

TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON
6101 THIRTEENTH STREET
MAYS LANDING, NJ
MARCH 2, 2009

The regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton, Atlantic County, NJ, was held on the above date with Mayor Nelson Gaskill presiding. Members present were Amy Gatto, Thomas Palmentieri, Charles Pritchard and Roger Silva. Also present were Edward M. Sasdelli, Township Administrator, Joan I. Anderson, Township Clerk, Randolph Lafferty, Township Solicitor, Daniel DePasquale, Township Engineer, Richard C. Tuthill, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Cynthia Lindsay, Deputy CFO.

The meeting opened with the flag salute led by Deputy Mayor Roger Silva 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 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 at 6:30PM on Monday, March 2, 2009, in the municipal building, Mays Landing, New Jersey.

A moment of silence for private reflection was observed. Mayor Gaskill announced the Mr. Lafferty's father passed away last evening and asked that those present keep Randolph Lafferty and his family in their thoughts at this time.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that approval of the February 17, 2009 minutes be and is hereby deleted from tonight's agenda.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the names of Businesses to be approved be inserted into Agenda Item 6.A:

1. Color Me Beautiful - kiosk sales at Hamilton Mall
2. JC Penny Optical #1160 - optical business at Hamilton Mall

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

Ms. Dix asked for an explanation of the \$37,132.78 In-kind Public Donor Agreement with Mizpah Inland Human Services. Mr. Sasdelli explained the Township does it every year and it is for the in-kind services the Township provides to MIHS such as lease value of the building, use of a Township-owned vehicles, and services provided by Public Works. He said that in return for it, MIHS provides services to the people in the area such as food baskets and training. Mr. Sasdelli said Ms. Dix can have a copy of the itemized spread sheet on it if she wants it. He said that the only thing he changed in the Agreement was that he crossed out the provision that said if the in-kind contributions were not provided, the Township would pay it in cash. Mr. Sasdelli said MIHS gets United Way Funding based on this. Ms. Dix asked if the Township had any idea how many Township residents directly benefited from those services and how many non-residents got the services. Mr. Sasdelli said he didn't know how many people are served and would have to look into it. He said the Township does get reports from Ms. Gaylord on food baskets and transportation that they provide. Ms. Dix said that with the current budget crises there may come a time when the Township can't help others.

Ms. Dix said that the only reason she voted in favor of \$258,000.00 coming from the MUA to the Township was because of what the MUA has to do for others outside of this Township. She said the MUA has had to provide water and sewer to Belcoville through court orders in 1968, 1972, 1983 and the most recent 96 page order issued in 1997. Ms. Dix said the MUA will have to continue doing that until at least 2023. Mr. Silva asked if Ms. Dix could verify or confirm that the MUA may have to raise the rates to some of their consumers as a result of the MUA volunteering to surrender that \$258,000.00. Ms. Dix said Mr. Silva was treasurer of the MUA for 7 years and she has only been treasurer for less than one month so she wouldn't comment on it. She said that may be forced on the MUA. Ms. Dix commented on having battled with Mr. Silva when he was on the MUA against rate increases and said she is 100% against them. She commented on the MUA under Lee Stanford, Robert RaVell, John Houck, the late Peter Fraleigh and herself being having a conservative philosophy and said that a difference in philosophy between the MUA and Township government is that as rates went up the Township increased spending but the MUA didn't. Ms. Dix commented on the accounts set up at the MUA for the connection fees that enabled them to pay cash for the new well #10 that was completed while Mr. Silva was the Treasurer and is now up and operating. She commented on the process

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involved and said it took 10 years to get that one well done. Ms. Dix said there are still serious repairs and upgrades that need to be made. Mr. Silva said there was a lot of speculation about the result of the MUA giving that money to the Township. He said it was good to have an understanding of why they were able to generate so much money over time in terms of building up their surplus. Mr. Silva said they still have bonds that are being paid down nicely and will expire in 9 years. Ms. Dix said she lead the MUA decision to pay off the Pinelands infrastructure loan for putting water & sewer in the McKee Avenue section of the Township that saved principle and interest on it. Mayor Gaskill said Ms. Dix made a very good point. He said there are quite a few programs that need to be looked at going forward into 2010.

JIF Insurance update

Mr. Sasdelli said that as a result of several things done by the JIF Team That the Township Committee put together last year the Township received awards for 2008 for: (1) reduction in the lost time frequency rating from 4.75 in 2006 to 3.56 in 2007 and down to 1.5 in 2008 (2) using 100% of its transitional days which is when someone hurt on the job is on light duty if the Township can accommodate them and then they don't sit home collecting workers' compensation (3) a gold award for the safety program the Safety Coordinator put into effect. Mr. Sasdelli said the Township got certificates and \$3,000.00. He said he wanted to single the members of the JIF Team: himself, the Fund Commissioner; Alternate Fund Commissioner Ingrid Perez; Safety Director Lisa Hedrick; Claims Coordinator Mary Kelly and last year's Risk Management Consultant (RMC). Mr. Sasdelli said there is a new Risk Management Consultant this year and he hopes to be able to continue those numbers because it will lower the Township's premium and affect the budget. He said this was just a report and no action was required.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application

Mr. Sasdelli said the Committee Members had a memo in their agenda packet on this and that it is an annual program that the Township participates in. He explained it is HUD funds that come through the County CDBG program and the purpose is to help low and moderate income folks in the community. He said the County allocates a certain amount of money to the participating municipalities and the Township was allocated \$82,000.00 this year. Mr. Sasdelli said that the County told the subcommittee there are still 15 qualified people on the waiting list for housing rehabilitation that the Township didn't have enough money for. He said the maximum that can be spent for each is \$20,000.00 so even if the whole amount this year was put into housing rehabilitation, only 4 or 5 houses could be done. He said the subcommittee recommended keeping the CDBG money for housing rehabilitation until that list is shortened up. Mr. Sasdelli commented on the suggestion made from the floor that the money be used to pave a road if it qualified and said you can't pave much road with \$80,000.00.

Mayor Gaskill explained that it would be for roofing, electrical updates, heaters, etc. Mr. Sasdelli said that it has to be for necessities. Mayor Gaskill said if someone accepts a CDBG grant it becomes a lien against their home and they can't sell their home for 5 years. Mr. Sasdelli said if they do sell they have to pay the money back.

Mr. Silva said it is a good time to do this given the economic times when people have neglected maintenance on their homes. He said it made a lot of sense considering the generation the Township is trying to help. Mr. Pritchard said he agreed with Mr. Silva.

