

TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON
6101 THIRTEENTH STREET
MAYS LANDING, NJ
APRIL 6, 2009

The regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton, Atlantic County, New Jersey, 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 Tuthill, CFO and Leon Costello, Township Auditor.

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 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 6:30 PM on Monday, April 6, 2009 in the municipal building, Mays Landing, New Jersey.

A moment of silence for private reflection was observed.

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 the following items be added to the agenda of this meeting for consideration and action to be taken thereon tonight:

7.A Insert names of businesses:

- (1) Retail Construction Services - general contractor for commercial tenant finishing main office located in Lake Elmo, MN
- (2) Atlantic Fuels Inc. d/b/a Quick Stop I- gas station/convenience store on Route 50 at 3rd Street
- (3) Sign Me Up Signs - home office only on Route 50 (no customers/no retail sales)
- (4) TAP Enterprises - tool sale at VFW

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 not listed for public hearing

Mr. Sasdelli said Aline Dix signed to speak on the Cove which was not a listed item on the agenda and Jeff Armbruster signed to speak on the budget. Mayor Gaskill explained Ms. Dix agreed to be the first speaker when the Committee gets to the public hearing on the budget and Mr. Armbruster would be second.

2009 Municipal Budget - Committee Members Comments

Mr. Palmentieri said he made notes over the weekend and was going to read them in order to be as short as possible while answering all the questions that have already been asked privately. He then read the following statement: *People have asked me "what happened?". How did we go from legitimately balanced budgets to a \$2 million structural deficit out of the blue? That's a great question to which every taxpayer deserves an answer. To avoid a half hour dissertation on budgets, lets simplify a complicated subject by saying revenues to pay for township expenses for the past 15 years have come from two general sources. The first was reoccurring sources such as those items that are replenished and used year after year. The other was new revenues that come from tax increases. For the past several years, the cost of maintaining the Township services and staff has increased approximately \$1 million per year. This figure is more than the increase in reoccurring sources of revenue. The shortage of revenue has been paid for by tax increases. This has been the experience of virtually all municipalities in New Jersey over the past several years up to last year. What has changed is this; beginning last year, a cap on how large a tax increase could be implemented was imposed by State legislators. This meant that making up the shortage between expenses and reoccurring revenue could no longer be financed through unlimited tax increases. Presently, our increase in reoccurring expenses is greater than our reoccurring revenue plus the maximum tax increase now permitted. That is why, all of a sudden, we now have a \$2 million structural deficit. That is what has changed. These new rules on municipal budgets mean governing bodies must accept the new fiscal reality and re-tool municipal government. Local governments need to exist within the limitations of smaller increases in tax revenues which are usually less than the increase in cost of existing government. The solution is to reduce the size and cost of municipal government. Even though these rules began last year, no real steps were implemented to begin reducing the size and cost of government in last year's budget. This year,*

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too much attention has been placed on the smoke and mirrors of one-time sources of revenues in a futile attempt at maintaining the current size and cost of government, instead of what should be a second year of re-tooling government into a smaller less costly one. Most of you over the past three months have heard the options of school tax deferrals and pension payment deferrals for the first time in budget discussions. One reason for that is the Township has never chosen such undesirable means of financing. There are specific risks and costs associated with each. What both deferrals and one-time sources of revenues have in common is this; while they might fund the deficit this year, the same deficit returns in January since the revenue would be gone but the expenses return along with new and increased expenses. This is why we must begin, albeit a year late, reducing structural and reoccurring expenses in this budget. The budget as introduced will create a \$2.5 million deficit in January. This must be amended to at least begin reducing the size and cost of government at a rate closer to the rate dictated by reoccurring revenues and not at a leisurely rate desired. Although this is difficult and painful, members of Township Committee have a fiduciary responsibility to residents of the Township which should be clear. We must acknowledge that the era of smaller and less costly municipal government is here and we must respond appropriately."

Mr. Pritchard said that while he didn't completely agree with Mr. Palmentieri's comments he would hold his comments because he was sure the Committee would be discussing it later. He said that he was not here to comment at this point, he was here to listen because there were a ton of people in the audience. Mr. Pritchard said the people were present to speak and hopefully the Committee would listen to what they had to say. He encouraged all of the people in the audience who something to say to come forward and not to leave wishing that they had spoken up. Mr. Pritchard said he hoped everyone on Township Committee would keep an open mind.

Ms. Gatto read the following statement: *First of all I want to take this opportunity to thank the public for showing up and taking a great deal of interest in this year's budget. I appreciate those of you who have contacted us both collectively and individually to provide your input like Harry Rogers, Russ Bongiovanni, Rob Curtain, Peg Capone, my fellow gym-goers, neighbors, even my own uncle and especially my fellow committeepersons. I'm hoping that after tonight we can agree to disagree wherever that might apply and move on to continue doing good work as a team. And I appreciate you lending me your open ear to listen to our comments about changes that have occurred since we introduced this budget as I think it may have an impact on some public comment here tonight. Since this budget was introduced at our last meeting, the financial climate has changed even more. The State of new Jersey has placed a tremendous burden on us as a municipality and as individual taxpayers with inconsistent messages and budget "tricks" being thrust in our laps and essentially holding us hostage. First, we received our state aid numbers which were \$86,000 less than we were told to plan for. Next, we received an alert from the local finance board stating that unless all tools from the governor's office were used - like school deferral and pension deferral-applications for cap waivers would not be approved. What does this mean to us? First we know that we will not be approved for our \$200,000 cap waiver for the reval as we had initially anticipated. This money must now be taken out of the budget and dealt with in some way. Second, the \$86,000 will now be added to the budget to be raised by taxation. The good news is: These two actions will reduce the municipal tax increase from 5.5 cents to 4.4 cents. Couple this with the flat and reduced taxes at the k-8 and regional school districts respectively and the average homeowner should see little to no tax impact on this year's tax bill. The bad news is: \$286,000 gets added to our structural deficit, which is climbing to approximately \$2.8 million at this point. How do we manage the \$200,000? For your information, because a contract has been awarded for the revaluation, we cannot simply cancel it at this point to avoid the \$200,000 expenditure. So the finance committee, and any of the members of finance committee can correct me if I am wrong on any of these stats, sat for three hours debating how to manage this money during a scheduled meeting meant to continue discussions on our 2010 Strategy. Right off the bat, it was agreed that we would not consider a pension deferral. It would cost 8% interest rate and has way more cons than pros. Next came the discussion about adding it to the school deferral - raising the deferral amount from \$379,000 to \$579,000. The committee agreed that we would likely have to use the school deferral tool for the next 5 years to fund the revaluation barring any approved cap waivers along the way. Therefore, we agreed to add the \$200,000 to the school deferral in exchange for \$200,000 in cuts from somewhere else because we did not want the school deferral to exceed the already agreed upon \$379,000. Because we had already cut so many services and activities during the introduction process and because we needed to make \$200,000 in recurring cuts, as Mr. Palmentieri just spoke about, we looked at staffing levels via information from the administrator and the finance office. The finance committee determined it to be prudent to reduce headcount by 9 positions and to reduce the work weeks of other departments effective July 1, 2009. This is part of the recommendation we will be making by way of a budget amendment barring any other changes emerging from discussion after our public hearing. I'm told that, in accordance with current practice, the employees who will be laid off will be selected via a "last in, first out" approach. And while I don't discount seniority, I would have liked for the process to give some weight to performance.*

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In an economic time when we are forced to do less with less, we can't afford to have low performers on our team. At the same time, it is unfortunate that some of our best employees will be impacted by this reduction simply because they are at the bottom of the list. Yes, we did begin retooling the budget last year as we implemented a new performance review process year yielding \$72,000 in savings and which is slowly maturing. It is my promise to you that I will continue to work to grow and fast track this performance review process while I'm in office. And I'll start by asking the administrator to include this in future contract negotiations if it is the will of the Committee. And let me again take a moment to thank those employees who gave volunteer furloughs. Without you, this number would have been a lot worse. Finally, the finance committee will continue to meet to put together a comprehensive budget strategy going into 2010. The finance committee appreciates the mayor's recommendations, most of which were already being discussed and will take any new ideas under consideration as well. Thank you.

Mrs. Anderson asked Mr. Palmentieri and Ms. Gatto for copies of the statements they read for the record.

Mr. Silva said this budget process has been complex and painful. He said it saddened him that it has strained relationships and destroyed friendships. Mr. Silva said he isn't a part of a Committee that wants to keep everything and change nothing. He said that since the beginning of the budget discussions he has held the same position, that the Committee must cut spending and not defer it. Mr. Silva thanked everyone for coming tonight because he knew their presence and words will have an impact on the Committee and how the Committee responds will define them. He said it is equally important that the Committee recognize that a lot of the residents have cut spending because they are unemployed and they are looking to the Township Committee to see what they can do to lighten the load for them. Mr. Silva said that while some Committee Members are wrestling with an introduced budget going in the wrong direction, ignoring 65% of the budget while only addressing 35%, will jeopardize the financial position of this township causing us to run out of money very shortly. He said that will necessitate taking out a Tax Anticipation Note that will further dig the hole for the township. Mr. Silva said everyone doesn't get what they want so there has to be trade-offs but to date he hasn't seen any compromise. He said the solution to the structural deficit begins this year, not next year. Mr. Silva said the Committee must attack both years in one and get to the bottom of it. He said that until that is recognized he can't in all good conscience support a budget as it was introduced and he will vote against.

Mayor Gaskill thanked everyone for coming tonight. He said he strongly disagreed with Mr. Silva and Ms. Gatto just said. The Mayor said he believed the Committee has to be more aware of public safety and some of the cuts the public will hear tonight when they get ready to parade out the names of those they want to cut, the positions they want to cut, and who they want to cut will be a tremendous factor on your public safety. Mayor Gaskill said cutting police officers, cutting public works, cutting the courts, it is beyond him why that has to be done when the Committee has other means to change it. The Mayor said the Committee can go to the school tax deferral and it isn't going to harm anyone in the room or the schools. Mayor Gaskill said he laid out in his letter to the Current newspaper how he felt, how he thought the Committee should approached it. The Mayor said he thought the Committee should approach in a human factor. He said he received e-mails, letters and phone calls and letters and that is how many people agree it should be done. Mayor Gaskill said the Committee should not be in the midst of cutting people and putting them the street with no job. He said they are probably the lowest paid workers around here except casino workers that work for tips and the Township employees are very, very good employees. Mayor Gaskill said every department in the Township is short-staffed now and they still get the job done. He said when the Committee starts cutting people, people will have to wait for services or won't get the services. The Mayor said he didn't think the Committee should start putting people on the street when the federal government is trying create jobs. Mayor Gaskill said they have to get people back to work and not put them on the street. He said they will start losing their homes and as he has said before, families will be split up and there will be more domestic violence. The Mayor said crime has gone up almost 100% the first quarter of this year versus this year and it is going to increase , not decrease. Mayor Gaskill said that he thinks it is the wrong way to go when it starts to affect the public safety. The Mayor said he will listen to what everyone has to say tonight and he hopes everyone listens very carefully to what is going to be said tonight. He said he appreciated everyone coming tonight and expressing their opinion.

Mayor Gaskill asked that everyone have their cell phone shut off or on vibrate; that people be respectful to each other because everyone has a right to their opinion. The Mayor explained the Township policy, which has been in effect for a long time, is that each speaker has 5 minutes.

Mrs. Anderson read a resolution authorizing reading the 2009 by Title only and explained the governing body had to adopted before the public hearing could be opened.

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

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-8 provides that the budget be read by title only at the time of public hearing if a resolution is passed by not less than a majority of the full governing body, providing that at least one week prior to the date of the hearing a complete copy of the approved budget as advertised has been posted in the Municipal Building, the local public library, and copies have been made available by the Clerk to persons requesting them; and

WHEREAS, those conditions have been met,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton, in the County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, that the budget shall be read by title only.

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

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

2009 Municipal Budget public hearing

Aline Dix said she looked at 25 purchase orders and filed 5 OPRA requests. Ms. Dix said she was given a report that said the Township paid \$43,328.82 for 12 lifeguards and 4 inspectors in the 2008 season and the expenses for Recreation of \$2,142.82 which rounded off was about \$45,000.00. She said the Recreation expenses included shirts, whistles, and whatever but she didn't review those purchase orders. Ms. Dix said she bought her own lab coats, shoes and stockings while she was a laboratory technician for 10 years and she thinks the lifeguards can buy their own shirts and whistles or bring last year's whistles back. She said she thought expenses could be cut there. Ms. Dix said it is a small amount of money in the total scheme and government isn't here to do everything but, as the Mayor said, government is here to provide public safety. She said the issue of the Cove is exactly that; it is specialized training of a seasonal nature. Ms. Dix said the Cove was open 783 hours in 2008, 9 hours a day for 87 days; 2870 seasonal badges were sold, 1579 to residents over age of 12; 2119 daily tags, 505 to township residents; a total of 1796 township residents paid for beach tags and it doesn't count the number of people who jumped over the fence. Ms. Dix said that according to work she did from the papers she got from Mr. Silva last Thursday, the lifeguards were paid \$27,720.90 for 2864-3/4 hours that comes to 3-2/3 lifeguards per hour every hour the Cove was open. The inspectors were paid \$15,567.57 for 1567 hours, including one that had some overtime that comes to 2 inspectors for every hour the Cove was open. She said that the revenue should be about \$38,000.00 based on the number of beach tags in the OPRA response. Ms. Dix said she wouldn't debate the numbers because the Township wins whether she is 100% right or 100% wrong. She suggested the Cove open June 20th, 7 hours a day for 11 days in June; be open 11a.m. to 7p.m. in July, 8 hours a day for 31 days; be open for only 30 days in August, 6 hours a day; that the Cove close on August 30th, 1 week before Labor Day; that the Cove only be open to 5p.m. in August because there are so few people there in August; the inspectors be paid \$9.00 per hour and the lifeguards \$9.50 per hour which would total about \$13,000.00; and that giving a 25-cent an hour bonus to any lifeguard who stays the whole summer be considered. Ms. Dix said the whole payroll that way would be \$18,897.00. She said the beach tag total was about \$38,000.00 which is almost double that so if she is 100% right the Township has a 100% gain and if she is 100% wrong it will be a tie, the Cove will have been open and the salary will have been covered. Ms. Dix questioned why the Public Works expenses were charged to the Cove and said she would like to see what was charged to the Hickory Street soccer field, ball fields, hockey courts and all of the other recreation sites. She said there are 10 or 11 recreation sites that are all maintained by Public Works and she asked why the Cove was treated differently. Ms. Dix said if the Cove wasn't treated differently the alleged \$40,000.00 deficit would go away. She said Public Works will be working whether they go check the gate like they did today and charge it to the Cove or they check the Dam and charge it to the Cove. Ms. Dix said Public Works isn't the issue, management is. She said a bunch of bosses aren't needed, people to do the work are needed and how they are scheduled is up to the Township. She said her numbers were hard and real numbers. Ms. Dix gave each Committee Member a copy of her proposal.

