

TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON
6101 THIRTEENTH STREET
MAYS LANDING, NJ
FEBRUARY 16, 2010

The regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton was held on the above date with Mayor Roger Silva presiding. Members present were Charles Cain, Jr., Amy Gatto, Dr. Harvey Kesselman, and Thomas Palmentieri. Also present were Edward M. Sasdelli, Township Administrator, Joan I. Anderson, Township Clerk, Robert S. Sandman, Township Solicitor and Robert J. Smith III, Township Engineer. Leon Costello, Township Auditor, Richard C. Tuthill, CFO and Cynthia Lindsay, Deputy CFO were present through the end of the 2010 Budget Preparation presentation.

The meeting opened with the flag salute followed by the Township Clerk certifying compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law by posting a notice on the bulletin board in the municipal building and by faxing or e-mailing a copy of the notice along with the agenda of this meeting to the Atlantic City Press, Atlantic County Record, Record Journal and Current newspapers stating this meeting would take place in the municipal building, Mays Landing, New Jersey, at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, February 16, 2010.

A moment of silence for private reflection was observed.

Maria Cavileer, whose husband is a member of the 328th Army Engineering Company that will be deploying in Operation Iraqi Freedom the middle of March, explained she is the leader of the Family Readiness Group (FRG). She invited the Mayor and Township Committee Members to attend a Yellow Ribbon Farewell Ceremony on March 21, 2010 from 1-5 P.M. in the cafeteria at the William Davies School. Mrs. Cavileer commented on the group's need for community support. Mayor Silva said the Committee appreciates the families' commitment to the service of our country. He said the Committee is honored to be invited and that one or more will attend. Mrs. Cavileer left information on the event with Mr. Sasdelli.

PRESENTATIONS TO DWIGHT MELTON

Mayor Silva read and presented a proclamation honoring Dwight Melton, Senior Master Sergeant Retired recognizing him for his patriotism. for more than 30 years in the United States Air National Guard, and for his dedication to the community. The Mayor said Mr. Melton has always been involved in the activities mentioned in the proclamation. He commented on having served with Mr. Melton in coaching basketball and several other volunteer activities in the community. Robert Campbell, Sr., Chairman of the Veterans' Advisory Board presented Mr. Melton with a plaque on behalf of all the Veterans in the Community and the VAB.

Mr. Melton thanked everyone for the presentations and said he appreciates what the Township Committee does for the veterans and military. He encouraged the public to continue sending of packages to the troops.

Mayor Silva recognized the presence of V.F.W. Post 220 Commander Allen Rhodes and commented on a testimonial dinner held to honoring the Commander and his wife. He commented on Commander Rhodes' long-standing service to the veterans. Commander Rhodes thanked the Mayor for his proclamation and said it was read at the testimonial dinner.

Continued 2010 Budget Preparation Presentation

Mr. Palmentieri read the following prepared statement prior to the power point presentation by Mr. Sasdelli:

"With honest and prudent budgets throughout the decade and reductions in key budgeted expenses beginning in 2007, we have earned two upgrades in our bond rating and are much better financial condition than most other municipalities. One factor in achieving this position was not relying on school tax deferrals to mortgage the future for a temporary lower current tax rate. Last year was the first time Hamilton Township voluntarily deferred school taxes, unlike some of our neighbors who have made it a routine budget balancing fixture to the point of already reaching their maximum deferral capacity. For municipalities where that occurred, the choices are draconian cuts in staff and services or large tax increases if granted permission by the State, or both. We, on the other hand, will present a budget that maintains existing services without any layoffs or need for a waiver to raise taxes beyond levy caps imposed a few years ago. That's the good news. The bad news is that this is achieved by using practically all available one-time revenues. There is some reduction in the structural deficit; however with the reliance on one-time revenues this year, this accomplishment will not be one which we are capable of repeating without cuts in expenses next year and beyond. Unfortunately, like most municipalities and states, we are at a crossroad. Reoccurring revenues are failing to pay for current services. We like others have experienced several years of runaway increases in several expenses beyond our control. On the revenue side, our increases in tax revenues have been capped b6y legislation in Trenton and

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by taxpayers locally and other revenues are down. Looking at the task at hand tonight, the Committee has two choices; one is to fund the township for another year without a more substantial reduction in the structural deficit, the other is to reduce or eliminate some current services."

Mr. Sasdelli explained what was being presented tonight started with the Finance Committee (Mayor Silva & Mr. Palmentieri), the full support of the Township Committee, CFO Richard Tuthill, Auditor Leon Costello, Deputy CFO Cindy Lindsay and all the Department Heads. He gave a power point presentation of the Finance Committee's recommended 2010 budget, a copy of which will be on the website. Mr. Sasdelli said that if the budget is adopted as presented and with the staffing plan that was included in the Members budget packet, the number of employees will be reduced from 177 in 2007 to 158 by the end of 2011. He explained that would be accomplished with 5 retirements, 1 rehire and use of 3 part-time employees. Slide 5 showed the dollar value of personnel actions taken in 2009: 9 layoffs (\$387,000.), 2 retirements (\$160,000.), work schedule reductions (\$32,000.) and employee voluntary. Mr. Sasdelli explained slide 6 showed an annual increase in tax rates until this year and said that there was a \$4 million decrease in rates this year. Slide 7 and 8 showed options for achieving a balanced budget. Mr. Sasdelli explained the budget presented maintains all current services and programs and contains no layoffs but relies on one-time revenues from land sales, school deferral, an anticipated MUA contribution and employee concessions for 2010. Mr. Sasdelli said these are things that don't automatically recur each year. He said the school deferral last year was \$379,000.00 and the recommendation for this year is decreased to \$300,000.00 this year and hopefully it can be decreased each year until it is zero. Slide 9 showed 2010 total expenditures of \$26,581,239.00 and projected revenues of \$23,905,640.00. Mr. Sasdelli explained the State Aid revenue shown is the same as what was received last year because that is what the State has told the municipalities to do. He commented on the possibility of the State Aid being cut. Mr. Sasdelli explained that some exemptions to the 4% tax levy cap are permitted right now and the two big ones are the pension increases and State Health Benefits increases. Mr. Sasdelli said those exemptions total \$452,000.00 but there is talk in the governor's camp that the 4% tax levy cap means 4%, not 4% with exemptions. Slide 10 showed the proposed options to close the \$2,675,500.00 budget gap: Surplus \$1,915,000.00; anticipated MUA contribution \$250,000.00; 2010 employee concessions \$210,500.00; and school deferral \$300,000.00. Mr. Sasdelli said that there was surplus this year because of Committee actions taken last year and if the options on Slide 10 are used there won't have to be any more layoffs or reduced/eliminated services. Mr. Sasdelli commented on the finance team concerns about possible tax levy cap changes - every 1% is worth approximately \$162,000.00; the possibility that the cap levy exemptions may go away; and possible reduction in State Aid. Mr. Sasdelli commented on the State budget hole of \$30 billion and said the Township won't know until March 16th if all the State Aid will be coming in. He said the average home is assessed at \$101,000.00 and the proposed budget will mean an increase of \$85.00 a year or \$21.25 a quarter.

