffle License #3-2010 and #4-2010 for the PTA, James Stoy School
Raffle License #5-2010 for PTO & Alumni Association of Paul VI High School

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Gregory Fusco, PE reviewed the Engineer's Report dated March 16, 2010. He reported that bids for the Acquisition of a Bypass Pumping System for the South Park Drive Station had been received on March 9, 2010 with two bids being submitted. He recommended the contract award be made to Godwin Pumps for the base bid of \$42,614.00. He further noted that Jim Stevenson had requested the award be made this evening, in an effort to get the pump ordered and installed timely due to recent storm events. Commissioner Foley moved, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty, that the contract for the acquisition of the Bypass Pumping System be awarded to Godwin Pumps for the base bid of \$42,614.00, contingent upon the solicitor's satisfactory review of the bid submission and contract document and availability of funds. The contract award to be memorialized by Resolution #2010-041, was subsequently approved by the affirmative vote of all members.

Greg Fusco reported that bids had been received for the Opening/Closing and Maintenance of Crystal Lake Pool earlier in the day with one bid being received from Finkel and Davino Pools for \$12,925.00. He reported that the bidder failed to submit the required bidding documents and

security and recommended that the bid be rejected. He further suggested that Jim Stevenson solicit quotes for the service utilizing the current set of bid specifications, due to the amount proposed being well under the bid limit.

Mr. Fusco suggested that the Governing Body authorize the solicitation of bids for General Street Repaving and Reconstruction of Ivywood Avenue. Jim Stevenson made a recommendation to put the Concession Stand out to bid this year. Mayor Teague observed that there may be a potential for savings and instructed the solicitor to prepare the Request for Proposals for the Concession Stand.

The Clerk reported that the Solicitor's office had reviewed the request for lease space on the Briarwood Standpipe by a telecommunications company and had rendered an opinion that recommends the lease be put to bid. She noted that this would be another item for placement on the agenda.

Public Works, Water/Sewer Department - Jim Stevenson reported that the JIF recently recommended that municipalities performing in-house capital improvements adopt a resolution of the Governing Body authorizing the improvements. The solicitor was instructed to investigate further.

Tax Assessor/Revaluation – Martin Blaskey reported that he was working with Kate Burns on certain enhancements to the Revaluation information on the new website. Mayor Teague requested an opportunity to address several concerns with the representatives from the Revaluation firm. He explained that he has been informed that the letter mailed by PPA was not received by a number of residents, including himself, and/or it was perceived to be junk mail and thrown out. He stressed the importance of keeping the public informed and suggested another mailing be done. It was determined that the information would be mailed again in an envelope that clearly identified the contents and to include a cover letter from the Mayor and Commissioners. Martin reported that the photography portion of the project had been completed and advised that the actual home visits were anticipated to begin. Mayor Teague suggested that the letter be mailed to residents before starting the visits. Mr. Ed Loughman, E. Linden Avenue, indicated that he was familiar with PPA when they performed the revaluation for the Borough of Collingswood, which he observed went smoothly. Mr. Cassel, 1017 Belmont Avenue, suggested that the PPA representatives ask homeowners if they experience problems with water and flooding when they visit each residence.

The Commissioners reviewed and instructed the Clerk to place the following resolutions or ordinances on the agenda for action:

- Proclamation Designating the Month of March as “Women’s History Month”
 - Proclamation Designating the Month of April as National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Month along with a Proclamation Acknowledging the Petrelli Family. Kate Burns reported that a representative from the Gift of Life House and Mr. and Mrs. Petrelli would be present to receive the proclamations.
 - Certificate of Achievement Recognizing Tori King, HTHS Art Student – Kate Burns reported that Tori will have one of her ceramic pieces on display at the NCECA Conference to be held in Philadelphia, which had been selected from a pool of in excess of 1,100 national submissions. She noted that Tori would be on hand to receive her certificate.
 - Arbor Day
 - Observe Earth Day
 - Appropriation Reserves Transfer Resolution
 - Camden County Cooperative Pricing System – Office Paper, Computer Paper and Envelopes to award contract for 2010
 - Camden County Cooperative Pricing System – Emergency Notification System – the Clerk did not recall participation in 2009 and suggested that Chief Cavallo review the information to determine interest.
 - Request from NJSLOM – Resolution Supporting Interest Arbitration Reform
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- Recommendation by Planning Board for Solar and Wind Ordinance. Stuart reviewed his comments and recommendations relative to the Alternative Energy Ordinance proposed by the Planning Board and discussed the comments made by the Environmental Commission. He reported that newly imposed State regulations would have to be included as well. Greg

Fusco requested an opportunity to meet with Stuart to review the proposed changes before sending back to the Planning Board.