Mr. Pritchard asked if last year's revenue could be anticipated if the Cove was put back in the budget. Mr. Sasdelli said the problem is expenses, not revenue. He explained it can be done but if the Committee adds it back in the lifeguard salary line item change would exceed 10% and the amendment would have to be advertised and the Committee would have to wait 10 days and hold another public hearing on the amendment before the budget could be adopted because those salaries were not included in the introduced budget.

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Ms. Dix commented on talking to people over the weekend and said there are lifeguards who worked at the Cove last year who probably won't have a job if the Cove isn't open. She said the Township won't have a problem getting staff. Ms. Dix said there may not be 12 lifeguards and there won't be 4 beach inspectors working the way they did last year, but it can work.

Jeff Armbruster said things popped up when he looked at the budget. He said he got a worksheet on the budget and he had to pay \$20.00 instead of \$10.00 because it wasn't copied two-sided. Mr. Armbruster questioned the payment of \$66,000.00 a year for building rental under fire safety. He said he didn't know why the Township is paying rent to anyone when they take property from people for not paying their taxes and he could put up a steel building on his property for \$10,000.00. Mr. Armbruster questioned who and why people were taking cars home. He commented on falling asleep watching TV and when he wakes up at 1 o'clock in the morning the soccer field lights are on. He said people use one field but turn on the lights for all 4 fields and if he wakes up again at 4 o'clock in the morning the lights are still on. He said he goes down and tries to turn them off but can't because you need a key to get into the breaker box. Mr. Armbruster asked if the clubs that use the fields pay for the electric. He said it is crazy not to have lifeguards at Lake Lenape that are \$30,000.00 and the cell phone bills are \$40,000.00. Mr. Armbruster questioned who has cell phones and how many the Township really needs. He commented on looking at line items and someone asked for \$10.00 and instead of giving her \$5.00 they give her \$30.00. Mr. Armbruster said the major costs are labor and utilities. He commented on seeing \$20,000.00 for lights and asked if it included the soccer fields. Mr. Armbruster said it is a waste for all the fields to be lit when only one is being used. He said he has a handicapped child and people speed on his street but he never called the police to complain. Mr. Armbruster said there were kids at the fields playing soccer on Saturday and 15 people in the pit with motorcycles. He said there were 2 police officers at the fields but nobody at the pit. Mr. Armbruster said the motorcyclists may have a note from the owner saying it is okay. He said he lives next to the pit and has never called the police when there are motorcycles in there at 10 o'clock at night. Mr. Armbruster commented on seeing township vehicles go down his street and said there is wasted labor. He said the joke on his street is what is yellow and sleeps 6. He said there isn't always 40 hours of work to be done and they end up at the soccer fields.

Mayor Gaskill asked Mr. Sasdelli to address Mr. Armbruster's question on the building rental. Mr. Sasdelli explained the Township buys the fire apparatus is with tax dollars and has to have a place to house the 26 pieces of fire apparatus. He said the fire companies own the firehouses, not the Township, so the Township pays them rent to house the apparatus and that gives the fire companies operating revenue to support the volunteer fire companies that respond 24/7 for fire protection. The Mayor asked Mr. Tuthill if the light bill was for all the street lights. Mr. Tuthill said it is for all the lights in the entire Township. Mr. Armbruster said there were more lights than needed at the soccer field and it is a waste.

Robert Shober questioned what the assumption on the tax collection rate was. Mr. Sasdelli explained the actual rate of collection last year was 98.08 and the rate anticipated in this year's budget is 97.84%. Mr. Shober said page 52 of the budget shows budget fund total requested for 2009 is \$25,088,855.22 and what is recommended is \$25,787,219.07. He questioned how a budget could be put forth that is higher than what was recommended. Mr. Sasdelli explained the \$1.2 million reserve for uncollected taxes wasn't in what Mr. Shober looked at. He said that it is the number the Township has to reserve based on the anticipated tax collection rate and the Township has to over-collect so to speak and reserve that amount for people who aren't going to pay their taxes. Mr. Shober said that given the economic situation a conservative approach is best at this time so he kind of supports Mr. Silva's position on things but felt that maybe he didn't go far enough. He said he read in the paper that about \$10,000.00 was cut in the health insurance buyout and asked if that was still the correct amount. Mayor Gaskill explained the original buyout percentage was 50% of the premium and that it was changed to 40% now. Mr. Shober suggested the savings be put towards the Cove. He said he didn't see the buyout as an essential, necessary service and suggested it be done away with entirely. Mr. Shober asked if the Township was a member of the State Health Benefits Plan. The Mayor said it is. Mr. Shober commented on Ms. Gatto talk about reducing head count and asked if there were ways to save a position by reducing overtime expenses. Mayor Gaskill said the Committee already cut departments down and overtime is really low compared to what it used to be. The Mayor said that if more people are cut overtime will probably go up to maintain the same services. He said that will be a big factor in the police department and the courts and will surely go up there because they are short handed now. Mr. Shober asked if there could be less time in the court. Mayor Gaskill said that according to the State the Township is already 1.33 persons short in the court now. He said the last employee hired in there was to cut overtime and if it is cut further they will have to go back to using overtime. Mr. Shober asked if the courses and seminars listed on the worksheet are for out of state travel. Mr. Sasdelli said most of them are in either Trenton or Atlantic City and are rarely out of state. Mr. Shober recommended the ones that are in there be removed. He said there is \$75,000.00 for telephones but

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only \$65,000.00 was spent last year. Mr. Shober suggested it be cut back to \$65,000.00 and a safeguard be put on who can make long distance phone calls. He asked if there was a system in place that can assure gas purchased is used for township services. Mayor Gaskill said the township has its own gas facility and Mr. Sasdelli said there is a numbering system where you have to put in your number to get it.

Jamal Hazelwood thanked the Committee for the opportunity to work with the Township police department. He said they are understaffed and do great job compared to other departments. Mr. Hazelwood said they do it because of the positions being eliminated including his own position as a Special Officer. He said that he was sworn in on December 19th to protect the public and keep their best interests at heart and he believes he has done that. He said that in the 32 days he actually worked he generated \$29,000.00 in summons which is equivalent to 197 tickets for improper parking, parking in a fire zone and handicapped parking violations. He questioned what value the Committee put on community safety. Mr. Hazelwood said he believed eliminating the 9 positions will put a great strain on the department that is already understaffed. He said he believes the public and township he grew up in deserves to have a full staffed department of people of good character to help them. Mr. Hazelwood said the way the economy is right now it is going to be tough. Mayor Gaskill asked Mr. Hazelwood how long he has been with the Township and if he had a job prior to coming here. Mr. Hazelwood said he has been here 3 months. He said that before that he was a supervisor in a casino and was laid off because of budget cuts and that he was a supervisor at Gourmet Liquor and laid off because of budget cuts. Mr. Hazelwood said the layoff will affect his family and most of all it will affect the public. He said he was sworn in to protect the public and hopefully he will be able to continue doing that.

A woman who only identified herself as Jennifer said she applauded the Mayor on his interview in last week's Current. She said not everyone in this town sees the Mayor strictly as a union guy. Jennifer said that at least he is trying to come up with constructive ways of solving the current financial problem without layoffs and he deserves a little more cooperation from the other elected officials for his effort. She said shame on those residents and officials who accuse the Mayor of looking out for union employees and not the taxpayers of the township. She asked if they are so blinded by their intent to lay people off that they fail to see that those union employees are also taxpayers in this township. Jennifer said Deputy Mayor Silva said tough enough decisions haven't been made and seems to imply that layoffs are the only answer. She said that simply is not true and not to panic here now because a lot can happen between now and 2010. Jennifer said we are facing hard times but all must make sacrifices now beginning with the elected and appointed officials in lieu of layoffs. She said they should immediately relinquish their health care benefits and opt-out money as should any employee who works for the township and has other means of insurance. She said the Committee should dissolve the MUA and absorb their employees into a municipal department or division as the Mayor stated in his interview. She said the Committee should offer incentives to the 23 employees that are eligible to retire, reward them for dedication and allow them to enjoy their golden years. She said many employees have already given up furlough time to avoid layoffs of their co-workers and that she was sure that they would also relinquish next year's raises if the administration would put in writing that there would be no layoffs. Jennifer asked for the Committee to reconsider laying off employees. She said that isn't the answer and will only make a bad situation worse. Jennifer said the Committee should open up their minds and hearts and remember that the fate of those people who the Committee is about to vote to lay off are also members of the community who shop here, pay taxes here, raise families here and are our neighbors.

Michelle Giordino asked if the Committee Members received the letters and petition from the Davies Middle School 8th grade students. They all acknowledged receiving them. Mr. Silva extended thanks on behalf of the Committee to Ms. Garofolo, the Language Arts Class teacher. He said he read every one of the letter. Ms. Giordino said she is their voice tonight. She said the students asked township residents for solutions to solve some of the economic hardships in the budget for the Cove. Ms. Giordino said one major concern was salaries for the lifeguards. She said people offered solutions and services. Ms. Giordino said opening a limited snack stand would probably pay for several salaries. She said it is now time for the Township Committee to step up to the plate and think outside the box. She said she thought Ms. Dix made good points and had thought outside the box for the Committee. Ms. Giordino said the children are the future and will be sitting where the Committee is now. She said the Committee is taking things away from those children and when they take the Members seats what they will remember is that the way to solve problems is to eliminate. Ms. Giordino said keeping the Cove closed isn't public safety and the students already have plans on how to get into the Cove. She said she isn't ready to attend a funeral for another student for something that can be prevented. Ms. Giordino said the students asked that the Cove be kept open for them.

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An unidentified woman said she was speaking on behalf of the Senior Center. She said that while the children may be our future the seniors are our history. The woman said the seniors respectfully requested that the Committee consider the life sustaining agent the Center is for the older members of their constituency before any cuts are made to the Senior Center. She said they rely on the Center for doctors' visits, going to the pharmacy and doing their food shopping. The woman said there may be other means available but they are very taxing. She said any doctor would tell them about how the Senior Center is always there promptly picking people up after their appointments and getting them home. The woman said when the County Transport System takes them, seniors are left to sit in doctors' offices for hours waiting for someone to come back to get them. She said that may be okay when you are ten but, when you are 94, it is extremely unhealthy to be sitting in a doctors' office for hours and not knowing when you are going to get home. The woman said that while there may be a lot of safety issues, the fact is that the Hamilton Township Senior Services are life-sustaining and a safety net. She said not only do the seniors vote, they pay taxes and their families vote and pay taxes. The woman said it is really important that the Committee consider the impact on seniors and the whole community before any cuts are considered.

An unidentified woman said she bought a home on Park Road, one house from the Cove, 12 years ago and thought this area had something to offer that none of the other areas have. She said she also owns a home in Margate and a couple in Galloway but her home in Mays Landing has character and is historical. She said that she loved the Lake Lenape beach and when she bought that home it was for her daughter to go to and also to the skating rink down the street. She questioned how the Committee could take that away from an area that has few things to offer. The woman said everybody all around knows of the Lake Lenape beach. She said the skating rink and beach offer something that no other area has to offer and it should be historical like all the homes are. The woman said she paid \$1,500.00 in flood insurance and didn't do it to look at the lake; she did it because the beach was right there. She commented on working in a casino for 28 years and said they used to have all their picnics at Lenape Park when it was open. The woman said she believes police are extremely important and when she calls 911 she wants an officer at her home and doesn't want to wait. She said they shouldn't be cut. The woman said children need someplace to go in the summer to hang out and the Cove is their built-in swimming pool, especially those that can't afford to go to summer camp. She suggested keeping the Cove open Friday, Saturday and Sunday. She said that should cut some of the expenses and also gives the children something. The woman said there might be a problem keeping them away Monday through Thursday and she wouldn't want to see a drowning. She said kids don't listen.