Mr. Cain said he appreciated Mr. Palmentieri's comments but he thought it was also important to note there is a substantial savings with the staffing reductions that will affect the township for years to come. He said his figures are \$149,400.00 for this year and an additional \$369,000. next year.

Mr. Palmentieri said that is absolutely true and the Committee started doing that in 2007. He said everything cut that is continued and carries into the following year will help in the future. Mr. Palmentieri said this township is ahead of the curve on that compared to most towns that haven't been as prudent. He said that is why the Committee can do this budget without more layoffs and without using more school tax deferral than was used last year.

Mayor Silva said the Township has a temporary budget now that will expire in March. Mr. Sasdelli explained the temporary budget is based on last year's numbers not what was shown on the slides tonight. The Mayor commented on Mr. Sasdelli saying there is a lot of speculation about what could happen and said he feels what was presented tonight is what is happening and is the real numbers the Committee has now. Mayor Silva said he knows the Committee is painfully aware of what the municipality has to deal with and he thinks the balance comes from a lot of good work put into it in prior years. The Mayor said he thinks everyone who sat on Township Committee tried to do the right thing and act responsibly for the community. He said a lot of information has gone out on the street that isn't always correct. Mayor Silva said the best place to get correct information is to come to the meetings and see it on the screen. He said he doesn't think everyone will be happy with the budget presented but he thinks it is the most realistic based on voluntary employee contributions that he thinks are significant and buying into what is being faced in the community every day. The Mayor said he thought some great insight came from the new Committee Members in terms of some of their recommendations on where some money could be gotten from. He said he thinks the key to the entire budget process going forward rests with the Strategic Planning Committee. He said he thought a lot of what will happen and where the community will go in the next year or two will be dictated by what that Committee brings forth and where the Township Committee finds the number to match it.

Dr. Kesselman said there was a 10% reduction in employees over the past 3 or 4 years and some would say it should have been more but he will put those numbers up in comparison to other municipalities in the region. He said the 20%-22% reduction in the amount of school deferral in one year is significant. Dr. Kesselman asked what the maximum amount of school deferral could be. Mr. Costello said it is \$4 million. Dr. Kesselman said that puts it into perspective and the amount used is being pulled back this year. He said he thinks most of the Committee Members and previous councils have said to do things incrementally to get where the town has to be rather than take draconian measures. Dr. Kesselman commented on not wanting to slash everything without understanding the impact of doing it because there is a serious problem when it reaches a point of negative impact. He commented on services provided during the recent snow storms and said he thought that the township did extraordinarily well in difficult circumstances even though not every street may have been plowed to every person's satisfaction. Dr. Kesselman said those kinds of services remain and the municipal building was open too.

Mayor Silva said comments made by Ms. Gatto at previous meetings were significant too because the township's bond rating increased last year as a result of actions taken by the Committee. The Mayor asked the auditor if he thought what he saw tonight would increase the bond rating going forward. Mr. Costello said it may not improve it but it would maintain it. He said ratings are going down in most places. Mr. Costello commented on having 14-15 bond sales last year and Hamilton Township is better than most by far because the Committee bit the bullet and made adjustments the past couple of years. Mr. Costello said it is unique for a bond rating to go up in these times and is in the AA category now. He said that is only 2 ratings from the top and that is hard to achieve with only a \$2 million fund balance. He said 2.6% interest on the bond sale was an incredible long-term rate for a 12-year bond issue. Mr. Costello said a refunding bond was also done. He explained the work started about 15 months before it actual hit the market at the market to hit the right time. Mr. Costello explained it refunded the last 4 years of outstanding issues and said the rates the Township has now are tremendous. He said the Township is paying less in debt service in 2010 than in 2009 and that is something you don't see too often. Mr. Costello said the Committee's plan going forward also allows for future capital improvements without changing what they are paying now for debt service. He explained that one of the rating comments was that the Township is well planned and positioned with debt service and the impact on the taxpayers is negligible. Mayor Silva asked what the interest rate was on pensions for municipalities that deferred them and when it is due. Mr. Costello said it the rate is 8½% and it is due in 2012. Mayor Silva said one of the things he liked about this presentation is that the Committee didn't use all their options. He said he thinks it is significant that the school deferral is less and hopefully, if the Committee stays on that path, they should be able to close it in a couple of years.

Ms. Gatto said she appreciated the Mayor's comments and the work that was done. She said she didn't remember the state health benefits plan being part of the exemptions before and asked if it was new. Mr. Costello said that it has always been part of the law that any increase above 4% is an exception. He explained this is the first year it could be used because the increase for the previous 3 years was only 4% but this year the increase was 18%. Ms. Gatto questioned how much the capital budget was. Mr. Sasdelli explained the Committee is disciplined enough to have a plan to do a \$1.5 million capital budget each year and if they stay on that plan the debt service remains stable. He commented said there is \$75,000.00 in the operating budget to support a \$1.5 million capital program. Ms. Gatto commented on roads being a priority and her concern is from a public works perspective. She commented on the effect the snow and ice has had on the roads and said that she doesn't think \$1.5 million will touch what is needed for the recovery the roads. Ms. Gatto asked that the members think about that when they go into the capital budget process and whether they want to do a capital bond strictly for roads. She said she didn't know if it would affect the proposed budget if the Committee wanted to do that. Mr. Sasdelli explained it would affect it because of 5% down payment requirement so more than \$75,000.00 would have to be put in the budget if the Committee does more than the \$1.5 million. Mr. Costello explained that to add another \$1 to the capital budget, \$50,000.00 more would have to be added to the capital improvement fund for the down payment and that \$50,000.00 would be in the 2010 levy cap exception so it would not require something else be reduced. He said the cap law was designed to cut employees and benefits; it was not designed to preclude infrastructure capital improvements. Mr. Palmentieri said it would be another 1/3 of a cent on the rate. Mr. Costello said what he explained would work under the cap law today but they will have to see what happens on March 16th.

