



TOWNSHIP OF HILLSBOROUGH

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 26, 2013

Hillsborough Supports Legislation to Clarify Business Personal Property Tax

Hillsborough Township Committee passed a resolution at Tuesday's meeting supporting two bills before the state legislature. A-3393 and S-2324 would clarify the law regarding payments of business personal property taxes by local exchange telephone companies that in 1997 served 51% of a municipality's population.

At the suggestion of Committeeman Carl Suraci at the January 22, 2013 Township Committee meeting, where he initially reported a court case that had challenged the 1997 legislation regarding business personal property tax paid by local telephone companies and stated that "one of the companies misintrepreted the law to their benefit, resulting in a ruling in their favor."

Mayor Frank DelCore provided the background as to how this issue arose even for consideration by the Township, stating that "last fall Century link provided a notice to Hillsborough that they were no longer providing coverage to at least 51% of the township and therefore were no longer required by statue to file the return and pay property taxes in 2013."

Personal property that is subject to assessment consists of the various types of property used to provide telephone service, such as poles, aerial cable, underground cable, buried cable, intra-building cable and conduit systems.

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The Mayor reported that the assessment was reduced for 2013 and he further reported that Hillsborough Township filed an appeal to the County Board of Taxation to have Century Link (United Telephone), stating that sufficient evidence had not been provided to verify dial tone and local access has not been proven to be less than 51%.

Committeeman Carl Suraci stated “the goal is to stop the telephone companies from removing themselves from the Business Personal Property Tax.”

This resolution formally supports A3393 and S2324 which would clarify the language defining the coverage area for a local exchange carrier with respect to the business personal property tax.

“Our goal remains to protect our Hillsborough taxpayers,” concluded Mayor DelCore.

Hillsborough residents are urged to contact the respective Assembly and Senate Chairs to add the respective bills to their agenda meetings and bring the bills to the General Assembly and Senate for vote; Assemblyman Upendra J. Chivukula, Telecommunications and Utilities Chair at (732) 247-3999 or asmchivukula@njleg.org and Senator Jeff Van Drew, Community and Urban Affairs Committee Chair at (609) 465-0700, (856) 765-0891 or (856) 696-7109 or senvandrew@njleg.org.