Peggy Capone said the current contracted raises for 2009 and 2010 are equivalent to \$1 million and asked Ms. Gatto if she thought they should have been frozen considering the Township' current budget shortfall. Ms. Gatto said she wished something could have been done with them for 2009 but it couldn't be and that is why the Township asked for furloughs. She said she hoped that the raises for 2010 will be frozen. Mrs. Capone said the furloughs were about \$150,000.00. Mrs. Capone said she felt bad for the gentleman who was here with his two daughters (Jamal Hazelwood). She asked if it was accurate that he would still have a job and the Township wouldn't be in the red if the salaries had been frozen in 2009. Ms. Gatto said it was accurate. Mrs. Capone asked Mr. Pritchard if he thought it would be prudent to eliminate the purchase 4 police cars for an approximate savings of \$200,000.00 if police officers are being laid off. Mr. Pritchard said it was accurate that some were being laid off but he didn't agree that they should be. He said the Township was short on the number of police cars they bought several years ago and that has come back to haunt them. Mr. Pritchard said it is a dangerous situation to have police officers driving around in cars with 200,000 miles on them. He said there are state mandates as to when you have to replace the vehicles. Mr. Pritchard said that unless Mrs. Capone wanted the officers riding around on bicycles, the Township has to get cars. The Mayor said Mrs. Capone should direct her questions to the Chair. Ms. Gatto said the number in the budget was already cut from 8 to 4. Mrs. Capone said the cost to close the Cove and cancel Hometown Celebration and the Halloween Parade was estimated to be \$52,000.00. She said the majority of the residents out tonight were present because the Committee is going to lay off employees and close the Cove but they wouldn't be here if the Committee had frozen the raises. Ms. Gatto said the Township can't just freeze the raises. Mrs. Capone commented on having been at budget meetings for two months now and heard several people pointedly ask for it and Mr. Silva was the only person who agreed to the freezes. She said everyone else wanted to defer everything. She asked if it was accurate that at the March 16th meeting she heard the anticipated budget shortfall next year is \$3 million. Ms. Gatto said it is \$2.8 now. Mr. Pritchard said you can't freeze wages when they are already under contract. Mrs. Capone said it was in the newspaper that the State, Egg Harbor Township and Atlantic County are all doing it and this Township didn't even try. Ms. Gatto said the Township did try. Mr. Pritchard said Mrs. Capone was incorrect. Mrs. Capone asked they were referring to the \$150,000.00 in furlough given back. Ms. Gatto said it wasn't. Mayor Gaskill said he didn't believe the State did it yet. He said Mr. Corzine proposed it but it is still in court and hasn't happened yet. The Mayor said his proposal to move forward and be as fair as the Committee can be this year is to meet with the unions and try to get a pay freeze for 2010 for all employees, both

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union and non-union employees and the professionals. Mrs. Capone asked Mr. Silva what was done to attempt a freeze in 2009. Mr. Silva said what was done actually started earlier and really started with the reorganization of the Township. He said he thought that was a streamlining of the departments, accountability and looking at what the Township had and what it needed to go forward. Mr. Silva said other things were done like dissolving the Garbage District happened that accounted for \$1.2 million that is being used this year and will have to be replaced next year which is compounding the deficit. Mr. Silva said other streamlining was done that most of the department heads looked at and made recommendations on. He said there was a hiring freeze so that not only would nobody new be hired but anyone who left would not be replaced. Mr. Silva said he didn't think the Committee went far enough last year but they didn't have any idea of the impact on this year. He said a very profound statement made tonight was that if none of this had come forward in the past week or two the room wouldn't be as packed as it is tonight. Mr. Silva said that he, maybe with another Committee person or not, might be the lone individuals who believe in fiscal responsibility. He said he also feels that government grows in good times and nobody worries about it but nobody wants to take the shrinkage now that they are hitting tough times. Mr. Silva said he knows the pain of this economy because it has hit his family very hard and he also knows the pain of being a senior because he is one. He said he hears the words people are speaking.

Harry Rogers said the Committee may not be trying to avoid Mrs. Capone but they are trying to avoid him. The Mayor said they aren't trying to avoid anyone. Mr. Rogers said he was intentionally cut out of the video of the last meeting by someone and he would speak about that at the end of the meeting. He said he stood before the Committee as a union member and that he just came back from having to cancel 24 union jobs and lay off 24 union people because the business, like the Township, ran out of money. He said government and private businesses at all levels are going back and renegotiating contracts. Mr. Rogers said the Committee has been nibbling at the edges up to now talking about miniscule, very popular things that cost pennies and seem to inflame people. He said the Committee has targeted the people at the bottom of the rung who actually do the work instead of spreading the pain equally amongst the employees and giving them a chance to spread the pain equally. Mr. Rogers said the Committee is talking about pay raise freezes and isn't looking at the 65% of the budget where the real money is. He said he knows he is looking at a 20+% wage decrease this year and that his company is asking the unions that they contract with for a 15% to 20% decrease starting the middle of 2009. Mr. Rogers said the Committee went to the bottom and has given rise to the very visceral outpouring because they cut 9 people and still hasn't addressed the real problem. Mr. Rogers said the Township has had 10 years of silly run away spending. He said the Township budget rose 3 to 4 times the rate of personal income and for 10 years the Township outspent its income by 3 to 4 times. He said the pain is going to be hard but the Committee had several mechanisms before them to spread the pain more equally. Mr. Rogers said there have been sacrosanct groups that haven't been touched and the Committee is taking it out on people like Mr. Jamal (sic). He said there was plenty of opportunity to spread the pain equally or let the departments themselves decide how the cuts would be applied. Mr. Rogers said the Committee will never agree as a group to individual micro-managing points. He said this year's problem is tiny in comparison to what will be faced next year and the year beyond. Mr. Rogers said the Committee hasn't taken the steps to address the fundamental causes of the problem and said they are the dramatic, runaway spending for the past 10 years. Mr. Rogers said police and teachers' contracts should all be on the table. He said he knows union people across the board at every level of government and industry are up against the economic reality that his organization faced last week when they ran out of money and 48 people are now out of work because of the way they crew their ships with 2 men for every position. Mr. Rogers said the Township needs to do the same thing and that talking about wage freezes is nipping away at the edges. He said he applauded Mr. Silva and Ms. Gatto because he saw movement towards fiscal responsibility but the core of the problem isn't being addressed. Mr. Rogers said 10 years of run away, irresponsible spending has put the Township where it is. He said the Committee must make the hard decisions and must renegotiate the contracts ahead of their due dates or present department heads with a budget and tell them to live within it however they choose to do it. Mr. Rogers said the only reason this conversation was being held tonight is because the Committee lacked the ability to raise taxes in the way it was done in the past. He said everything would be fine if taxes could be raised as much as the town wanted too. Mr. Rogers said the Township has a cap that was put on it by perhaps the most irresponsible spender the State has ever seen and they have to live within it. He said other reasons for the problem are the Township is losing ratables and there is an outflow of people from the state because of rising taxes. Mr. Rogers said he appreciates the very difficult position the Committee is in. He said his message has always been the same no matter who sat on the Committee and there was nothing personal in it.

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Marcus King introduced himself as the Business Agent for Teamsters Local 331 representing the Township's white and blue collar employees. He said there are resolutions without cutting or laying off employees. Mr. King said that the employees they represent are already cut to a fine line. He said when there was conversation about layoffs and you looked at the seniority list of who would be laid off it was clear that the town is streamlined in terms of employees and getting the work done. Mr. King said he thinks that in the event there is a lay off the Committee will find an increase in overtime. He said the first time the Township came to the union about deferring some days they did it and everybody across the board collectively was willing and working together. Mr. King said some might say it was no big deal but it was a huge deal because some of the people who work in the township, live in the township and pay taxes in the township are the very people the Committee is talking about laying off. He said they gave up days collectively, up front and made no bones about it. Mr. King referred to the gentleman who spoke before him about cutting and said it is an easy solution but it does not fix the problem. He said it will take hard work from everyone. Mr. King said this isn't the only town that is in this predicament. He said he thought Mayor Gaskill was correct, that everyone had to take a step back, take a good look to see if it was possible that jobs could be saved and if it is they should look at that first before being ready to cut. He said everyone in the room knows it doesn't solve the problem. Mr. King asked if there was a way to buy some time to see if they can fix the problem. He said that he thought they can. Mr. King said it isn't a union problem or non-union problem, it is an everybody problem and it will never be fixed until it is looked at that way. Mr. King said the Committee should think real hard before they cut (Jamal Hazelwood) or the woman who works in the tax office bringing in revenue for the town. He said cutting is easy and working through it may be a little difficult but the whole town will benefit from it.

Alan Dumoff commented on coming to Township meetings for many years and said that every meeting he looks at the expenses (the bill list). He said the Township doesn't manage itself well enough and he blames Mr. Sasdelli because he is the Business Administrator. Mr. Dumoff said something is wrong when he sees \$84.95 for a package of 100 CDs that he can buy for \$22.00 in Staples. He said there was \$65,000.00 for a piece of public works equipment a month or so ago. Mr. Dumoff said he had no doubt it was needed but asked if it couldn't have been deferred. He said the Township isn't in a position to afford that. Mr. Dumoff said the budget is broken down into 3 major entities; the police get their share, public works gets their share and the rest of the town gets their share. He said there are things in that he doesn't understand why the township has them like AR15s. Mr. Dumoff questioned when the township last needed a SWAT team. He said the employees do their jobs and do them well. Mr. Dumoff said it is time for the township to manage its spending and to do it real finitely.

Mayor Gaskill said that in all fairness to Mr. Sasdelli, the Administrator works at the pleasure of the Township Committee and they are the body that approves the bills, not the Administrator. The Mayor said the Township has one of the finest Administrators in South Jersey and that he believes everyone on Committee collectively believes that.

Mr. Pritchard said that a lot of times the township is handcuffed by state regulations that basically force the municipality to go by their rules and buy things through State Contracts. He said the Township can't just run out and buy things from Wal-Mart because they are cheaper. Mr. Pritchard said the Township is obligated by the laws of the State of New Jersey which can be extremely cumbersome and very inefficient.

Mr. Silva said there have been comments made about the situation that has existed for over last 10 years and there is no need to blame anybody for it. He said he would very boldly make the statement that if this Administrator had been here for those entire 10 years the Township would not have those problems.

Eileen Shenkel said she has been a resident for about 27 years and when she first moved here she found the Cove was the thing to do. She said it is still the thing to do in the summer because there really is nothing else for families with young children to do. Mrs. Shenkel said the fact that the Committee is thinking of not opening the Cove upsets her. She asked where the kids and mothers with young children will go to spend 2 to 4 hours a day locally and not have to pack up at 6 o'clock in the morning to go to the shore. She said always took her girls to the Cove when they were little and her grandson is at the age where she looked forward to taking him to the Cove. Mrs. Shenkel asked if it would be possible to open a snack bar for easy things like nachos and cheese, cold drinks and snacks. She said people were always running to WaWa to get lunches and there is always a huge line when the ice cream man comes there. Mrs. Shenkel said she knows that families with little kids would benefit by it. Mrs. Shenkel said from the stands at the ball fields that there is a huge profit in it because they can buy hot dogs for \$1.00 a pack and sell them for \$2.00 each. She said the Committee could think about that to bring revenue in and it wouldn't cost much to get a couple of youngsters like the lifeguards to run it for the season. Mrs. Shenkel said she thought it would be a money maker for the town.

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Mr. Silva said Mrs. Shenkel's comments were well taken but a person that worked in the casinos commented earlier that they remembered when Lenape Park was open. He said there was an article in the Press last week when the County said they would open Lenape Park for all types of activities. Mr. Silva said it has a refreshment stand, picnic areas, barbecue areas, and an abundance of parking. He asked Mrs. Shenkel if it didn't bother her that the County doesn't want to open that beach where people used to swim. Mr. Silva said there should be some way that the County could partner with the Township because they have enough open space and are partners in the lake so they should be taking on some of the heavy lift rather than them taking one side and the Township Committee opting to maybe or maybe not do the other side. Mr. Silva said there should be a blending so the Township and County don't have to duplicate their efforts. He said he thought that might be the better way to go. Mr. Silva said he went there when his children were small and they liked all the activities but unfortunately the public doesn't have that now. Mrs. Shenkel questioned why the County bought all that land if they aren't going to let people swim there. Ms. Gatto said she thought the Committee should ask the County before bashing them.

Robert J. Campbell, Sr., said he understood Freeholder Schroeder introduced a potential resolution at the last Freeholder meeting for the County to investigate immediately to potentially take over the Cove or operation of Lake. He said he isn't absolutely sure and can't confirm it but he knows that Freeholder Schroeder brought it up at their last meeting. Mr. Campbell said the Township does have the prospect at this point of the County coming in and taking over some parts of the swimming and recreation. Ms. Gatto said she doesn't want a take-over, she would rather have a partnership. Mr. Campbell said it is his understanding that the County would come in and work out some details with the Mayor and Administrator. He said he didn't think all was lost with the Cove. Mr. Campbell said it is the only place to swim at Lake Lenape now. He said something is wrong when the County owns both sides of the lake and won't let anybody swim in it. Mr. Campbell said he thought it would be a great thing if the County could come in and help with the Cove. He said he understood Freeholder Giordano agreed to it and it looked like it could be a bipartisan situation.

Mr. Campbell said he didn't know if the suggestion he made before that the Committee look at 4-day weeks for 6 to 7 months and that way nobody would be laid off was looked at. He said he knows the Committee did studies on it but he wasn't involved in them and didn't hear much more about it. Mr. Campbell said that in his opinion it was a good suggestion. He commented on the Township having to lay off 7 police officers because of a budget crisis when he was on Township Committee and said it was the worst thing he ever had to do in his life. Mr. Campbell said the patrolmen are needed and an asset to the community but times get tough and the Committee has to get tougher. He said the Committee has to make their decision and even if it is difficult to do what they have to do, he would back them if they had to do it. He said he feels it is important for the Committee to be careful with what happens this year because it will be 3 or 4 times worse next year unless the Committee does something this year. Mr. Campbell said he thought the Committee was on the way to doing it and he hoped they do it. Mr. Campbell said he hoped the Township could keep the great policemen and employees they have because the people in these governmental offices are by and large terrific employees and he thinks the Committee should keep every one of them.