There being no further questions or comments, Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Pritchard, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that Philip Sartorio be and is hereby authorized to submit an application for Community Development Block Grant funding in the amount of \$82,000.00 for housing rehabilitation.

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

Acceptance/Adoption of 2008 Fire Apparatus Study prepared by Ted Lowdon & Associates

Mr. Silva said the 63-page Fire Apparatus Study was received in December, 2008 and, depending on the whether it is accepted tonight, it will be available for the public to see. He said the money spent on it was well spent and he thinks the recommendations will go a long way in how the Township addresses issues in the fire departments the future. Mr. Silva read the following from the study: "Citizens are interested in not only the effective services but also in the cost efficiency of of these services." He said the goals of the study were to visit with each of the fire companies; meet with the command staff of each company; review the apparatus

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composition of the existing fleet; travel through the community to assess the risk potential which vary between areas because of the diversity of the topography of the community; research the professional standards in the fire field to assess the Township's existing fleet against recommended practices in the fire protection field; review fleet composition in similar communities which would be Egg Harbor Township; develop an apparatus plan to meet the future needs of the community; and provide a brief abstract of the benefits of transitioning from the current 5 individual fire company format to a consolidated Township Fire Department. Mr. Silva said the report was very well put together. He said that the author commented on the spirit of those he interviewed and had nothing but the highest praise for their professionalism, dedication and commitment. Mr. Silva said acceptance of the study will result in a total fire apparatus decrease from 22 to 16 and the reduction of 6 pieces of apparatus will save over \$1 million in replacement costs over a 10-year period. Mr. Silva said the fire companies have a variety of equipment based on the area they cover. He said it could realistically take 10 years if the study is fully accepted and implemented. Mr. Silva said he thought it is the beginning of something that has to be done and a reflection on the community and cooperation of the volunteer fire departments. He said the Chiefs had heavy discussion on it and 4 of the 5 Fire Chiefs signed on to accepting it. Mr. Silva commended them all for reviewing and discussing it in detail. He said he recommended accepting it.

Mr. Palmentieri said he agreed.

Ms. Gatto said she agreed. She said she knows the reasons why the fifth Chief's didn't sign it but she would like to have everyone sign off on it even if it was with a caveat. Mr. Silva compared it to differences among members on the Township Committee and said there is no criticism of anyone who did or didn't sign it. Mr. Silva said he thought it was significant that the Committee got this far.

Mayor Gaskill said the fire companies analyzed this and talked extensively amongst themselves about where they wanted to go with it. The Mayor said that 4 out of 5 decided it was a good program that will decrease the cost to the Township. He said he is 100% behind the project and believes it is a good deal. Mr. Silva said that ultimately anything that goes right or wrong will fall back on the Township Committee. Ms. Gatto said that any project or strategy is more likely to be executed without problem or incident if it is bought into by those who have to execute it.

Mr. Sasdelli explained that the Chief who didn't sign it agreed with the over-all migration chart but there was a little consternation over the order in which equipment would be replaced, who would get what and when. He said that bridge hasn't been crossed yet and it might still be worked out. He said the study cost \$8,000.00 and just one recommendation will save \$1 million. Mr. Sasdelli said he thought \$1 million was very conservative because the last fire truck the Township bought cost \$390,000.00 and the study eliminates 6 fire trucks over a 10-year period so the savings is closer to \$2 million .

Mr. Silva asked if the study will be available to the public if it is accepted tonight. Mr. Sasdelli said it will.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Pritchard, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the 2008 Fire Apparatus Study prepared by Ted Lowdon & Associates be and is hereby accepted and adopted.

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

Budget Revenue Strategies: Tax Abatement Options

Mr. Pritchard said he asked for this to be on the agenda but that he didn't want a prolonged discussion tonight. He said it came up during the budget and he thinks the Committee has to address it sooner or later. Mr. Pritchard said he thought the Committee has to talk about whether they want to do a township-wide program, one specific for the Industrial/Business Park, or based on the level of employees. He said there are many different ways to go with it. He said research was needed and maybe Millville, Vineland and Egg Harbor Township could be contacted to see how their programs are set up and what their results are. Mr. Pritchard suggested looking at it once the budget is completed and trying to come up with the program that would be most workable.

Ms. Gatto said it would be good to have any data, best practices or anything Mr. Pritchard just referenced at the budget meeting she and Mr. Palmentieri are going to have with Administration and Finance on Wednesday to start talking about the long term strategies.

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Mayor Gaskill agreed and said the Township has to be much more business friendly to bring businesses into the Township to reduce the tax burden on the citizens.

Mr. Palmentieri said he agreed.

School Tax Deferral Resolution

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Pritchard, that the school tax deferral resolution be adopted.

Mayor Gaskill said this was talked about a lot at the last meeting. He said that Ms. Gatto and Mr. Palmentieri discussed the necessity to move forward with a plan and he agreed that had to be done immediately. The Mayor read a list of what he thought had to be done so that both the revenue side and the expense side were looked at: on the revenue side (1) land sales of all township-owned property needed to be addressed and not just sales in the Industrial Park by the Industrial Commission. The Mayor said there is a double benefit to it, first the revenue from the sale and then it adds to the tax roll on an annual basis; (2) do a comprehensive review of all fees in the Code Book to bring them up to date; (3) continue to explore consolidation; (4) consider tax abatements; (5) continue pursuit of a solar energy facility on the 16 acre landfill. He said it will turn a liability into a revenue producing asset. The Mayor read a list of what he thought needed to be done on the expense side: (1) have a full review of all programs to see if any can be eliminated or combined with the County to be more cost effective; (2) retirement incentives to see if the Township can get some eligible employees to retire and not replace them which will make the employee rolls smaller; (3) a hiring freeze so when or if employees retire or resign they are not replaced unless absolutely 100% necessary; (4) talk with the Township labor organizations about how they need to move forward in 2010 and maybe go back to look at where the Township is. Mayor Gaskill said the employees made a great effort this year to help the Committee and taxpayers by giving back and he thinks the governing body has to sit with them and look at that again. He said he would be more than willing to approach them and do that. Mayor Gaskill said the governing body will have to look to see what can be done if they don't get the reductions needed for 2010 after all of that. He said he thought the things he presented are things that have to be done and moved forward with. The Mayor said Ms. Gatto and Mr. Palmentieri were concerned about that and these are some things he thinks can be done to move forward.