Mayor Silva referred to comments about this being the first year the health benefits exception could be used and asked if the auditor thought the health benefits exemption would survive the governor's plan. Mr. Costello a lot will depend on what he does on March 16 and how it affects municipalities. He said one rumor is to do away with the cap completely and let the governing bodies decide how much the taxes will go up and another is to tighten the cap to 4% with no exceptions.

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Mr. Costello explained the budget as presented is legal and there is nothing the Committee has to do to it tonight to introduce and move it along but they do have to wait until March 16th to see what new rules will be handed to them. He commented Governor Florio mandating that the municipalities defer 25% of the school tax each year until it was 100% deferred in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992. Mr. Costello said 1992 was the last time this township deferred school taxes until last year and that is why they have so much built up. He said other municipalities have no room left to use that any more because they continued to do the full 50% deferral every year after 1992. Mr. Costello commented on the state budget shortfall being between \$9-\$13 billion and said that about 40% of the \$28.8 billion budget is school and municipal aid. He said a lot of what is left is debt service which cannot be touched and the state doesn't have enough people to lay off to cover the rest. Mr. Costello said he thinks anything is on the table for March 16th.

Dr. Kesselman asked if it included any paybacks with respect to prior pensions. Mr. Costello said it didn't. He said the State has at least 7 different independent pension plans. Mr. Costello said and the Township is in Police & Fire Retirement System (PFRS) and the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and they are fully funded because the Township didn't do pension deferrals. Mr. Costello said the township matches every dollar of salary for PFRS at 25.8% and PERS at 8.95%. He said state may only have put 10% of their share into their pension plans so they have nothing to cut because they haven't put their share in.

Mayor Silva said Mr. Costello had said that looking at the numbers in the presentation he saw nothing to stop the Committee from authorizing him to prepare the budget for introduction. Mr. Costello said budget is fine under today's rules but it might be a different story on March 16th. The Mayor asked if there would still be options that would not be catastrophic. Mr. Costello said the scariest number was the \$3,687,000.00 state aid. He explained that under today's rules the municipality can raise any loss of state aid by taxes so if the township lost \$687,000 of it, that amount would be a levy cap exception. He said the residents would be taxed to pay for it but the Committee wouldn't have to make any cuts on the expenditure side. Mr. Costello said budgets have changed radically since 2008 because of the cap levy.

Mr. Sasdelli explained that if the Committee approves the budget as presented it will be prepared for introduction at the next meeting; it has to be published and wait 28 days before a public hearing can be held and before it can be adopted. He said he didn't see any down side if the Committee approved the budget presented and then they can start doing things that are in it. Mr. Sasdelli explained it starts the clock and said the Committee may have to amend it after hearing from the governor or they may hear things at the public hearing.

Mr. Cain said he appreciated the hard work Ms. Gatto and last year's Finance Committee and this year's Finance Committee put forth. He said he thinks it is a budget that achieves the balance between savings and services that the Committee talked about so much.

There being no further questions or comments, Mr. Cain moved, seconded by Ms. Gatto, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the Auditor and CFO are hereby authorized to prepare the 2010 Local Municipal Budget for introduction at the March 1, 2010 meeting.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "YES", NO "NO", NO "ABSTAIN" ON ROLL CALL VOTE.

Mayor Silva said people in the audience could feel free to make comments on the budget during the public comment portion.

Dr. Kesselman moved, seconded by Ms. Gatto, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the following item be added to the agenda of this meeting for consideration and action to be taken thereon tonight:

5.J Authorize a 2-month extension of the existing Solid Waste Collection/Removal Contract with Waster Management - April 1, 2010 to June 1, 2010.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", NO "ABSTAIN"

There were no executive session confirmations to be made.

Early public comment on agenda items excluding items listed for public hearings

Wayne Choyce questioned the rationale driving the change to rescind the resolution setting aside 10% of the Industrial Park land sales for park improvements. Mr. Sasdelli explained about \$74,000.00 accumulated in that trust fund and not much has been spend during the past 2 or 3 years. He said the thinking is that if there is a curb, an inlet or sidewalk that needs repair there is money to fix it but there is no need to continue putting the 10% aside in that account. Mr. Choyce asked if what is there will remain there for repairs but the fund will not continue to build. Mr. Sasdelli said he can't predict the future but this resolution say future contributions will stop.

2010 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application

Mr. Sasdelli said the Committee Members have a detailed memo from him and Mr. Sartorio on it. He explained it is federal money from HUD that goes to the County and each municipality gets an allotment to be used for qualified activities. He said the Township's allotment this year is about \$96,000.00 and that it can be used for ADA accommodations, to benefit Senior Citizens, or to benefit low and moderate income individuals. Mr. Sasdelli said previous allotments were used for housing rehab for people that met the income needs, improvements to the Inland Mizpah Human Services Center, ADA curb cuts, senior transportation, and interior improvements to the Senior Center. He explained the recommendations for 2010 he and Mr. Sartorio feel will qualify were (1) to continue some level of housing rehabilitation (2) purchase of a wheelchair accessible van for Senior Citizen transportation (3) exterior improvements to the Senior Center. He said the Township doesn't have a single van with a wheelchair lift. He said one of the vans has 219,000 miles on it that they want to retire and replace with a 15 passenger van with a wheelchair lift. Mr. Sasdelli said the van would cost about \$75,000.-\$80,000. He said interior improvements to the Senior Center that were approved and done. Mr. Sasdelli said the roof, siding, gutters and windows are qualifying expenses and are needed. He explained it was on for discussion tonight because the County would like to have the application in by March 5th and if it isn't approved until the next meeting there will only be 4 days to get it together and to the County.

Mr. Cain asked if a special license was required to operate the van and if the Township currently has someone with that license. Mr. Sasdelli said it requires a CDL license with a passenger endorsement and the Township's drivers have it.