Ms. Gatto asked Mr. Sasdelli if he had gotten anything more on the governor's order on temporary layoffs for civil service employees. Mr. Sasdelli explained the order allows the governor to consider unpaid furlough that is considered a temporary lay off as opposed to a schedule change. Mr. Sasdelli explained it applies to civil service towns and those communities got the ability to do it. He said Hamilton Township isn't a civil service community and the question that he still doesn't have the answer to is whether it will apply to non-civil service communities if they want to implement it. He said a lot of time was spent on the 4-day schedule and the Committee knows who it would apply to and how much money it would save if it was only done in June, July and August. He said it is still on the table and a lot of time was spent on it. Mr. Sasdelli said he doesn't have the answer yet to the question of whether the Township can mandate it or it has to be a negotiated schedule change.

Mr. Silva asked Mr. Sasdelli what the State has said regarding people retiring early. Mr. Sasdelli said there are 23 people eligible to retire in 2009 but that doesn't mean they are going to. He said he and the finance committee embarked on what kind of things the Township could do for somebody that might entice them to retire. Mr. Sasdelli said when he checked with the State and the Auditor he learned the State is cracking down on it because it is concerned that a lot of towns are giving incentives for people to retire, people are leaving their employment and going into pension system but employers aren't replacing them so those people are collecting their pension and nobody is coming in to pay the bill. Mr. Costello said the Committee has to get approval from the Division of Pensions if they want to do it. Mr. Sasdelli said the State could recalculate the Township's pension contribution that if they do it and Mr. Costello said they could also increase the Township's liability. Mr. Sasdelli said it is still on the table. Ms. Gatto said the Township is handcuffed again by the State. Mayor Gaskill asked Mr.

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Sasdelli if he had had time to look into other things the Township could do to offer incentives. Mr. Sasdelli said there are things in the Township ordinance and contracts about unused sick and vacation time and unused comp time that can be done that wouldn't be considered early retirement.

Charles Cain commented on attending both Township Committee meetings and Planning Board meetings lately and said he sees a tone being taken that this is a union thing. He said it is about time that it stopped being seen as a union thing because it is an economic thing, not a union thing. Mr. Cain said every day employees, not only union employees, are being laid off. He said he personally had to cut his staff in half to survive and if he hadn't made those tough decisions, the other half of his staff wouldn't have jobs. Mr. Cain said he hasn't taken a pay check himself since October of last year so that he can continue to employ people. He said he had to listen to the gentleman from the Teamsters' Union (Mr. King) say how he has been to other Township meetings and this isn't the only town going through this. Mr. Cain asked where Mr. King's ideas were before the Committee came to these decisions. He referred to Mr. King saying that cutting is easy and said it isn't. He said it is the toughest thing one can do and he doesn't believe any of the Committee Members want to do it. Mr. Cain said the Township might not be in that situation if Mr. King had come in earlier and renegotiated and cut back on expenses for the employees. He said he doesn't want to see (Officer Hazelwood) lose his job because he is generating revenue for the township and cares about his job. Mr. Cain said he didn't want to see anybody lose their job but the Committee has to take fiscal responsibility and live within their means. He said he would go out of business if he didn't do that. Mr. Cain said Mr. King had the opportunity and to let him come to the table now if he is willing to talk and avoid this crisis for next year. He said he not only didn't get a raise this year, he hasn't had a pay check since last October.

John Pucci said he totally supports Mr. Sasdelli. He said he had a working relationship with Mr. Sasdelli this past year and, in his opinion, if more members of the Township Committee had listened to him the Township would not have spent \$15,000.00 in attorney fees and be continuing a lawsuit over a dirt pile.

Mr. Pucci referred to comments earlier about there being risks and costs with the school deferral. He asked for an explanation of the deferral and how it works between the Township and the schools. Ms. Gatto said she wanted to clarify that it wasn't said that there were costs to the school deferral but that there are costs to the pension deferral. Mr. Palmentieri said there are risks and costs involved with both. Mayor Gaskill asked the auditor to explain it.

Mr. Costello said school tax deferral is complicated because the school year is July 1st-June 30th and the Township year is January 1st-December 31st. He said the school tax is levied on a school year basis in both the local and regional schools and their tax to be raised is to cover July 1st to June 30th. Mr. Costello said when it comes to the County Board of Taxation all of the tax is levied in the year that it is given to them so the tax for the 2009-2010 school year will all be raised in 2009 and that money is held by the township. For example purposes, Mr. Costello said to use \$20 million as the amount of school taxes and explained the Township is allowed to defer up to 50% of that or \$10 million. He said the township still has to pay the schools that \$10 million and it isn't that they give up their right to pay the \$10 million or that the school doesn't get all of their money. Mr. Costello said the school gets the whole \$20 million during their 12 month period. He said if the Committee defers the \$10 million they still owe it to the school. He said the Township has it in the bank December 31st and if they defer it they add it to their fund balance and spend it on their own so the money is spent twice. Mr. Costello said it is what he calls one of the new gimmicks in New Jersey rules that has been in place for years, probably dating back to the 30s or 40s. He said it is beyond him why it was created because it is spending the money twice. Mr. Costello said the Township did it for four in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992 or 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993 because the governor at that time made the Township defer 25% of what was allowed then 50%, then 75% and finally the full 100%. He said that governor was then removed and having to do it ceased. Mr. Costello said the township hasn't done it since 1993. He said Moody, Standard and Poor's, places that rate your bonds look at it as a gimmick and an off balance sheet liability that you are creating. Mr. Costello said in his budget presentation in February he showed that just by moving it from a school tax payable to deferred the Township increased its fund balance by the amount deferred. He said the Township still had to pay the school the money and they will spend the money and create another structural deficit where they aren't isn't taking in enough money to cover what they are spending. Mr. Costello said the school tax deferral is unsound financially but it is legal. He said the Township hasn't done it in 15 or 16 years. Mr. Costello said he doesn't recommend it be done to any extent but if the Committee has to do it, they have to do it but it isn't going to pay benefits down the road. He said one school tax this year is down and one is flat so the amount of deferral allowed drops because the levy went down. Mr. Costello said there were cases where towns continued to use the deferral past 1993 that have a fund balance reductions. He said that if Greater Egg Harbor Regional received another \$10 million form the state or some other source and they lowered the amount to be raised by taxes if the Township had their school tax deferred it would create a negative fund balance rather than a positive fund balance. He said

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there are 665 school districts now and if the governor gets his wish there will be only half that many and when they are consolidated whoever has deferred school taxes will be out of luck. He said the State will say to go ahead and raise taxes to cover the problem for one year but that will penalize the taxpayers. Mr. Costello said it is a bad practice to get into; it has repercussions down the road; and it can adversely impact the Township if the school tax starts to decrease and that may happen in the consolidation scheme.

Ms. Gatto asked Mr. Costello to explain the pension deferral. Mr. Costello said that is even worse. He said the Township is close to \$2 million in pension between PERS and PFRS. Mr. Costello said that will go up 20% to \$2.4 million in 2010 and if the Committee defers the \$1 million this year they will have made a \$1.4 million increase in 2010 right off the bat because they used the State gimmick and made room for another \$1 million in costs they weren't willing to address in another manner. Mr. Costello said that will come back to haunt the township right away but the school tax deferral is a little longer term. Ms. Gatto said the State will also charge the Township interest on the deferred amount. She said the difference between that and the school deferral is that the Committee can pick and choose the amount but the pension deferral is all or nothing.

Mr. Silva asked what impact the deferral had on the cash position of the community. Mr. Costello said the school deferral lessens the amount of cash the Township has because it still owes the school every penny of the tax levy and Mr. Tuthill will have less to invest because the Committee has spent some of the money they are going to give to the school on its own budget. He said Mr. Tuthill could be out of money in April because the State doesn't give the municipality any money until July now so a cash shortage has been created. Mr. Silva asked if that was why Mr. Costello referred to it as smoke and mirrors. Mr. Costello said it is.

Mayor Gaskill said Mr. Costello knows the Committee is concerned about next year and the year after that. He asked Mr. Costello if he thought that, in his professional opinion, dissolving the MUA would be a win-win situation for the Township financially. Mr. Costello said that in his budget presentation he had a slide showing that in 2008 the Township used \$3.3 million and returned \$3,008,000.00 to the fund balance so they used more money than they put back. He said that one of the things that made that work was, to the credit of Mr. Sasdelli and the financial people, there was enough foresight see that 2008 wasn't going to be a good year and at that point they brought dissolving the Garbage District to the Committee. Mr. Costello said that gave the Committee \$1.2 million that they wouldn't have had otherwise but they went into 2009 with a \$1.2 million shortfall that was received by consolidating the Garbage District back into the Township budget. He said that a separate District it had its own records, fund balance, etc. but having its own fund balance served no purpose and by dissolving that money came back into the Township and increased its fund balance. Mr. Costello said the Committee wouldn't be able to use what they are today if that hadn't happened. He said the same thing goes for the MUA and there certainly is a duplication of service and if it were consolidated into the Township it would become a department called the Water and Sewer Department. Mr. Costello said many towns have a Water and Sewer Department and that all of the pages in the Township Budget for it are blank now because the Township doesn't have one. He explained all the professionals are duplicated because the MUA has to have an auditor, solicitor and engineer just like the township does and if it were a Township Department. Mr. Costello said the MUA has a governing body, health benefits, and a full staff in both places so there is a doubling up on administration by having two entities. He said there would be one entity if it was brought into the Township; the Executive Director would become the Department Head; the same employees would still run the utility itself; and there wouldn't be a need to replace people as they retired through the years. Mr. Costello said there is duplication in the financial side and the Tax Department could collect utility fees. He said he hasn't looked at all the pieces and exactly what everybody is paid but there would be an economy of savings by having it as a Department rather than a separate entity.

Mr. Silva asked Mr. Costello if he had looked at the MUA. Mr. Costello said he just looked at their balance sheet. Mr. Silva asked Mr. Costello if he would say just based on the figures that it is well run and able to meet their objectives. Mr. Costello said "absolutely". Mr. Silva said they are very well run considering that they have been in existence for over 40 years and aren't in any financial difficulty so with the comment to fold the MUA into to the Township one could say to fold the Township into the MUA. He said they have to be doing something right. Mr. Silva said the infrastructure has to be maintained and a lot of the systems are 40 years old so there may not be that advantage of savings right up front. He said there might be a small amount of money and some economies of scale but he doesn't think the professionals would do things the same way, especially in this economy. Mr. Silva said there is a lot to look at and he would be very careful before he would consider it because he would like to see what the pros and cons are. He said he thought it deserves an investigation and he knows some municipalities have done it. Mr. Silva said he spoke to a mayor of another large municipality a week ago who told him they are in great difficulty and that they have used all the gimmicks, deferred all the school tax, took all the money from the MUA and they now have to do the heavy lift. He said he thought that is what is happening. Mr. Silva said

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he heard and agrees with the comment that cutting is not easy. He said that working it out might be a little easier but some people have to give and have to understand that if you want to save everybody has to be part of the lift. He said that is unfortunate and he respects the other Committee Members' and their opinions because he knows what the pain is in trying to deal with the issues. Mr. Silva said it is a hard way to go but it is also one that the Members chose to be here to do.

Ms. Gatto said anything with the MUA isn't going to impact this budget so she would rather table that discussion for another time. Mr. Costello said the Committee has to study it. Ms. Gatto agreed and Mr. Pritchard said it has to be studied by the end of the year. Ms. Gatto said the bipartisan Finance Committee is looking at it as the Mayor asked them to.

Rich DeFeo said the Committee Members were voted into office because the people thought and still think that they are the best to get the residents out of any problems and straighten the town out. He said it is a shame because this has been coming for a while and everyone should have realized it. Mr. DeFeo said a year ago the Township was having a problem paying for the fireworks and they were done by donations. He said it is a shame that now fireworks are being cut back on, no parades, no Christmas lights, and now he heard something was being done to the seniors. Mr. DeFeo said former Committeeman Joe Nickels worked so hard to get the senior center done and got it all donated including the labor. He said the unions were the first to step up when the Vietnam Wall came to town and now Mr. Campbell is raising money for a veterans' statue for the park. Mr. DeFeo said he went to the unions and they said not to worry, they would take care of it. He said there has to be cuts and suggested the Committee step back as a group, take a breath without dickering because they aren't Democrats or Republicans, they are the leaders the people voted into office to get them out of this and they know the Committee can do it. Mr. DeFeo commented on the Committee being under a lot of stress with people contacting them and putting demands on them. He said he thought the Committee should get together over a cup of coffee and he knows they can come up with some type of solution that will please everybody without hurting any individual group. Ms. Gatto said this (the Township Committee meeting) is the Committee getting together otherwise they would be violating the law. She said that she and Mr. Palmentieri said they have been doing it for months.

Mr. DeFeo said he thinks Mr. Sasdelli does a great job. Mr. Sasdelli said that with 27,000 people here he doesn't expect 100% satisfaction.