Mr. Silva said the Committee is asking the residents to pay \$1 million more in real estate taxes this year while looking only at 35% of the budget. He said 65% of the budget is salary, benefits, pension, social security and other taxes. Mr. Silva said he isn't in favor of deferring school taxes. He said it is spending the money twice and he believes the Committee is propping up its budget just to get through this year. Mr. Silva commented on it being said that the Committee needs time to address it but he maintains now is the time, this is the budget and the Committee has to make hard decisions. He said it is unfortunate that the Committee is looking at 1, 2, or 3-time gimmicks and he thinks they are getting addicted to it. Mr. Silva said he was almost sorry the MUA was giving the Township the money because they are a very well run authority that shouldn't be penalized because they know how to manage their business. He said if the Committee takes the money and their plans don't work out they will have to go back to that well again. Mr. Silva said the Committee has to look at areas that could be physically cut and that they can look at 65% of the budget, look at some of the largest departments and do layoffs whether it is popular or not. Mr. Silva said sometimes the realities of things have to be faced and that if it that isn't done this year he is sure it won't happen next year. Mr. Silva commented on the stock market and the economy in Europe and Asia going down. He said they are the people who are supposed to buy what this country exports and if they aren't buying it will impact all of our businesses. Mr. Silva said we will not be out of this in 2009 or 2010 and that he is a realist, not a fatalist. He said the Committee has to make tough decisions and he is ready to make them.

Mr. Palmentieri said he agreed with most everything Mr. Silva said. He said school tax deferral is part of what is facilitating the budget that leaves a \$2¼ million deficit out there next year because this year's budget has \$2 million in expenses that the Township doesn't have revenue to cover. He said that is something the Committee is not addressing. He said he wouldn't belabor the subject because it had been discussed at length at 4 previous meetings but he agrees with Mr. Silva and thinks the deferral is a bad idea and he doesn't support it.

Mr. Pritchard said he disagreed and that he didn't find it to have the negative impact that Mr. Silva and Mr. Palmentieri do. He said he heard many compliments about the tremendous job done by the Public Works Department today and it couldn't have been done if the Township had 3 or 4 less people on the roads today. Mr. Pritchard said people get upset about their taxes but they get more upset when they don't receive the services they feel they should get. He said he thought eliminating upwards of 12 people in the Township's relatively lean organization would be a very poor thing to do now and for the future.

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Mr. Silva said Mr. Pritchard was assuming that he would attack only one department. He said that he wouldn't do that, he would spread it over the 4 or 5 largest departments. Mr. Silva said whenever anything was cut in the past, they took it from Public Works and that is why Public Works suffered for all those years. He said he was always a proponent of beefing it up. He said it has to be looked at realistically and that, as a taxpayer, Mr. Pritchard will pay part of this tab. Mr. Silva said everyone is entitled to their opinion and he respected Mr. Pritchard's.

Mr. Pritchard said he respected Mr. Silva's opinion too and that it is a difference in philosophy, not a personal issue. Mr. Silva said he understood.

Ms. Gatto said she would be happy to take Mr. Silva's recommendations for cutting across the 4 or 5 the largest departments to the meeting on Wednesday if he wanted to give them to her. Ms. Gatto said she has Mr. Sasdelli's recommendations but not Mr. Silva's. Mr. Silva said they were in the packet from Mr. Sasdelli and that he would go with the whole thing from Mr. Sasdelli. He said that he had no problem with it.

Mayor Gaskill said he doesn't think the Township should be doing layoffs. He said he thought the Township is bare-bones now and the employees work extremely hard. The Mayor said the employees have already given back \$150,000.00 and made concessions to the town. Mayor Gaskill said he believes the school tax deferral is a viable way of getting there.

Mr. Silva said he is afraid the Committee will run out of that option in another year when they find they can't close the gap. He said you have to face reality when you run out of options and he thinks reality is here and now.

There being no further discussion, the Mayor called for a roll call vote on the motion made by Ms. Gatto, seconded by Mr. Pritchard, that the following resolution be adopted.

**TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON
RESOLUTION 2009
A RESOLUTION TO DEFER SCHOOL TAXES FOR 2009**

WHEREAS, New Jersey Law allows school taxes payable to be deferred to a maximum of 50% of the school levy; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hamilton desires to defer \$379,000.00 of Local School Tax as of January 1, 2009.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton, in the County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. That the Township Committee, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby defers \$379,000.00 of Local School Tax as of January 1, 2009 with the understanding that if any of the amounts deferred is used to support the 2009 Local Municipal Budget, such amounts shall be charged to future operations as funds are available.

ROLL CALL:	GATTO	"AYE"	
	PALMENTIERI		"NAY"
	PRITCHARD	"AYE"	
	SILVA		"NAY"
	GASKILL	"AYE"	

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH THREE MEMBERS VOTING "AYE", TWO MEMBERS VOTING "NAY" AND NO "ABSTAINS".

Introduction of Ordinance #1645-2009 Establishing a CAP Bank

Mr. Sasdelli explained the budget law allows a municipality to raise its expenses by 2.5% and to increase it an extra 1% if they do this ordinance; to establish a CAP Bank and keep it for 2 years. Mr. Sasdelli said that, even though the Township budget increase isn't even at the 2%, he recommended the Committee do the ordinance and keep the extra in the CAP Bank because if there was an influx of revenue and the Committee wanted to spend it, they wouldn't have the spending room unless they have a CAP Bank. Mr. Sasdelli said passing the ordinance doesn't mean taxes are automatically being raised and they aren't. He said he just wants the CAP room so that if the Township gets \$1 million in revenue from stimulus money or any revenue, they will have the CAP room to spend it.

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There being no further discussion, Mr. Pritchard moved, seconded by Mr. Palmentieri, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that Ordinance #1645-2009 be and is hereby introduced and passed on the first reading and the Township Clerk is authorized to advertise same in the March 4, 2009 issue of the Atlantic County Record for a public hearing to be held in the Municipal Building, Mays Landing, New Jersey, at 6:30PM on Monday, March 16, 2009.

TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON
ORDINANCE #1645-2009

CALENDAR YEAR 2009
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS
AND ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

WHEREAS, The Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.1 et. seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.5% unless authorized by Ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton in the County of Atlantic, finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2009 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee hereby determines that a 1% increase in the budget for said year, amount to \$206,267.89 in excess of the increase in the final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the township committee of the Township of Hamilton, in the County of Atlantic, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that in the CY 2009 budget year the final appropriations of the Township of Hamilton shall, in accordance with this Ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14, be increased by 1% to a total of 3.5% amounting to \$721,937.62, and that the CY 2009 municipal budget for the Township of Hamilton be approved and adopted in accordance with this Ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this Ordinance as introduced by filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of its introduction; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this Ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

ROLL CALL: GATTO "AYE"
PALMENTIERI "AYE"
PRITCHARD "AYE"
SILVA "AYE"
GASKILL "AYE"

ORDINANCE #1645-2009 INTRODUCED AND PASSED FIRST READING MARCH 2, 2009

Introduction of 2009 Municipal Budget

Mr. Sasdelli explained that if the budget is tonight the governing body can't consider adopting it until April 6th because they have to wait 28 days before they can hold a public hearing on it and during that time it has to be advertised and available to the public. He said a series of 4 budget work sessions were held starting in December of 2008 and that the Committee made a lot of changes during that time including: elimination of the gypsy moth spraying program; dissolution of

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dissolution of the Garbage District; decreasing the police department from 71 to 69 officers through attrition by not replacing 2 that resigned, by not filling the vacancy when the Captain retired and reducing the number of Special Officers from 8 to 4; using 1 existing employee to replace 1 tax collecting clerk and 1 TACO that resigned by having her work half-time in each office; not replacing a public works person who retired last year; reducing the number of pieces of fire apparatus through the Fire Study; and changing a Police Department position from being done by a police officer to a civilian employee who is doing the job at about half the salary. He said he was authorized at the last meeting to prepare the budget and that is what the Committee has in front of them tonight. Mr. Sasdelli said it includes all the same services except for the gypsy moth spraying program; most of the celebration of public events money is out of this budget; and it doesn't include swimming at the cove. He said that for the first time this budget includes a wide scale employee payment towards their health insurance and the employees volunteered to give \$150,000.00 in unpaid furlough time. Mr. Sasdelli said the budget defers \$379,000.00 in school taxes and that the average homeowner will pay an additional \$57.00 per year with this budget..

Ms. Gatto asked for an explanation of the process for amending the budget after the public hearing on April 6th if the Committee wanted to do that. Mr. Sasdelli explained the governing body is allowed to amend the budget if they heard something at the public hearing and wanted to amend it. He said if the amendment is under a certain percentage the Committee can just make the change and adopt it but if it is over a certain percentage the budget may have to be re-advertised and another public hearing held. Mr. Sasdelli said Mr. Tuthill knows the percentages.

Mr. Silva asked Mr. Sasdelli to explain what he found out from the State about retirement incentives. Mr. Sasdelli said the State is very concerned and being very strict about early retirement programs because they don't want people getting out of the retirement system because a lot of people are retiring and the municipalities aren't replacing them so more people are taking out of the pension system than are paying into it. He said he will have to work very closely with the Auditor and Solicitor if the Township puts something like that together to make sure it gets the State's blessing.

Mr. Silva asked Mr. Sasdelli if he foresaw a large number of tax appeals this year. Mr. Sasdelli said he thinks there will be more than there were last year. He said the number of liens on people who didn't pay their taxes by December 31, 2008 is up significantly from last year. Mr. Sasdelli said there were 97 in 2007, 107 in 2008 and 177 this year. He said financial institutions normally buy them and keep the taxes current so it hasn't affected the collection rate but it could hurt it if nobody buys the liens. Mr. Sasdelli said the Township anticipated the collection rate at one-half a percent lower which is a lot.

There being no further discussion, questions or comments, Mayor Gaskill asked for a roll call vote on the motion by Ms. Gatto, seconded by Mr. Pritchard, that a Resolution to introduce the 2009 Municipal Budget and authorize the Township Clerk to advertise it according to law for a public hearing to be held on April 6, 2009 at 6:30 PM in the municipal building, Mays Landing, NJ be adopted.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH MEMBERS GATTO, PALMENTIERI, PRITCHARD AND GASKILL VOTING "AYE", MR. SILVA VOTING "NAY", NO "ABSTAIN"

Comments during roll call:

- Mr. Palmentieri said he would vote yes to introduce the budget even though he doesn't support it for the reasons stated at previous meetings.
- Mr. Silva said he would vote no because at the last 4 or 5 meetings public participation was encouraged and he is somewhat taken back that some Committee Members haven't heard anything the public said. Ms. Gatto said that wasn't true.
- Mayor Gaskill disagreed with Mr. Silva and said the members are listening but maybe not in the way Mr. Silva wants them to.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the following Business Registration License be and are hereby approved.

1. Color Me Beautiful- a kiosk cosmetic, fragrances sales & makeover services business at Hamilton Mall.
2. JC Penny Optical #1160 - Retail optical goods & RX eyewear business at Hamilton Mall.

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the list of the Weymouth Volunteer Fire Department members eligible for 2008 LOSAP credit, as certified by its Chief, be and is hereby accepted:

John Carrigan	203 points	William Philpot	105 points
Gary Carlson	201 points	Jerome Calderwood	133 points
James Rider	182 points	Jonathan Calderwood	159 points
Daniel Santos	158 points	Ryan Raurk	156 points
Joseph Grasso	153 points	Joe Tortello, Sr.	107 points
Daniel Lash	109 points	Scott L. Erlich	113 points
Daniel Lash, Sr.	128 points	William Wilkinson	149 points
Charles Eby	165 points	Joe Tortello, Jr.	155 points
Samuel Litzie II	184 points	Steve Czajkowski	153 points
Kos Hossain	113 points	Chelsey Litzie	115 points

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the Public Donor Agreement between the Mizpah Inland Human Services (MIHS) and the Township of Hamilton (the Township) for the Township to provide In-kind contributions to MIHS totaling \$37,132.78 for the period March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010 is hereby approved and the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute same on behalf of the Township.

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

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

A RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN A SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

WHEREAS, the Township of Hamilton, County of Atlantic, wishes to apply for a project under the Safe and Secure Communities Program; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Hamilton has reviewed the application and has approved said request; and

WHEREAS, the project is a joint effort between the Department of Law and Public Safety and the Applicant Local Unit of Government, for the purpose described in the application;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that:

1. As a matter of public policy the Applicant's Unit of Government wishes to participate to the fullest extent possible with the Department of Law and Public Safety.
2. The Attorney General of New Jersey will receive funds on behalf of the Applicant.
3. The Division of Criminal Justice shall be responsible for the receipt and review of the applications for said funds.
4. The Division of Criminal Justice shall initiate allocations to the applicant as authorized by law.

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that it has no objection to NJDOT approval or issuance of a permit to Giunta-Marucci VFW Post #220 for coin drops to be held at the Route 322/40 Wrangleboro Road jug-handle intersection and at the Borders' Book Store corner on May 30 and 31, 2009 and on September 26 and 27, 2009.