Ms. Gatto said the potential of using some of the money to bring swimming back to the Cove was looked at on the suggestion of Maureen Gallagher-Budgon and Mr. Sartorio did extensive study on it but at this time the Township is unable to use the money for that. Ms. Gatto said the RFP option for the Cove is still being pursued. She said she thinks continued improvements to the Senior Center is a good strategy and the recommended transportation vehicle would help serve more customers with the services the Township provides.

Mr. Sasdelli said they also tried to get ADA equipment for the children's playgrounds that was identified in the recreation needs study. He said it didn't qualify because it had to be ADA equipment for adults.

There being no further discussion, questions or comments, Dr. Kesselman moved, seconded by Ms. Gatto, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the Director of Community Development is hereby authorized to submit an application for 2010 Community Development Block Grant Funding in the amount of \$96,500.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Community Development is hereby authorized to amend the 2004 funding application to redirect the \$25,650.00 in unexpended funds to be used for the following:

- 1) Senior Citizens Program bus with wheelchair lift.
- 2) Senior Citizens Center exterior improvements (roof, windows, siding, etc.)
- 3) Housing rehabilitation if any funds remain available.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", NO "ABSTAIN"

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Industrial Commission Capital Reserve

Mr. Cain said he thinks rescinding the resolution putting aside 10% of taxpayer land value when it is sold to sit in an account when the Committee could use those funds is the right thing to do in these times. He said he supported it and that he thinks the letter to the editor by the Industrial Commission Chairman supported it. Mayor Silva said he thinks the fact that it gives the Committee another option is good. Dr. Kesselman said he echoed both comments.

There being no further discussion, questions or comments, Dr. Kesselman moved, seconded by Mr. Palmentieri, that the following resolution be adopted.

WHEREAS on June 3, 2002 the Township Committee of the Township unanimously adopted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that an amount equal to ten (10%) percent of the land sales in the Industrial Park is hereby authorized to be put aside in the Capital Budget to be spent on improvements to be made at the Hamilton Industrial Park

and

WHEREAS the infrastructure in the Industrial Park is complete and the Township Committee deems it in the best interest of the municipality to henceforth cease putting aside those revenues,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the June 3, 2002 resolution set forth above be and is hereby rescinded.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", NO "ABSTAIN"

There were no Business Registration Licenses to be approved.

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Palmentieri, that the following resolution be adopted.

A RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR CHRISTIE AND THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE
TO EXPEDITIOUSLY ELIMINATE STATE IMPOSED UNFUNDED MANDATES

WHEREAS, in 1995 New Jersey voters approved an amendment to the State Constitution, designated as Article VIII, Section 2, Paragraph 5 of the New Jersey Constitution, and codified in the Local Mandates Act which is found at N.J.S.A. 52:13H-1, et seq. which was enacted to restrain the State of New Jersey from imposing new unfunded programs upon counties, municipalities and school districts, (the "Local Governments") without a provision of necessary funds by the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Legislature established the Council on Local Mandates (the "Council") to implement the Local Mandates Act by empowering the Council to review complaints from Local Governments and issue determinations as to whether the statutory or regulatory imposition issued by the State constitute "unfunded" mandates; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Local Mandates Act, a Statute or Regulation ceases to be mandatory and expires if the Council determines that a Statute or Regulation is an "unfunded mandate"; and

WHEREAS, fourteen (14) years after enactment of these changes to the New Jersey Constitution, the Council has made less than twelve (12) decisions and only two (2) of such cases were in favor of the Local Governments; and

WHEREAS, the Local Mandates Act does not empower the Council to enforce compliance with its determinations; and

WHEREAS, property taxes have nearly doubled since the enactment of the Local Mandates Act; and

WHEREAS, the Local Mandates Act is clearly not the reform that the voters of New Jersey approved in 1995; and

WHEREAS, under the current law:

- . Council Members are appointed by the Governor, Members of the Legislature and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, all of whom are individuals that create unfunded mandates for Local Government.
- . State appointees such as judges and prosecutors are allowed to compel County Governments to hire Court personnel and expand facilities without the prior approval of the voters or their elected representatives.
- . Local Governments are denied the right to appeal Council determinations and decisions against them to New Jersey Courts.
- . The State is allowed to ignore determinations made by the Council in favor of Local Governments without consequences.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey that Governor Christie and the Legislature are hereby petitioned to review the current exemptions from the Local Mandates Act; identify all State mandates imposed on Local Governments; to repeal all outdated mandates; to eliminate all unfunded State mandates; and to fully fund any remaining mandates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to each of the following:

- A. The Hon. Governor Chris Christie.
- B. The Hon. Senator Jim Whelan
- C. The Hon. Assemblyman John F. Amodeo
- D. The Hon. Assemblyman Vincent J. Polistina
- E. The Atlantic County Board of Freeholders
- F. The New Jersey State League of Municipalities
- G. The Mayor and Clerk of all Atlantic County Municipalities.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", NO "ABSTAIN"

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Palmentieri, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the list of the Cologne Volunteer Fire Department members eligible for 2009 LOSAP credit, as certified by its Chief, be and is hereby accepted:

Michael Aspinwall	134 points	Kristin Emonds	100 points
David Elkner	185 points	Daniel Flint	152 points
Anthony Hare	162 points	Paul Gramm	158 points
Mark Martin	145 points	David Jones	125 points
Omar Merced	166 points	Ryan Kohl	151 points
Zach Pew	206 points	Melody Kirby	100 points
Sam Squire	107 points	Shawn Mabbit	107 points
Chris Taylor	131 points	Anthony Paone III	150 points
Colin Tillet	145 points	Anthony Paone Jr.	103 points
Shawn Villauri	198 points	Scott Tryall	183 points
Bill Will	167 points	Ryan Alexander	102 points
Mark Sciore	187 points	David Almond	149 points

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", NO "ABSTAIN"

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Palmentieri, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the list of the Mizpah Volunteer Fire Department members eligible for 2009 LOSAP credit, as certified by its Chief, be and is hereby accepted:

Anthony Cortes	254 points	Stephanie H. Cortes	101 points
Eric Davenport	204 points	Neil Woerner	101 points
Daniel Wightman	172 points	Mark Stebbins	108 points
Carl Torian Sr.	193 points	Kristin A. Cortes	101 points
William Woltmann	106 points	Adam Kelly	151 points
Jay Davenport	181 points	Kelley Davenport	161 points
Karl Myers	106 points	Howard Clark	151 points
Stephanie Y. Cortes	175 points		

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", NO "ABSTAIN"

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Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Palmentieri, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the 2003 Chevrolet, VIN #2G1WF55K839320184 be and is hereby reassigned **from** the Hamilton Township Department **to** the Mays Landing Volunteer Fire Company.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", NO "ABSTAIN"

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Palmentieri, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the amendment to TD Bank letter of credit #136192090093 reducing the guarantee amount to \$68,572.80 as authorized February 1, 2010, said letter of credit being the performance guarantee for Spico Food Services (TACO Bell).