Maureen Bugdon said she spoke to many of the Members and had spirited debate with them over the phone in the last few weeks. She said this is an enormous decision and she knows it weighs heavily on each of them but beyond anything else she wanted to give them credit for everything they already implemented this year. She said she believed there has been a tremendous streamlining. Mrs. Bugdon said she agreed with Ms. Gatto about the last in-first out layoff process. She said that if there are layoffs, they will be the Township's best workers in some cases. Mrs. Bugdon said she hasn't seen any of the township contracts in a while and didn't know what was possible in them but it seemed to her the best performers would do the best job for the Township and the citizens. She asked the Committee to do everything possible to make it possible before next year. Mrs. Bugdon said people are coming up asking the Committee to please help them meet their bills and to make Hamilton more affordable so they aren't like the thousands of other Jerseyans who just packed up and left because they can no longer afford to live here. She said this is a great town and the Committee has done wonderful things. Mrs. Bugdon said she is still hopeful there are ways to save some of the wonderful events, particularly the Cove. She said she thought Ms. Dix a great job with her presentation. Mrs. Bugdon said her children enjoy the Cove but, like any other business, the public is looking to the Committee as citizens and saying for them to please live within their means because they have to do that as well. She said it does require some tough decisions which, if they come to be, would hopefully be reversible if the Township comes into some great amount of money, employees freeze contracts and whatnot in order to save or restore their jobs. Mrs. Bugdon said that for now the citizens' families are feeling it too and they are looking to the Committee to make those decisions. She said her bottom line was to credit the Committee for the tremendous work they have already done this year with Mr. Sasdelli's guidance and leadership. Mrs. Bugdon said she knows it has been hard and she knows how many people retired or left for other reasons and weren't replaced. She said that is another tremendous burden on top of that. She thanked the Committee for all the thought they had given in making their decisions and said it shows.

Mrs. Gurrier said she started working with a law enforcement agency when she moved here 27 years ago and layoffs in the police department really concerns her. She said she knows that the more people that get laid off, the more crime increases. Mrs. Gurrier said her office is 100 cases above what it was this time last year. She expressed hope that a way could be found to incorporate furloughs that were freely given to help keep (Officer Hazelwood) who has done a good job in the three months he has been here and not lay any more law enforcement agents.

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Richard O'Brien said he is one of those being laid off and that he believed Chief McKeen gave the Committee Members statistics after the last meeting and asked if they would be made public. Mayor Gaskill said he was going to speak about it.

Aline Dix asked if the Committee was planning to close any other recreation sites if they choose to close the Cove recreation site. She asked if the hockey courts, football fields, soccer fields, Mattie Hall Playground, the Old Egg Harbor Road Playground, the Knight Avenue baseball fields, the Cove Avenue Playground, and both sides of Underhill Park would be closed. The Mayor said they were fair questions and it is something the Committee would have to debate. Ms. Dix said if one site is going to be picked on she feels others also have to be looked at. She said she looks through the bill list every meeting and the lights for the hockey courts was \$600.00 for the first month. She asked if the Committee was going to shut off all the lights on all the fields and say to play in the daylight and go home after dark.

Ms. Dix commented on the Chapter 159 process for adding money into the budget to be spent under grants and asked if a Chapter 159 resolution be done for the Cove if it was closed and money suddenly became available for it from some source. Mr. Sasdelli said it could only be done if it was a grant. She asked if it would be a grant if somebody said they granted the Township the money. Mr. Sasdelli said it would be.

Robert Curtain commented on attending the work budget sessions and participating in some of the e-mails that went back and forth voicing his opinion with the Committee and other concerned people. He said the professional staff that has helped work with the Committee as a governing body has done an exceptional job and have been there to answer questions. Mr. Curtain said Mr. Sasdelli and the others have done a wonderful job being available to the public and helping the Committee. He said the last time he was here he mentioned that he lost his company because of the economy; that he has been unemployed as an architect since last October; and that he lost an entire company of 10 people. Mr. Curtain said there is no construction work and the labor unions are out of work. He said if the Committee understands the regional economy and can look beyond the Township they will realize what a dire situation people are in. Mr. Curtain said that by year's end most of the casinos will be in Chapter 11. He said that even though people may not have business individually in Atlantic City and particularly with the casinos, that is the engine that drives most of the land-based regional economy and they aren't going to recover anytime soon regardless of what happens on the national level. Mr. Curtain said the Committee has to be extremely conservative in their view of things. He said respects and likes the Mayor and that they reasonably disagree on the approach to this budget. Mr. Curtain said he owed the Mayor a partial apology for the e-mail he sent because he thought it was professional but it may have been a little too pointed at the Mayor and he would like to retract some of his language for that. Mr. Curtain said that doesn't negate the fact that they disagree. He said the Township's own professionals already said they disagree with the method for deferring the school tax payments. Mr. Curtain said that as financial professionals they realize that the hardest decision in running a company is to lay people off. He commented on having had dealings with a number of departments in this municipal hall as he has had with most city halls in this county as an architect, and this is by far the easiest, most professional and most friendly city hall to deal with in the entire county. Mr. Curtain said his heart goes out to the people who may potentially lose their jobs but everyone has to recognize that the union leadership did not show up with a plan tonight and the governing body can't wait much longer because they have to get the tax bills out and move forward. He said there is no other plan and if the union leadership had come with a plan other than to say lets work harder he would say to them that the governing body has worked themselves to the bone, taken criticism, taken grief and tough pointed e-mails from a lot of the public and they are still standing. Mr. Curtain said he thought the Mayor was going to have to make the hardest decision and it cuts against his grain. He said the Mayor has spent a wonderful and fruitful career representing labor as a postal letter carrier and still represents his union. Mr. Curtain said that is fine and that unions are a wonderful product in the United States in being able to reach collective bargaining agreements but the Mayor can't use the union as a special interest to drive governing body's decisions. He said that is when it is wrong and unfortunately it has to come to a point where it is realized some jobs are going to be lost or the budget can't be balanced. Mr. Curtain said it will be the same approach next year and he hopes the union leadership will come in and work as forthrightly as possible to try to mitigate what the damage will be next year so they don't end up in this room with the same discussion next year. He said he would like to see the Committee minimize what they are deferring, move forward acting as an executive body in charge of a corporation, and try to match its spending with its revenue.

Mayor Gaskill said Mr. Curtain was again alluding that his only decisions are based on the union. He said that is how he took what Mr. Curtain just said. Mr. Curtain said he didn't mean it that way. The Mayor said everyone has to know that his decisions are based on what he thinks is best for the Township and best for people. He said he hasn't called for any non-union people to be laid off and has done everything he can to make sure everybody is gainfully employed. Mayor Gaskill

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said he doesn't want to put people on the street and there is no reason to do that when the Committee has a mechanism to get around it. He said those people work very hard as Mr. Curtain said. The Mayor said Mr. Curtain said the Township is down to the bare bones and it is. He said services will go down. Mayor Gaskill said the notion that people try to put out that all he thinks about are the union people is totally false and inaccurate. He said he thinks about everyone and to have a \$25,000.00-\$30,000.00 employee have to pay COBRA insurance, which the Township will have to pay 65% of, and have to get unemployment which the Township will have to pay 60% of, may look like total savings but it isn't because the taxpayers still have to pay their health insurance and unemployment. Mayor Gaskill said he isn't just about union people, he is about all people. He said it hurts him and he doesn't understand why people want to do that to other people. Mayor Gaskill said Mr. Curtain has a great life style and he is proud of him for that and of anybody that has that kind of lifestyle but these people are trying to sustain their lives. He said they are at bare minimum, getting by in 3-bedroom bungalows and just trying to live. The Mayor said the tax rate isn't that much to save people's lives. Mr. Curtain said the taxes on his home are already \$10,000.00 and for the mayor to keep saying to add 4%, and the next year add another 4% and keep adding it up, pretty soon it is real money and it does hurt. Mayor Gaskill said it hurts those whose taxes are only \$2,000.00 because that is the size houses they can afford. Mr. Curtain asked what the Mayor thought was going to happen to those people with the lower taxes when the reval comes out. Mayor Gaskill said they will go up and he understands that. Mr. Curtain said they will get creamed if the taxes keep getting raised. He said he is already at a high rate because he built his house just a few years ago. Mr. Curtain said the Mayor didn't have to be defensive about it. He said he complimented the Mayor on his years of service in his profession. Mr. Curtain said it is admirable. He said he and the Mayor could debate the perception of the Mayor's role in this another time but tonight the key is that the Township doesn't physically have the money to employ 178 people. Mayor Gaskill said he respectfully disagreed and thought the Committee had a way around it. He said Mr. Curtain knows his years of service were always in the public service area, coaching the youth of this town for 25 years and being a fireman for 15 years. The Mayor said he loves this community, wants to stay here and is going to stay here. Mr. Curtain said he hoped the Mayor did stay and that no one was challenging that.

Maureen Maxwell said she has lived here for 25 years. She said doesn't think Mr. Gaskill is a union man and she never heard that before, it is something new to her. Mrs. Maxwell what wasn't new to her was that for the past 25 years the Township had parades, Hometown Celebration and a police department she thought looked pretty good. She said she thinks the police department is down to the bare bones right now. Mrs. Maxwell said she looked at Egg Harbor Township and Galloway and this Township is shorthanded. She said the public works department is short handed and the Cove has always been open. Mrs. Maxwell said she cannot believe the Township is even thinking about closing the Cove especially this year when people cannot afford to take vacations. She said the Township could get volunteers and she knows there are people who would come run a concession stand. Mrs. Maxwell said thought is already being given to cut one officer and it seemed that everyone being cut is just starting out and she doesn't think that is fair and doesn't think it is fair to the police department either.

An unidentified man questioned how money was being deferred. Ms. Gatto said a school deferral approved right now is \$379,000.00. The man questioned Ms. Gatto about her comment on 8% interest when the Township starts paying it back. Ms. Gatto said that was on pension deferral and the Committee isn't doing that one. She said there is no interest on the school deferral. The man asked if it had to be paid back next year. Mr. Sasdelli said it didn't. Mr. Palmentieri said that difference will have to be made up next year. He said part of the cost might be interest on bond anticipation notes if the Township runs out of money because of what the Auditor said about spending it twice. The man said he is totally against deferrals. He asked if 9 employees were being laid off. Ms. Gatto said it that it was potential. Mayor Gaskill said that has to be discussed. The man asked what the savings would be. Ms. Gatto said it would be \$200,000.00 for 6 months and \$400,000.00 for 12 months. Mayor Gaskill said that wasn't totally accurate because the Township will have to pay 65% of their COBRA insurance and all of their unemployment. Mr. Palmentieri said the Township is just a conduit for the COBRA for the federal government so ultimately it isn't coming out of the Township pocket. The Mayor said "we hope". The man commented on people saying they are laying off their help and said his company is in the same position. He said it isn't going to go away this year and he believes it will be even worse next year because this region is hitting bottom and there isn't anything to bring it out of it right now. He said his company is rotating days so everybody can get a paycheck and so everybody to be able to eat somehow. He said if you lay someone off they can't eat because they just can't make enough on unemployment. He said he is a union member. He said he thinks and has said to his people that the public should be at the union negotiations, not to talk, but to listen. He commented on being at a school board meeting two years ago and warning them about the cash cow that was going to run out. He commented on the private sector saying state workers live in a fantasy world and the state workers saying they done. He said Mr. Silva or Ms. Gatto should be blamed because they want to make cuts and that he understands where the Mayor is coming from in wanting to keep employees on. He asked if it is too late to step

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back and look this all over again. Mr. Pritchard and Ms. Gatto said it is. Mr. Palmentieri said the Committee is already spending money they don't have.

There being no further questions or comments from the public on the budget, Mr. Palmentieri moved, seconded by Mr. Pritchard, that the public hearing on the 2009 Municipal Budget be and is hereby closed.

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

A recess from 8:40 to 8:55 was taken.

Mayor Gaskill recalled the meeting to order and thanked the public on behalf of the Township Committee for their input and patience during the budget work sessions. He said it has been a long, arduous task and it will be wrapped up tonight one way or the other. Mayor Gaskill said all of the public's concerns have been listened to and whatever happens will happen.

2009 Municipal Budget Amendments

Mayor Gaskill asked Mr. Sasdelli to give a synopsis of the Committee's options. Mr. Sasdelli explained the \$86,000.00 state aid loss is going into the tax levy which is an exception in the law for when the state shorts the municipality on state aid. He said the amount outstanding now is \$200,000.00 and explained the two basic choices the Committee has are to amend the school deferral resolution to increase the deferral from \$279,000.00 to \$579,000.00 which would amend the resolution to a legal format or cut \$200,000.00 the expense side of the budget and that has been identified as being done with the elimination of 9 positions and 4 work-week reductions.

Ms. Gatto said she really didn't have much more to say that what she mentioned in her opening remarks from the Finance Committee. She said the Township can't go back on the \$200,000.00 again; they don't want to use the pension deferral; they don't find it prudent to increase the school deferral to \$579,000.00; and they made recommendations for position eliminations across all departments, not picking people's names. Ms. Gatto said that as she understands it the last one in a position is the first one out in that position. She said she doesn't like that approach, doesn't want to do it that way and would rather go through performance management but was told that isn't the way of the world these days and she intends to change it. She presented the recommended amendment resolution set forth below as the Finance Committee Chair.

Ms. Gatto 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 2009 adopted budget be amended to include \$86,000.00 to be raised by taxation and to remove \$200,000.00 from the budget to be paid through the school deferral and implementation of the Finance Committee recommendations.

DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE BUDGET:

Mr. Pritchard asked Mr. Sasdelli if how much the COBRA payment will cost the Township had been calculated from that \$200,000.00 savings. Mr. Sasdelli said unemployment is 60% of the salary which will be about \$13,000.00 a month for as many months as those people collect it if all 9 collect. He said they can collect for 26 weeks but he thinks that has been extended. Ms. Gatto said she understands that has been budgeted. Mr. Sasdelli said the Township has \$109,000.00 in its unemployment compensation fund and only \$25,000.00 was budgeted in 2009 so there will be enough for 2009 but more will probably have to be budgeted in that line item in 2010. Mr. Sasdelli said COBRA wasn't budgeted because the Township they hope to get that back under the Obama stimulus plan. Mr. Pritchard asked if it will still be a line item this year if the Township gets the money back next year. Mr. Costello explained you have to get it back in the same year as you spend it so if it is spent in 2009 and gotten back in 2010, it will be an expenditure in 2009 and miscellaneous revenue in 2010. Mr. Pritchard asked if it has to be budgeted for not knowing if they will get it back. Mr. Sasdelli said that it has to be budgeted for in the sense that the Township has to pay the COBRA bill. The Mayor asked if there was any idea of how much it will be. Mr. Pritchard asked if the employee layoffs included budgeting for their health care. Ms. Gatto said it did. Mr. Pritchard said he had great respect for the work the Finance Committee did because he knows it was an arduous and extremely difficult process. He said he could be on board with some layoffs but doesn't agree with the way they were selected. Mr. Pritchard said he could understand going from department to department so as not to greatly impact any particular one but, especially in the area of public safety, he cannot agree with it. He said they are laying off an employee who is bringing in \$180,000.00 in revenue and he doesn't see how that will benefit the Township in the future. Mr. Pritchard said that in essence they are taking two officers off the street at a time when all predictions are that crime is going to rise significantly and he thinks that is very dangerous for the Township's residents and visitors. He said based on that he cannot support the amendment.

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Mr. Palmentieri said he is in favor of the amendment because it reduces the tax increase that was in the budget as introduced and it prevents the school deferral from going up to \$579,000.00 which he thinks is critical. He said that the \$200,000.00 that makes up the \$379,000.00 that would be the final number is really already in the surplus but can't be used because of the reval so theoretically each of the 5 years to pay off the reval, that \$200,000.00 can be kept in to pay it off as it becomes available in the surplus so it would be a 5-year using the school deferrals with the intention if the Committee agrees to use the money already in surplus for the reval to pay off the school deferral. Mr. Palmentieri said in 5 years the school deferral would be paid off as well as the reval. He said that, although it is painful, it does make a down payment on reducing the cost of government that will be sorely needed next year when the deficit will be significantly larger and more difficult to deal with than this year.

Mr. Silva commented on having said earlier that not everyone gets what they want so there has to be compromise. He said that although he was very adamant about his position on the deferral of school taxes, when he looks at the overall recommendations of the Finance Committee it seems to touch everybody from residents to employees to the Township Committee because when you look at everything the Committee Members are responsible for the community. He said he knew this was going to be a heavy lift. Mr. Silva said he realized that in management you have to make unpopular decisions but they have to be made. He said that while he respects what Mr. Pritchard and Mayor Gaskill have said he hasn't seen anything else come to the table other than the total deferral. Mr. Silva said that is a credit card problem to him that the Committee will never pay off and the Committee has to start facing its financial obligations. He said that early on he had said that if he was going to live in this community and retire here he wanted to have something to say about it. Mr. Silva said he finds it a lot easier to say as a Committee Member when he has the attention of a lot more people than he would sitting in the audience. He said he is in favor of the resolution and, while he isn't happy with it because he doesn't think any of the members is going to walk away from the dais tonight jumping for joy. He said he thought they have to realize the impact going forward. Mr. Silva said he is concerned about next year and knew the way to address it was to attack it this year. He said the Committee should probably have done more last year but none of them had that type of insight and didn't realize the economy was going to go the way it is. Mr. Silva said the Committee has an obligation to everyone.

Mayor Gaskill said he wanted to talk about public safety, the children's safety, the seniors' safety. The Mayor said every Committee Member received a report from the Chief if they wanted to read it. He said he had great respect for the Chief's reporting ability. Mayor Gaskill said that according to the Chief the Township will lose the equivalent of 1½ sergeants on the streets. He asked if the Committee wanted to do that when crime is increasing. He said he didn't think that was the right way to go. Mayor Gaskill said crime has gone up 100% in this quarter compared to the same quarter last year. He said he doesn't get the getting rid of a young man who quit his job to come here that does a great job and possibly brings in \$132,000.00 just based on his performance so far. The Mayor said the officer brought in \$22,000.00 in February and March at a payroll cost of \$4,000.00 and benefits of \$2,000.00. Mayor Gaskill said he doesn't think it was fair to the public to put them in more harms way just to save that amount of money. He said all of the Members voted for the Court Liaison Officer and brought him on board so that another patrolman could be put on the street at a cost of \$35,000.00 and now they will have to bring in a patrolman, sergeant or lieutenant in to do that job. The Mayor said the cost was \$75,000.00 plus benefits the last time a lieutenant was doing it. He said he didn't know where it is cost effective to do those kinds of things. Mayor Gaskill said the police department calls for service increased 5% last year and averaged 7% each of the last 8 years yet the members want to do away with police. He said the increase in number of calls for service and number of crimes calls translates to a need for an increase in public safety resources, not a decrease. The Mayor said Egg Harbor Township has 102 officers and handled 79,000 calls and Hamilton Township police department handled 71,000 calls with 69 officers which is 10 less officers handling almost the same amount of calls. The Mayor said Galloway Township had 34,000 calls and has 73 officers. Mayor Gaskill said he is disappointed the Committee wants to do away with any policemen. He said the Committee brought someone into the court so they wouldn't have overtime and that person has done a great job very effectively cutting the overtime and someone is being cut there. Mayor Gaskill said the Committee is cutting people, not positions. He said they have families like everyone else and are at the bottom of the rung in salaries. Mayor Gaskill said that in his plan which was in the paper he said he would reach out to the unions and he has done that. The Mayor said they don't have an agreement yet but the unions are willing to talk to the Committee. He said that was talked about and the employees recognize it. Mayor Gaskill said the employees gave back \$150,000.00 in voluntary furloughs and knew the importance of what they were doing yet the Committee wants to cut. The Mayor said he put together what he thought was a sensible plan to move to the future without hurting anyone. He said the Committee can do away with jobs but that is doing away with people. He said that the members want to sit on Committee and take the health benefits. He said he thought that was a travesty that the members want to put people making only \$25,000.00 on the street and still take the health benefits. Mayor Gaskill called

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For every Committee Member to give up all of their health benefits as of June 1st. He said it was not fair to the people being put on the street. Ms. Gatto said she wished her fellow Committee Members had joined her in doing that last year. Mayor Gaskill said Ms. Gatto did give up her benefits last year and this year. He said for the Members to take the health benefits is uncalled for and it is very hypocritical for the Members to tell those being laid off to go on COBRA but they don't want to go on COBRA. Mayor Gaskill said everyone has made sacrifices, the employees all across the board union and non-union, the taxpayers, and local youth organizations because they aren't being provided with the same amount of services they were given in the past. He said he wanted the public the public to know he thinks that the little bit of tax increase isn't going to hurt anyone. The Mayor said more land sales are being looked into and a comprehensive review of all Township fees is being done. He said he talked about those things at the March 2nd meeting. Mayor Gaskill said he cannot support any layoffs and he thought the Committee should lay out on the table who was going to be laid off. He called for the unions to meet with the Committee to talk about a wage freeze for next year and that he thought it was a viable plan that would benefit every citizen in town. Mayor Gaskill said putting people on the street isn't necessary and there is a solid way around it. He said further consolidations could be looked at to save duplication of services and lifetime health benefits. The Mayor said he was appealing to his colleagues to reconsider what they are considering doing tonight because it will have a devastating effect on many families. Mayor Gaskill called on his colleagues not to vote for the amendment and to consider adding \$200,000.00 to the school tax deferral. He said no one gets hurt from that and he doesn't think it will hurt anyone in the future. The Mayor asked the others to consider the plan he put together. He said a lot of it was their plan too. He said he introduced some of it in March and all the members talked about doing some of it. Mayor Gaskill said that at one time the Committee had an agreement to do some things but it fell apart. He asked the other Members to consider what they were doing to those employees, the citizens and the public safety of the community. He said he was going to vote against the amendment that will harm people and take their lives away just to maintain life-styles.

Mr. Silva said he understood the compassion of Mayor Gaskill's plea but nobody heard his compassion last December when he asked the Committee to wait on hiring that individual for the police department (Officer Hazelwood) until all the figures were in. He said there was starting to be an indication that problems would be coming. Mr. Silva said he realized the Committee was hurting individuals but they won't be the only ones to be hurt. He said the Committee has to realize there is a segment of population called residents that hurt with every tax increase. Mr. Silva said it isn't just singling out the employees; it is trying to deal with this in an efficient way so the Committee can go forward and be able to make it next year. He said he understands right now. Mr. Silva said he thought that what happened as a result of this budgetary confrontation goes back to his earlier comments that it cost a friendship. He said that is unfortunate and it also pains him. Mr. Silva said you have to understand the balance in this when you look at everything. He said it is about people and he respects the Mayor's dialogue and approach. Mr. Silva said that while they differ, they have to live with it.

Mr. Pritchard thanked the other members for agreeing to some school deferral after being against it initially. He said he realized they did it in the spirit of compromise and he commended them for it. Mr. Pritchard said that at the beginning of the year the Committee asked the employees to take furloughs and the reason for it was to avoid having employees laid off. He said a lot of people took furloughs in good faith based on that. Mr. Pritchard said the most common term he hears in town hall now is "bait and switch". He said he would strongly recommend the Committee not ask for voluntary furloughs next year if they are in a similar position next year because he doesn't think they will get dime-one. Mr. Silva said individuals went around saying that but the Committee didn't promise there would be no layoffs. Mr. Pritchard said it was definitely alluded to and people did it based upon that conclusion.

Ms. Gatto said number (of layoffs) could have started at 15 without those furloughs so the furloughs were very important, were much appreciated and did save jobs but the Committee has to face the reality that has come upon them since the introduction of the budget. She said she didn't want to do it either. Mr. Pritchard said he was sure she didn't, that she is compassionate, and that she didn't want to recommend it but they will have to agree to disagree on how the Committee can fund the budget this year.

Mayor Gaskill said if every one of the Committee Members gave up their health benefits it would save about \$29,000.00 this year and save at least one job but he guessed there are no takers.

There being no further questions, comments or discussion, Mayor Gaskill called for a rereading of the motion made by Ms. Gatto and seconded by Mr. Silva.

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Ms. Gatto reread her the following resolution as seconded by Mr. Silva.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the 2009 adopted budget be amended to include \$86,000.00 to be raised by taxation and for the \$200,000.00 reval payment to be removed from the budget and be paid for through the school tax deferral and implementation of the Finance Committee's recommendation.

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

Prior to the roll call vote on the motion, Mr. Sasdelli said no money was being moved to the school deferral and it stays the same, \$379,000.00. He said the \$200,000.00 will be cut out of the budget by eliminating 9 positions and reducing 4 positions to a 4-day work week. Mr. Silva asked what the decrease in the tax increase was by doing that. Mr. Sasdelli said it went from 5.5 cents to 4.4 cents. Ms. Gatto said it only puts the Township \$2.4 million next year instead of \$2.8 million. Mayor Gaskill said it will put a lot of people in the hole, not just the Township.

2000 Municipal Budget Adoption

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

WHEREAS, the 2009 Municipal Budget was introduced on March 2, 2009 and advertised by summary in the March 25, 2009 issue of the Atlantic County Record for a public hearing to be held thereon at 6:30 PM on Monday, April 6, 2009 in the municipal building, Mays Landing, NJ; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing has been held as advertised and closed; and

WHEREAS, an amendment to the 2009 Municipal Budget has been adopted, the amounts of which do not increase any line item by more than 10%,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that the 2009 Municipal Budget be and is hereby adopted as amended.

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

A 2-minute recess was taken to allow time for those in the audience wishing to leave to do so.

Discussions

There were no items for discussion listed on the agenda.

Introduction of Ordinance #1646-2009

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that Ordinance #1646-2009 be and is hereby introduced and passed on first reading and the Township Clerk is authorized to advertise same in the April 8, 2009 issue of the Atlantic County Record for a public hearing to be held in the municipal building, NJ, Mays Landing, NJ at 6:30 PM on Monday, April 20, 2009.

TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON ORDINANCE NO. 1646-2009

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF BLOCK 398 LOT 1, AS SHOWN ON THE TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON, AND GRANTING TO THE OWNER OR OWNERS OF SAID REAL PROPERTY CONTIGUOUS TO SAME THE RIGHT TO PRIOR REFUSAL TO PURCHASE SUCH LAND IN THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON, COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton, County of Atlantic and State of New Jersey, that:

SECTION 1. The following described lot and block number on the Hamilton Township Tax Map is hereby determined to be less than the minimum size required for development in said Township under the existing Developmental Ordinance and further without any capital improvements thereon.

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SECTION 2. Upon final adoption of this Ordinance, owners of real property contiguous to the subject lot may thereafter submit an offer to the Township Clerk, as designee of this Governing Body, in writing and on forms prepared by the Township for a period of twenty (20) days following advertisement of the finally adopted Ordinance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13. All offers shall be made in a sealed envelope. No offer less than the minimum value established herein below for said lot shall be considered by the Township Committee.