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

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

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING MANGEMENT AREA AMENDMENTS
PROPOSED BY THE NEW JERSEY PINELANDS COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON, ATLANTIC COUNTY, NJ**

WHEREAS, on October 23, 2008 the NJ Pinelands Commission unveiled proposed changes to the Land Capability Map that would affect over 14,000 acres of land in Hamilton Township; and,

WHEREAS, based on verbal comments and written recommendations from Township officials, the Pinelands Commission issued an amended proposal on January 30, 2009 that would affect over 10,550 acres in Hamilton Township; and,

WHEREAS, review of the latest Pinelands proposal has identified the following proposed management modifications as examples of changes that could have an adverse long term impact on the Township:

- The proposed redesignation of 57 acres of land in the Township Business Park identified as Block 995 Lots 1.02 & 1.03, the subdivision of which was approved by the Pinelands Commission, from Regional Growth Area to Forest Area.
- The proposed redesignation of approximately 60 acres in the Horizons at Woods Landing Planned Adult Community, a development that is currently under construction, from Regional Growth Area to Forest Area.
- The proposed redesignation of a 16 lot residential subdivision identified as Block 1132.33 Lots 1 thru 16, that is currently under development and fully served by municipal utilities, from Regional Growth Area to Forest Area.
- The proposed redesignation of a 233 acres of the Atlantic Cape Community College Campus, as well as 59 acres of adjacent Township owned property from Regional Growth Area to Forest Area
- The redesignation of a portion of the Underhill Park complex from Regional Growth Area to Forest Area
- The proposed redesignation of 44 acres in Mizpah, identified as Block/Lots; 506/21 - 42, 507/36 - 42, 509/6 - 16, 24 - 43, 510/1, 23 - 51, 512/11 - 53, 513/1 - 17, 20 - 45, 535/p/o 2.01, p/o 3, p/o 5, 538/p/o20.01, p/o20.02, 20.03 21 from Mizpah Village to Forest Area.
- The proposed redesignation of the Indian Branch Park neighborhood, identified as p/o Bl 53, Bl 54, Bl 55 and Bl 57, from Rural Development to Forest Area.

WHEREAS, adoption of the zoning amendments necessary to implement the proposed management area changes will require the expenditure of a significant amount of local funds in order to be in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Land Use Law to provide public notice of the changes, either by certified mailing to property owners in or within 200 ft of the affected areas or through the preparation and adoption of an amended Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton, Atlantic County New Jersey that

1. The Township Committee is opposes the proposed changes to the Pinelands Management Area Boundaries that affect the Township of Hamilton.
2. A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Pinelands Commission, Senator Whelan, Assemblyman Amodeo & Assemblyman Polistina, the Atlantic County Board of Freeholders and all members of the Pinelands Municipal Council.

ROLL CALL: GATTO "AYE"
PALMENTIERI "AYE"
PRITCHARD "AYE"
SILVA "AYE"
GASKILL "AYE"

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Transient Vendor Fee be and is hereby waived for participants in the Old Time Market sponsored by the Township of Hamilton Historical Society and being held in Memorial Park on May 31, 2009.

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the following Bond Safeguard Insurance Company bonds be and are hereby accepted as maintenance guarantees for Robert Irving and Diane Hessley extension of Paddock Street (block 854/Lot 62):

<u>Bond No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Term/Purpose</u>
5027227	\$9,093.06	2-year maintenance for all non-stormwater components
5027228	\$1,850.40	4-year maintenance on stormwater management system

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to return Bond Safeguard Insurance Company bond #5008745, the original performance guarantee in the amount of \$72,956.40.

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

Tabling of authorization for Public Sale of Block 855/Lot 13

Mr. Palmentieri said the authorization is for sale of a parcel that is 87% of the minimum lot size in the 5 acre zone for \$5,300.00. He said that in the past he has brought up that he thought the Township could get more for this type parcel that it is 87% of the minimum size used for density transfers. Mr. Palmentieri said he wanted a policy and on this lot in particular that the Administrator work with the appropriate staff on how the price can properly reflect the value as density transfer acreage and not as unbuildable lots.

Mr. Silva questioned how and by whom the price is established. Mr. Sasdelli explained the Assessor gives an estimated starting point. He said that he knows that Mr. Palmentieri knows it is sold at auction to the highest bidder. Mr. Sasdelli said it isn't being sold for \$5,300.00 it is sold to the highest bidder. He said he thinks the market would drive what the property is worth.

Ms. Gatto said she thought Mr. Palmentieri had a good point. Mr. Palmentieri said the Township can always put it back up for sale at a lower price if it isn't sold at the higher price.

Mr. Sasdelli said he thought the Assessor looked at it from an assessing standpoint and doesn't take density transfer value into consideration. He said he thought the Assessor looks at the present zoning and assessment.

Mr. Palmentieri said density transfer is all of the value and, as a stand alone parcel the value is almost worthless.

Ms. Gatto asked if the Planning Board gives any waiver or variance to build on a 3.7 acre lot.

Mrs. Anderson explained this is a corner lot and under the Pinelands Law and the Township Zoning Law a 3.7 acre corner lot in a 5 acre zone meets the minimum buildable lot size. She explained the person who wants it owns another lot with one in between it and this. She explained that the lot would have to be offered to the adjoining owners first as an undersized lot if it didn't meet the minimum lot size and the person who requested it be offered for sale would not be allowed to bid on it until after the adjoining owners had the opportunity to buy it or reject the opportunity to purchase it.

Mayor Gaskill asked if Mr. Palmentieri wanted the Assessor to sit down with Mr. Sartorio on all of this type requests. Mr. Palmentieri said he wanted them to come up with a different criteria for them as density transfer value rather than as buildable or unbuildable lots.

Mr. Palmentieri moved, seconded by Mr. Silva, that authorization to hold a public auction for sale of Lot 13 in Block 855 to be held on April 6, 2009 be and is hereby tabled for further information on the minimum bid establishment process.

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

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Mr. Pritchard moved, seconded by Mr. Silva, that the following resolution be adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that all properly executed and approved payrolls and bills are hereby ordered paid, the bill list total being \$6,743,641.63 as of February 26, 2009.

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

Reports

Administrator: None

Solicitor: Mr. Lafferty reported he and the Engineer are moving forward on the Preserve at Hamilton issue. He said he asked Mr. DePasquale for the information that his office needs to provide relative to the deficiencies and the notice to the developer and then he will go back to the bank. Mr. Lafferty said the bank was under the impression there was never any construction but aerial photographs that they provided to the bank show a significant amount of disturbance. He said the bank gave notice that they were going to terminate the letter of credit at the end of this term which he believes is September of this year. Mr. Lafferty said when the notice was given he went to the first step to call the letter of credit which is the engineers report of the work that needs to be completed and notice of those deficiencies to the developer to give them an opportunity to cure them. He said that process is underway at this point and thereafter the Township goes to the bank to call the letter of credit to complete the improvements. Mr. Lafferty said the developer apparently has no intention of finishing the project.