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", NO "ABSTAIN"

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Palmentieri, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that an expenditure is hereby authorized to be made from the Recreation Trust Fund not to exceed \$5,000.00 for conduit, wire and A-lift rental to finish the Hockey Field lighting as recommended by the CER Advisory Board in a memo dated November 10, 2009.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", NO "ABSTAIN"

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Palmentieri, that the following resolution be adopted.

**Municipality and County Records Management Shared Services
Resolution**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton THAT:

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has launched its pioneering Public Archives and Records Infrastructure Support (PARIS) grant program to meet the strategic records management, preservation, and storage needs of county and municipal governments; and

WHEREAS, a top priority of the PARIS grants program is to achieve efficiencies of cost and operation through shared services and to create a service structure for municipalities that do not have the resources to create one for themselves; and

WHEREAS, in the 2010-2011 grant cycle, priority funding will be given to County Sponsored Municipal Inventory Continuation and Records Reorganization projects; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hamilton desires to collaborate with Atlantic County in the performance of County Sponsored Municipal Inventory Continuation and Records Reorganization projects; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hamilton is acknowledging that their eligible funding of \$140,000.00 will be leveraged with Atlantic County; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hamilton is acknowledging that Atlantic County would be both the lead agency and the applicant for such a proposal; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the Township of Hamilton does support and commit to cooperation and participation in the PARIS grant for the purposes set forth above, and to execute and deliver all documents required incident thereto.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", NO "ABSTAIN"

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Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Palmentieri, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that Young's Skating Center is hereby granted an extension of hours from 11:59 PM on July 3, 2010 to 4:00 AM on July 4, 2010 for the East Coast All-Stars all-night skate event.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", NO "ABSTAIN"

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Palmentieri, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to administratively approve the waiver of municipal construction permit fees, Planning and Zoning Board application fees for municipal agencies (Township Volunteer Fire Companies, the Township Rescue Squad, the Hamilton Township MUA, the Local and Regional Boards of Education and Atlantic County Institute of Technology).

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", NO "ABSTAIN"

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Palmentieri, that the following resolution be adopted.

WHEREAS the Township of Hamilton is in the process of receiving sealed bid proposals for Solid Waste Collection and Removal Services for the period June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2010; and

WHEREAS the current contract with Waste Management for said services expires April 1, 2010 and the governing body deems it in the public interest to extend said contract for two (2) months to avoid interruption of this vital service,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the current contract with Waste Management for Solid Waste Collection and Removal Services be and is hereby extended for a two (2) month period, April 1, 2010 through May 31, 2010.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", NO "ABSTAIN"

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Dr. Kesselman, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the minutes of the February 1, 2010 regular meeting and executive session are hereby approved and adopted as published.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", NO "ABSTAIN"

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Palmentieri, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that all properly executed and approved bills are hereby ordered paid, the bill list total being \$1,506,442.05 as of February 11, 2010.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", NO "ABSTAIN"

Dr. Kesselman commended the IT personnel because the bills are now on the website.

Reports

Mr. Sasdelli thanked the Committee for approving the budget for introduction and said that since the staffing plan was incorporated into the budget he took it to mean the staffing plan was approved as well and that he could move forward with it. The members indicated that was correct.

Mr. Sasdelli reported the COVE RFP is finished; the bid opening is set for March 9th ; and it will be advertised in as many places as possible including the website, the weekly press, BidNet, a nationwide bid service that all vendors look at, the Atlantic County and Cape May Chambers of Commerce, whatever tourism bureaus that can be found and any suggestions the Committee Members may have. Mr. Sasdelli said the hope is to be able to provide the service without burdening the taxpayers.

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Solicitor: None

Robert J. Smith, III, commented on a significant flooding event that occurred on December 9th at the intersection at Hamilton Commons Drive and Route 322. He reported meeting with the engineer retained by the developer to review some ideas for remedial measures for their stormwater management systems. Mr. Smith said that engineer is exploring the permitting that will be required by Pinelands and by the Planning Board. Mr. Cain asked what kind of time frame Mr. Smith anticipated on this. Mr. Smith said that is difficult to determine and he thinks the engineer is having preliminary discussions with them to find out what approval process will be required and hopefully it will be an expedited approval. He said if strictly maintenance is done it isn't an approval process but once the originally approved system design is amended Pinelands and Planning Board approval are implicated. Mr. Cain asked if there was any type of emergency procedures because it is flooding, cars are traveling at a high rate of speed and there have probably already been incidents there. Mr. Smith said he believes there is still a pump on site and if the basins get too high they have an agreement with DOT that they can pump into the inlet on 322. He said if they monitor it properly they can turn the pump on when it starts to come up and prevent a situation like the one in early December.

Mr. Smith reported he, Mr. Morley and Mr. Noll will be meeting on-site tomorrow with the Timber Glen developer's representative to start evaluating their options for de-watering the basin and to get the upper filtration area working properly.

Mr. Smith reported that subsequent to the last meeting he reviewed the landscaping for TACO Bell site with the Landscape Inspector. He said several trees were to be preserved and several were to be transplanted along the access road coming in from Wrangleboro Road. He reported several were replanted and several were preserved but he isn't sure the contractor took adequate care to preserve those that were transplanted. Mr. Smith said the Inspector has told the contractor that they will be required to replace "in kind" whatever doesn't survive being transplanted and they will make sure that the landscaping the zoning board approved is followed through on.

Mayor Silva referred to Ms. Gatto's comment about the shape the roads will be in when the snow and ice melt and said he also wanted Mr. Smith to keep street openings in mind that need attention. The Mayor said he would talk to Mr. Smith in more detail later and would bring some to his attention.