SECTION 3. In the event of bids being submitted by more than one (1) contiguous property owner with respect to said lot, the sale shall be made, if at all, to the highest bidder. The Township Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to thereafter advertise the subject property for public sale pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(a).

SECTION 4. The following conditions of sale shall apply:

(a) The successful bidder shall submit a certified check made payable to the "Township of Hamilton" in the amount of twenty (20%) percent of the purchase price, which check shall be submitted in the sealed envelope at the time of submission of the bid. Persons bidding on behalf of a contiguous property owner shall be required to submit in writing satisfactory evidence of their authority. The balance of the purchase price plus FOUR HUNDRED, TWENTY-FIVE (\$425.00) DOLLARS to cover advertising, legal and recording fees shall be paid in cash or certified check within ten (10) days after the Township Committee accepting the bid and authorizing the sale to the high bidder.

(b) The Deed prepared by the Township Committee shall not be tendered until the full purchase price is paid.

(c) Title shall be conveyed by and through a Quitclaim Deed and shall convey only the right, title and interest of the Township of Hamilton to the land, as described herein. No warranties and covenants are or shall be made by the Township of Hamilton and in no event shall there be any liability on the part of the Township by reason thereof. The right, title and interest of the successful bidder, as purchaser, shall be subject to the following conditions, covenants, restrictions, easements and exceptions which shall run with the land and shall also become part of the Deed granted to the purchaser for the recording:

- (1) Easement of utility companies and of governmental agencies or bodies.
- (2) Any encroachments, prescriptions, easements or other state of facts pertaining to said lands which may be ascertained upon a visual examination and inspection of the land and the lands surrounding said land and any restrictions and covenants of record.
- (3) All existing federal, state, county and municipal laws, statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations including, by way of description and not by limitation, existing zoning, health and planning board rules and regulations.
- (4) No representation of any kind is made that the land in question, surface as well as subterranean portions, is suitable or adaptable for any particular use whatsoever.
- (5) No representation of any kind is made concerning gas or electric service to the land.

(d) In the event that the Township cannot convey good and marketable title, subject to the above, the purchaser will be entitled to the return of the deposit, without interest, and the Township will not be responsible or liable in any other manner and for any other amount.

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(e) In the event that the purchaser defaults in making payment to the Township, as set forth above, or if the purchaser cannot make settlement in accordance with the terms thereof, the deposit made by the successful bidder on account of the purchase will be retained by the Township as and for its liquidated damages and the land may be resold. This remedy shall be in addition to the Township's right to compel specific performance of the purchaser's obligation hereunder. Time is of the essence.

SECTION 5. The Township owned lots and minimum bid established therefore are as follows:

<u>Block/Lot(s)</u>	<u>Minimum Bid</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Zoning</u>	<u>Area Size</u>
398/1	\$1,200.00	West Jersey Ave., Melvin Newton Blvd. & Denver Avenue	MV	.86 acre

SECTION 6. SPECIAL CONDITIONS: NONE

SECTION 7. All Ordinances and parts of Ordinances of Hamilton Township heretofore adopted that are inconsistent with any of the terms and provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 8. If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof.

SECTION 9. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its publication after final passage as required by law.

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

ORDINANCE #1646-2009 INTRODUCED AND PASSED FIRST READING ON APRIL 6, 2009.

Ms. Gatto, 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 Licenses are hereby approved:

- (1) Retail Construction Services - general contractor for commercial tenant finishing main office located in Lake Elmo, MN
- (2) Atlantic Fuels Inc. d/b/a Quick Stop I- gas station/convenience store on Route 50 at 3rd Street
- (3) Sign Me Up Signs - home office only on Route 50 (no customers/no retail sales)
- (4) TAP Enterprises Inc. - tool sale at VFW

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

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

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON, COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, DESIGNATING THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) AS THE BASIS FOR ALL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT IN THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON

WHEREAS, the President in Homeland Security Directive (HSPD)-5, directed the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS), which would provide a consistent nationwide approach for Federal, State, local and tribal governments to work together more effectively and efficiently to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size or complexity; and

WHEREAS, the collective input and guidance from all Federal, State, local and tribal homeland security partners has been and will continue to be vital to the development, effective implementation and utilization of a comprehensive NIMS; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and desirable that all Federal, State, local and tribal emergency agencies and personnel coordinate their efforts to effectively and efficiently provide the highest levels of incident management; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate the most efficient and effective incident management it is critical that Federal, State, local and tribal organizations utilize standardized terminology, standardized organizational structures, interoperable communications, consolidated action plans, unified command structures, uniform personnel qualification standards, uniform standards for planning, training and exercising, comprehensive resource management, and designated incident facilities during emergencies and disasters; and

WHEREAS, the NIMS standardized procedures for managing personnel, communications, facilities and resources will improve the Township's ability to utilize federal funding to enhance local and state agency readiness, maintain first responder safety and streamline incident management processes; and

WHEREAS, the Incident Command System components of NIMS are already an integral part of various incident management activities throughout the Township, including current emergency management training programs; and

WHEREAS, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks (9-11 Commission) recommended adoption of a standardized Incident Command System,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton, County of Atlantic and State of new Jersey, does hereby establish the National Interagency Incident Management System (NIMS) as the Township standard for incident management.

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

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by 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 the NJ Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control approval and/or issuance of a special permit to Cologne Volunteer Fire Company for their annual BBQ to be held at the Cologne Fire House on Saturday, June 6, 2009 from noon to 9PM, beer only to be dispensed.

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

Ms. Gatto 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 the NJDOT approval and/or issuance of permits to the Cologne Volunteer Fire Company for coin drops to be held at the intersection of McKee Avenue and Route 322 on April 17, 18 & 19, 2009, May 15, 16 & 17, 2009 and June 26, 27 & 28, 2009.

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

Ms. Gatto 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 \$228,576.00 TD Bank NA letter of credit submitted by Spico Food Services LLC as a performance guarantee for their TACO Bell project at Consumer Square (Block 1319/Lot 2) be and is hereby accepted.

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that Boardwalk Bank letter of credit #2007-30, a performance guarantee for CN Construction (Bernard Lelayan) Wells Court project be and is hereby authorized to be reduced **from** \$197,874.91 **to** \$59,362.47 as recommended by Robert J. Smith, III, Township Engineer for the project in letter dated March 19, 2009.

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that Fidelity & Deposit Company of Maryland bond #6315834, a performance guarantee for Stroehmann Bakeries distribution center project be and is hereby authorized to be release contingent upon the posting of a 4-year stormwater management system maintenance guarantee in the amount of \$5,680.80 and a 2-year maintenance guarantee on all other improvements in the amount of \$58,953.15 as recommended by Robert J. Smith, III, Township Engineer for the project in letter dated March 11, 2009.

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton that Raffle License #RA-1-2009 for the Rotary Club of Mays Landing casino night on April 24, 2009 at the VFW Post 220 Hall be and is hereby approved.

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

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Silva, that the following resolution be and is hereby adopted.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PUBLIC LAND SALE

WHEREAS, the Township of Hamilton is the owner of lands hereinafter described; and

WHEREAS, a request has been made for the Township of Hamilton to offer said lands for public sale; and

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Township of Hamilton, said lands are of no further use for public purposes, are not needed for public use, and should be disposed of by sale at public auction in accordance with the statute in such case made and provided; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton, that the Township of Hamilton, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey shall sell to the highest bidder, at a public sale to be held on April 20, 2009 at 6PM, in the municipal building, 6101 Thirteenth Street, Mays Landing, NJ, all right title and interest of the Township of Hamilton in and to the lands described as follows subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Notice of Public Land Sale as published in accordance with law and such other conditions as may be stated at the time of sale.

<u>Block/Lot(s)</u>	<u>Lot size</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Zoning</u>	<u>Minimum Bid</u>
855 / 13	4.37 acres	Birch Street	RD-5	\$5,300.00

SPECIAL CONDITION: Successful purchaser shall be required to improve the street prior to the issuance of a building permit pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-36.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that printed copies of the full terms and conditions shall be included in the legal advertisement of Notice of Public Sale and stated at the time of sale. Said terms and conditions are also available in the Township Clerk's Office. Said terms and all conditions shall survive closing and transfer of title.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to advertise said Public sale of lands in the April 8, 2009 and April 15, 2009 issues of the Atlantic County Record.

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

April 6, 2009

Ms. Gatto moved, seconded by Mr. Silva, that the following resolution be and is hereby adopted.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PUBLIC LAND SALE

WHEREAS, the Township of Hamilton is the owner of lands hereinafter described; and

WHEREAS, a request has been made for the Township of Hamilton to offer said lands for public sale; and WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Township of Hamilton, said lands are of no further use for public purposes, are not needed for public use, and should be disposed of by sale at public auction in accordance with the statute in such case made

WHEREAS the owner or owners of land contiguous were notified by certified mail/return receipt requested of their the right to first refusal to purchase said land by sealed bid under Ordinance #1643-09; and

WHEREAS no sealed bids were received,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton, that the Township of Hamilton, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey shall sell to the highest bidder, at a public sale to be held on April 20, 2009 at 6PM, in the municipal building, 6101 Thirteenth Street, Mays Landing, NJ, all right title and interest of the Township of Hamilton in and to the lands described as follows subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Notice of Public Land Sale as published in accordance with law and such other conditions as may be stated at the time of sale.

<u>Block/Lot(s)</u>	<u>Lot size</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Zoning</u>	<u>Minimum Bid</u>
880/6	3.12 acres	Route 50	RD-5	\$7,800.00

SPECIAL CONDITION: This parcel shall be permanently deed restricted to prohibit its development as a residential property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that printed copies of the full terms and conditions shall be included in the legal advertisement of Notice of Public Sale and stated at the time of sale. Said terms and conditions are also available in the Township Clerk's Office. Said terms and all conditions shall survive closing and transfer of title.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to advertise said Public sale of lands in the April 8, 2009 and April 15, 2009 issues of the Atlantic County Record.

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

Ms. Gatto 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 Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the 2009 Municipal Alliance Grant #2009, K.09.31i and the following matching funds are authorized:

- 1) \$5,600.00 cash
- 2) \$16,800.00 in-kind contributions

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 Atlantic County Institute of Technology (ACIT) be and is hereby granted permission to use the streets in the Hamilton Township Business Park from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. (+/-) on Saturday April 25, 2009 for their annual Hotcakes 5K event.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITH MEMBERS GATTO, PALMENTIERI, SILVA AND GASKILL VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", MR. PRITCHARD "ABSTAINED" due to being an employee of ACIT.

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 February 2, 2009 regular meeting and executive session minutes, the February 9, 2009 Special Meeting minute and the March 16, 2009 regular meeting minutes be and are hereby approved and adopted as published.

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 all properly executed and approved bills be and are hereby ordered paid, the bill list total being \$1,792,815.74 as of April 2, 2009.

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

Reports:

Administrator: None

Solicitor: None

Engineer: None

Mr. Silva commented on there being a lot of rain over the last few days and said he will continue to on the drainage basins. He said this is the first time he saw water in the basin next to Wal-Mart.

Mr. Silva reported that as the result of an investigation of a piece of Township-owned property on Third Avenue in Mizpah by Brandon Curtis, who is an amphibian habitat protector, a group of about 50 student volunteers from Stockton College cleaned up an old tire dump in Mizpah on Saturday. He said two (2) 30 cubic yard dumpsters were filled with old truck tires and they aren't finished yet. He said the advantage to the Township is that this spirit of volunteerism will return a piece of property that was abused to the tax rolls. Mr. Silva explained it is done with grant money and said he asked Fred Akers to come make a slide presentation at a Committee meeting of what the site looked like before and what it looks like now.

Ms. Gatto reported the Mays Landing Merchants Association is having a pancake breakfast at Cousin Mario's restaurant from 7-11 a.m. on April 26th and that the proceeds will go toward the Hometown Celebration. She said Cousin Mario's is donating all the breakfast food and Mrs. Capone said Captain Mays Bakery is donating the pastries. Ms. Gatto asked everyone to support the Association. Mayor Gaskill said he asked Mr. Kurtz to get the information to Steve Ruberti and it will be on Channel 2 as soon as he gets the information.

Mayor Gaskill reported the Third Street Bridge is open and operating. He said as soon as it is cleaned up a date will be set for the dedication. The Mayor said the public will be given notice well in advance. He said they are trying to work out the logistics with people they would like to attend. Mayor Gaskill said that a lot of people are crossing it already and commented on the safety benefits of the bridge. He said it is a great accomplishment for this Township Committee and he is proud that they were able to do it.