Mr. Palmentieri questioned how complete or incomplete the project was. Mr. Lafferty said the engineer has to do a survey but it is about 50% based on reductions in the letter of credit recommended by Churchill.

Mr. Silva commented on having ridden back there and seen that a significant amount of work has to be done. He said there is still dredging that has to be done and the roads are incomplete. Mr. Lafferty said the before and after aerial photographs show significant amount of disturbance done so it needs to be finished.

Engineer - Skip Morgan Drive: Mr. DePasquale reported the culvert on Skip Morgan Drive is completed and the street is now officially open. He said Public Works did a good job putting the guide rail up. Mr. DePasquale said Mr. Morgan has rebuilt his spillway and his engineers will write a report that Mr. DePasquale will forward to the State for their review. He said the lake can't be filled up until the State says everything is okay. Mr. DePasquale said it seems to have worked out well and Mr. Morgan is relatively happy.

Third Street Pedestrian Bridge: Mr. Pritchard asked if there was any estimated date for completion of the Third Street Bridge. Mr. DePasquale said his firm isn't involved in that project. Mr. Sasdelli said Castle is the engineer on that project and they are shooting for April 1st. He said significant construction has been done there.

Township Committee: Mr. Pritchard complimented the Public Works personnel, county and state crews on the job they did with the snow today. He said every government entity involved was well prepared. Ms. Gatto said she thought Hamilton Township had the best plowed roads in the area.

Ms. Gatto reported that, as the Finance Committee, she and Mr. Palmentieri are meeting with Mr. Sasdelli and the Finance Department on Wednesday to start hashing out strategy to fix some of the structural gaps in the budget. She said she has all the ideas presented here, all her notes from the last four budget meetings, and they will continue to take any ideas anyone has as they get into it.

Ms. Gatto expressed condolences to Mr. Lafferty and his family on the death of his father. She said she thought that his being at the meeting tonight was a testament to his commitment to the community.

Mr. Silva reported Mr. Silipena from American Auto Salvage donated \$2,000.00 for a Police Department modular data terminal as a token of his appreciation and asked that a letter of thanks be him on behalf of the Township Committee .

Public Comment

Ms. Dix asked if the meeting on Wednesday was open to the public. Ms. Gatto said it wasn't because it is a subcommittee meeting.

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Ms. Dix said she was confused by the talk about tax abatements for the Industrial Park. She asked if the Industrial Park was under contract for sale with Magic Sports. Mr. Silva said there is a contract but it is contingent upon approvals. Ms. Dix asked if the remainder of the Park was under contract to be sold to Summit. Mr. Lafferty said it is. Ms. Dix questioned why the Township would talk about tax abatements if there are 2 buyers tying up 100% of the unsold land. She said it doesn't make sense when the Township has buyers. Mr. Silva said he was involved with tax abatement in another community 20 years ago. He said that the way he understood it, it is throughout the community and the incentives it may provide may have more positive than negative merit. He said that has nothing to do with whether he is for or against it because you have to go a long way to convince him there are pluses and minuses. Mr. Silva said that in this economy when everyone is having a hard time he didn't think a lot of businesses will even want to come in and get started until things start to generate in a positive way. He said that when it was decided to put this on the agenda he asked that all of the research be done so the residents' can understand that what it is all about is balanced and that it isn't just a give-away to get people in. Ms. Dix said the Committee might want to go to tax abatements if the Industrial Commission was holding the land with no buyers but for them to consider abatements when they have it under contract will be nothing but a plum for Summit and Magic Sports as they try to do whatever they are trying to do. She said it isn't going to benefit the taxpayers. Ms. Dix expressed her opinion that the Township would be better off without those 2 buyers, then going to tax abatements and seek new people. She said there is a lien in the tax sale for a property in the Industrial Park for \$58,000.00 in unpaid taxes. She said that according to the website she went to the taxes on that property were \$195,000.00 so the \$58,000.00 seems to be only for one quarter. Ms. Dix said she thought the Committee is wrong to consider tax abatements in the Industrial Park.

Ms. Dix referred to an \$81,000.00 item on tonight's bill list for the Third Street Bridge and asked if the Township was advancing all of the money before billing the County for their portion of the costs. Mr. Tuthill said the County will be billed before the bridge is done. Mr. Pritchard said the County did work on the Dam that they are billing the Township for. Mr. Sasdelli the Township and County are splitting the cost of repairs on the Dam and on the Bridge. Mr. Pritchard said the correspondence he saw indicated the County paid it and is now billing the Township so it is kind of mutual back and forth. Ms. Dix suggested making the records more clear with the County billing the Township, the Township billing the County and appropriate payments being made.

Ms. Dix said one of the Township recreation programs is aqua aerobics and the cost is \$75.00 which she thinks is a lot of money. She asked if anyone knew any details of the cost versus the enrollment. Mr. Sasdelli said the program is funded by the Recreation Trust Fund, not tax money. Mayor Gaskill said the fee pays the instructor and the school charges the Township for use of the facilities. Ms. Dix asked if the \$615.00 for 3 lifeguards that is on tonight's bill list was for a prior program and if it was, what the enrollment was; what the cost was. She asked if the program is breaking even and why the Township has it if it isn't. Ms. Gatto said she believes Mrs. Giberson has all of that information because the Committee gets an executive summary but she hasn't seen one yet. Ms. Dix asked how many programs the township has on taxpayer owned property and said that she thinks it is getting out of hand. Mayor Gaskill said he thins all of the programs have to be looked at and that is part of the review he thinks needs to be done. Ms. Dix said she thought the Township should pay the school because they have to have a black seal people there every time non-employees are in the building. She said the other programs should be looked at to see if they are self-supporting or dipping into other Recreation Trust funds and may not be the best use of that money.