Dr. Kesselman asked if anyone talked to the State about the light at Canal's. Mr. Sasdelli said Chief Tappeiner had the traffic officer look at it and he will get a copy of the Chief's memo on it out to the Committee before the next meeting.

Ms. Gatto said she talked to Mr. Sasdelli about the Paving Management Plan and it may need to be updated.

Ms. Gatto reported that she reached out to her contact at Oakcrest about Mr. Cain's question on video taping the Planning Board and Zoning Board meetings. She said they haven't gotten back to her yet, probably because of the snow, Presidents' Day and the in-service day. She said she will follow up on it.

Mr. Cain said he thought that based on Ms. Gatto's comments as the Committee goes through the budget process the Committee has to look moving the \$75,000.00 over so Mr. Morley has access to it because there are going to be extreme costs for salt, snow removal and road repairs. Mr. Sasdelli said \$50,000.00 was spent on snow removal in 2009 and \$191,000.00 has been spent so far in 2010.

Mr. Cain said he is very proud of the process with this budget. He said he thinks an excellent job was done in years past and this year. Mr. Cain said he thinks it achieves the balance between savings and services.

Mr. Cain reported he was approached by a resident about the jug handle at Cologne Avenue and 322 when you try to get onto Cologne Avenue from 322 at rush hour. He said there is a potential for something catastrophic to happen because people don't want to wait in line so they make a right and then make U-turns into on-coming traffic. He said he believes the Township has to address it. Mr. Sasdelli said it sounded like an increased enforcement issue.

Mr. Cain thanked Ms. Gatto for following up on the video taping matter.

Dr. Kesselman announced the first Strategic Planning Committee town-hall planning meeting will be held from 6:30-8:30, February 23rd at the Mays Landing Volunteer Fire Hall. He said the purpose of the meeting is to garner citizen input to help develop the Township's strategic plan. Dr. Kesselman said representatives of a cross section of the community that they feel will make a significant contribution to such a discussion have been invited including the Merchants' Association, Regional Shopping area, the Boards and Commissions, local developers, homeowners' associations, schools and Atlantic County Officials. Dr. Kesselman said

the meeting is open to the public and any interested residents are welcome to attend. He said it is not a pontification or complaint session, it is the opportunity for everyone to have input into what the priorities and direction of the Township are. He said once the strategic objectives and priorities are identified the hope is to match them to Township's resources, if there are any. He said it is also to provide an understanding of what the Township's strengths and weaknesses are, what opportunities there are and what the threats are. Ms. Gatto asked if anyone objected to her starting a Face Book page and advertising it. There were no objections. Lisa Hedrick said it will be published in the Press and on the website also.

Mayor Silva asked if it would violate the Sunshine Law if other Committee Members wanted to sit in the audience. Mr. Sandman recommended it meeting be advertised as a meeting because it has the potential of being perceived as a quasi public meeting. He said there is absolutely no downside to doing that. Dr. Kesselman asked if that would require Mrs. Anderson to be there to take minutes. Mr. Sandman said it wouldn't. He said that to the extent something is said by a Committee Member, assuming there is a quorum present, whatever the limit of the potential is should be put into summary minutes and made part of the record of their first meeting. Mr. Sandman said it doesn't have to be recorded and no one has to take minutes except that if something quasi-official happens he would like to see it documented somehow. Dr. Kesselman commented on members of the audience being active in the municipality and said he hoped they would attend. He explained they will not sit, observe, and ask questions at the end; they will be asked to do things.

Mr. Palmentieri thanked the Public Works for doing a great job in the recent storm. He said he really appreciated it when he went to Philadelphia on Friday and tried to negotiate their narrow streets. Mr. Palmentieri said a lot of people take it for granted but it is a Herculean job to get the streets cleared to the edge and in record time. Mr. Palmentieri commented on seeing 2' deep pot holes and asked if the Township has a plan for fixing them. Mr. Sasdelli said they know there will be drainage and pothole complaints and they are evaluating whether it can be done in-house or needs a mini proposal from outside vendors to come do hot patching. He said the township has the equipment and capability of doing it but it is the magnitude of it. Mr. Sasdelli said it is 113 square miles and everyone can't be done simultaneously. Ms. Gatto said the key is communication and letting the residents know where they will start and end. Dr. Kesselman suggested there be a spread sheet showing what is being done and that it be publicized.

Mr. Palmentieri thanked the Township Committee Members for moving forward with the budget. He commented on the former State Treasurer telling him a lot of municipalities and the state are in really horrible shape. Mr. Palmentieri said he thought that although the Township budget and financial situation are not ideal, it is much better than so many others and the Committee should be proud of the decisions they made over the past 10-15 years.

Dr. Kesselman commended the Emergency Management Team for their efforts. He some parts of the Township lost electricity and they had it back on in a matter of hours. Mr. Sasdelli commented on the coordination between the fire departments, Emergency Management Team, police and public works. He said volunteer firemen were cutting fallen trees so public works didn't have to stop plowing. Mr. Sasdelli said Mr. Mattle had Emergency Management Volunteers calling shut-ins to be sure they were okay. He said it was a good lesson; there was a lot of coordination; and town hall was more crowded because there was an emergency. Mr. Cain asked how many people were reached out to. Mr. Mattle said about 110. Mayor Silva commented on Emergency Management Coordinator being a new role for Mr. Mattle and said it was nice that he could pull a lot of things together with volunteers. The Mayor commented on getting calls from civilians who wanted to volunteer their services. Mr. Mattle thanked public works, police, fire, EMS and Emergency Management Staff for doing a fantastic job. He commented on his first time as Emergency Management Coordinator being very eventful. Mr. Mattle said he thought they did a lot of good things and there will be a follow up meeting to be sure they didn't miss anything. He commented on there being 120 people on the shut-in list. He said the CDBG grant purchase of the van will be a great fit if there is ever an emergency where they have to evacuate special needs people. Mr. Mattle said the Senior Center was opened in 15 minutes as a shelter for those who lost electric power. Mayor Silva said the Township is fortunate to have the volunteers and people like Mr. Mattle to lead them.

Mayor Silva said he hoped people noted that the Committee passed a resolution asking the Governor and Legislature to eliminate all unfunded state mandates. He said it is a State Mandate/State Pay resolution and he hopes other municipalities will do the same.