Public comment

Aline Dix showed a spread sheet she prepared regarding Public Works overtime on Saturdays and Sundays only. She said the overtime is for Saturday, Sunday and the Triathlon. Ms. Dix said the Triathlon was charged to the Cove. She showed a document on weather reports and said there was 1¼ inches of rain on Sunday, July 27th but 4 hours overtime each was charged for 2 men at double overtime. She said there was 1½ inches of rain on August 10th but 15 hours was charged for 4 men at double overtime. She said all the other numbers are basically 4s. Ms. Dix said Mr. Tuthill said they can't do this at the beach because it is the only place the Township picks up trash. She said it is wrong and the failure to manage falls on the Township Committee. Ms. Dix said she has complained to the Committees' deaf ears for years about what is permitted to go on at the Cove in terms of wasted dollars. She said Mr. Sasdelli should be blamed for comments made earlier because he has only been here since September 2007. Ms. Dix said there is no way people were at the Cove on weekends because there was an agreement that the machines can't run before 8 o'clock so people can sleep. She said the Committee wasn't even giving Mr. Morley a chance to clean it up and cut out the ridiculous 4-hour scheduled overtime. She said the contract is for 2 hours. Ms. Dix said she and Mr. Morley met at the Cove in a wind storm to look at where the sand was blowing. She said she assumed that those people were going to the ball fields after picking up the trash at the Cove but Mr. Tuthill told her they don't do trash at the ball fields on weekends. She said the failure to manage falls on the governing body even though the faces have changed. Ms. Dix commented on sending a written complaint in August 2007 and said it resulted in a popcorn can with feces and a hypodermic needle in it being placed on her doorstep with a note. She said the handwriting was very distinct and she suggested it be compared with employment applications because that is where it came from. Ms. Dix commented on the hundreds of hours she spent reviewing purchase orders for such things as gypsy moth spray from Butterhoff's charged to the Cove but it was sprayed at War Memorial Park. She said 71 tons of stone was dumped at the public works yard a couple of weeks before Mr. Morley started. She said it made no sense to have it dumped there if it was for the Cove

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where it was charged to and then go through all the labor and machinery to and bring it to the Cove. Ms. Dix asked why Mr. Morley wasn't being given a chance and said he is fair with her because he came to the Cove to see what she was talking about.

Ms. Dix referred to her comments at the last meeting about why she voted for the MUA to give the Township \$258,000.00. She said the MUA has a long-term contract with the Expressway for all the work they do for them and collect money from them for doing it. Ms. Dix said the Committee should think about that when they talk about duplication of services because the MUS provides a lot of services that they may or may not get paid for but that they have to do under court orders.

Mr. Pritchard said a tremendous amount of comments were made by the audience tonight as well as a lot of mail, e-mails and distributions over the last couple of weeks about the Cove. He said the Committee kind of swept it under the table tonight and he didn't think that was fair to the people who raised the issue. Mr. Pritchard suggested that at the next meeting there be a discussion item for the Cove for 2009 and beyond. Ms. Gatto said there is nothing to discuss. She said the Cove has a budget and can open without swimming. Ms. Gatto said that after tonight she cannot approve hiring lifeguards. She said that is ridiculous. Mr. Pritchard said there are a lot of issues on the table that he thinks the Committee needs to look at including possibly leasing it to another entity and volunteers. He said he realizes the Township can't have volunteer lifeguards but he thinks in deference to the people who have concerns the Committee has to at least give them the opportunity to discuss the future of the Cove. Mayor Gaskill said it is Mr. Pritchard's right to put it on the agenda and asked Mrs. Anderson to make sure it is on the agenda if Mr. Pritchard wants it. Ms. Gatto asked that, if that is going to be done, the Committee have a Freeholder at the meeting to tell them about their take-over idea. Mr. Pritchard said that was a good idea and that he thinks the Committee has to get the County's involvement as well.

Mr. Silva asked Mr. Sasdelli to send a letter to the Language Arts Class at the Davies School thanking the eighth grade students of Mrs. Garoafolo for their input. He said they sent a large folder full of essays they wrote. Mr. Silva said he read them all and was sure the a lot of the Committee Members did also. He said he thought their participation in the process was noteworthy that it should be acknowledged.

Harry Rogers said that he agreed, tongue in cheek, with Mayor Gaskill that the MUA should be punished for their success and made part of the Township. He said the Mayor's impassioned presentation tonight about the loss of jobs was disingenuous because he had an opportunity and responsibility to bring the unions to the table to equally share the burden of the cuts without cutting individuals at the beginning of the budget process and that didn't happen. Mr. Rogers said the union man very gratuitously came tonight and said they can help and work with the Township. Mayor Gaskill said Mr. Rogers can have his opinion but he totally disagrees with it. Mr. Rogers said no attempt was made to bring them to the table in a timely manner and that it didn't happen until the end of the budget process when it was in the bag. He said he worked hard to get the Mayor elected and he wrote a letter to the Current that was published a week after the Mayor was elected saying that he didn't work hard to get him elected so he could sit up there and continue the policies, process and games that were played in the years before he took office. Mayor Gaskill said he was a Democrat in 2007 when he was elected if he could have had Mr. Rogers' support he would have appreciated it. Mr. Rogers apologized and said he had his years and people mixed up but the point is he wrote the letter that was published after the Republicans were elected saying they weren't elected to continue the mistakes, tricks and nonsense of administrations gone by; they were elected to make positive, forward-looking change. Mr. Rogers said there has been progress and efforts and it is finally beginning to turn around. He said tonight was only the beginning and the Township has enormous problems ahead. Mr. Rogers said this budget is finished and he hoped the letters go out this week because the budget process starts again in 6 months. Ms. Gatto said it has already begun for 2010. Mr. Rogers said unless structural changes are made the Township is looking at massive pain next year and he wasn't talking about pay freezes because that only scratches the edge. Ms. Gatto said she agreed with that. Mr. Rogers said the Mayor had an opportunity to call the unions to the table at the beginning of the process and the Mayor's answer was that they might file an arbitration. He said he thought the Mayor's pleas tonight were partially due to his own inaction.

Mr. Rogers said he made a plea at the last meeting to the people in the audience and at home on TV to contact the Committee and express their views on the its inability to live within its means. He said he was censored off the tape and asked if it was the Administrator's decision, an order from the commission, or a technical difficulty. Mr. Sasdelli explained he made an administrative decision because Paragraph 4, subparagraph B of the resolution the Township passed in March of 2002 had rules of conduct for the public hearing and says you are to address the Township Committee and that he thought it set a bad precedent if the Township started of letting people flip the microphone around and do infomercials to the public people at home. He said you are supposed to be addressing the Township

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Committee and that is why he edited it out. Mr. Sasdelli said all of Mr. Rogers comments to the Township Committee were left in and whole. Mr. Rogers said he stands corrected if that is the wording of the ordinance. Mr. Sasdelli said he would be glad to make Mr. Rogers a copy of it.

Charles Cain said that last year when the Committee was waiting for the Third Street Bridge some attention was paid to striping the streets where the fields are. He said everyone knows it is a dangerous situation and he commended the police department that there hasn't been an issue there yet. Mr. Cain said a great job was done on striping in front of the fields but it is a narrow street with no street lights and people park all the way down it almost to the defunct housing development. He suggested some coaches and maybe people from this town could be directed to park on the school side on game days to save the parking spots by the fields for visitors now that the bridge is back in operation. He said it is only a matter of time before something very bad happens there. Mayor Gaskill said that is one of the things that always happened when the wooden structure was there. He said the school board will have to give the Township a hold-harmless agreement. Mr. Cain said it has to be acted on quickly so that parking is available when the first game is played.

Mr. Cain said a development is coming before the Planning Board on May 7th and he wants to make sure that the public is aware of Mr. Silva's comments. He said there is a very big problem in the Township regarding drainage basins. Mr. Cain said there are defunct basins throughout the town that aren't acting the way they should and there is no way to put teeth in the ordinances to make the developers fix them unless they want to build again. Mr. Sasdelli once they are off the maintenance bond they are private property and it is very challenging compel them to correct anything. Mr. Cain said that needs to be addressed and as long as they own the property or it changes hands they should still be responsible for it. Mr. Cain said he is concerned that the developer who is proposing what he says his project will be the largest development on the east coast since Disney World is asking for a waiver on the drainage basin design. Mr. Cain said he has been saying this about every aspect of this project. He said the Township deficient issues in town now and until they are corrected the Township shouldn't let this happen. Mr. Cain said he wants the public to know they have a chance to do something about it and have their comments heard on May 7th to make sure another mega development isn't allowed to come in and not be responsible for their own drainage basins. Mr. Cain said there is no reason to give a design waiver on a basin when the Township has an ordinance saying how it should be done especially when it is the largest development on the east coast since Disney World as the developer put it out there. Mr. Cain said he has always felt Mayor Gaskill is too close to the Magic Sports project and has always questioned it. He said he believed the Mayor's outspoken comments when he wrote the letter as the Deputy Mayor to the paper regarding Mr. Cain and mistruths he was putting out about the project disqualified him. Mr. Cain said Mayor Gaskill will be under immense pressure as he was tonight to plug a budget hole next year and to complete a land sale that shouldn't be completed for a developer that doesn't deserve it. He said he thought the developer showed his true colors at the last meeting and he hopes the public packs the next meeting and realizes it is a land grab by the developer. Mr. Cain said the developer packed the room with union individuals. He said it isn't a union problem or anything against unions. Mr. Cain said the developer hasn't signed an agreement with union representatives to build with union labor and he is now asking to phase out the project. He said it is a land grab and that the developer will start phase 1 and sell off the approvals. Mr. Cain said the union people had to sit for 3½ hours the other night and listen to the man blame the current economic times for phasing the project and now not building the hotel. Mr. Cain said he thought Mayor Gaskill should do the right thing, step down and not be part of judging that application when it comes before the Planning Board.

Marcus King said he wanted to point out that the employees covered by the Teamsters' contract for white and blue collar employees are the lowest paid and they don't make a whole lot of money. Mr. King said people talk about unions and union contracts and he believes the reason these people may have a contract is because they are the lowest paid employees in the Township. He asked if he could get some direction on what is going to happen with the layoffs and if there was a date in mind. Mr. Sasdelli said it is a managerial prerogative to reduce employees but the Township is also required to negotiate the transition with the union. Mr. King said he wasn't sure what the Committee or Mr. Cain's experience with unions is but his experience is that for anyone to be successful you have to find a mutual place to work together. He said they have to find a common place on how to work together for the common cause. Mr. King said his experience is building a bridge so everybody can live happy and harmoniously with each other.

Mr. Cain said the time for Mr. King to build the bridge was last year. He said he didn't realize Mr. King wasn't here last year but there was somebody in his position last year who could have been here starting to build that bridge last year and possibly the Township wouldn't be where it is tonight. Mr. Cain said cutting is not easy and it was not easy for anyone to do.

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Ms. Gatto said there is still plenty of bridge to be built. Mayor Gaskill said they are moving forward on it with the Township.

Robert J. Campbell said he didn't know if the Committee was aware that New Jersey Senator Sweeney has proposed a new State ordinance or law that will do away with every Tax Assessor in New Jersey and allow grants to be made from the State directly to the County and the County will do all of the assessments which could completely eliminate the Township's Tax Assessing department next year. He said the County would do it and be reimbursed by the State. Mr. Campbell recommended the Administrator be directed to look into it and very carefully examine what the scenario is because the Township is in a reval and the question is what will happen with the reval if this law goes through. Mr. Campbell said if it does go through it could affect this township to the tune of \$800,000.00 because the Township is only putting \$200,000.00 into it this year. The Mayor said the Solicitor will look into it.

Mr. Campbell said the Pinelands Commission met today and he hoped there will be a report from Mr. Sartorio on it. He said he understood there were a lot of people present testifying it will kill their developments in this community. He said he understood Mr. Nehmad was here and said it will kill his development.

Mr. Campbell said the professionals all know the Township Committee approved the Veterans' Advisory Board putting a new statue up and asked if they could help out with it. He said it will honor all veterans and they will only have a few months left if they are going to dedicate it for Memorial Day. He commented on what Mr. DeFeo has done on it; said the Advisory Board is sending out some letters; and asked if requests for help could be put on Channel 2. Mr. Campbell said the total project cost is \$6,000.00 and they already have quite a bit of it from what he understands from Mr. DeFeo. He said they are getting ready to look into possibly organizing a contract to purchase it and asked if the Committee wanted the Administrator to look over the contract for the purchase and go over the technicalities of it before the Board gets into it. Mr. Campbell said it will be on their agenda for April. He said the company told him it would take 2 weeks to set it up and the Board is looking for Mr. Wimberg to donate the stand. Mayor Gaskill told Mr. Campbell to set up an appointment with Mr. Sasdelli.

Mr. Campbell suggested Freeholder Schroder be contacted about the Lake. Ms. Gatto said she already spoke to Mr. Sasdelli about it. Mr. Campbell said Mr. Silva was right, the County took everything on the Lake and left the Township with nothing except the Cove. He said 60% of the people using it are not Township people and the Township is paying for it.

John Pucci said a motion was made at the last meeting to have a hearing on Ordinance to appeal a Zoning Board decision on April 6th and he didn't see it on the agenda. He asked what happened to it. Ms. Gatto said she thought it was adopted at the last meeting. Mr. Pucci said it was on the March 16th agenda to set the hearing for April 6th. He said the Committee didn't have a public hearing on the ordinance. Mrs. Anderson said she didn't do last meeting and will have to look into it. Mr. Sasdelli said he also thought it was adopted but will check into it.

Mr. Pucci asked if there was a follow up on the signage at Sugar Hill that he brought up at the last meeting. Mr. Sasdelli said he doesn't have a final resolution but he and Chief spent time discussing it. He said it is a County Road and they are trying to get them to put the signage up. He said they want to make sure the directions are clear and motorists know what they are supposed to do.

Wayne Choyce questioned the status of Volunteer Way by WaWa. He said he thought part of the approval resolution was that they were to build that connector road. Mr. Sasdelli said that Mr. Choyce asked that question at the last meeting and apologized for not getting back to him. Mr. Pritchard said he thought the Benderson/Wainberg part was the part that was still not done, the final part going to the jug-handle. Mr. DePasquale said he didn't know the status. Mayor Gaskill asked them to get back to Mr. Choyce on 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"

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Palmentieri, that this meeting be and is hereby adjourned.

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

ATTEST:

JOAN I. ANDERSON, R.M.C.

TOWNSHIP CLERK