Peggy Capone asked Mayor Gaskill if he was aware of the dollar amount private sector employees contribute towards their health care premiums. Mayor Gaskill said he honestly didn't know but he knows a lot of people don't have insurance. Mrs. Capone said the average family pays about \$8,000.00 a year and the employees contribute 45% of the cost. She asked if the Mayor knew what the Township employees pay. Mayor Gaskill said some pay 1% of their salary and it depended on their contract. Mrs. Capone asked if that might be a consideration instead of deferring school taxes. She asked if the Mayor was aware of what the average policy in Hamilton Township is. Mayor Gaskill said it is about \$12,000.00. Mrs. Capone said it is \$12,000.-\$16,000.00 and asked Mr. Sasdelli if that was accurate. She said the budget could be balanced just by higher contributions from the employees if the model of the private sector was used. Mrs. Capone said that was one way of saving money. Mr. Pritchard said the Township can't arbitrarily do that when the vast majority of employees are under contract. Mrs. Capone asked if it was accurate that the 4% across the board increase is \$470,000.00 this year and will be half-a-million dollars next year. Mr. Pritchard and Ms. Gatto said it is. Mrs. Capone asked if the Township tried to renegotiate those contracts. She asked Mr. Pritchard if he informed the different departments that there would be layoffs if they didn't agree to freeze the contracts. Mr. Pritchard said he didn't personally do it but there were discussions held with them. Mrs. Capone asked if the departments agreed to get a raise knowing there was a possibility of layoffs and were aware of it. The Mayor said the contracts were negotiated last year and prior to the Township being where it is now. Mrs. Capone said the Township is defying the country by giving

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Raises. She said they don't have a balanced budget if they are deferring school taxes. Mr. Pritchard said deferring school taxes is balancing the budget. Mr. Silva said it was "artificially" balancing the budget. Mayor Gaskill said not everyone is getting a raise. Mr. Pritchard asked Mrs. Capone to name one municipality. Mrs. Capone said that in Galloway Township they were told 10 policemen would be laid off and they gave up their raises to balance the budget and it was over \$200,000.00. She said the state has renegotiated contracts and they took unpaid leave at the county. Mr. Pritchard and the Mayor said the Township people did that too. Mrs. Capone asked what the payroll budget is for a year. She said 10 policemen kept their jobs in Galloway because the Police Department accepted a salary freeze and this whole township only gave back \$150,000.00. Mr. Sasdelli said the total salary budget is \$10.2 million. Mrs. Capone said that surprises her. She said she knows so many policemen and township employees and it sounded to her like there wasn't tough negotiations. Mrs. Capone said the employees should have been told to accept a 2 year wage freeze. She said it was almost arrogant to accept raises knowing people will lose their jobs if the budget can't be balanced next year. Mrs. Capone asked if Mr. Pritchard believed layoffs were a consideration to balance the budget. Mr. Pritchard said that he did in some circumstances but he didn't the Township's specific situation when there is an alternate means of balancing the budget. Mrs. Capone said she heard some very positive suggestions from the public and doesn't think any of them were adopted. She said she agreed with Mr. Silva that hard decisions needed to be made and they weren't. Mrs. Capone asked if Mr. Pritchard thought township employees should receive opt-out compensation if they refuse health insurance and if he thought that the private sector does that. Mr. Palmentieri and Mr. Pritchard said that policy started about 7 years ago. Mr. Pritchard said the Township had a discussion and it was decided it was fair to do it because in essence it would save the township money. He said if the employee had the insurance elsewhere or their spouse had it, they could opt-out and get half of the money and the Township benefited from the other half. Mrs. Capone asked if Mr. Pritchard was covered by the County but accepted money from the Township knowing there was a budget shortfall. Mr. Pritchard said this policy went into effect 7 or 8 years ago and he believed everybody on Committee did it at that time. Mrs. Capone said Ms. Gatto gave her opt-out for fire works. Ms. Gatto said she gave a separate donation for fire works and she gave up her opt-out money for LOSAP. Mrs. Capone said she thought it would save money by not giving people money for not taking insurance if they already have it. Mayor Gaskill said the Township can't force employees not to take the insurance. Mrs. Capone said the Township Committee is the legislators and can change that. The Mayor said it is through the state and if the township tells the employees that they won't give them the opt-out money they can say they will take the program and then it will cost \$12,000.-\$15,000.00 each. Mr. Tuthill said only 21 employees opt-out. Mr. Sasdelli said that was 21 out of 174 employees. The Mayor said that saves about \$210,000.00. Mr. Sasdelli explained that said that because the township passed a resolution to participate in the State Health Benefits Plan it can't force people not to take the insurance and if they aren't paid something they will take the insurance and the Township will be paying them twice. He said the percentage was lowered from 50% to 40% but at some point in time if the employees aren't given anything, they will take the insurance and, given the current legislation, the Township can't not put them on the program. Ms. Gatto asked if the Township would have the option to play with the opt-out if it wasn't in the State Plan. Mr. Sasdelli said they would have more flexibility. Mr. Palmentieri said the opt-out is separate from the State Benefits Plan. He said it was the Township's way to encourage people not to have double coverage. Mr. Palmentieri said if there was nothing to be gained by opting out everybody would take the insurance, have double coverage and never pay for anything. Mr. Sasdelli said the township is now only paying half of the \$12,000.-\$16,000.00 that Mrs. Capone talked about for those 21 employees. Mrs. Capone said the employee can ultimately refuse to take that \$7,000.00. Ms. Gatto said it isn't \$7,000.00 employee, it depends on the type of coverage. She said it is \$2,700.00 for her because hers is single coverage.

Harry Rogers said two years ago Ms. Gatto, Mr. Silva and Mr. Gaskill were elected in a large part because of their opposition to what was going on in the township at that time. Mayor Gaskill said he was elected in 2007, not with Ms. Gatto and Mr. Silva last year. Mr. Rogers said they all got in on the same basic concept; people were tired of the relentless tax increases for 8 or 9 years that doubled their township taxes and the shell games played at budget time year after year. He said Mr. Palmentieri sneered at him and said he was completely out of line when he talked about the township having a structural deficit 2 and 3 years ago and now he is hearing those very same words out of Mr. Palmentieri's mouth. Mr. Rogers said there is a structural deficit because The Township consistently lived beyond its means year after year. He said the Township Committee Members aren't making the hard decisions and next year isn't going to be any better. Mr. Rogers said the Mayor talked about his fervent hope that the economy would improve by 2010. He said the Mayor is hoping for the best but not planning for the worst. Mr. Rogers said he applauds Mr. Silva for his willingness to make the hard decisions. He said he understood the Mayor's compassion for not wanting to do layoffs but he was elected to make hard decisions, not to be a nice guy. Mr. Rogers said he welcomes Mr. Palmentieri's new-found fiscal responsibility. He asked that before adopting this budget, the Committee look one year out at what is going to happen next year when there are no more shell games to play with the MUA, school taxes or land sales that

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may or may not happen. Mr. Rogers said the Committee has been banking on that land sale (Summit & Magic Sports) for 4 or 5 years and a lot of people have made it abundantly clear in this room that what is being proposed isn't the way to run a business. He said that is the same thing Ms. Gatto and Mr. Silva ran against and the same process they were elected not to do yet they are doing the same things as the previous administrations. Mr. Rogers asked the Committee to take another hard look at the 65% of the budget that isn't being touched. He said there was heated and spirited discussion at the last meeting about the Hometown Celebration and Halloween Parade. Mr. Rogers said people were getting excited about pennies in a \$25 million dollar budget and not looking at the big things, the hard things. He said people get upset and emotional when you talk about taking away the little perks but that isn't the hard decision. Mr. Rogers said the hard decision is to look at that 65% that has been discussed so many times.