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Mayor Silva said the Mays Landing Volunteer Fire Department Reliance Hose Company #1 was one of 2 Atlantic County companies that received federal grants. He reported they received a \$95,475.00 grant for air packs. Mr. Sasdelli explained it was for 20 air packs. He said the required match is a little over \$5,000.00 and he thinks that the Deputy Mayor had taken care of it.

Mayor Silva commented on the effect of 26 hours of non-stop snow fall on equipment and manpower and said the public works deserves a lot of credit for the job they did. The Mayor reported receiving calls from mayors of other communities wanting to borrow equipment because they didn't have equipment to plow their roads. Mayor Silva said he thinks this shows you can never be prepared too early. Mayor Silva expressed his appreciation for and thanked all the volunteers. He said they are the heart of the community.

Public Comment

Peg Capone passed out fliers regarding a fund raiser for a lady from the community that is dying from cancer. She said the woman has two young children and is under hospice care. Mrs. Capone asked if the information could be put on the website. She said she didn't think Mrs. Cavileer didn't inform everyone that her husband and his unit will be gone for 14 months. Mrs. Capone commented on the impact that will have on their families and asked if information on that event could also be put on the website.

Mrs. Capone asked if there will be another Strategic Planning Committee meeting because she wants to be part of it but cannot make the one on the 23rd.

Mrs. Capone asked how much the 2010 employee raises were. Mr. Sasdelli said the raises were 3.5%, about \$500,000.00. Mrs. Capone said that out of the \$500,000.00 the township got \$220,000.00 in concessions and she thinks it was very important that the public know that. Mr. Sasdelli said the rate of increase was slowed. He said the Township tried to get a wage freeze but had no luck with the labor unions on it. Mrs. Capone asked if it might be considered if the Township doesn't get the \$3.5 million from the State. Ms. Gatto said she thinks everyone realizes that this is all based on current conditions and if there is a change they may be back at the table. The other members expressed agreement with what Ms. Gatto said. Mrs. Capone said health care cost a little over \$2 million in 2009 and questioned what it is now. Mr. Sasdelli said it went up 16-18% and is about \$2.4 million. Mrs. Capone asked if it was correct that in 2008 all the employees contributed 1% of their salaries towards their health care and they are contributing more this year. Mr. Sasdelli said there are 3 bargaining units with separate contracts. He explained the Teamsters pay nothing now but they were scheduled to pay 1/2% this year; the non-union people pay 1 1/2 % of their salary; and police pay 1 1/4%. He said he contributes at a higher rate because he has a separate employment agreement and he agreed to pay more. Mr. Sasdelli explained everyone was scheduled to go up 1/4% but the employees gave furloughs instead so nothing went up. Mrs. Capone asked if it was accurate then that part of the budget is increases in the health care cost and raises. Mrs. Capone said she thinks there could have been a little more bargaining there. She commented on the County looking at a small increase to the taxpayers to pay for pensions and health care. She asked if that was fair when many people don't have health care and their costs keep going up to help keep health care for people who are supposed to be working for them. Mr. Sasdelli said the administration agreed with Mrs. Capone in concept but they can't achieve it at the degree of speed that she would like them to. He said everyone, including the governing body, is paying part of their salary towards health insurance. He said it is a small part compared to the private sector but it is more compared to other public employees.

Mrs. Capone said she believed a township employee went to jail for taking money and asked Mr. Sandman if there was any liability on the past business administrator because he was at fault for not catching it during his reign. Mr. Sandman indicated he didn't know about it and said he would be very reluctant to answer the question. Mrs. Capone said it makes one question whether people are checking because it went on so many years and she questioned why it was caught so many years later. Mayor Silva said he couldn't answer Mrs. Capone's question but hopefully safeguards were put in place with the audits.

Lorraine Granese questioned the amount of money in the Recreation Trust Fund. Mr. Sasdelli said it is about \$365,000.00. Ms. Granese questioned how often that money is used. She said it seemed like a lot of money and the Committee is talking about \$74,000.00 sitting in the Industrial Park all these years. Mayor Silva said that \$300,000+ will get eaten up in soft costs when you get into big projects. He said small things are getting done now and they are moving ahead. The Mayor said a Recreation Study was done and they are trying to follow it. Ms. Granese said the last thing the township needs in a bad economy are recreation projects. She questioned whether the Trust Fund can only be legally used by the Recreation Commission or if it belongs to the township and if that money could be used to fill a gap if the township needed money. Ms. Gatto said it belongs to the township and the Committee controls it. Mr. Sasdelli said there is no Recreation Commission

any more, it is an Advisory Board and the money belongs to the township. He explained the money has to be spent on recreation related projects because it was contributed by developers in lieu of building recreation in their projects. He said about \$300,000.00 from that fund was used for the Third Street Pedestrian Bridge construction. Ms. Granese questioned what would have to be done if the township needed to borrow that money for something else. Mr. Sasdelli explained it couldn't be done and that it would either have to be given back to the developers or used for the purpose it was given.

Ms. Granese asked if any movement has been made on collecting outstanding court fines. Mr. Sasdelli said the Judge and Court Administrator prepared a 3-page report that delineated things they are doing and some things they are going to do. He said he would share it with Ms. Granese. Mr. Sasdelli said that no one wants to collect that money more than Mrs. Fieni does. Dr. Kesselman said the report was much more detailed and thorough than he thought the township had records for. Ms. Granese asked if the Committee believes collecting part of that money is viable. Mr. Sasdelli said a small part is collectible but some of it is 20 years old. Ms. Granese asked if they thought \$100,000 of it could be recouped. Mr. Sasdelli and Dr. Kesselman said "no". Ms. Granese asked if anything was being done to make sure people ticketed in the past 2 or 3 months are paying.