- Amendment to Zoning Ordinance – Signs - Greg Fusco reported that the Sign Ordinance had received final approval by the Planning Board and suggested the Ordinance be considered for introduction. The Mayor and Commissioners requested that Stuart review and prepare the Ordinance for first reading on the 23rd.
- The Rental Property Ordinance draft was reviewed. Commissioner Dougherty requested an opportunity to review the draft with Ed Toussaint before presenting for a first reading.
- The Clerk reviewed a number of proposed fee increases including the sewer service fee, water consumption fees and alcoholic beverage license fees for consideration by the Mayor and Commissioners. The Clerk was instructed to place the ordinance amendment on the agenda for introduction. The Solicitor's office would be consulted relative to the copy fees. The Commissioners reviewed the fee schedule for Crystal Lake Pool and authorized the proposed increases. Mayor Teague suggested an administrative fee be imposed on each family participating on the swim team to help cover the cost of heating the pool, chemicals and swim coach salaries. Commissioner Dougherty discussed the Kiddie Korner (child care facility) per diem fee of \$1.00 and expressed concern with a private business utilizing the facility at a reduced cost. The Clerk was instructed to determine the method of reimbursement for lifeguard salaries.
- Chief Cavallo reported that he reviewed the towing specifications with Mr. Platt and was satisfied with the draft. Commissioner Dougherty recommended authorizing the solicitation of proposals at Tuesday evening's meeting.
- Mayor Teague reported that Governor Christie had presented his budget address earlier in the day and indicated that an anticipated 15% cut in State Aid, was now being proposed at 20%. He indicated that the potential loss of revenue in excess of \$300,000 was a real concern, but they were hopeful that a local tax rate increase could be averted with prudent budgeting to keep the rate at the 2009 level. Mayor Teague reported that the Department Heads continue to work diligently on their budget proposals and he would be meeting with Jim Stevenson and the engineers to discuss the 2010 capital program. The Clerk reported that official State Aid figures would not be available until later in the week.
- Mayor Teague reported that consideration was being given to an Accelerated Tax Sale in 2010 to help with the collection of unpaid taxes, water and sewer rents which places a greater burden on all taxpayers. Jennifer DellaValle expressed apprehension and indicated that the accelerated sale may not be necessary and noted that once instituted, a municipality could never go back to one. The Clerk indicated that the State may require the Township's commitment at the time of budget introduction in order to take advantage of an adjustment to the reserve for uncollected tax appropriation. Mayor Teague suggested the Resolution authorizing the accelerated tax sale be placed on the agenda. Jennifer advised that she had a sample resolution for the Clerk to use.
- Mayor Teague reported that they had received a proposal from the BID to include properties in the business improvement district and requested that Kate Burns review her recommendations. Kate explained that there were two former residential homes on Haddon Avenue that had been converted to businesses that she proposed including in the East BID. She also noted that she was having conversations with the owners of the TapRoom, as well as the Thriftway and SuperFresh Shopping Centers to discuss possible inclusion. The Mayor and Commissioners authorized the Clerk to prepare an Ordinance Amendment to include the two properties in the East BID for first reading.
- Kate Burns reported on the various St. Patrick's Day activities taking place in the Township such as the 2nd Annual Pub Crawl with a trolley providing transportation to various establishments and the 2nd Annual Irish Stew Contest sponsored by Cork.

Mayor Teague opened the floor for any questions or concerns to be brought before the Board.

Mr. Ed Loughman, 205 E. Linden Avenue, cautioned about setting limits on the height of rooftop solar panels and expressed concern with an accelerated tax sale. He observed that Kate was doing a great job with the Business Improvement District.

Tom Cassel, 1017 Belmont Avenue, complimented the new website design and ease of use and noted that Pat Thieringer was quick to address his concerns with the events information. He suggested that the archived minutes from the previous site be included, correct the address to read Haddon Township instead of Westmont and consider fill-in forms. He discussed the 48 hour rule for production of minutes with Mr. Platt advising that there was no 48 hour rule, and further advising that the Township was in full compliance with the requirements of the Statutes with regard to the preparation, approval and release of minutes. Mayor Teague indicated that they would consider approval and release of the caucus minutes at the next succeeding meeting. Mr. Cassel reported that he discovered a pot hole reporting website and suggested a link be placed on the Township's site and requested a status report on the DyDee site. Mayor Teague indicated that the Township was working on a pot hole reporting feature and noted that remediation activities continue at DyDee and explained that COAH issues were still pending. Mr. Cassel commented on the Retrospect article that reported that Iron Hill Brewery was considering a location in Barrington and suggested the Township as a possible location. Mayor Teague reported that he had reached out to Iron Hill with little success and Kate Burns indicated that they require more space and parking than the Westmont Theater site offered. Tom Cassel discussed the Saddler's Wood Tree Trot, requested clarification on interest arbitration, the proposed sewer rate increase, the accelerated tax sale and if the Township would be conducting an open meeting with Department Heads to discuss the budget. Stuart Platt explained the Interest Arbitration issue and need for reforms. Commissioner Foley reported he was working with the Saddlers Woods Conservation Association to iron out details relative to the Tree Trot scheduled for May. Mayor Teague addressed the accelerated tax sale and explained how it benefited the Township to have 100% collection and noted that the proposed sewer increase would be \$15.00 annually. Mayor Teague reported that the budget would be reviewed with Department Heads at the next meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Foley moved, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty that the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 PM with all members voting in the affirmative.

March 16, 2010

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Denise P. Adams, Municipal Clerk

Randall W. Teague

John C. Foley

Paul Dougherty