Michael Smith asked if there could be a podium for the public forum to use because it would be more comfortable for them if they had papers.

Mr. Smith said his friend who watches all of the township proceedings on TV wants to know if those people who volunteered not to take a pay increase this year will make that decision every January or do they expect to pick it back up next year. Mayor Gaskill said that is a personal decision. Ms. Gatto asked if Mr. Smith was talking about the employees or Township Committee. Mr. Smith said it was anyone that made that choice and if those who elected this year not to take the increase will get double, make it up, next year. Ms. Gatto said she would never agree to that. Mr. Smith said his friend doesn't understand what is going on because of the acronyms used like JIF and RMC. He suggested that they be explained occasionally as a courtesy to those who don't understand them.

Mr. Smith said he read in the paper that layoffs would be a "last resort" and asked if that came from the whole committee. Mr. Silva said it wasn't. Mr. Sasdelli said he thought he said it. Mr. Smith commented on 4-day work weeks being discussed at the last meeting and if that was done everyone would have a 20% pay reduction. Mr. Smith said his focus was on the union people and that the union is all about seniority. He said he didn't think it was fair for a senior person to have to go to a 4-day week. Mr. Smith said it was always known that the tenet for seniority has always been the last man in is the first man out. He commented on the Mayor and himself being union men and said that to accept anything less than that is unacceptable to him. Mayor Gaskill said he would leave it up to the local union to decide as to how they want to do it. He said he wasn't saying he disagreed with Mr. Smith but the local union should have that choice. The Mayor said 61% chose to have furloughs to help save jobs. Mr. Smith said if the unions give up the seniority tenet they might as well get rid of the unions. Mr. Silva said the Committee Members were elected to represent the people, not the unions. He said a lot of responses to the other questions Mr. Smith asked will dictate what is being dealt with at that time. Mr. Silva said it is always easier to face things when you have options but if you limit your options, you narrow your choices for the future. He said he thought that was a dangerous path that the Committee was going down. Mayor Gaskill said Mr. Smith asked him a union question and he answered a union question. He said it is no secret that he supports unions but it is not right for anyone to say that is all he thinks about. Mayor Gaskill said he thinks about the human factor and some people have trouble understanding that. He said he thinks about the human factor and how things affect them. Mayor Gaskill said that whether it be through the unions or some other means, he does everything he can within his ability to help the people. Mr. Smith said unions are predicated on seniority protection and safety and he thinks it is a disgrace to forego seniority for the sake of protecting the junior people. Mr. Smith said you can't whittle down forces without jeopardizing safety. He commented on the police department being taxed after hurricane Katrina and the increase in crime. Mr. Smith said that he sees much increase in crime with the economy and, as a resident, he doesn't want a reduction in police or patrols.

Bill Jones, Commander of VFW Post 220, asked about a resolution they requested for their coin drop. Mr. Sasdelli said it was passed as part of the consent agenda. Mrs. Anderson said he could pick up a copy of it tomorrow or Wednesday.

Steve Blankenship, speaking on behalf of the MUA Board and employees, asked that when the Committee looking at long term finances reviews consolidation the MUA get some input as to what the criteria will be so it can be passed on. He said that the more dialog there is between the parties, the more they will understand each other. Mr. Blankenship said he thought that is where good decisions come from. He said he respectfully requested the MUA be kept in the loop on this.

Teresa Thomas said she e-mailed her position on the budget to the Committee and it she hasn't changed it especially hearing that the tax liens have almost doubled over last year.

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Ms. Thomas said she felt she needed to address some comments made by Ms. Granese at the February 2, 2009 meeting. She said Ms. Granese implied Mr. Lafferty could not do his job as solicitor because he is Republican and the Atlantic County Republican Chairman Keith Davis represents builders and developers in the municipality. Ms. Thomas said Ms. Granese example was that if Wal-Mart appealed their taxes Mr. Lafferty would not be able to fight for the Township because the would be told by the Atlantic County Republican Organization how to handle the situation. She said that to imply Mr. Lafferty takes his oath of office lightly is not fair. Ms. Thomas said she thought Mr. Lafferty has shown his dedication and loyalty to the Township in the year he has been solicitor in the reduction of hours and in the pay cut he has taken this year. She said Ms. Granese basically said the same thing about the appointment of Assemblyman Polistina to the Zoning and Planning Boards. Ms. Thomas said everyone knows that Senators and Assemblymen have full time jobs. She said Mr. Polistina worked for the Township before he was an Assemblyman and she was told his work was exemplary. Ms. Thomas said the Committee Members have all taken an oath of office and proven themselves to be loyal servants and it was not fair for Ms. Granese to say that they couldn't sit and hear any opinions Mr. Polistina had because it would be a conflict.

Ms. Thomas said she would like the Township Committee and Mayor to instruct the Chief of Police to quickly take anyone using profanity out of this building because it isn't fair to those sitting in the audience to have to listen to it. She said she didn't care that what was said was directed at her but it is unacceptable that anyone should have to listen to it. Ms. Thomas said she knows what was said couldn't be heard on the tape but everyone in the audience heard it several times.

Mr. Smith asked for explanations of acronyms used tonight. Mayor Gaskill said that JIF stands for the Joint Insurance Fund. Ms. Gatto said RMC stands for Risk Management Consultant.

Harvey Kessleman asked if the Township is able to renegotiate the union contracts and when they expire. Mayor Gaskill said the Teamsters contract expires 2011. Mr. Sasdelli said this is the first year of a 2-year contract with PBA. He explained the Township has to start negotiations 120 days prior to the expiration date. Mr. Sasdelli said they expire December 31, 2011 so negotiations have to start September 1, 2010. Mayor Gaskill said he is suggesting the Township go back and talk to them now but they know the union isn't required to do it.

There being no further questions or comments from the public, Mr. Pritchard moved, seconded by Mr. Palmentieri, that the public comment portion be closed.

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that this meeting adjourn to an executive session to discuss potential negotiations with Shore Memorial Hospital regarding Lot 6 in Block 994.01 and that the governing body will not be reconvening in public because no action is expected to result from the discussions at this time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of said executive session discussion shall be made known as soon as the negotiations are no longer confidential.

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

ATTEST:

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