Joanne Adams said it has come to her attention that the Hickory Street soccer field is now going to be used for lacrosse. Mrs. Adams said registrations are being held and the soccer club will be renamed the Hamilton Township Soccer and Lacrosse Club according to their website. She said the residents are frustrated by the soccer traffic they already have on their street and adding another sport on Hickory Street will directly and adversely impact the residents on that street. She said they are already dealing with a lot of traffic for Saturday morning soccer games, weekday practices and weekend travel games. She said that on any given Saturday morning you can't walk on their street, you can't walk your dog or children and you can't bike. Mrs. Adams said some neighbors said that they can't back out of their driveways because of the amount of traffic and excessive speed. Mrs. Adams said she had a petition signed by her neighbors who are fed up with the unsafe traffic conditions that lower their quality of life and decrease their property values. She said the lacrosse program is very ambitious, encompasses third to eighth grade with peewee, JV and Varsity levels and travel teams. Mrs. Adams asked who will absorb the additional costs for wear and tear on Hickory Street, electricity and maintenance of the fields. Mrs. Adams said there is a horrendous lack of safe parking at the fields now and asked what is going to be done to accommodate the additional vehicles and what it will cost. Mrs. Adams questioned how the program could be implemented without the Township's approval and knowledge. She asked if the residents of Hickory Street have a voice in the issue; if they have a right to say enough is enough; and if there was an alternative location available that would have a less detrimental impact than on their residential area. She commented on supporting kids and said her children play soccer and her husband is a coach. Ms. Gatto said she has been talking to Mr. Morley and Mr. Sasdelli to find out what they know or don't know from a recreation standpoint. She said Mr. Morley is heavily involved in the discussions with the organization and she has asked for more details. Ms. Gatto said there is much follow-up work to be done. Mayor Silva said he would like the traffic, the disregard for the residents' safety with the speeding and whether there is an alternative location where it can be done to alleviate some of that looked into. Ms. Gatto said the police had the speed board was out there. She said speeding is an issue but unfortunately it is not something that is legislated when recreation requests for permits, use of facilities and things like that are considered. Ms. Gatto said it is something they are going to look at. She said that she asked Mr. Morley to bring the new Board Members up to speed on a pending use of facilities policy that was started last year and said they will continue that discussion. Dr. Kesselman asked how a program can be implemented without Township knowledge. Mr. Sasdelli explained the township tries to accommodate recreation programs when they come in for a permit to use facilities. Dr. Kesselman asked if they have a permit to use the fields yet. Mr. Morley said the organization approached the Recreation Department about starting the league and were given tacit approval to start but nothing is set in stone yet because they didn't have any solid numbers. He said their insurance policy is limited to 99 kids and they expect 50 to sign up. Mr. Morley he believes it is girls' lacrosse and that sign-ups are tonight. He said once they have the sign-ups, they will determine whether or not they can actively run the program with the kids. Dr. Kesselman asked if the program was limited to Hamilton Township residents. Ms. Gatto said the Township doesn't legislate that or track it. Dr. Kesselman asked if Oakcrest is starting a lacrosse program. Ms. Gatto said they have a new one. Mayor Silva said he thinks all the information needs to be gathered to find out what is factual and what is actually going to happen. Ms. Gatto said Mr. Morley is trying to get information and she thinks they are going to wait for the number of registrations. Ms. Gatto said she is going to follow up on what was or wasn't approved from the Township perspective and then move forward. She said they are in the data gathering stage now including information from the residents and the issues they bring up. Ms. Gatto said Mrs. Adams e-mailed the petition to her and she forwarded it to Mr. Morley and Mr. Sasdelli today.

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David Elkner said he is a member of the Rec Board. He said the township owns the fields and insures them. Mr. Elkner said the Recreation Trust Fund and money the Soccer Club raises are used to maintain the fields. He said lacrosse is in its infancy and this program will be a feeder program for Oakcrest. Mr. Elkner said lacrosse practices will be on Tuesday night and practice for the soccer travel teams was moved to Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights. He complimented Chief Tappeiner on a heavy police presence on Hickory Street on Saturday mornings. Mr. Elkner said the lacrosse organization approached the Soccer Club because their lined fields are about the same size as a soccer field so the Club could dedicate Field 4 to them. Mr. Elkner said moving football to the Liepe Tract is being explored so this program could possibly be moved once that is done. Mr. Elkner said he thought it was important for the Township Committee to know the Rec Board is exploring options for moving some of the traffic out of there. Dr. Kesselman asked if the program was for both male and female. Mr. Elkner said he couldn't answer the question but he believes that it would be if Oakcrest has it for both. He said there was a heavy interest expressed in lacrosse and this is its first year. Mr. Elkner said the Soccer Club was reluctant to take it on with their fields but since they had the only fields compatible with it they wrote up a mutual agreement to let them use the Soccer Club's fields.

John Pucci asked if the Strategic Planning Committee was going to be taped. Mayor Silva said the meetings are going to be moved around. Dr. Kesselman said he had no problem with taping it but there is a cost associated with taping it and putting it on television. Mr. Sasdelli said there are also technical issues because it is going to be broken up into groups to do exercises. Dr. Kesselman explained there tables with 7 or 8 residents at each; they will do exercises and report back out to the general group; and there will not be presentations. Mr. Sasdelli commented on being concerned about what happens when people know they are going to be on TV and said they want people there for the right reasons and for, what they can contribute. Charles Cain said the results will eventually be a presentation at a Township Committee meeting.

Debra Kraus said she heard lacrosse about lacrosse be started a few months ago. She said she had trouble with traffic when she lived on Hickory Street and the police came out with the radar gun. Mrs. Kraus said the speed limit is 25 mph and people going 32-34 mph look like they are going 50. Mrs. Kraus said she built 4 houses on Hickory Street and knew what the traffic would be like when she built them near the soccer fields. She said most of the houses on that street are 35-50 feet off the road and the lots are 265 feet deep so people would mostly be in their back yard. Mrs. Kraus said she understood what was said about the traffic but she thinks it is a police issue and she doesn't think the Committee should be taking away from soccer or lacrosse programs. She said they don't charge a lot of money to sign-up and a lot of parents don't have \$100.00 to sign their kids up for baseball or football but they do have \$25 or \$30 to sign them up for soccer or lacrosse. Mrs. Kraus commented on being on the Rec Board at one time and she never had a problem with the Soccer Club. She said they are very open and do a lot of good things for the town. Mrs. Kraus said the police need to be up closer to 50 rather than across from the fields.

There being no further questions or comments from the public, Dr. Kesselman moved, seconded by Ms. Gatto, that the public portion be closed.

MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", NO "ABSTAIN"

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Dr. Kesselman, that this meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", NO "ABSTAIN"

ATTEST:

JOAN I. ANDERSON, R.M.C. TOWNSHIP CLERK